

WORKS OF HEART



OWEN ZILIAK, STATE JOURNAL

Molly Schafer poses for a portrait in her art studio at her home on July 3 in Waunakee.

Lonely but inspired, Waunakee student paints classmates in ‘extreme act of kindness’

SHUN GRAVES
Wisconsin State Journal

MADISON — When the thoughts coursed through Molly Schafer’s mind that nobody liked her, that nobody cared about her, she often tried to reassure herself that it wouldn’t make sense for people to judge someone so harshly.

She’d long grappled with low self-esteem and struggled with making friends. When she walked past people she barely knew at Waunakee High School, however, she’d feel a dash of defiance about a secret project she had in the works.

They had no inkling of what she could do with a paintbrush.

“It was almost kind of like evil she-nanigans that were going on,” she said. “You have no idea what I’m doing. You have no clue what I’m making.”

Except Schafer had worked on the furthest thing from evil: 44 portraits she painted over the course of the school year that she gifted to her graduating classmates. An “extreme act of kindness,” said Avery Miller, one of the recipients.

Because that would show them. And it certainly did. The recognition

for Schafer’s project has echoed far beyond the Waunakee campus. In June, the “CBS Evening News” aired a segment about it. She’s gotten more than a hundred commission requests for her artwork.

The attention has overwhelmed her, she said, its degree so much greater than anything she imagined when she embarked on the project in fall 2024. And magnitudes greater than years ago, when she warmed to painting, the medium that would become her respite.

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Trump announces tariffs on EU, Mexico

President posts letters to social media saying 30% rate to be levied starting Aug. 1

AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — President Donald Trump announced Saturday he’ll levy tariffs of 30% against the European Union and Mexico starting Aug. 1, a move that could cause massive upheaval between the United States and two of its biggest trade partners.

Trump detailed the planned tariffs in letters posted to his social media account. They are part of Trump’s announcement blitz of new tariffs aimed at allies and foes alike, which he said would set the foundation for reviving a U.S. economy that he claims was ripped off by other nations for decades.

In his letter to Mexico’s leader, President Claudia Sheinbaum, Trump acknowledged the country was helpful in stemming the flow of undocumented migrants

and fentanyl into the U.S. But he said the country has not done enough to stop North America from turning into a “Narco-Trafficking Playground.”

In his letter to the EU, Trump said the U.S. trade deficit was a national security threat.

“We have had years to discuss our Trading Relationship with The European Union, and we have concluded we must move away from these long-term, large, and persistent, Trade Deficits, engendered by your Tariff, and Non-Tariff, Policies, and Trade Barriers,” Trump wrote. “Our relationship has been, unfortunately, far from Reciprocal!”

Trump imposed tariffs on dozens of countries in April, then paused them for 90 days to negotiate individual deals. As the three-month grace period ended this past week, Trump began sending his tariff letters to leaders but again pushed back the implementation day for what he says will be just a few more weeks.

If he moves forward with the tariffs, it could have ramifications for nearly every aspect of the global economy.



RICARDO B. BRAZZIELL, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

President Donald J. Trump speaks at a roundtable discussion Friday at the Community Emergency Operations Center in Kerrville, Texas.

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