

Benton County NEWS

FOLEY, MINNESOTA

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Honoring those who served



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lt. Col. Jay Hackett is the keynote speaker scheduled for the Foley High School Veterans Day program that starts at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the FHS gym. Hackett enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard in 1989.

FHS hosts Veterans Day program Nov. 8

BY HANS LAMMEMAN
STAFF WRITER

In a display of patriotism that occurs every other year, Foley High School will open its doors to the public for a program meant to unite the community while honoring veterans and active-duty military personnel.

The FHS Veterans Day event begins with a reception at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the auditorium entryway, followed by a program at 9:30 a.m. in the high school gym. The public is invited to attend; visitors do not need to check in at the main entrance.

Foley area resident and 28-year citizen-soldier Lt. Col. Jay Hackett of the Minnesota Army National Guard is the program's keynote speaker. He said events like the one at FHS are essential to recognize and support veterans in the community.

"To gather, pause and reflect upon people past and present who have left the comforts of home to serve abroad to defend what we hold dear helps to fill the holes that were created in veterans' lives by serving," Hackett said. "In other words, these events help to heal some of the wounds caused by the sacrifices of serving."

Foley High School page 2

Reflecting



BY HANS LAMMEMAN
STAFF WRITER

When reflecting on 85 years of life, Harvey Mohs said his time as a young adult in the U.S. Marine Corps taught him lessons he has carried with him since.

While Mohs would ultimately venture far from home, his journey began in the small town of Luxemburg — about 25 miles southwest of St. Cloud. He described his hometown as having two beer joints, a garage, a church, a cemetery, a school and not much else.

One of the eight children raised by Alois and Genevive Mohs, he said he grew up with a saw and hammer in his hand. When he was not doing carpentry work with his father in St. Joseph, Mohs spent much of his time building wooden frame model airplanes and reading books about the troops in the Marine Corps.

Despite not having close family mem-

bers who served in the military, Mohs had his eyes set on enlisting well before he was of the minimum age to do so.

When he was 17 years old, he joined the Minnesota National Guard to begin physical training and familiarize himself with the weaponry which he would one day train within the military.

Almost as quickly as he could pack up his bags after graduating from Tech High School in St. Cloud, he embarked on his career with the Marines.

"Two weeks after I graduated from high school, I boarded a plane to San Diego for boot camp. That was a change of life, I'll tell you," Mohs said. "I liked

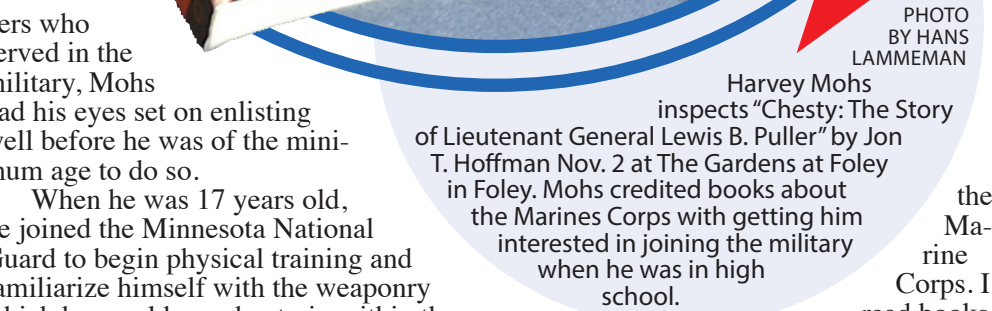


PHOTO BY HANS LAMMEMAN

Harvey Mohs inspects "Chesty: The Story of Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller" by Jon T. Hoffman Nov. 2 at The Gardens at Foley in Foley. Mohs credited books about the Marines Corps with getting him interested in joining the military when he was in high school.

the Marine Corps. I read books Marines and

wanted to be one of them."

Mohs adapted quickly to life at basic training. Before long, he became close with new friends from all over the United States and ate meals in the mess hall that he still occasionally craves.

Mohs page 2

2 Benton County administrators tender same-week resignations

Human services, human resources directors end employment

BY TIM HENNAGIR | STAFF WRITER

Human services director Robert Cornelius and human resources director Johanna Mattson have ended their employment with Benton County.

County administrator Montgomery Headley recently confirmed Cornelius and Mattson submitted resignation letters within the same week in mid-October.

Cornelius submitted a letter Oct. 18; his last day of employment was Nov. 3.

Mattson submitted her resignation letter Oct. 20; her final day of work is Dec. 1.

Cornelius declined to comment on his resignation with Benton County when he was contacted earlier this week by Star Publications. Mattson could not be reached

by newspaper staff for comment.

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act is a state law that controls how government data is collected, created, stored, used and released.

The act sets certain requirements relating to the right of the public to access government data and the rights of individuals who are government data subjects.

Resignations page 3

A first-hand look at American history

Local organizations help fund student trip to Washington, D.C.

BY HANS LAMMEMAN
STAFF WRITER

In addition to Foley Intermediate School students learning about American history in textbooks and classroom discussions, sixth-grade teacher Kristin Herbert introduced a new hands-on learning opportunity for seventh and eighth graders that aimed to bring the curriculum to life.

Along with seventh-grade social studies teacher Michael Beier and eighth-grade social studies teacher John Drexler, Herbert participated in a four-day tour of the U.S. Capitol with 13 parents and 29 students during Minnesota Education Association conferences weekend Oct. 19-22.

Washington, D.C. page 3



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Foley Intermediate School students, parents and teachers huddle together for a photo in front of the White House Oct. 19 in Washington, D.C. This year was the first time Foley Intermediate School students had the chance to visit the U.S. Capitol during a school trip.



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Public Notices

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Mohs from front

"I was happy to be in the Marine Corps," Mohs said. "I was always kind of a loner, but I was happy in the Marines. It was interesting, hard, tough training."

After graduating from boot camp, Mohs spent the remainder of his two-year military stint from 1957-59 at Camp Pendleton north of San Diego, California. He said he served before the Vietnam War fully developed and after the Korean War settled down.

"Being in the Marines had some tough duties," Mohs said. "You walked a lot, marched a lot, inspected your rifle a lot, and they punished you with a bunch of push-ups if you had a dirty rifle."

During the time Mohs was in the military, there were nearly 15,000 U.S. Marine and Army troops ashore in Lebanon, according to a U.S. Naval Institute summary.

Mohs said he wanted to put his training to use and serve abroad, but he remained at the base in California with his fellow marines, preparing for a call that they would be needed.

Mohs attained the rank of private first class then corporal. He recalled leading and undergoing training with his regiment at Camp Pendleton.

"I never got shot at," he said. "We were training there, and we got a notice to pack lockers because we were going on duty. We were told to go out in the training field. We had our work clothes on."

They waited hours at night, but the bus to take them to the shipyard never came. So, they returned to the camp and

PHOTO BY HANS LAMMEMAN

On Nov. 2 at his home in Foley, Harvey Mohs points to a magazine picture of a plane similar to the type he learned to fly while stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. Mohs joined a flying club in St. Cloud after returning to Minnesota.

continued training.

When he was off duty, he used his free time to pursue a desire to fly. An uncle, Leonard, who was living in California, introduced him to a flying instructor in Oceanside.

Mohs took a bus and walked several miles each weekend to attend flight training until he eventually received his pilot's license.

"My whole group would go to Tijuana to raise hell, drink beer and fart around," Mohs said. "I said, 'You guys go ahead, the few bucks that I have in my pocket, I am going to spend

on flying.'"

Mohs was honorably discharged after his two-year tour with the Marines. He eagerly returned home to Minnesota.

"Being in the military and Marine Corps was so different from civilian life," Mohs said. "It was a different world. We put our time in and served our country for two years. That was good training for the rest of my life."

Mohs said the service instilled a work ethic he carried with him as a civilian.

He returned to work as a carpenter in St. Cloud and surrounding areas. He met his future wife of

Mohs points at the title of "Chesty: The Story of Lieutenant General Lewis B. Puller" by Jon T. Hoffman Nov. 2 at The Gardens at Foley in Foley. Mohs likes to read books about Marine Corps soldiers and veterans in his free time.

Harvey Mohs salutes Nov. 2 at The Gardens at Foley in Foley. Mohs served with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1957-59.

50 years, Mary Jo Barthelemy of Foley, at a dance hall in St. Augusta. After a few years of dating, they married at St. John's Catholic Church in Foley.

"She was Foley Furrow Queen," Mohs said. "She could drive a tractor and plow the ground. Foley High School had a contest where the kids would drive a tractor and plow. I kidded her about that quite often."

The couple lived in St. Joseph for many years, raising three kids: Todd, Gail and Jodi.

Now, more than 60 years after finishing his term with the military, Mohs still looks back on those days and enjoys reminiscing about his time as a Marine in California.



Foley High School from front

The program will include patriotic music from the Penn Street Singers and the FHS band and choir. Members of Foley American Legion Post 298 will conduct the colors ceremony.

Current FHS student and National Guard commit George Olson will present the history of Veterans Day, and student Reese Miller will read the history of taps.

Hackett said his speech aims to connect the students in attendance with veterans in the community.

"I will do this by explaining a bit about what a military veteran experiences and how those experiences shape their lives," Hackett said. "I hope to inspire thought in students to experience the world in their own ways and to embrace culture, difficult circumstances and challenges that they will face."

Principal Joel Foss said he looks forward to seeing the FHS Veterans Day program for the first time. He encouraged community members to attend the event to demonstrate support for

military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

"Hopefully, (students) get some sense of the sacrifice our veterans gave — some of them gave the ultimate sacrifice," Foss said. "I also (hope students understand) the experiences these ladies and gentlemen had as they served and protected our country so that we have the freedoms we enjoy."

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Washington, D.C. from front



Archer Benson, Codey Berscheid, Liam Pederson and Nolan O'Conner sit together on a bench Oct. 20 at Arlington National Cemetery. The trip was partially funded by local organizations.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Herbert went on a similar trip about 15 years ago with students from a district where she previously taught.

After hearing that no such opportunity existed for middle school students in Foley, she spearheaded an effort with more than a year of planning to give FIS students the same chance to visit Washington, D.C.

"I probably signed up about 30 in the first few months," Herbert said. "As it went on, more and more signed up. The eighth-grade Washington, D.C., trip is nationwide. Tons of schools have middle schoolers who go there."

Students turned to community organizations like the Foley American Legion, Foley Sons of the American Legion, Grand Champion Meats, Foley Lions Club, Duellm Knights of Columbus and Sauk Rapids Veterans of Foreign Wars to make the trip more affordable.

Herbert said students participated in fundraisers for more than a year, presented to potential donors, assisted at concession stands during sporting events and found other ways to raise funds to attend the educational opportunity in Washington.

Joe Kaproth, Foley American Legion post commander, said the trip made social studies lessons and historical interests more relevant to students.

"The historical aspects of seeing the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery is a priceless experience for them," Kaproth said. "Nearly everyone in the Legion family feels strongly that is the type of thing that the Legion should be

supporting."

The weekend-long trip was jam-packed with dozens of destinations hand-picked by Herbert to pique the students' interests. The tour was led by Explorica, a guide company, which Herbert said kept adults and children entertained and interested at every stop.

The itinerary included museums, memorials, the U.S. Capitol, the White House, a play at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, a dinner cruise and more.

"We didn't do everything you could do, and we did a lot," Herbert said. "It was packed with days where you're learning a lot and it is exciting, but you're also tired."

Some of the students reported walking upward of 30 miles during the four-day trip, according to Herbert.

She said one of the students compared the excursion to wrestling camp; they learn a lot but are exhausted

afterward.

Drexler said the trip came at a perfect time for him. Not only had he been a social studies teacher his whole career and had never visited the nation's Capitol, but his son, Jake, is also currently attending intermediate school and expressed interest in the opportunity.

The trip, Drexler said, will benefit students as they learn about many of the historic buildings, monuments and locations they visited.

"As we talk about some things in citizenship, or when we get into some

of our units on the United States, I'm going to lean on those kids and ask them questions a little bit about what they saw and try to tie it all together with them," Drexler said.

Jake said he and other students who attended the trip shared stories and photos with classmates and family when he returned.

Herbert said she hopes to continue offering the Washington learning opportunity to students every two years for the foreseeable future.



Zachary Busch, Weston Clausen and Liam Pederson sit together during dinner Oct. 21 in Washington, D.C. Foley Intermediate School students study U.S. history in seventh grade.



Makana Washa, Gretchen Fair, Bella Kasner, Kinsley Dieger read from a plaque Oct. 20 at a museum in Washington, D.C. Second Sentence

Resignations from front

In a data practices request, Star Publications asked Headley to release salary, employment and previous work experience information about the two employees.

Star Publications also asked for the final disposition of any complaints, charges or disciplinary actions involving both employees.

Headley reported there were no complaints, charges or disciplinary actions on file for Cornelius or Mattson.

When asked if either employee had signed an agreement to settle an employment relationship dispute or buyout, Headley said that information was not applicable because both employees had resigned.

"Generally speaking, personnel data is a mixture of public and private data," Headley said. "They (Cornelius and Mattson) both gave the minimum two

weeks' notice as stated in the county's personnel policy. They resigned in good standing."

Headley said he would not release the October resignation letters submitted by Cornelius and Mattson.

"I don't see anything in the state's data practices act that considers a resignation letter public," he said.

Cornelius started his county employment March 1, 2013. He previously served as Mille Lacs County human services director beginning in 2011 and Pope County's human resources director from 2008 to 2011.

Cornelius has a master's degree in psychology from Alfred Adler Graduate School and bachelor's degrees from Northwestern College (psychology) and Cardinal Strich University (business management).

Mattson started her county employment April 19, 2018. Before starting with Benton County,

Mattson was employed as a human resources generalist with Electrolux in St. Cloud starting in 2008.

She has a bachelor of arts degree in hospitality and tourism management from the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Headley released salary information for both employees in his data practices response.

Cornelius ended county employment with an annual salary of \$137,509, at the top of a salary range that started at \$105,248.

Mattson ended her Benton County employment with an annual salary of \$97,677. Her pay range

was \$90,917 to \$124,717, Headley said.

Deputy director Sandi Shoberg is managing the day-to-day operations of the human services department, Headley said, adding he is assisting human resources staff.

"I plan to discuss a human services director succession plan at the board's Nov. 7 meeting," Headley said. "I will know more then about timing and process."

Regarding the human resources director position, Headley said he does not have a job posting timeline yet and would discuss that with human resources staff.

Dr. Kimberly Molacek
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. — **Benton County Board of Commissioners Meeting.** Benton County Administration Building, 531 Dewey St., Foley.

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1:30-2:30 p.m. — **Fun and Fitness for Seniors.** For adults age 60 and older. Dewey Place Community Room, 455 Dewey St., Foley. For more information, call CARE at 320-968-7848.

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 5:30 p.m. — **Foley City Council Meeting.** Foley City Hall, 251 Fourth Ave. N., Foley. Meeting may be canceled if lack of agenda items.

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. — **Free Grace Recovery Meeting.** Hosted by Free Grace United. All are welcome; everyone struggles with something. Food and fellowship beginning at 6:30 p.m. The ROC, 141 Fourth Ave. N., Foley. For more information or support, call 612-512-4745.

Thursday, Nov. 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m. — **Fun and Fitness for Seniors.** For adults age 60 and older. Dewey Place Community Room, 455 Dewey St., Foley. For more information, call CARE at 320-968-7848.

Saturday, Nov. 11 — **Veterans Day.**

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 10:30-11:30 a.m. — **Book Club.** Sponsored by the Friends of Foley Library. For adults and seniors. Pick up a copy of the book selection at the circulation desk. Great River Regional Library, 251 Fourth Ave. N., Foley.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m. — **Fun and Fitness for Seniors.** For adults age 60 and older. Dewey Place Community Room, 455 Dewey St., Foley. For more information, call CARE at 320-968-7848.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2-2:30 p.m. — **Preschool Storytime.** Books, rhymes and songs to promote school readiness. Registration not required. Siblings welcome. Great River Regional Library, 251 Fourth Ave. N., Foley.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m. — **Free Grace Recovery Meeting.** Hosted by Free Grace United. All are welcome; everyone struggles with something. Food and fellowship beginning at 6:30 p.m. The ROC, 141 Fourth Ave. N., Foley. For more information or support, call 612-512-4745.

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Winter rookies enjoy snowy experience

THROUGH MY LENSES
BY HANS LAMMEMAN



Central Minnesota saw its first snow of the season on the eve of Halloween this year. The National Weather Service reported 2-6 inches of snowfall across much of Benton County Oct. 30-31.

While many Minnesotans were shaking their fists at the sky and cursing under their breath at the sight of the early snowflakes, my girlfriend Sarah and I threw on our jackets and headed outside for our first snow experience since moving from Texas.

Since my arrival in May, most conversations with locals seem to eventually include them calling me crazy for the northward migration and a few words of advice for when the snow flies. I can finally put those suggestions to use, but first, Sarah and I had a snowball fight, made snow angels and saved some of the snow in a Ziploc bag for later reflection.

Given the sheer amount of snow that covers this region annually (47.9 inches, according to St. Cloud State University data), Minnesotans do not seem very excited to welcome frozen precipitation this year.

Back home in Houston, even the slightest possibility of snowfall is enough for schools and businesses to temporarily shut down because of hazardous road conditions. These days were amazing for kids; we would wake up early, hoping that weather forecasters on local news stations would grant us the day off from learning and foreshadow snowball fights.

As much as Houston area youth yearned for snow, it was a rare occurrence. I only recall a few snow days in southeast Texas, and we would usually have to scrape the tops of cars to gather enough for a snowball.

According to 115 years of record keeping from the Weather Research Center, snowfall — even trace amounts — occurs less than once every three years in Houston.

The potential for snow was not looked forward to with as much anticipation by the adults in my life. The thought of ice on roads was seemingly enough for many Texan drivers to forget how to operate their vehicles. I recall teachers in thick jackets sprinting toward warm buildings anytime it dipped below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

To be fair, many Texans' closets are not well equipped with clothing warm enough for some September nights in Minnesota. The St. Cloud area historically averages a high of 39 degrees and a low of 22 degrees during November, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Houston averages 70 and 54 degrees respectively during the same period.

While at a work function in October, one of my colleagues referenced "those beautiful winter days when it is about 20 degrees." Although he did make it sound pleasant, such days would never be described so fondly in Texas.

From what I've gathered, Minnesota winters are what you make of them. For some, the cold months are an opportunity to stay inside and daydream about moving south one day. For others, the snowy environment allows for hobbies like snowmobiling, ice fishing and ice skating.

I look forward to making the most of the upcoming frigid months, although that may very well be my lack of Minnesota winter experience showing.

Gossip in the local paper

IMPULSE FOR HERE | CECIL WADE



Readers of daily newspapers in our immediate area relied mostly on the St. Cloud Times for several decades and over time, three weekly newspapers were sources of local reports: Foley Tribune, The Foley Independent and Benton County News.

Long past issues of all three weeklies have become brittle, torn, missing parts and — face it — some of the stories are little more than person-to-person gossip. Well, not mean gossip, just why would anyone want to know this happened?

At the time these stories were printed and distributed, house-to-house, day-to-day information, even if it wasn't vital, was interesting.

The weekly paper, picked up at the post office or the print shop or delivered to the rural areas, was so welcome. Not only were the store ads, the professional notices, the classified ads and quite often another chapter of a serial novel valuable and interesting reading material, but settling back and finding who went where with whom was much appreciated.

The details and identities — who would ever have thought? Did anyone accuse the editors of the papers of lacking respect for the privacy of their lives and ventures?

A file of some interesting stories and notices that were put to ink in local presses includes the following examples of the readers' right to now.

In a follow-up story regarding a farm auction that was advertised the previous week, the auctioneer reveals that the auction sale netted "a fine profit" for the seller: \$873.15.

A profit? Anybody's business?

The name of a well-known farmer who is having health problems is a front-page story: He is stricken with paralysis, and his critical condition cautions the public. "It's doubtful he will recover."

A recently deceased area gentleman's will is settled. His daughter receives \$3,000, one son is given \$1,000 and the family business, and another son, \$500.

Tommy Joseph was a local man with several business interests. In 1909, Mr. Joseph had a notice of his intent to sell 39 western horses printed in the Foley Tribune. The editor informed the readers that the clever Mr. Joseph had "bought the horses for a snap."

If Tommy was a horse trader, might he have wished to lie a little about the value of the horses? Ain't that what horse trading is all about?

Readers learned that "Mrs. A. P. Carlson and Miss Esther Holmgren were returning from Foley to Glendora. It seems that one of the tugs became unhooked and the pole dropped out of the neck yoke, frightening the horses and causing them to strike at a terrific gait. They were almost stopped once but started again, throwing the ladies out of the rig with the result that Miss Holmgren had her collarbone broken besides suffering other bruises, while Mrs. Carlson had her back quite badly injured.

Did the papers' readers wonder if an insurance adjuster was involved? Did Tommy Joseph buy the dang horses? At a snap?

Very brief stories about people in the outlying townships were delivered to the paper by selected "reporters."

One year, at threshing time, readers learned that "Gust Kipka is running the front end of the separator, and Stanly Malinkowski is watching the blower so it don't get blocked."

J.C. Chandler seems to be an early cattle buyer, who from 1906 to 1911 sold cattle and hogs to local butcher shops.

The following letter to the editor, the readers (and too, I guess, everybody in the world) was given space on the Tribune's first page:

"In numerous inquiries as to what I was doing in St. Cloud last Saturday, I beg to say I did not know it was anybody's business. But if the editor of the Tribune will allow a little space, I will say I've been hornswoiggled out of some papers representing the property by a bunch that will soon be more fully known than by court records. They have pressed barley juice and a little too free and thereby accomplished their purpose for the time being.

"I have repeatedly demanded reimbursement but with no avail. Therefore, I was in St. Cloud to commence an action or two against said parties. On my arrival home from St. Cloud, I heard the rumor that they had settled with me or at least offered to settle. Now this is a falsehood pure and simple. They said they wanted to, but when the rates were presented, they crawled and stuck the money in their pockets even after I consented to take \$50 less than it came to.

"I even followed them to several places and asked to get my money and papers back but to no use. Therefore, I have commenced action against the parties, and that was my errand to St. Cloud."

No obituaries in the following weeks hinted at a really bad outcome of the action. Whew! Barley juice? Hornswoiggled?



When frost is on the pumpkin

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION | TYLER RICE



James Whitcomb Riley was a well-liked and widely known mid-western author and poet of the late 19th century who wrote these words:

"When the frost is on the punkin' and the fodder's in the shock." The poem talks of taking in the sights and sounds of the autumn season and is of the era when about 40% of the U.S. population was directly involved in agriculture production.

There's no doubt Mr. Riley has some acquaintance with the subject as well.

This past week saw an abrupt change in temperatures in Central Minnesota and with that comes the consequences of frost and freeze in the field and farmyard. A prelude to the occurrence of frost early in the season are cool, clear and calm nights. The warm surface temperatures cool as warm air rises away from the soil surface. Surface temperatures closest to the ground remain cool because the cool air is heavier than warm air. When air temperature varies from ground level to higher up in the atmosphere, scientists call this a surface temperature inversion. Without wind, the heavy cool air closest to the ground surface continues to drop in temperature.

Local topography greatly influences where the coolest air hangs out. Structures, fencerows, ditches, rises in the landscape and other formations can act as barriers trapping cool air in lower regions. Slopes, waterways and undulation in the landscape can also act as conduits for the movement of cold air. Even growing crop canopies and crop residues can create microclimates within the

landscape where air temperature will differ from ambient air temperatures. This is why a simple thermometer reading or weather report cannot always adequately predict the threat of freezing temperatures to crops.

So, what exactly is frost? Frost is the deposition of water vapor on a surface that is cooler than the freezing point of water, that is, 32 degrees. As the water vapor turns immediately from a gas to a solid in the form of ice crystals, frost is the product.

How does a light frost differ from the effects of a killing frost or freeze? The crop species, its maturity and stage of development determines its ability to modulate air temperature within plant structures relative to outside ambient air temperature. Extended time of exposure to freezing temperatures or abrupt exposure to freezing temperatures does the most damage to plant tissue. When ice crystals form inside or sometimes adjacent to plant cells, they tend to rupture cell membranes so that these structures become "leaky." This usually damages the structures and function of the plant cells enough to cause death of the tissue.

Some freeze-tolerant plants feature ice-binding proteins that mitigate freeze by adsorbing ice crystals, modifying them and stalling recrystallization. Microclimate and morphology generally will help plants modulate temperature enough that a short time at 28 to 32 degrees will not drastically affect the crop except for some moderate damage. When the air temperature drops below 28 degrees for a significant length of time, whole plant death is imminent.

Despite a glistening autumn morning frost predicting colder winter months on the horizon, I hope that this harvest season sets your heart "a-clickin' like the tickin' of the clock" as it did the poet.

Letters to the editor welcome

Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters must be signed with a first and last name and include an address and phone number. Letters should be under 350 words and be submitted by 10 a.m. Friday. Anything over 350 words will be charged accordingly.

E-mail letters to the editor to
natasha@saukherald.com

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Letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters must be signed with first and last name and include address and phone number. Letters should be 350 words or less.

Corrections/Clarifications: Benton County News strives for accuracy. If you would like to report a factual error, call 320-968-7220.

Advertising: Star Publications staff have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

'Tis the season of generosity

Foley Area Giving Tree & Toy Distribution donations start Nov. 21

BY HANS LAMMEMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Foley Area Giving Tree and Toy Distribution is an annual holiday tradition that participants say is a community-wide effort to provide holiday gifts to Benton County residents in need.

Organizers of the philanthropic event anticipate more demand for donations this year than ever before.

For more than 15 years, nonprofit organizations and businesses have partnered with community members to provide Christmas gifts and necessities to people needing assistance.

This year, the Foley Lions Club, Ramey Morrill Area Lions Club and Falcon National Bank are partnering with the CROSS Center of Benton County to ensure all county residents needing help can receive gifts this December.

Ramey Morrill Lions Club member Cheryl Pick said early estimates find that more residents may require donations than in past years.

Those in need can sign up for the Giving Tree until Nov. 20 by visiting the CROSS Center located in downtown Foley. A form is available for people to list needs and wants.

"Last year, we had 59 families, and we expect that to be a little bit higher this



Foley Lions Club and Ramey Morrill Lions Club members Cheryl Pick (front from left), Donna Woolard, (middle from left) Joyce Helmin, Lynn Pagel, Jessica Schmitz; (back from left) Jeff Pagel, Leo Schmitz and Mary Lou Kasella stand near donated toys during the 2022 Foley Area Toy Distribution event. Interested donors can collect an envelope with desired gifts from trees in Foley area bank lobbies beginning Nov. 21.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

year," Pick said.

The CROSS Center of Benton County has reported an uptick in clients in 2023, with more than 120,199 pounds of food distributed to families through this September.

Financial institutions will prepare trees in their lobbies and decorate them with envelopes for potential donors to collect Nov. 21.

Participating banks include Frandsen Bank and Trust (main and auto banks), Falcon National Bank, Great River Federal Credit Union and First National Bank of Milaca in Gilman.

"Everything is confidential," Pick said. "No one

knows who they are buying for. It is just a wish list of what people wanted. They usually ask for household items, sheets, towels, pants, shirts, underwear and socks. They might ask for a small appliance that they may need."

Pick said she enjoys knowing that gift recipients will have something to look forward to this holiday season.

"Christmas is my favorite holiday," Pick said. "I always feel that everybody needs a Christmas gift, and it is important for me to give at Christmas time."

Community members can participate in the Foley Area Toy Distribution by

purchasing new toys and placing them unwrapped in red bins at the banks. Toy collection concludes Dec. 8.

Foley Lions Club member Lori Landowski said benefiting families typically respond very emotionally to the support from their Benton County neighbors.

"When you're bringing the bag to their car, they are just overjoyed," Landowski said. "We have had some crying and thanking us. They just did not know where they were going to get gifts for their children."

Donations of cash and gift cards can be dropped off at Falcon National Bank to help support the holiday program.

KPFG employees attend job fair

Career Force hosts hiring event for dislocated workers

BY HANS LAMMEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Six weeks after Kent Precision Foods Group Inc. announced plans to lay off 62 Benton County employees, employers packed into the CareerForce location in St. Cloud to get in front of job seekers.

Job fair organizers said more than 30 attendees visited the Nov. 3 event, which was scheduled to accommodate the KPFG employees whose terminations take effect Nov. 30.

The layoffs came in coordination with the company's decision to close its Sauk Rapids and Foley facilities.

Career Solutions business services manager Angie Dahle described the employers present as representing a good mix of industries, emphasizing warehouse and production opportunities.

"This job fair came together in two weeks," Dahle said. "That is a pretty quick turnaround, but we accommodate the employers that are laying off and do what we need to do. The employees had a handful of employers that they requested to be here. Some of them are from Princeton, Elk River — that area — which is a little farther than our normal reach."

The closures affect 49 Foley plant workers and 13 from Sauk Rapids across more than 30 positions, including procurement, administration, warehouse, human resources, machine operators and other roles.

A group of job fair attendees who said they were KPFG employees reported



Knife River Corporation representatives and other employers sit behind tables at the Nov. 3 Career Solutions job fair at the CareerForce location on the St. Cloud Technical and Community College campus in St. Cloud. CareerForce partners in St. Cloud hold 15-plus job fairs annually, according to Career Solutions staff.

PHOTO BY HANS LAMMEMAN

that the layoffs led some of their coworkers to retire. The employees said applying online led to dead ends, and they felt optimistic about finding work after leaving the CareerForce event.

Career Solutions lead career planner Caroline Ruegamer said she met with KPFG workers during an on-site informational session to make job seekers aware of available resources in mid-October.

"We have a dislocated worker program," Ruegamer said. "If they (job seekers) are eligible to enroll in our program, they can get one-on-one help with a career planner for everything from training opportunities that can be paid through state funding to support services as needed to fill a gap if there is a monetary need."

Ruegamer said she was aware of KPFG employees spreading the word among coworkers of Career Solutions and the various programs aimed at helping them find work.

Amanda Othoudt, Benton Economic Partnership executive director, said there were many positions available for job seekers looking to continue working in Benton County and surrounding communities.

"We want to make sure that those employees are employed in our community," Othoudt said.

"We want to retain them, and there are a lot of transferable skill sets."

Knife River Corporation supervisor Byron Miland said

he saw several eye-catching candidates at the job fair. He said the influx of potential candidates were well-suited for open roles like general laborers, equipment operators and office staff.

"It is huge any time you can get exposure and get out there at an event like this," Miland said. We do several career fairs, and an opportunity that is inviting and an easy sell creates awesome opportunities for us."



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Ronald A. Proehl

Mass of Christian Burial was Nov. 3, 2023, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in St. Cloud for Ronald Proehl, 79, of St. Cloud who died Oct. 28, 2023, at the Country Manor in Sartell. The Rev. Jeremy Ploof officiated and entombment was in Hilltop Mausoleum in Sauk Rapids. Visitation was one hour prior to services at the church in St. Cloud. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in St. Cloud.

Ronald Arthur Proehl was born in Alexandria to Mary (Zeithamer) and Arthur Proehl. He grew up on the farm and understood the value of a hard day's work and to appreciate all that life has given. Ron was so enamored by Linda Quade that he continued to drive from Alexandria to Foley as much as possible. He introduced her to his family out-of-state, changed religions and promised to always care for her. Through their union two children were born: Valerie and Raymond.

Ron worked for Berghuis Construction Co. building many roads in this state. He joined the U.S. Army and enjoyed service two years in Germany. After his return

"Our Country is in Mourning, A Veteran Died Today."



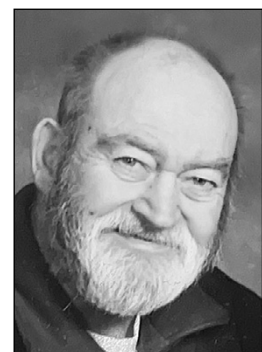
Richard J. Emmerich

Mass of Christian Burial will be Nov. 7 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church at 10915 Duelm Road NE, Foley, for Richard Joseph Emmerich, age 74, of Foley, who died Oct. 28, 2023, at the St. Cloud Hospital. The Rev. Joseph Backowski will officiate and the Rev. Robert Harren will con-celebrate. Visitation will occur at 10 a.m. followed by the service at 11 a.m.

Richard was born June 12, 1949, in St. Cloud, to Conrad and Hildegaard (Benoit) Emmerich. Raised outside Duelm, he lived in Foley for most of his life. While attending Foley High School, he stumbled into love with Marlene Fouquette, and proceeded to marry her in 1968. Born entrepreneurs, the pair founded Country Cabinets and Emmerich Insurance, where Richard served customers with sound advice for many years.

A dedicated community member, he held positions as chairman of the St. John's Area Catholic School Board, president of the Foley Athletic Booster Club and coordinator of the St. John's Church summer bazaar. Known for his sense of humor and inventive ideas, Richard enjoyed playing cards, golfing and fishing. Jolly and hard-working until his last days, he planned elaborate meals for his family, using ingredients he had preserved. His family will continue making popcorn balls during the holiday season in his memory.

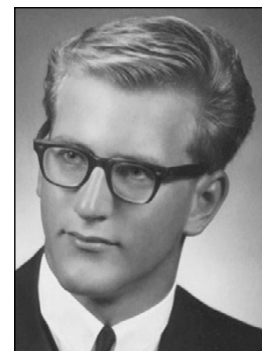
Richard is survived by his wife, Marlene, and their four children: Richard (Jennifer) Emmerich of Prior Lake;



Ronald A. Proehl

to the United States, he transferred into the Minnesota Army National Guard. In total, Ron served our nation and state for 23 years. After the military, his attention turned solely to their real estate investments.

Ron's most important job was being a stay-at-home-dad. Life wasn't easy, but there was love. Love of family, trips to Missouri and simple activities like swinging in the hammock in the backyard. Ron passed away from numerous organ failures due to a heart condition. Our family would like to thank Country Manor Rehab and Hospice, the St. Cloud Hospital, and CentraCare Hospice for all the life-saving, hard work this past year.



Richard J. Emmerich



Richard J. Emmerich

Natasha (Frank) Zagrodnik of Flowery Branch, Georgia; Matthew (Vikki) Emmerich of Monticello; and Conrad (Lisa) Emmerich of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He was the beloved "G-Pa" of 12 grandchildren: Max, Ava, Henry, Sam, Stanley, Natalie, Sasha, Harrison, Luke, Amelia, Juliet and Asher. Richard cultivated close relationships with his in-laws, including his mother-in-law, Maggie Fouquette. Preceding him in death were his parents, Conrad and Hildegaard Emmerich, as well as his father-in-law, Louis Fouquette.

The family would like to thank the fifth floor staff of the St. Cloud CentraCare Hospital for their compassion and care of Richard.

Susan K. Urbanska

Susan Urbanska, age 74 of Brainerd and formerly of Foley, passed away Nov. 1, 2023, at her home surrounded by her family. Mass of Christian Burial will be at noon Wednesday, Nov. 8, at St. John's Catholic Church, Foley. The Rev. Michael Wolfbauer will officiate and burial will take place at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 11 a.m. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the Foley Funeral Home with parish prayers at 5 p.m. Visitation will continue from 11 a.m. to noon at the church Wednesday. Service with Dignity provided by the Foley Funeral Home.

Susan K. Urbanska was born Nov. 12, 1948, in St. Cloud to Joseph and Delores (Bower) Graczyk. She graduated from Foley High School, class of 1966. She married Jim Urbanska Aug. 2, 1969, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Morrill. Susan worked as a paraprofessional for the St. Cloud and Brainerd school districts as well as the St. Cloud Childrens Home. She enjoyed playing cards, journaling, camping and trips to the casino. She never missed a chance to spend time with



Susan K. Urbanska

her sisters. Her greatest joy was spending time with family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Jim, Brainerd, and daughter, Stacy (Charles) Burns of Shoreview and son, Jeremy (Melissa) of Royalton and grandchildren: Mitchell (Kristen) Burns, Morgan (Seth) Teeter, Emma (Joe Baker), Nicole Urbanska (Matt Sieben) and Zachery Urbanska and great-grandchildren, Ryker and Jaxon Burns. She is also survived by her brothers and sisters: Ronnie (Gloria), Randy, Mike (Karla), Mary Jo (Terry) Reich and Tammy (Kevin) Krotzer. She was preceded in death by her parents, baby sister, Mary Graczyk and brother, Tim Graczyk.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF BENTON
IN DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Court File No.: 05-JV-23-195

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Melody Rose Noble and Christian Alexander Jackson

to use the total income and resources attributable to the child during the period of their out-of-home placement, as ordered by the court, and to pay all costs expended for the child's care pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. §260B.331 and/or 260C.331.
2. Ordering the parents of the child to pay amounts of the out-of-home placement costs which were not taken care of through income and resources attributable to the child. This motion is made pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. §260B.331 and/or §260C.331.
3. Ordering income withholding amounts due pursuant to the authority of Minn. Stat. §260B.331, 260C.331, and §518A.53.
4. For such other and further relief as the court deems just, fair and equitable.
Dated: 10/26/2023

/s/ William V. Faerber
William V. Faerber, #026751X
Asst. Benton County Attorney
Courts Facility,
PO Box 189
Foley, MN 56329
(320) 968-5175
F-45-3B

Parents
TO: Melody Noble and Christian Jackson, parents of the above-referenced child:
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 28th day of December, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, before the Honorable Robert J. Raupp, Judge of District Court, at the Benton County Courts Facility, 615 Highway 23, in the city of Foley, county of Benton, state of Minnesota, Benton County Human Services, through its attorney, will move the above-named court for an order as follows:
1. Ordering the parents of the child

PROBATE NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF BENTON
IN DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 05-PR-23-1807

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Lake Road Northeast, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota 56379, as co-personal representatives of the estate of the above-named decedent in an unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets; pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 18 Oct. 2023

/s/ Michael S. Jesse
Judge of District Court
by /s/ Megan Bergman
Court Administrator
Timothy R. Reuter
KELM & REUTER, P.A.
Attorney No. 0264684
1287 2nd Street North,
Suite 101
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
(320) 251-1423
kelmreuter@kelmreuter.com
F-44-2B

In Re: Estate of Grace Ann Bertha Wolter, Deceased.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of December, 2023, at 8:00 A.M. a hearing will be held in the above-named Court at 615 Highway 23, Foley, Minnesota, for the probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above-named deceased, dated February 20, 1997, and for the appointment of Raymond R. Wolter whose address is 20970 654th Avenue, Litchfield, Minnesota 55355, and Mary Ann E. Reischl whose address is 5440 Mayhev

SUMMONS

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BENTON COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Court File Number:
05-JV-23-1771

child who is the subject of the Petition; or
• You are a person whose presence the court believes is important to a determination concerning the best interests of the child(ren) who are the subject of the Petition.
IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING:
• The court may conduct the hearing without you; and
• The court may find that the factual allegations and statutory grounds set forth in the petition have been proved; and
• The court may enter an order granting the relief requested in the petition, which may include:
• removing the child(ren) from the home of the parent or legal custodian and placing the child(ren) in foster care;
• permanently severing the parent's rights to the child(ren) pursuant to a termination of parental rights petition;
• permanently transferring the child(ren)'s legal and physical custody to a relative; or
• an order for other permanent placement of the child(ren).
A STATEMENT OF YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, including the right to be represented by an attorney as authorized under the statutes and court rules, can be obtained in Court Administration. It is your responsibility to immediately notify the court administrator if your address changes.
There is more information under the **Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) Help Topic** on the MN Judicial Branch website at www.mncourts.gov/help-topics/CHIPS. There you will find: a child protection video (www.mncourts.gov/ChildProtectionVideo), information on asking for a court-appointed attorney, and other tools and resources.
Dated: October 13, 2023
Megan Bergman
Court Administrator
F-43-3B

**SUMMONS
Child in Need of Protection or Services Petition**

MELODY ROSE NOBLE
CHRISTIAN ALEXANDER JACKSON

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Melody Rose Noble and Christian Alexander Jackson (NRNJ)

PLEASE take notice that on October 12, 2023, a Petition was filed with the above-named court alleging that the child(ren) of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) to be in need of protection or services. YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED TO APPEAR IN COURT at the following date, time, and place where a hearing regarding the Petition and the best interests of the child(ren) will be held:
November 22, 2023
Admit/Deny Hearing
9:00 AM
District Court Judge
Robert Raupp
Benton County District Court
615 Highway 23,
PO Box 189
Foley, MN 56329
(320) 968-5205
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October Students of the Month named

FOLEY — Foley Public Schools has named its October Students of the Month.

Fourth grade students Charlie Funk and Nora Keating, fifth grade students Aliyah Lefebvre and Carter Westphal, sixth grade students Stanlee Irwin and Ginny Lewandowski, seventh grade students Conner Funt and Caleigh Latterell, and eighth grade students Carter Coil and Maggie Schneider received this honor for their achievements in the subject of social studies at Foley Intermediate School.

The Foley High School bestowed the honor upon freshman Madisyn Morinville, sophomore Ashton Lukaswicz, junior Brooklyn Larson and senior Ayden McAllister.



Foley Intermediate School students — Aliyah Lefebvre (front, from left), Nora Keating, Charlie Funk and Ginny Lewandowski; (back, from left) Conner Funt, Carter Coil, Maggie Schneider, Caleigh Latterell and Stanlee Irwin — were named October Students of the Month for their achievements in social studies. Not pictured is Carter Westphal.



Madisyn Morinville



Ashton Lukaswicz



Brooklyn Larson



Ayden McAllister

County considers human services department change

Commissioners discuss possible action during Oct. 20 special meeting

BY TIM HENNAGIR
STAFF WRITER

Benton County leaders are considering a plan to separate public health from the county's human services department. Commissioners discussed possible organizational structure changes during an Oct. 20 special meeting.

Community health services administrator Jaclyn Litfin outlined the county's statutory obligations in response to an agenda item requested by Monty Headley, county administrator. Benton County currently does not have a human services director. Former human services director Robert Cornelius submitted a letter of resignation Oct. 18; his last day of employment was Nov. 3. Cornelius declined to discuss his resignation when contacted by Star Publications.

Litfin said during the Oct. 20 meeting that Headley asked her to examine the pros and cons regarding a possible change in community health board governance and organizational structures. Minnesota statutes identify two governing structure options for coun-

ties or cities to organize themselves to do the work of public health: community health boards or human services boards. Organizational structure describes the way in which a department is organized. Unlike governing structures, which are dictated by statute, organizational structures are locally determined. Public health can be a stand-alone department or organized with other departments or divisions, such as human services. Benton County is currently organized as a single-county human services board that assumes all community health board duties as a health and human services agency. That could change based on the board's Oct. 20 special meeting.

"Our community health board is currently under the human services board," Litfin said. "One option to consider would be becoming a stand-alone public health department and have our own health board." The Benton County Board of Commissioners could assume the duties of a community health board under the Minnesota Local Public Health Act, Litfin said. Duties could also be

appointed to an independent community health board or group of individuals. Commissioners pondered those options during their special meeting.

"You could modify the organizational or governance structure," Litfin said. "I think what I'm hearing today is discussion (centering) around do we want to be a community health board under the human services board or do we want to be our own community health board as a public health stand-alone entity?"

Board chair Scott Johnson and commissioner Steve Heinen, who currently serves as the Benton County Human Services Board chair, confirmed Litfin was correctly reading the board's proposed direction.

Litfin said Headley also asked her to review state statutes that govern public health organizational structures. She also consulted with Michelle Meyer, senior assistant county attorney, regarding a possible change.

"If we were to make a change through a board resolution, we would be looking to reassign duties," Litfin said. "We would have to do a 90-day notification

with the Minnesota Department of Human Services."

During discussion, Headley presented a scenario where Benton County Public Health would become a separate department. He asked if that move would require a separate community health board.

"You could do that, or you could choose to remain as a human services board and have a stand-alone public health department under the human services board," Litfin said. "The process would not be very painful." Johnson suggested a county board committee of the whole to talk about structural change.

Heinen asked Litfin to summarize her main arguments or considerations for and against a potential change. "The main con, which I think is a very small one, is fiscal," Litfin said. "We have a lot of fiscal support under grant contracts. If we were to become our own stand-alone department, other than that, there are more pros. Having more direct access to the board would be the biggest pro that I would see."

Litfin said the main goal in public health is working collaboratively with partners interdepartmentally.

"We work with planning and zoning (and) the sheriff's office," Litfin said. "We would be able to interact with the board directly with implanting programs under its authority; that would be a major plus. It would give us more access to departments we work with continuously and have direct access to department leaders."

Headley said he plans to present a human services director succession plan during the board's Tuesday, Nov. 7, meeting.

The county board is scheduled to conduct a 9 a.m. Nov. 14 committee of the whole to discuss the direction of Benton County Public Health.

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Swimming & Diving



PHOTOS BY EVAN MICHEALSON

The Foley Falcons conference championship team consists of assistant coach Emma Brenny (front, from left), Eve Merchant, Samantha Buerger, Hannah Traut, Ryann Pitts, Ellie Kilgard, Kylee Kiloran, Kelsie Kilgard, Braelyn Rudolph, Helen Lachinski and Maddie Skroch; (back, from left) assistant coach Halle Brenny, head coach Emma Thorsten, Greta Merchant, Madisyn Morinville, Claire Kilgard, Liz Thorsten, Lauren Doten, Lindy Peschl, Katie Mazacek, Sydney Hanks, Terra Schumann, Sophie Nelson, Hannah Carlson, Alyssa Storkamp and assistant coach Michelle Monroe. The Falcons earned 587 points at the six-team competition in Becker.

Creating a conference champion

Falcons aquatics worked entire season for end-of-year results

BY EVAN MICHEALSON | STAFF WRITER

While the 587 points accumulated for the Foley Falcons at the Granite Ridge Conference Meet Oct. 28 were a direct reflection of that day's swimming and diving performances, it was also the product of hard work that began at the beginning of the fall season.

"We left last year with a good attitude of how this year was going to start off," said Ryann Pitts, senior. "The offseason flew by and soon, we were back. Those first few weeks, we had a lot of motivation. We knew what we wanted."

What the Falcons wanted was the conference championship, which they obtained for the first time since 2018 with excellent outings from a multitude of performers, veterans and youngsters alike. While Foley lost five important seniors a year ago, it retained everyone else, and after finishing 75 points short of Milaca in the conference meet in 2022, belief echoed all around the locker room that they could merge that gap.

"Compared to other schools, we didn't lose as much, and we had girls at the end of the year up-and coming," said Emma Thorsten, head coach. "The team knew we would be strong."

Getting its student-athletes reacquainted to the pool after months away was the first priority for Foley, with three introductory weeks of four-hour practices helping to get the Falcons ready for competition. The team's first appearance was not a winning one — they lost to Monticello 144-42 and to Sauk Rapids-Rice 109-77 at a triangular Aug. 29. But, it prepared them for the road ahead.

"That's challenging to go right into it with such

strong competition, but it gets the girls in the right mindset right off the bat," Coach Thorsten said.

Dual wins against Becker and Little Falls set up the Falcons for one of their biggest building-block moments of the season: the Milaca Invitational. It was a chance for Foley to show their steadfast improvements and face off against reigning conference champion and area rival Milaca.

The Falcons did not disappoint in the six-team competition Sept. 16, claiming first place.

"That was a big eye-opener for the girls, being able to win that and see how close we were to those conference teams we hadn't seen yet," Coach Thorsten said. "They recognized how strong they could be and how they were stacking up so early in the season."

Becoming Milaca Invite champions gave the team a critical boost in the initial foundations of the season, but it was important for them not to get ahead of themselves. An engaging, competitive conference schedule lay ahead, including against Milaca only one week later.

"It's a week-by-week sport," Pitts said. "It's just grounding yourself and making sure you know you still have stuff after this and always have room to improve."

Foley executed an un-



Kylee Kiloran (right) embraces Claire Kilgard at the conclusion of the 100-yard breaststroke competition at the Granite Ridge Conference Meet Oct. 28 at Becker High School in Becker. Kiloran closed out her conference career with two trips to the podium.

defeated Granite Ridge run to the postseason, finishing 5-0 and ending as the regular-season champions. What kept the Falcons perfect throughout this stretch was not just timely performances, but also a desire to see each other succeed seemingly woven into the fabric of the roster.

"Staying positive and making friendships and being a team, that makes the bigger goals possible," Coach Thorsten said. "Those are just as important as winning meets. You're not going to achieve those big goals without the small ones."

When the conference meet arrived, the Falcons knew races would be close but pulled ahead from the

pack behind their defining strengths. One plus for Foley was its freestyle depth; multi-time state qualifier Ellie Kilgard earned the top spot in the 200-yard freestyle and 500 freestyle, four girls finished in the top 11 in the 100 freestyle, and Sydney Hanks and Braelyn Rudolph reached the podium in the 50 freestyle.

Another strength, with some overlap to the previous one, was relays. All season long, different Falcons stepped into different spots and achieved high-scoring results for the program. At the conference meet, Foley placed two groupings in the top seven in the 200 medley relay and two teams in the top three of the 200 freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay. The Falcons' versatility allowed them to be mixed and matched on various relays without negatively altering the team's overall production.

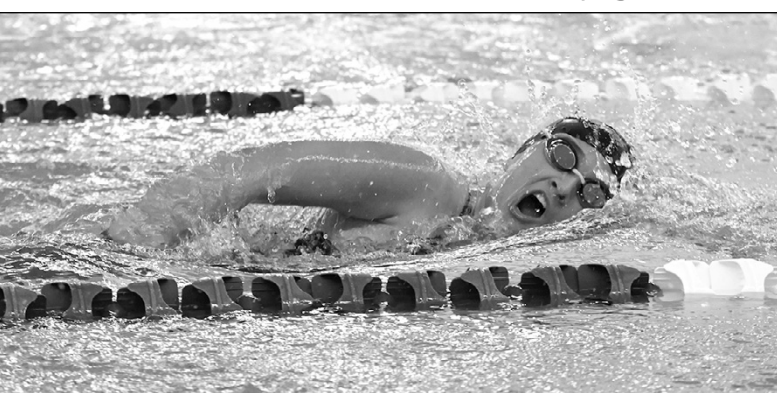
"I looked at times for what seemed like hours, trying to find the best way to get the girls in the right spots and taking everything into account," Coach Thorsten said. "We have so many girls that are so fast right now that it's fun and exciting."

Foley certainly could

Swimming and diving
page 8



Helen Lachinski competes in the 100-yard breaststroke at the Granite Ridge Conference Meet Oct. 28 at Becker High School in Becker. Lachinski earned points for the Falcons with a 12th-place finish.



(Above) Ryann Pitts pushes forward in the 500-yard freestyle race at the Granite Ridge Conference Meet Oct. 28 at Becker High School in Becker. Pitts finished third in the event with a time of 6 minutes, 1.92 seconds.

(Left) Kelsie Kilgard approaches the Granite Ridge Conference podium with a first-place medal Oct. 28 at Becker High School in Becker. Kilgard won the 100-yard butterfly during a day that showed off Foley's versatility and depth.

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THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

Notice is hereby given that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 24, 2004

MORTGAGOR: Nadine Wittkowski, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for America's Wholesaler Lender

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded: December 8, 2004

Benton County Recorder Document #: 321268

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:

Said mortgage was assigned to THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA

THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE

FOR THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF CWALT, INC., ALTERNATIVE

LOAN TRUST 2004-36CB, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-36CB on

February 24, 2021 and said assignment was recorded on

April 22, 2021 and given document number 451667.

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TRANSACTION AGENT ID NO.: 1000157-0004492015-1

LENDER OR BROKER: America's Wholesaler Lender

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: N/A

CURRENT MORTGAGE SERVICER: NewRez LLC

d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

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ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$128,000.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$118,925.26

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no Mortgages have been released from financial obligation on said Mortgage; that no action or proceeding has been instituted by law to recover that debt secured by said Mortgage, or any part

thereof; that all conditions precedent to foreclosure of the Mortgage and acceleration of the debt secured thereby have been fulfilled;

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DATE AND TIME OF SALE: December 7, 2023 at 10:00 am

PLACE OF SALE: Benton County Sheriff's Office, Front Lobby, 581 Highway 23, Foley, MN 56329

to pay the debt then secured by the Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of sale by the mortgagor, their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 of the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes sections 580.23 is June 7, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

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Swimming and diving

from page 7

lean on its long-reliable boons to get the job done, but what creates a conference winner is depth.

Kelsie Kilgard was the Granite Ridge's 100 butterfly champion while the Falcons placed three more competitors in the top five in the 100 backstroke: Liz Thorsten won the event, and Samantha Buerger and Pitts grabbed fourth and fifth, respectively.

"Liz Thorsten has really popped off this year," Pitts said. "It's good to lead by her example and try and stay caught up with her. A lot of us are really close in times, so we try and keep each other going."

There were an endless number of precise, detail-oriented showings that helped the Falcons lift the conference trophy. Katie Mazacek and Eve Merchant ascended the podium in the diving competition, seventh grader Claire Kilgard logged two top-eight finishes, and senior Kylee Kiloran closed out her final conference meet in eighth place in the 100 breaststroke. And whenever these girls stepped out of the pool and made their way back to their teammates, they were greeted with passionate support.

"In a high school sport, a lot of the focus is on you and that's (often) the frame of mind of a high schooler," Coach Thorsten said. "To see these girls go above that is incredible, and it's one of the things I love. It brings the energy so much higher."

With this accomplishment under their belt, Foley will take part in the Section 5A meet from Thursday, Nov. 9 to Saturday, Nov. 11, at Becker High School in Becker.

Hard-fought finale

Foley football ends season at Section 5AAA championship

BY EVAN MICHEALSON
STAFF WRITER

The Annandale Cardinals have not met an opponent that has tested them quite like the Foley High School football team.

Foley, who held the Cardinals to a season-low 21 points in a 21-6 Annandale win Oct. 12, once again held the undefeated Skyway District contenders far below their season scoring average and maintained a scoreless game into the halftime break of the Section 5AAA championship game Nov. 3.

Sadly, the Falcons could not finish promising offensive drives, falling in a defensive-minded 14-8 loss at Tech High School in St. Cloud.

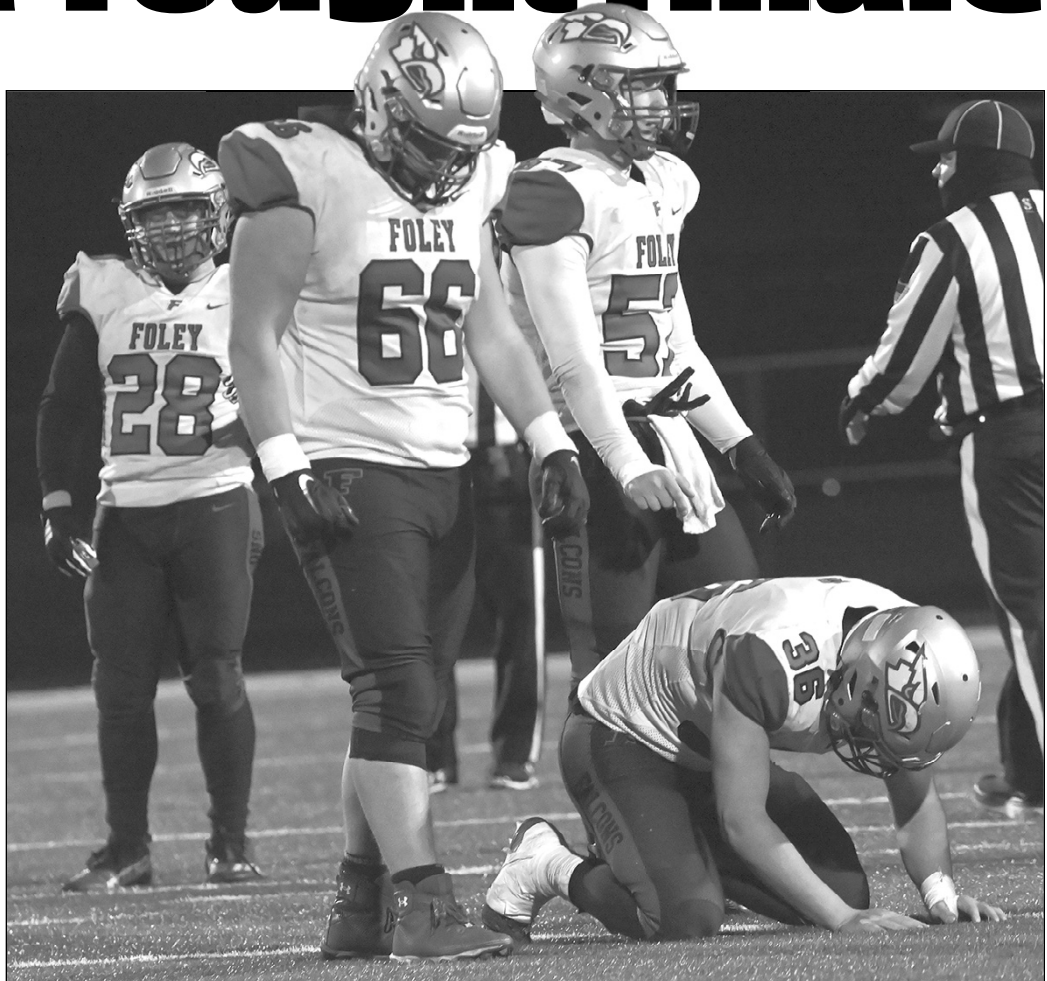
"Our effort was tremendous," said Dave Dahlstrom, Falcons head coach. "We came in and gave everything we had."

The Falcons did not play like underdogs in the state-qualifying bout. They made a concerted effort to establish their ground game and did so effectively, with Derek Dahmen moving the chains multiple times in the first quarter. However, a fruitful-looking drive that started in Foley's territory ended in disappointing fashion as a penalty wiped out a fourth-down conversion and created a fourth-and-long situation that the Falcons did not convert.

"We had plays, we got turnovers, we moved the ball fairly well," Dahlstrom said. "The biggest thing in the first half was we had a few key penalties that stopped a couple of our drives."

While Foley could not get to the end zone early, it made sure the Cardinals were in the same boat, forcing an Annandale fumble in the first quarter and getting the ball back. It was the first of four turnovers forced by the Falcons defensive unit, which shut down Annandale's rushing attack and limited the high-octane Cardinals to their lowest point total to date.

"Week by week, we've been getting better," Dahlstrom said. "That's what we



PHOTOS BY EVAN MICHEALSON

Keagon Frisbie (from left), Joe Prom, Trey Emmerich and Dakota Olson are emotional after seeing the Foley football team's season end Nov. 3 at Tech High School in St. Cloud. The Falcons saw a memorable season come to a close in the Section 5AAA championship against Annandale.

needed; we needed turnovers. They put us in a good position. Offensively, when you're in a battle like that in a section playoff game, it's about who can make that big play and get in the end zone."

Ultimately, it was Annandale who executed that first explosive play, connecting on a 40-yard pass play in the final minute of the third

quarter to grab the first points of the contest. In the fourth quarter, the Cardinals strung together their best drive yet, moving the chains and hitting on another deep ball to set a touchdown run from quarterback Nick Walter.

"They got the big play first," Dahlstrom said. "That gave them a shot in the arm and momentum."

As the minutes waned and as the possibility of advancing to state became more and more unlikely, the Falcons showed their resilience. Quarterback Gavin Gross stared down a Cardinals front that applied pressure all evening.

Foley football page 9



Elijah Dieger puts pressure on Annandale's quarterback Nov. 3 at Tech High School in St. Cloud. The Falcons defense held the Cardinals to a season-low point total of 14.



Josiah Petersen (No. 3) forces a fumble with a strong tackle as Derek Dahmen (left) looks on Nov. 3 at Tech High School in St. Cloud. The Falcons defense forced four turnovers.

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Foley football from page 8

Gross made big throws, finding Josiah Petersen for multiple first-down conversions before firing a strike to big-time target Bryce Gapinski on a crossing route for the team's only touchdown with under two minutes to go.

One thing we did was we learned from our wins, and we learned from our losses," Dahlstrom said of the season. "That was evident in our final game. We played a darn good Annandale team we lost to earlier and went toe-to-toe with them. We kept getting better and trusting the process."

The ensuing onside kick was covered up by the Cardinals, who ran down the clock and secured their spot in the upcoming Minnesota State High School League Class AAA Football State Tournament.

While their final game was not what they were hoping for, the Falcons turned a lot of heads in 2023, led by a strong core of senior playmakers who displayed positive leadership qualities and had fun on the gridiron.

"They did a great job of just being excited and embracing what high school sports is about," Dahlstrom said. "You're playing with your buddies. It's about playing hard. It's about giving effort. That's something hopefully they instilled in the younger players. That was really unique about their group, how passionate they were about playing the game of football."

FOL 0 0 0 8-8
ANN 0 0 7 7-14

Passing: Gross 9-for-18, 71 yards, 1 TD.
Rushing: Dahmen 25 carries-74 yards.
Receiving: Petersen 3 catches-49 yards.



Gavin Gross rolls out to his left as he scans the field for an open receiver Nov. 3 at Tech High School in St. Cloud. Gross was forced to tuck the ball and run.

PHOTO BY EVAN MICHEALSON



FALCON FOCUS

What do you enjoy most about being on the team?

The funny moments, how well the team bonds together and that we are one big happy family.

What is your favorite memory on the swimming and diving team? After the 5,000-yard straight swim practice, some of the swimmers were doing flips off the blocks and diving board.

What other activities are you involved in at school or in the community? Conservation Club.

What life lesson has being involved in activities taught you? Always embrace the people who come in your life as you will have many memories to make and save for later.

What FHS teacher has made an impact on your life? Mrs. (Jennifer) Piepgras because she taught me to push myself past my limits.

How do you show your Falcons pride? By cheering on my teammates and making sure they have a positive attitude toward their event — even at practice.

If you could own any vehicle, what would it be? I would want a white four-door Jeep Wrangler Rubicon.

You have won concert tickets. Who are they for? Thomas Rhett.

What is your dream job? Marine biologist.

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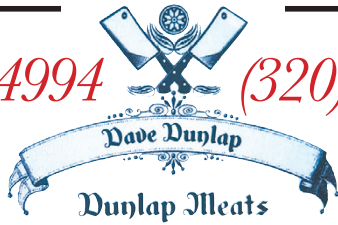
Accomplishment: Senior and captain on the Foley High School girls swimming and diving team

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PHOTO BY HANS LAMMEMAN

The Foley High School cast and crew of "Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka" consists of Victoria Ziwicki (front, from left), Nolan Murphy, Mayanne Robinson, Dylan Rau, Eli Nick, Max Vetter, Ellis Hemepeck, Maggie Schneider, Gloria Kelash and Tavern Lombard; (middle from left) Makayla Reishus, Alexa Moore, Alex Timm, Dylan Arnold, Ashley Paulson, Megan Hommerding, Edin Hamilton, Mars Mohrmann, Aubrianna Moore, Rochelle Fones and Junah Rudolph; (back, from left) Cadence Coder, Paide Fussy, Asher Johnson, Phoenix Weber, Allison Dolney, Ella Longworth, Bennett Johnson, Fawn Johnson, William Monroe, Alex Stang, Marissa Reishus, Brooke Schwarz, Mitchel Spiczka, Olivia Bemis, Emersyn Dix, Eli Zniwski, Lillian Bradwisch, Hoyt Rife and Anja Hughes-Polk.



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