**By Diane Stamm**

**The Wauneta Breeze**

Abbie Fanning and Jonee Maris will leave July 1 for Austraila.

Maris said 300 United States track and field athletes will compete against 300 from New Zealand and Australia.

The pair will travel to Hawaii for three days before heading home.

Letters from Down Under Sports were sent to high schools last year. Maris and Fanning thought the trip looked interesting and looked for more info. They committed in September and have been fund raising ever since.

The trip departs from the United States on Sunday and will land in Australia two calendar days later.

There will be two days of practice followed by a free day, then three days of competition. All events will be held at Griffith University in Brisbane.

Following the completion of competition Fanning and Maris will hop a flight to Honolulu for three days of sightseeing before returning to United States soil July 12.

Maris, a 2012 Wauneta-Palisade graduate, was a two year qualifier for state track in the high jump. She said she looks forward to meeting new people and seeing new places.

Fanning, heading into her junior year, qualified for state track in the 400 and 800 this year.

Both wanted to thank local businesses and supporters, as well as family, friends and teammates.