MORNING AT THE FARM

Two Rivers High School seniors graduate

Breakfast on the Farm celebrates its 25th anniversary

NEWTON — Farm owners Donna Phillips and Dan Stock welcomed hungry guests to dine with them at the 25th annual Breakfast on the Farm at D & D Jersey’s LLC on Sunday.

Guests were treated to a variety of breakfast items including omelets, cheese, yogurt, doughnuts, milk and juice and dined inside the farm’s machine shed.

From left foreground, graduate’s Sean Sheahan and Scott Skornicka wait for the band to start playing “Pomp & Circumstance” for the class of 2014 commencement ceremony at the Two Rivers High School on Sunday. PHOTO BY SUZIE PISCHKE/HTR

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A GANNETT COMPANY

GANNETT WISCONSIN MEDIA INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Recovering addict: ‘People are starting to listen’

By Doug Schneider

As Douglas Darby stands on the stage of the crowded auditorium at Appleton West High School he feels like he’s heard on while speaking of the time he spent in jail.

He talks about his teenage years in which regular marijuana use led to OxyContin abuse and eventually heroin.

He shares the stage with police and prosecutors. He promotes a holistic approach to battling addiction, which combines elements of a court trial and others of a hip hop show. “It helps keep me alive.”

Almost 18 months after he walked out of state prison, and sober almost four years, Darby says during his presentation that would eventually die with a needle in his hand. That feeling of impending death, he thinks: There but for the grace of God go I.

Darby is the current commander of the Wisconsin Drug Prevention Network, which combines elements of a court trial and elements of a hip hop show. “It helps keep me alive.”

People are starting to listen.

But now his messages are captivating, uplifting and inspiring. He talks about awareness of the pressures facing teens. Prevention of drug use.

Darby says the pair have made more than 40 presentations since they founded the group. They’ve reached an estimated 10,000 students at schools across Wisconsin and upper Michigan. For years, Darby avoided authority, but now he shares the stage with police and prosecutors. He promotes a holistic approach to battling heroin in their communities.

Outagamie County Sheriff Brad Gehring says it is important that young people hear, and buy into, the message Darby shares with other speakers at the presentation. “We need to keep young people from trying heroin, even once.”

In many ways, Darby is the new face of heroin addiction. Once associated with the urban pose, the drug is today typically used by young white suburban-ners.

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ONLINE

For a video of Breakfast on the Farm by photojournalist Sue Pischke, visit htrnews.com

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Two Rivers High School seniors graduate

Graduate Mackenzie Walsh sings the Raiders school song “Purple & Gold/Anchors Away” played by senior band members during the class of 2014 commencement ceremony at the Two Rivers High School.

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