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Gator Girls Golf Wins Section Crown



Gator Girls Golf team members and their head coach Valerie Truscinski pose with their Section 8A team trophy following action from the Section 8A Girls Golf Tournament at the Bemidji Town and Country Club on June 1 and 2, clinching the program's fifth state tournament team appearance. Pictured are (L-R): Head Coach Valerie Truscinski, Bethanie VonEnde, Jade Reese, Anissah Novacek, Alyssa Rinde, and Jasmine Christianson. Look for complete Gator Golf coverage inside this week's issue.

A Gator Girls Golf state send-off is scheduled for Sunday, June 13 at 7:00 pm from Oakview Golf Course in Greenbush.

First-generation American graduates from Badger High School

Ryan Bergeron
ryanb@wiktel.com

Badger senior graduate Avdyl Jasiqi stood up on the Badger stage, having already received his diploma, to read the farewell senior graduation speech. Several times, he paused and got emotional, apologizing each time he did so.

"I would like to again say thank you to all of the faculty members (and families) for everything they have done for us. Sorry, umm, I would (also) like to give a very special thank you to my parents for sacrificing everything. Sorry," Avdyl said during his speech, getting choked up, "to bring us to this country of unimaginable possibilities."

By the end of his speech, he received a prolonged applause and soon after all those inside the Badger gym departed the graduation ceremony in honor of the 24 students graduating on May 23, 2021.

About 11 years ago, Jasiqi standing on that stage was anything but certain. Now the sacrifices his parents made for him and his two younger siblings had brought him to that moment on the Badger stage and that moment to stand up there holding his diploma as a first-generation American high school graduate.

He and his sister Aulona, a senior next fall at Badger High School, discussed where their family came from and when and why they immigrated to the U.S., and the transitions they had to make. They also discussed how they eventually ended up in Badger, what they have enjoyed most about growing up here, and their future plans moving forward.

The Jasiqi family immigrated from Kosovo, a country in southern Europe—north of Greece and south of Serbia. It gained its independence in 2008. Avdyl and Aulona were born and raised in the city of Decani, just outside the capital city of Pristina on the western side of the country.

Their family immigrated to the United States, specifically Pelham, N.Y., on August 7, 2009. At the time, Avdyl was six and going into first grade and Aulona was five and going into kindergarten. Avdyl had gone through kindergarten and first grade in Kosovo, but had to redo first grade in New York.

Their father, Besfort Jasiqi, explained how their story—the one leading up to them eventually immigrating to the U.S. goes back 20 years. At that time, he was working as a cop, having recently graduated from police school.

"We had the war back then and we just got out of the war. And the United Nation brought police to just build the country and police force and everything, and that's how I applied," Besfort said. "... You need to have a good background and all that to become a cop there, so I went to finish police school."

He finished this schooling and became a cop in 2001, about a month after 9/11. This police work introduced him to Badger resident Curt Hauger, who came to Kosovo as part of that mission to build up the police force in the area.

"That's how I knew him and we hang out ever since we worked together with him, patrol together there," Besfort said.

They worked together for about a full year. Curt and his wife Diann came to Besfort's and his wife Gjevahire's wedding in 2002. Curt would come and visit the Jasiqi family again in around 2004 to 2005 and in 2009. Out of this latest visit came his suggestion to the Jasiqi family to visit the U.S. The family did just that, visiting Badger for eight days.

"My mom and dad were just talking and they were saying how they'd absolutely hated it here (at first)," Aulona said, referring to how they disliked the barren landscape. "But then we went back and



Badger High School graduate Avdyl Jasiqi smiles as he holds his diploma at the Badger Graduation Ceremony on May 23. Jasiqi is a first-generation American graduate, as his family immigrated to the United States, specifically Pelham, N.Y., on August 7, 2009, from Kosovo. The family moved to Badger on June 28, 2010.

they (Haugers) convinced us to move to America, so then they (my parents) applied for their visas." They decided to start in New York, as most of Gjevahire's family lived there. The family moved specifically to Pelham, N.Y.

Badger School Graduate
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COVID-19 in ROSEAU COUNTY
* Total cumulative confirmed and probable cases within Roseau County

2,107

2,086 ** Total number of those no longer needing isolation

20 * Total number of deaths attributed to COVID-19

* As of 11 a.m. June 8, 2021
Source: Minnesota Department of Health Daily Update
** As of June 3, 2021
Source: Minnesota Department of Health Weekly Update

Thursdays in the Park meals return for another summer in Greenbush

The Thursdays in the Park meals are back for another summer at the Greenbush Welcome Park. The summer schedule opened with the Greenbush Community Partners sponsoring all-you-can-eat french fries and toppings on June 3. Each Thursdays in the Park meal runs from 5 pm to 7 pm and each meal costs \$7. Below is the complete schedule of upcoming Thursdays in the Park events.

June 10: Hot Ham and Cheese, Pasta Salad, Chips and Bar (sponsored by GMR FCCLA)

June 17: Loaded Baked Potato Bar (sponsored by the Blessed Sacrament C.R.E.E.D.)

June 24: Burgers—Burgers—Burgers (sponsored by BGMR Softball)

July 1: BBQ Dinner, Chips, Cookie (sponsored by Greenbush Friends of the Library)

July 8: Pulled Meat Sandwich, Chips, Cookie (sponsored by the BGMR Clay Busters)

July 15: Burgers—Burgers—Burgers (sponsored by BGMR Boys Basketball)

July 22: BBQ Dinner, Chips, Cookie (sponsored by BGMR Girls Basketball)

July 29: Taco-in-a-Bag (sponsored by Women of Today)

August 5: Sub Sandwich, Fruit, Cookie (sponsored by BGMR Volleyball)

August 12: Rescue Dogs-N-Fixins' (sponsored by LifeCare EMS and Fire Department)

August 19: Pulled Meat Sandwich, Chips, Cookie (sponsored by BGMR Cheer Team)

August 26: BBQ Dinner, Potato Salad (sponsored by United Free Youth Group)

September 2: All-You-Can-Eat French Fries and Toppings (sponsored by Greenbush Community Partners)



Camber Foss and Amity Foss hang off the side of the Greenbush Pool. After not being open last summer due to COVID, the Greenbush Pool opened on June 2—the first time it has been open since 2019. The opening day was greeted by a sunny day with mid-80-degree temperatures. Recent area temperatures have reached the 90's and into the 100's. For pool photos, look inside this week's issue of The Tribune.