The Minneota Mascot

$1

Home of the City on the River — Minneota, Minnesota

Thursday, September 17, 2026 — (USPS - 351-880) — No. 10 — 136 years — Established in 1891

State Bank of Taunton acquired by FIB

State Bank of Taunton, which has been a staple of the community, will be acquired by merger by First Independent Bank in October 2026.

First Independent Bank is a community bank currently serving the thriving communities of Marshall, Russell, Balaton, Wood Lake, Hanley Falls, Lucan, Beardsley, Ruthton, Cottonwood, Vesta, Tyler, and Hendricks, MN.

The family- and employee-owned bank established in 1903 prides itself on being "Big enough to know business. Small enough to know you." While other banks continue to move out of Minnesota's rural areas, FIB is committed to remaining rooted in them, by offering over 100 years of banking leadership, engaging in local decision making for personal, business, and agricultural business needs, and being actively engaged through philanthropic efforts.

The State Bank of Taunton started its banking journey in May 1905, with an initial capital stock of $10,000.00. Over time, it underwent four expansions and became a full-service bank, offering personal and business accounts, loans, and other financial products.

The current staff is expected to remain the same following the acquisition.

Amanda Pesch, Senior Vice President of the State Bank of Taunton, notably says, "We think it's going to be an exciting time for our customers."

Brandon Finck, CEO and President of First Independent Bank, shared, "We are thrilled to welcome the Taunton team to FIB. We will continue to navigate this acquisition together to ensure a smooth transition and an even better banking experience for the Taunton area and surrounding communities. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and warm welcome during this time."



Royal Hettling drives his classic automobile in the Boxelder Bug Days Grand Parade as this year's Grand Marshall. Hettling's late brother, Charie, had also been selected to be this year's Grand Marshall. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



The 2026-2027 Boxelder Bug Days royalty rode in Sunday's parade. Left to right: SEcond Princess Alexa Mead, First Princess Eden Meagher, and Queen Addy Kiley. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*

BUG DAYS 2026

Kiley crowned queen, Meagher, Mead named Bug Days princesses

By Scott Thoma
scott@thomabooks.com

Addy Kiley was so surprised when she was crowned Boxelder Bug Days queen on Saturday night that she almost didn't know how to react.

"I'm pretty seldom a winner," she said, "so, I was really surprised and I just smiled a lot."

Kiley, the daughter of Josh and Stacey Kiley, was crowned queen among the eight candidates by last year's Bug Days queen Brynn Kern.

"When we were going up on stage before the crowning, I was really nervous," Kiley said. "I couldn't stop shaking because there were so many people there watching us. Then I had to give my introduction speech and I was afraid I would screw it up. It went okay, though, and after that I calmed down a little."

Kiley, a junior this year at Minneota High School, said she didn't expect to win.

"Honestly, I was excited for whoever got it," she said.

Kiley wanted to win for her dad and noted that in her speech.

"This is truly such a blessing," she said about being crowned Bug Days queen. "My dad is from Minneota and we moved to Ivanhoe. I wanted to win it for him and be able to serve the people and give back to the community where he was from."

In a Mascot interview in July after becoming one of the candidates, Kiley noted that she decided to run to "Have the chance to make memories and create lasting experiences. Not being a resident of Minneota makes this a little more challenging, but as Minneota is my second home it would mean the world to me to represent Minneota by being a part of Bug Days royalty."

Eden Meagher was crowned First Princess and Alexa Mead was selected as Second Princess.

Meagher is the daughter of Casey and Jody Meagher. Mead is the daughter of Tony and Julie Mead.





Photo left: Elin Thomsen placed her bug, Elsa, in the circle during the boxelder bug races. Above right: Alex Gorecki holds on while trying his luck on the kids version of a mechanical bull on Jefferson Street. *Mascot photos by Scott Thoma*

VIKINGS NOTCH RECORD-TYING 48th WIN IN ROW

The Minneota football team won its 48th straight game Friday, tying the program's record set from 1986-89, with a 55-0 victory over Eden Valley-Watkins in the season opener in Eden Valley.

The Vikings, who have won the past four Class A state championships, will look to set the Minneota consecutive wins record against Canby on Friday, Sept. 18 at K.P. Kompelien Field in Gerhard Meidt Stadium.

Canby (0-2) lost its opener to Springfield/Comfrey 80-19 and fell to MACCRAY 40-0 last Friday night.

Coequyt, Sussner, Buysse, Myhre Homecoming royalty



Homecoming Queen Jaylyn Coequyt and King Tristen Sussner. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*

HOMECOMING

Jaylyn Coequyt was selected as this year's Minneota Homecoming Queen, while Tristen Sussner was named Homecoming King during coronation Monday afternoon in the high school gym.

Gretta Buysse is this year's Homecoming Princess and Sam Myhre is the Homecoming Prince.

Throughout the week, there are various activities and themes leading up to Friday night's Homecoming football game against Canby.



Homecoming Princess Gretta Buysse and Prince Sam Myhre. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*

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Minneota Memory

The winners of the 1976 Countryside Golf Club tournament. Standing, left to right: Wynston Boe, championship flight winner; Mike O'Reilly, championship flight runner-up; Slim Klein, first flight winner; Andy Traen, second flight winner; Dr. W.W. Merritt, third

Yesteryear

From the Mascot files 100, 75, 50 & 25 years ago

100 Years Ago
(September 17, 1926)

War declared on rats at Citizen's Lunch meeting

At the Citizens' Lunch Club meeting last Monday evening, C.P. Konold introduced the subject of rats menacing various business places. He felt that a concerted effort should be made on the part of all toward getting rid of this pest, and all present shared his sentiments. The chairman appointed a committee of five — J.F. Finnegan, C.P. Konold, L.V. Dahl, L. Klaith, and Dr. E.T. Sanderson, to devise ways and means for attacking the rodent and also to decide on a certain time when the campaign is to be launched.

MGT Cooperative Oil shows net profit after first 6 months

Total sales of $37,953.23, with a net profit of $5,771.90 for the first six months existence of the Minneota-Ghent-Taunton Cooperative Oil Company were the reassuring facts shown by Ben Borson's semi-annual statement to the directors at their meeting this week. A cut in price of gasoline last Sunday may hold some trouble for the local organization, some stockholders fear. Due to cuts at neighboring points, a drop of 2.9 cents was made , making the price now 21.4 cents at the service station and 19.4 cents from the tanks.

Joan of Arc Society set to host bazaar, chicken dinner

The Joan of Arc Society of st. Edward's Catholic Church is putting on a bazaar and chicken dinner on Sept. 25. They intend to start serving dinner in the basement of the church at 11:30 a.m. Fifty cents will be the charge for adults and 25 cents for children. Leading features of the bazaar will be the country store and the fish pond. Outdoor field sports will be provided during the afternoon for the amusement of the children, while an opportunity will be given to play "rolle bolle", for those who enjoy that sport.

75 Years Ago
(September 21, 1951)

Three people hurt when automobile hits cow

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kile and their son, Gordon, escaped with minor injuries Sunday when their automobile struck a cow on Highway 23 between Green Valley and Marshall. The family was returning from Granite Falls around 8 p.m. When they came upon a herd of five cattle on the highway. In meeting a northbound vehicle, the Kile car, with Gordon at the wheel, struck one of the animals. Mrs. Kile was thrown against the windshield and suffered cuts, bruises and broken ribs. Damages to the automobile were estimated at $300. The Kiles said that the animal, although cut and bruised, waked away from the scene.

American Legion Appreciation Night for area to be Sept. 28

Residents of this community, and the surrounding area, have a treat in store for next Thursday evening. They are all invited by the Minneota American Legion to attend a horse show and dance for their Appreciation Night. The event is free of charge. The horse show will be staged at the ball park under the lights, while the dance will be held at the Legion building after that. It is estimated that approximately 100 riding horses and ponies will be entered into the show. All events in the show, which is estimated to take two hours, are to be competitive and prizes will be awarded.

Poll shows opinions on need for hospital here vary greatly

With another meeting of the Minneota Community Hospital Association scheduled for Tuesday of next week, residents of this village and those of the outlying area are kicking up dust regarding the community's need for a hospital. After a campaign conducted two years ago, the Hospital Association collected about $65,000 from village residents and farmers, for the purpose of erecting a community hospital here. With the funds drawing interest and the cornerstone unlaid, residents are wondering what to do with the money. Some residents say the money should be refunded, while others want to raise more money to see a hospital built.

50 Years Ago
(September 16, 1976)

Merritt, Boerboom nominated for County Commissioner race

When the primary election ballots were counted. Dr. W.W. Merritt, as expected, received very good support in Minneota in the battle for the County Commissioner race. Out of 300 ballots cast in Minneota, the count was 209 for Merritt, 49 for Darrell Breyfogle and 35 for Donald Boerboom. When the First District ballots were counted, it was learned that Merritt and Boerboom had been nominated for the November battle with Merritt getting 435 votes, Boerboom 239, and Breyfogle 170.

Minneota Fire Department called to three country fires

Minneota firemen reported that they had answered three calls to the country last week. One came Tuesday night when an automobile, parked on the road, was burning near the Anton Fier arm west of Minneota. The vehicle was totally burned and belonged to a Porter resident. The second came Saturday afternoon for a fire in a pickup truck belonging to James Haugen about seven miles south of Minneota. That vehicle was also a total loss. The final call came Sunday afternoon from the Marvin Prellwitz farm where a corn crib was on fire.

Tillemans sells trucking business to Ruthton man

Phil Tillemans, who has been hauling hogs out of the Minneota community for 44 years, announced that he has sold his trucking business. The new owner is David Fadness, trucker and buyer from Ruthton. Fadness will take over the business on Sept. 20 and will have a man stationed at the yards here to do pickup work and hauling with a semi-truck. Tillemans states that he intends to devote all of his time to the firm's Purina feed business.

25 Years Ago
(September 19, 2001)

Bottelberghe, Fier named Homecoming Queen, King

Jessica Bottelberghe and Ryan Fier were crowned Queen and King, respectively, of the 2001 Minneota Homecoming at the high school Monday afternoon. The entire student body and many members of the community were present for the ceremony. Abby Ahmann and Jerik Gossen were selected as Princess and Prince, respectively. Crown bearers were Isaac Josephson and Heather Swinea.

Porter, St. Leo firemen to hold steak fundraiser for 9/11 victims

In support of their fellow fire fighters, the fire departments in Canby, Porter and St. Leo will together hold a steak fry fundraiser for the families of rescue personnel killed or injured in the wake of the terroristic attack on New York City's World Trade Center. The benefit will be held Sept. 22 at the Yellow Medicine County Fairgrounds in Canby. The cost per meal is $10, which includes a steak, baked potato and salad. Beverages will also be available.

Subscription expiring?

After next month, the Mascot will not be mailing out postcards to remind subscribers that their subscription is expiring.

Please check your address label in the upper right-hand corner of your delivered newspaper to see the date your newspaper subscription is expiring.

A date marked in red indicates that your subscription is about to expire.

Subscriptions rates and the Mascot's address are at the bottom of this page.

Outside Looking In

Scott Thoma



Kettle of kernels

Dean Williams has been coming to Boxelder Bug Days for the past 18 years, although he missed last year with an illness, to bring his kettle corn operation to the same location on the western edge of Bug Square next to Jefferson Street.

Although he's been making his kettle corn goodness for this many years, the unusual part is that he doesn't care for the taste of it, although many of those attending Boxelder Bug Days each year have a completely different opinion.

One woman purchasing kettle corn insisted that she only comes to the Bug Square alley for one reason each year -- to bring home a bag of Dean's kettle corn and munch of it while watching a movie.

"I've bought some of this kettle corn every year," she said. "I've bought kettle corn any time I see it somewhere and this kind tastes better, for some reason.

So, I mentioned that to Dean and he said he makes it differemt than most other vendors.

"I put the oil, seeds and sugar all in at the same time, where most of the other don't add the sugar until the popcorn starts popping. By putting the sugar in with the oil and popcorn and then heating it up, as soon as the popcorn kernels pop, they are caramelized with the oil right away.

Williams learned this little trick from the man who sold him the kettle and equipment for $25,000 18 years ago and then taught him how to make it.

"I made the money back the first weekend I ever sold it," he said, proudly.

Dean also noted that a woman he doesn't know convinced him to attend Bug Days 18 years ago after she bought some kettle corn from him at the Lyon County Fair in Marshall.

"That lady came here today (this past Saturday) and introduced herself and said she was the one who asked me to come here," Dean said. "I've been coming here ever since, except for last year."

When his familiar vendor spot was vacant last year, most Bug Days visitors thought something happened to him or that he had hung up his kettle and retired.

"I plan on doing this until I am no longer able to," he said.

He noted that he sold around 300 bags on Saturday during Boxelder Bug Days and that he generally sells close to 100 before the parade on Sunday.

Dean was a roofer in his younger days and then sold hammocks at vendor shows when he developed a bad back. He was at a vendor event in Minneapolis 19 years ago and the man running the kettle corn stand there asked if he wanted to buy his stand. Eventually, hs agreed and has been popping ever since.

He purchases a special kind of popcorn in 25 pound bags, dumps the seeds into a large vat wth the oil and sugar, and then stirs it with a long-handled wooden paddle that resembles an oar wih the paddle end half cut off.

My first wooden paddle is worth a quarter of a million dollars," he said, referring to the amount of money he generated while wearing that paddle out.



Dean Williams has been making and selling kettle corn during Boxelder Bug Days for the past 18 years. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*

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The Minneota Mascot
201 N. Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 9
Minneota, MN 56264

Phone: 507-872-6492
Email: office@minneotamascot.com
Online: www.minneotamascot.com

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Mascot Staff
Publishers: Jeff & Julie Meyer
Editor/General Manager: Scott Thoma
Office Manager: Carol Differding
Photographer: Brian Jeremiason

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FOOTBALL

Vikings tie program's win streak with ease

Minneota crumbles EV-W 55-0 to 48th straight win; can set new mark against Canby for Homecoming

By Scott Thoma
scott@thomabooks.com

Minneota tied a school record with its 48th consecutive win, trouncing Eden Valley-Watkins 55-0 last Friday night in Eden Valley.

The win tied the 1986-89 teams that won three Class C state titles while winning 48 straight.

Minneota can own the record alone on Friday night against Canby with a Homecoming victory. Members of the 1986-86-88 football that won the three state championships will be on hand to also dedicate the new stadium and to unveil the bust of former coach Gerhard Meidt that his former players are donating to the school.

Tristen Sussner had a hand in five of the eight Minneota touchdowns, throwing three TD passes and running for two more. The senior signal-caller finished 12-for-16 for 106 yards.

Kaden Christensen caught two touchdown passes from Sussner covering 14 and five yards. Landon Esping hauled in a 20-yard pass for the other aerial score. Sussner scored on rushes 5 and 15 yards.

RJ Sorensen, who led the ground attack with 70 yards in 12 carries, scored from three yards out.

Defensive lineman Sam Myhre batted down a pass and wrapped it up before running into the end zone for a 27-tard touchdown in the second quarter.

Derek Fier capped the scoring in the fourth quarter with a one-yard TD run.

Minneota outgained Eden Valley-Watkins 371 to 81 in total yardage. The Vikings rushed for 257 yards, with nine players carrying the ball at least twice.

Minneota defeated Eden Valley-Watkins 37-30 a season ago in Minneota. Kellen Bradley scored the winning touchdown on a 10-yard run with 2:09 remaining in the game. The Vikings were ranked No. 1 in Class A at the time, while EVW was ranked No 3 in Class AA.

The Eagles lost the majority of their skills players to graduation after last season.





Photo left: Minneota quarterback Tristen awaits the snap while in shotgun formation on Friday night against Eden Valley-Watkins. Photo right: Defensive lineman Sam Myhre intercepts a pass and returns it 27 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter. *Mascot photos by Emma Lipinski.*



A swarm of Minneota tacklers converge on Eden Valley-Watkins' quarterback during the Vikings' 55-0 rout Friday night in Eden Valley. *Mascot photo by Emma Lipinski*

Minneota 55, EV-Watkins 0

Minneota	7	27	14	7 -	55
Eden Valley-Watkins	0	0	0	0 -	0

Scoring Plays

Min - Tristen Sussner 5 run (Ian Myhre kick)
Min - RJ Sorensen 3 run (Myhre kick)
Min - Sam Myhre 27 interception return (Myhre kick)
Min - Sussner 15 run (Myhre kick)
Min - Landon Esping 20 pass from Sussner (kick failed)
Min - Kaden Christensen 14 pass from Sussner (Myhre kick)
Min - Christensen 5 pass from Sussner (Myhre kick)
Min - Derek Fier 1 run (Myhre kick)

Team Statistics

TOTAL YARDS: Minneota 371, EVW 81 ... **PASSING YARDS:** Minneota 114, EVW 28 ... **RUSHING YARDS:** Minneota 257, EVW 53 ... **FIRST DOWNS:** Minneota 22, EVW 4 ... **TURNOVERS:** Minneota 1, EVW 2 ... **PENALTIES:** Minneota 3-20, EVW 0-0

Minneota Individual Statistics

PASSING (com-att-yds-td-int): Tristen Sussner 12-16-106-3-0, Aiden Jerak 1-1-8-0-0

RUSHING (att-yds): RJ Sorensen 12-70, Quinton Anderson 5-36, Kaden Christensen 4-32, Evan Jerzak 2-31, Gage Johnston 2-27, Sawyer Bradley 2-26, Tristen Sussner 3-18, Eli Faris 2-12, Derek Fier 2-5

RECEIVING (rec-yds): Landon Esping 4-65, Kaden Christensen 3-22, Ian Myhre 3-15, Logan Pohlen 1-8, Gage Johnston 2-4

TACKLES (solo-assist-total): Evan Jerzak 0-8-8, Owen Myrvik 1-3-4, Tim DeSmet 0-4-4, Wyatt Moorse 0-4-4, Sawyer Bradley 0-4-4, Ian Myhre 3-0-3, Eli Faris 2-1-3, Quinton Anderson 0-3-3, Hudson Thostenson 0-3-3, Beckham Norby 1-1-2, Colton Bitker 1-1-2, Brody Anderson 0-2-2, Noah Jerak 0-2-2, RJ Sorensen 0-2-2, Kaden Christensen 1-0-1, Bryce Becker 0-1-1, Bruce Gorecki 0-1-1, Sam Myhre 0-1-1, Mason Moorse 0-1-1

TACKLES FOR LOSS: Eli Faris, Owen Myrvik

INTERCEPTIONS: Sam Myhre
FUMBLE RECOVERY: Quinton Anderson
BLOCKED KICK: Connor Boerboom
PUNTING (no-avg.): Ian Myhre 1-46.0

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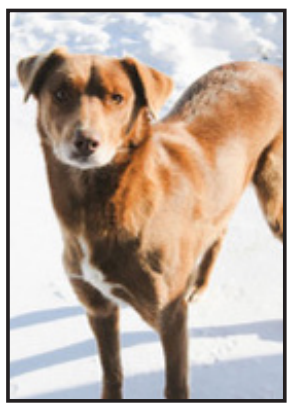


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Pet OF THE WEEK

*** Maddie ***



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Tanner Differding

Pet's Age:
9 years old

Breed:
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Favorite Activities:
Chasing squirrels and rabbits, going for long walks, sneaking into the house.

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Athlete of the Week

Tristen Susner
Senior



Tristen completed 12 of 16 passes for 106 yards and three touchdowns, while also running for two scores in the Vikings' 55-0 victory over Eden Valley-Watkins on Friday night in Eden Valley.

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VOLLEYBALL

Vikings go 3-2 at SW Challenge

Sweep RTR, hold off WWG during week

By Scott Thoma

scott@thomabooks.com

Minneota won three of five matches in the two-day Southwest Minnesota Challenge this past weekend and finished sixth among 32 teams.

The Vikings (6-2), ranked No. 4 in Class A, defeated Sartell 23-25, 25-19, 15-8 before topping West Fargo Sheyenne 25-21, 22-25, 16-14.

Benilde-St. Margaret's then outlasted the Vikings 17-25, 25-21, 15-10 before Minneota rebounded from the loss to hold off Willmar 25-23, 25-23. In the fifth-place match, River Falls, WI edged the Vikings 25-20, 25-23.

Jaylyn Coequyt amassed a team-leading 44 kills to go along with nine blocks in the tournament. Leah Coequyt recorded 39 kills and a team-high 12 blocks. Eden Meagher notched 34 kills, 36 digs and three aces.

Libby Sussner finished with 79 assists, a team-best 11 aces, and 25 digs. Sophie Gillund added 59 assists, 24 digs and three aces. Autum Anderson led the team with 56 digs.

Minneota hosted Ortonville Tuesday night in a match not completed when this edition went to press. Those results will appear in next week's Mascot.

Minneota scores

Minneota def. Sartell 23-25, 25-19, 15-8
Minneota def. West Fargo Sheyenne 25-21, 22-25, 16-14
Benilde St. Margaret's def. Minneota 17-25, 25-21, 15-10
Minneota def. Willmar 25-23, 25-23
River Falls, WI def. Minneota 25-20, 25-23

Minneota composite statistics

SERVING (aces): Libby Sussner 11, Brynn Rost 6, Autum Anderson 4, Eden Meagher 3, Brek Fier 3, Sophie Gillund 3
SETTING (assists): Libby Sussner 79, Sophie Gillund 59
ATTACKING (kills): Jaylyn Coequyt 44, Leah Coequyt 39, Eden Meagher 34, Ava Rost 11, Sophie Gillund 8, Brek Fier 7
BLOCKING: Leah Coequyt 12, Jaylyn Coequyt 9, Sophie Gillund 5,Brek Fier 2, Eden Meagher 2, Ava Rost 1
DIGS: Autum Anderson 56, Eden Meagher 36, Libby Sussner 25, Sophie Gillund 24, Brynn Rost 17

Vikings sweep past RTR

Minneota remained unbeaten after sweeping Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 25-13, 25-17, 25-9 Thursday night in Tyler.

The Vikings, ranked No. 4 in Class A in the Minnesota Volleyball Coaches Association poll, got 11 kills from Eden Meagher and 10 from Jaylyn Coequyt in the win.

Minneota dominated at the net with 10 blocks, led by Leah Coequyt and Jaylyn Coequyt with three each, and Meagher with two.

Libby Sussner had 17 assists and foour digs. Sophie Gillund added 16 assists and five kills.

Autum Anderson led in digs with nine. Brynn Rost had seven digs.

Minneota 3, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 0

Minneota	25	25	25
Russell-Tyler-Ruthton	13	17	9

Minneota Individual Statistics

SERVING (aces): Brek Fier 2, Autum Anderson 2, Libby Sussner 1
SETTING (assists): Libby Sussner 17, Sophie Gillund 16
ATTACKING (kills): Eden Meagher 11, Jaylyn Coequyt 10, Sophie Gillund 5, Ava Rost 5, Leah Coequyt 4, Brek Fier 4
BLOCKING: Jaylyn Coequyt 3, Leah Coequyt 3, Eden Meagher 2, Brek Fier 1, Sophie Gillund 1



Mnneota players celebrate after winning a set against Russell-Tyler-Ruthton last Thursday night in Tyler. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*





Photo left: Autum Anderson passes up to a setter after retrieving an overpass against Russell-Tyler-Ruthton. Photo right: Sophie Gillund puts up a set for a teammate. *Mascot photos by Brian Jeremiason*

DIGS: Autum Anderson 9, Brynn Rost 7, Eden Meagher 5, Libby Sussner 4

Vikings rally past WWG, 3-2

Down two sets to one, Minneota rallied to win the final two sets and defeated Westbrook-Walnut Grove 25-16, 24-26, 25-27, 25-19, 15-6 in a non-conference match last Tuesday in Westbrook.

The Vikings (2-0) utilized a strong three-prong hitting attack that amassed 44 kills, led by Leah Coequyt with 18, Jaylyn Coequyt with 14 and Eden Meagher with 12. Leah Coequyt also notched three blocks, while Jaylyn Coequyt, Sydney Hennen and Brek Fier had two blocks apiece.

After a season-opening sweep against Redwood Valley on Aug. 27, the Vikings didn't have another match for 12 days.

Minneota's setters had solid all-around matches for Minneota. Sussner recorded 31 assists and two aces, while Sophie Gillund had 27 assists and seven kills.

Autum Anderson, Meagher and Brynn Rost sparked the defense with 17, 15, and 13 digs, respectively.

Natasha Wahl led WWG (1-1) with 14 kills to go along with 10 digs and two aces. Hadley Jenniges finished with 34 assists and 14 digs.

Minneota 3, Westbrook-Walnut Grove 2

Minneota	25	24	25	25	15
Westbrook-Walnut Grove	16	26	27	19	6

Minneota Individual Statistics

SERVING (aces): Brek Fier 3, Eden Meagher 2, Libby Sussner 1
SETTING (assists): Libby Sussner 31, Sophie Gillund 27

ATTACKING (kills): Leah Coequyt 18, Jaylyn Coequyt 14, Eden Meagher 12, Sophie Gillund 7, Ava Rost 5, Brek Fier 4

BLOCKING: Leah Coequyt 3, Sydney Hennen 2, Brek Fier 2, Jaylyn Coequyt 2
DIGS: Autum Anderson 17, Eden Meagher 15, Brynn Rost 13, Libby Sussner 5

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Canby/Minneota girls 2nd to Marshall at TMB Invitational

By Scott Thoma

scott@thomabooks.com

Canby/Minneota's Mya Pesek finished fourth in the girls' race Thursday in Tracy, sparking the team to a second-place finish behind Marshall.

The Canby/Minneota boys came in fourth among seven teams in their race. Marshall was the team champion.

Pesek, a state tournament veteran, finished in a time of 20:59.2. Claire Kruse of Marshall was the individual winner in 19:39.1.

Adri Christianson (12th), Taylor Ourada (13th) and Jonna Briggs (18th) and Sophie Becker (21st) rounded out the top five C/M runners.

Tallen Merritt was the top C/M boys' runner, placing 11th in 18:37.8. Aiden Appel of Murray County Central/Fulda won the boys' race in 17:23.0.

Merritt, Seth Paluch (19th), Kendon Knutson (20th), Henry Vidoloff (36th) and Jaxxon Ruether (38th) were the top five C/M finishers.

BOYS TEAM SCORES

(1) Marshall 40 (2) Windom Area 61 (3) Murray County Central/Fulda 72 (4) Canby/Minneota 106 (5) Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 125 (6) Worthington 148 (7) Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 162

BOYS TOP 10

(1) Aiden Appel, MCCF, 17:23 (2) Charles Mueller-Thompson, Mar, 17:331.1 (3) Bryce Green, Win, 17:48.9 (4) Noland Munson, Mar, 18:00.1 (5) Max Fischer, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's, 18:00.3 (6) Nolan Tjentland, Win, 18:05.1 (7) Micah Janssen, MCCF, 18:14.6 (8) Isaac Bordewyk, Win, 18:19.8 (9) Corbin Liebfried, Mar, 18:31.0 (10) Titus Van Beenk, Central Minnesota Christian, 18:33.7

CANBY/MINNEOTA BOYS

(11) Tallen Merritt 18:37.8 (19) Seth Paluch 19:38.6 (20) Kendon Knutson 19:41.3 (36) Henry Vidoloff 20:33.8 (38) Jaxon Ruether 20:37.8 (43) Tate Frazeur 21:10.7 (45) Jasper Pochardt 21:17.8 (46) Zeyan Anderson 21:18.4 (50) Nolan Van Keulen 21:32.0

GIRLS TEAM SCORES

(1) Marshall 18 (2) Canby/Minneota 43 (3) Windom Area 84 (4) Central Minnesota Christian School 85

GIRLS TOP 10

(1) Claire Kruse, Mar, 19:39.1 (2) Evangeline LeGare, MACCRAY/Renville County West, 20:39.5 (3) Jasmine Murphy, Mar, 20:43.1 (4) Mya Pesek, CM, 20:59.2 (5) Kaitlyn Soupir, Mar, 21:11.9 (6) Laiken Farris, Murray County Central/Fulda, 21:17.5 (7) Landrey Grven, Mar, 21:29.2 (8) Lainey Jakels, TMB, 21:46.6 (9) Emma Hagen, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's, 22:00.7 (10) Jenna Sanders, Mar, 22.12.1

CANBY/MINNEOTA GIRLS

(4) Mya Pesek 20:59.2 (12) Adri Christianson 22:30.6 (13) Taylor Ourada 22:30.6 (18) Jonna Briggs 23:49.5 (21) Sophie Becker 24:22.1 (28) Anna Briggs 25:28.5 (32) Charlotte Brunsvig 26:09.7 (33) Addison Full 26:16.9 (34) Ella Cleveland 26:27.4 (39) Kyra Giese 27:20.0

Fun Facts - September

September is the time to finish the year's harvest and celebrate its bounty. Like every other month of the year, September has plenty to show for itself. Here are s few interesting acts about this month.

September's name is really quite inaccurate these days. It was originally the seventh month of the ancient Roman calendar, and as such is was named Septem, which translates into "the seventh month". It wasn't until 451 BC that the months of January and February were added to the calendar, making September the ninth month.

September also used to only have 29 days. Thanks to Julius Caesar's reform of the Roman calendar in 46 BC the month now has an additional day.

The Romans would quite often associate different months with different gods. The month of September is associated with Vulcan, the Roman god of fire, quite possibly because it was a fiery hot month back when it was the seventh month of the year.

September heralds the beginning of fall in the northern hemisphere, with it officially commencing on the September equinox, which is usually between the 21st and the 23rd of the month. In the southern hemisphere, it's the opposite of course, with spring starting on the September equinox.

September 1, 1939, was a dark day for the world. It was on this day that Hitler invaded Poland, consequentially beginning World War II.

COMMUNITY events

September

Thursday, September 17
10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Bingo" at Senior Center
7:15 p.m. - Volleyball: Minneota at CMCS, Prinsburg

Friday, September 18
12:45 p.m. - "Bien" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "500" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Quilting" at Senior Center
6 p.m. - Gerhard Meidt bust unveiling, high school
7 p.m. - Football: Canby at Minneota (Homecoming)

Monday, September 21
1 p.m. - "Mahjong" at Senior Center

Tuesday, September 22
10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
12:45 p.m. - "Bien" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "500" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Quilting" at Senior Center
4:30 p.m. - Cross Country: Canby/Minneota at Madison
5:30 p.m. - Minneota School Board meeting
7:15 p.m. - Volleyball: Dawson-Boyd at Minneota

Wednesday, September 23
1 p.m. - "Hand, Knee & Foot" at Senior Center

Thursday, September 24
10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Bingo" at Senior Center
7:15 p.m. - Volleyball: Minneota at KMS

Friday, September 25
12:45 p.m. - "Bien" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "500" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Quilting" at Senior Center
4:30 p.m. - Volleyball: Minneota at Class A Showcase, Blaine
7 p.m. - Football: Lakeview at Minneota

Saturday, September 26
8 a.m. - Volleyball: Minneota at Class A Showcase, Blaine

Monday, September 28
1 p.m. - "Mahjong" at Senior Center
4:30 p.m. - Cross Country: Canby/Minneota at Granite Falls

Tuesday, September 29
10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
12:45 p.m. - "Bien" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "500" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Quilting" at Senior Center
7:15 pm. - Volleyball: Lac qui Parle Valley at Minneota

Wednesday, September 30
12:30-6:30 p.m. - Red Cross Blood Drive, high school gym
1 p.m. - "Hand, Knee & Foot" at Senior Center

October

Thursday, October 1
10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Bingo" at Senior Center
4:30 p.m. - Cross Country: Canby/Minneota at Redwood Falls
7:15 p.m. - Volleyball: Minneota at MACCRAY



Almond-Topped Pumpkin Cheesecake

This delicious family-favorite recipe takes some time to make, but the results are well worth it. This is a great dessert to serve coffee guests, too. They will definitely want to be invited over again.

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/3 cup finely chopped almonds
1 tablespoon sugar
1/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1/4 cup butter, melted
(Filling)
3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
1 cup canned pumpkin
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup sweetened condensed milk
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons maple syrup
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
3 eggs, lightly beaten
(Topping)
1 cup sour cream
3 tablespoons sugar
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup sliced almonds

Directions

In a small bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs, almonds, sugar and pumpkin pie spice; stir in butter. Press onto the bottom of a greased 9-inch springform or deep pie pan. Place pan on a baking sheet. Bake at 325 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, pumpkin, sugar, condensed milk, flour, syrup, ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg until smooth. Add eggs; beat on low speed just until combined. Pour into crust. Place pan on a double-thickness of aluminum foil and securely wrap foil around pan. Place wrapped pan on a large baking pan and add 1-inch of hot water to larger pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 55-60 minutes or until center is just set. In a small bowl, combine sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Spread over hot cheesecake. Sprinkle with sliced almonds. Bake 15-18 minutes longer or until topping is set. Remove pan from hot water bath. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Carefully run a knife around edge of pan to loosen. Cool 1 hour longer. Refrigerate overnight. Remove sides of pans before slicing.

BLOOD DRIVE AT SCHOOL SEPT. 30

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive from 12:30-6:30 p.m. On Wednesday, Sept. 30 in Minneota High School gymnasium.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. One donation can make a meaningful difference for patients and families in need.

To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code MinneotaHS, call 1-800-RED CROSS, or use the Blood Donor App.

As an added bonus, donors who give blood Sept. 21–Oct. 18 will receive a $15 e-gift card.

POLICE BLOTTER

August 31 - Suspicious 911 (300 block W. 3rd St.)
September 1 - Suspicious 911 (Van's Trailer Park)
September 1 - Traffic Stop (Jefferson/Century)
September 1 - School Bus Arm Violation (Lyon Street)
September 2 - Traffic Stop (Jefferson/Century)
September 2 - Medical Assistance (200 block Eisenhower)
September 2 - Runaway (700 block N. Jefferson)
September 7 - Burglary (100 block Washington)
September 9 - Medical Assistance (700 block Monroe)
September 9 - Theft of Vehicle (700 block N. Jefferson)
September 11 - Suspicious 911 (800 block Monroe)
September 12 - Suspicious 911 (700 block Jefferson)
September 13 - Damage to Property (500 block Madison)
September 13 - Trespass to Property (100 block E. 1st St.)
September 13 - Runaway (700 block N. Jefferson)

Subscription expiring?

After next month, the Mascot will not be mailing out postcards to remind subscribers that their subscription is expiring.

Check your address label in the upper right-hand corner of your paper to see the date your newspaper subscription is expiring.

A date marked in red indicates that your subscription is about to expire.

Subscriptions rates and the Mascot's address are at the bottom Page 2.

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LOCAL AUTHOR BOOKS

Gail Boe: "Lettuce", "Hay", "Surely"
Dana Yost/Luke Yost: "On the Porch"
Dana Yost: "1940", "Free-Fall"
Robert Borson: "Astra the Flying Cow"
Scott Thoma: "Out of the Blue"
Ronni Vlaminck: "Stormy's Brave Beginning" & Stormy's First Christmas"
Valeri Scheps: "She Didn't Pout About it Much" & Stanley Plays the Accordion

LOCAL MUSICIAN CD's

Mario Callens & Midwest Cowboys: "Coors Banquet"

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ITEM FOR THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR, CALL 507-872-6492
or email www.minneotamascot.com

– Minneota Area Community Churches –

Healing Waters Parish
Augustana, Clarkfield; Bergen, Clarkfield; St. Lucas Lutheran, Cottonwood

Worship Times:
St. Lucas: Sunday Worship at 9 a.m.
Augustana: Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.
Bergen: Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.

Pastor Mort Meyenburg
Church Contact No. 320-841-1085

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church
PO Box 119, 101 Main Street, Hanley Falls
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

Worship Time: All Sunday services are in-person and also live-streamed at 10:30 a.m. Sundays on Facebook (visit Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church). Please watch the website and Facebook for more information.
Sunday, September 20: Worship at 11 a.m.

Church Contact No. 507-768-3417
Pastor Steve Quist: 507-337-0068
Tim Velde, Lay Minister: 507-828-5343

St. Leo Catholic Church
St. Leo, MN
Mass Time: Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Fr. Brendan Rolling & Fr. Keith Salisbury
Church Contact No. 507-224-2289

Bethany-Elim Lutheran, Ivanhoe
Worship Time: Sundays at 9 a.m. with Sunday School

Bethany Lutheran, Arco
Worship Time: Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Church Contact No. 507-694-1238
windsministry@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
Minneota
www.hopeminneota.org

Worship Time:
Sunday, September 20: Worship at 9 a.m.

Minister: Jennifer Warnock: 320-305-4955
Church Secretary, Chris Pesch:
hopelutheran87@gmail.com
Church Contact No. 507-872-6446

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Minneota

Worship Time: Sunday, September 20: 10:30 a.m.

Minister: Jennifer Warnock: 320-305-4955
Church Secretary: Chris Pesch
hopelutheran87@gmail.com
Church Contact No. 507-872-6446

St. Eloi Catholic Church
Ghent

Mass Times:
Thursday, September 17: Noon Mass at Convent
Friday, September 18: Noon Mass at Convent
Saturday, September 19: Noon Mass at Convent
Sunday, September 20: Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Father Todd Petersen
Church Contact No. 507-428-3285

Hemnes Lutheran Church
Rural Minneota

Worship Time: Sundays at 8:30 a..m.
Pastor Ellen Munter

Bethel Fellowship Church
Hwy 68 - Minneota
Ephesians 2:8 - By grace you are saved.

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School 8:50-9:45 a.m.
Wednesdays: Kids' Zone 6-7:20 p.m.; Prayer and Devotional 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Thomas Nomeland
Contact No. 507-828-1637

St. Edward Catholic Church
Minneota

Mass Time:
Thursday, September 17: Mass at 7 a.m.
Thursday, September 18: Mass for Gr. 5-6, 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 19: Mass at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 20: Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Father Todd Petersen
Church Contact No. 507-872-6346

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Events

St. Edward Catholic Church

Fall Festival

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026

SERVING: 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Roasted Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Vegetable Sides, Homemade Dessert & Beverage)

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL: 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Silent Auction — Cake Walk — Country Store — Baked Candy Store & More

Mario Callens & Midwest Cowboys — 11 a.m.-Noon

DINNER TICKETS: Adults (13-and-over) — $15
Children (4-12) — $5
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Miscellaneous





A great start and an exciting year ahead



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Scott Monson
Minneota Public School Superintendent

It is hard to believe that we are already almost one month weeks into the 2026–2027 school year! After all the hard work and preparation, there is something special about seeing our hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasiums, playground, and athletic fields once again filled with students.

There is certainly plenty of work ahead of us, and undoubtedly there will be a few bumps along the way, but I am excited about where we are and where we are headed.

Thank You, Minneota

One of the biggest reasons for that excitement is what occurred on August 11, when our community supported the district's building bond referendum. Throughout the referendum process, we worked hard to provide residents with information about our facilities, the needs that exist, the options being considered, and the financial impact of those options. Ultimately, our community was asked to make an important decision about the future of our schools. You did so, and the responsibility shifts back to us.

Our community has entrusted the school district with a significant investment, and it is now our responsibility to work to deliver what was promised. Over the months and years ahead, we will collaborate with our architects, construction partners, staff, School Board, and others to move these projects from possibilities, ideas, and conceptual drawings to complete and detailed improvements. Thank you, Minneota, for the opportunity to move forward with this investment.

Technology, AI, and finding the right balance

Buildings aren't the only things changing in education. Technology continues to evolve at a fast pace, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly common in our schools, workplaces, and everyday lives.

Our responsibility as a school district is not to ignore those changes. We need to prepare students for the world they will enter after graduation, and technology and AI will undoubtedly be part of that world. At the same time, I don't believe that more technology is automatically better. Our goal will be purposeful technology use – using technology when it improves teaching, learning, creativity, communication, or productivity, rather than simply using technology because it is available.

There also needs to be balance. Students still need to read books, learn how to write, solve problems, create things, ask questions, work with their hands, collaborate with classmates, participate in discussions, and learn how to communicate face-to-face. There are times when a computer or other technology is an outstanding educational tool, but there are also times when the best educational decision may be to close the device. Finding that balance will continue to be an important conversation for our district, our staff, and our families.

People are still our greatest resource

With all the discussion about new facilities, technology, AI, and what education may look like in the future, it is important to remember something that hasn't changed – people. People still make the difference. Our teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, food service employees, advisors and coaches, office staff, administrators, substitutes, and many others each play a role in creating the experience our students have at Minneota Public Schools. Buildings will change. Technology will change. Programs will change. But relationships will continue to matter and always will.

As we begin another school year, I am incredibly thankful for the people who work with and support our students each day, for the families who entrust their children to us, and for a community that continues to support its school. We have much to be proud of and plenty of work still ahead of us.

Obituaries

SERVICE CHANGE

Robyn Dwyer
1953-2026

Due to a hard and unexpected family health situation, the family of Robyn Dwyer has made the difficult decision to postpone funeral services for her.

Her service that was originally scheduled for Sept. 13 and will now be held on November 1 at the Bradshaw Celebration of Life Center, 2800 Curve Crest Road, Stillwater, MN, beginning with a visitation at 11 a.m., and service at 12 p.m.. followed by a lunch with family and friends.

We are deeply grateful for your understanding, support, prayers, and kindness during this time. We look forward to gathering with you on Nov. 1 to celebrate Robyn's life, a life that meant so much to so many.

The family of Robyn Dwyer

Fall Reflections Series at Lyon County Museum

All programs are free will donation and open to the public. Programs are sponsored by Lyon County Historical Society members. For more information, contact the Lyon County Museum at 507-537-6580.

Wetterling/Baker book: 'Dear Jacob'

Saturday, September 19, 2 p.m.

Patty Wetterling and Joy Baker will present on their book, "Dear Jacob: A Mother's Journey of Hope" at the Lyon County Museum at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19.

On Oct. 22, 1989, in the small town of St. Joseph, Minnesota, 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling was kidnapped at gunpoint. Twenty-seven years later, on Sept. 3, 2016, Danny Heinrich led authorities to the boy's remains. What lies between is the riveting story of the search for Jacob Wetterling, told by his mother, Patty. In 2013, the Wetterlings were joined on their quest for answers by two unlikely allies-a local blogger and a plumber. Joy Baker convinced Jared Scheierl to come forward and share his story about being kidnapped from a nearby town and sexually assaulted the same year as Jacob. Together, these two uncovered a string of similar assaults that had never been fully investigated. The combined efforts of this foursome led to the breakthrough that solved the case.

Grammond presents roadside curiosities

Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.

Jay Grammond will present, "Wind, Prairie, and Stone in Southwest Minnesota" at the Lyon County Museum ay 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Step into the windswept prairies and rugged stone country of Southwest Minnesota! In this fascinating presentation, we'll uncover hidden roadside curiosities, explore historic windmills; stone buildings and formations, and hear stories that bring the region's past to life, from railroad depots to churches, to Carnegie libraries and so much more. This presentation features 18 counties of prairie beauty and one-of-a-kind landmarks. You will see familiar landscapes in a whole new way.

Grammond is a Minnesota-based photographer, author, and public speaker known for capturing the essence of Americana, rural landscapes, remembering our veterans, and fading history through his lens. As the creative force behind J Grammond Photography, he leads photography workshops, speaks at cultural and historical events, sells Fine Art; and publishes books that preserve visual stories of the past. His work has been featured in galleries, healthcare spaces, radio, tv, and podcast programs; and educational programs throughout the region. Jay is passionate about using photography to honor veterans, explore forgotten places, and inspire others to pursue meaningful personal projects, and to plant the idea with them that it is never too late to start something new.

Statement of Ownership

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® — Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
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Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Scott Thoma — 2113 21st Ave. SW, Willmar, MN 56201

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The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
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13. Publication Title: Minneota Mascot — 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Sept. 17, 2026

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
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b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	210	210
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d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	8	8
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i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)			97.45%	97.45%

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d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	97.52%	97.52%

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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Scott Thoma, Editor/General Manager — Date: Sept. 17, 2026

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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2026 Boxelder Bug Days Photo Album



This group was among 12 teams in the puzzle competition. Clockwise from left: Gail Boe, Renee Wyffels, Alison Neet, and Alison's daughter, Emma Neet. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*

GOLF BALL ROLL WINNERS

The following are the winners in the Boxelder Bug Days Golf Ball Roll held on Sunday:

Linda Nuytten - $500
Robin Boe Traen- $250
Carolyn Lipinski - $100
Markuz Kranz - $75
Rachel Farrell - $50
Lydia Coequyt - $25
Luke DePestel - $25
Paul Begnard - $25
Jan Noyes - $25
Roberta Josephson - $25
Seth Hasert - $25
Josh Kiley - $25

Bug Days Winners List

JOHNNY TILLEMANS MEMORIAL CHILI COOKOFF - (People's Choice): Pete Doyscher ... (Judges): Deb Gilbertson and Dan Hearschman.

PICKLEBALL: Jason Rath, Dana Berghorst

SHOVE THE BUG: Lucas Damm, Cael Fier

BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT - (Youth): Kellen Noyes, Theo Noyes

BOXELDER BUG RACES: Vi'Vienne Vera-Winter

GOLF SHOOTOUT: Jimmy Christensen

GOLF SCRAMBLE: Walker Hennen, Harlen Ulrich, Joe Hennen, Jake Wagner

PUZZLE CONTEST: Michelle Bloch, Julie Leibfried, Judy Leibfried, Lindsay Leibfried

VFW WOOD BENCH DRAWING: Joe Kimpe

(Not all Boxelder Bug Days weekend winners were available. Email scott@thomabooks.com if you want to list other winners in next week's Mascot).



Joe Voit tosses out some candy to a couple of parde-goers on Sunday. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Buster the Clown performed some magic along the parade route. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Barrett Kimpe was dressed as a Lego block for the Kiddie Parade on Saturday. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Pickleball champions Dana Berghorst, left, and Jason Rath compete in the championship match on Saturday. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



A large group of young competitors tried their hand at tossing bean bags along First Street. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Carey Doyscher serves a cup of chili to Tom Nomeland on Saturday during the Johnny Tillemans Memorial Chili Cookoff. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*

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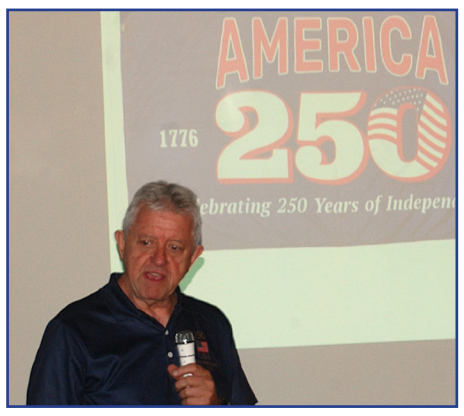




Round and round they go. This group of motorcyclists entertained parade goers on Sunday. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Despite being opponents in the upcoming District 15A House of Representatives seat, Brad Hennen, left, and Nathan Schmig took time to pose for a photo before judging the boxelder bug races. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



Historian and storyteller Doug Ohman presented "America 250" in the Opera Hall. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



Nevaeh Schreiber kicks off the Barrel Racing Series at the Silver Spurs Arena while carrying the flag. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



At the Minneota Family Dental stop, competitors armed wrestled for prizes during the Family Fun Run. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Kayla Daniels drew a big crowd in Bug Square Saturday to hear her perform. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



Under the direction of John Voit the Route 68 band performed in Bugg Square on Saturday. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



One of the newest events this year for Bug Days was the sand volleyball tournament at Countryside Golf Club. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason.*

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2026 Boxelder Bug Days Photo Album



Addy Kiley was all smiles as she is crowned Boxelder Bug Days queen by last year's queen Brynn Kern. At left is Second Princess Alexa Mead and First Princess Eden Meagher. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Reed Sorensen, left, and Guy Cardinal teamed up for the pickleball tournament on Jefferson Street. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



Jeff Sussner, left, receives the Boxelder Bug Days Good Neighbor Award from chairman Scott Josephson. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



The Leibfried clan won the Patriotic Puzzle contest on Saturday afternoon. Contestants had to put a 300-piece patriotic puzzle together, while also consuming watermelon, chips and hot dogs, and drinking eight beverages. Clockwise from lower left, Michelle Bloch, Julie Leibfried, Judy Leibfried and Lindsay Leibfried. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



The winners of the Johnny Tillemans Chili Cookoff, left to right: Pete Doyscher, People's Choice; Deb Gilbertson and Dan Hearschman, first and third place (two separate recipes) in the judge's contest, as well as the traveling trophy winner for "Some Spicy Setup for best booth; and Jeremy Friedrichs, second place in the judge's contest. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



The Minneota American Legion was represented in Sunday's parade. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Despite high winds in the morning, the 25 vendors selling merchandise on the west end of Veterans Park drew large crowds throughout the day. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*

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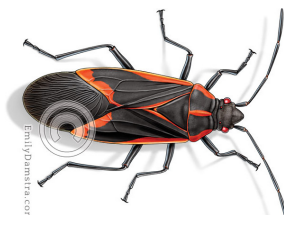
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2026 Boxelder Bug Days Photo Album





Olivia Hennen managed to smile while holding onto the mechanical bull. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



Hayes Boettger cruises down the road during Saturday's Kiddie Parade. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



This inflatable pirate ship stole the hearts of many of the kids who played on it this past weekend. *Mascot photo by Scott Thoma*



Owen Dalager chips some sponge golf balls into the crowd during the parade. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Saturday night's queen corontion drew a large crowd to Bug Square. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*



Members of the Southwest Minnesota State University men's basketball team dressed up like Jake from State Farm to help local insurance agent Kevin Anundson pass out caramel rolls and coffee Saturday morning before the Family Fun Run. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*

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The Minneota marching band, directed by John Voit, marched down Jefferson Street in the grand parade on Sunday. *Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason*

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