

# ASSOCIATED EXPRESS



320 Mallard Lane, Mankato, MN 56001 Phone: (507) 345-5861 Fax: (507) 345-5828 Fall 2007

## Inside Fall Issue

- 1) Cleaning up our act!
- 2) Congrats are in order!
- 3) Tips by Strip, Dip and Hip!
- 4) Kaizen's keep rolling along.
- 5) Christmas in August!

## CLEANING UP OUR ACT!!!!

After some experimenting with various equipment and plant maintenance methods such as dry ice blasting and use of chemical cleaners, we have made progress improving the interior of the plant. With the help of employees, Jarrod Schreyer and Terry McMichael, working downtime weekend shifts, the orange line area has been brightened up. Terry and Jarrod will be working their way through the rest of the plant as the year progresses. This will be an ongoing project of continuous improvement in the areas of preventive maintenance and lean manufacturing, creating a better work environment to improve quality and efficiency.



Congrats to more AFI employees!

**Terry & Clarenda Harroun**  
Birth of their baby girl  
**Gara Lynn**  
8-16-2007  
7 lbs 10 oz.  
21 inches long



**Natalie Schreyer is off to college at Kansas State University.**  
You will be missed, but not forgotten.  
As we begin the fall



season we hope that you and yours will find time to enjoy the colors and the harvest!

## Strip, Dip and Hip to the rescue!

Tips that help process your orders fast @ Associated Finishing, Inc.

**NEED AN ORDER PICK-UP** - Call Brian Christnagel in our Shipping Department @ ext 211. Brian has his cell phone on him at all times waiting for your call. Or you can e-mail Brian at [bchristnagel@associatedfinishing.com](mailto:bchristnagel@associatedfinishing.com). When you call or e-mail Brian, please let him know how many skids are coming so he can determine which truck he should send for pickup.

**ADVANCE P.O.'s**—We love them! They ensure us that we have the necessary materials on hand when your order arrives (especially paint). We can get your parts out the door faster if we do not have to wait for materials to arrive to fulfill the order.

**STATUS ON YOUR ORDERS**— Please contact Ryan Kapsner, Operations Assistant @ ext. 246 or e-mail [rkapsner@associatedfinishing.com](mailto:rkapsner@associatedfinishing.com); or Bette Schweim, Production Assistant @ ext. 213 or [bschweim@associatedfinishing.com](mailto:bschweim@associatedfinishing.com). They work as a team (just like Strip and Hip) on scheduling, and will be more than happy to take care of all your needs.

**STRIPPING**—Questions on quotes or quality issues please contact Alan Baer, Quality Assurance @ ext 206 or e-mail [abaer@associatedfinishing.com](mailto:abaer@associatedfinishing.com).

**QUOTING**—Need a quote, or have a question on a quote you received, please contact Scott Niss, Chief Estimator @ ext. 203 or e-mail quotes to [quotes@associatedfinishing.com](mailto:quotes@associatedfinishing.com).



out our website at [www.associatedfinishing.com](http://www.associatedfinishing.com)  
We welcome requests for quotes. Please e-mail them to:  
[quotes@associatedfinishing.com](mailto:quotes@associatedfinishing.com)  
or fax them to Associated Finishing, Inc. (507) 345-5828



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# WE HAVE NOT "FALLEN" FROM OUR LEAN WAYS!



Teresa Stevens

More Kaizen winners AFI can brag about. We are worse than Grandmas with their Grandchildren aren't we? But really, we appreciate all the work our employees do daily, and the Kaizens make life easier at AFI. July's winner was Teresa Stevens winning a Viking's tailgate package (meat NOT included) (pictured left). August's winner was Jess McCanna (pictured right) winning \$25.00 cash.



Jessica McCanna

Business at AFI is improving by the Kaizen!

Watch for our December newsletter and upcoming winners at AFI!!!!



## Christmas at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival!

There has been a growing tradition at AFI to celebrate Christmas in August, a quieter time of the year. Not interfering with our family and friends gatherings at Christmas time. A great time was had by everyone!



Lord Ted and Lady Vicki getting advice on empty nesters' syndrome!



Is it a powder coating seminar, or a Belly Dancing Act?



Al's 61st birthday -getting insulted. We got him good!



Facilities Manager, Kelly (in the hat) checking on a new fork-lift for AFI. By the way ...what is that smell in the office?



Our ROYAL mode of transportation!



Chuck what are you looking for? Maybe Christmas bonuses?



From the Royal staff of Associated Finishing, Inc. we wish you all a Blessed Thanksgiving!

