

Supreme Court won't hear frac sand case 2



Legends lease before council Wednesday 2

Federal buildings closed through inauguration 2

POSTBULLETIN

UNLOCK DIGITAL AT [POSTBULLETIN.COM/ACTIVATE](https://postbulletin.com/activate) | ROCHESTER, MINN. | SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021 | ONE SECTION

5 THINGS TO CATCH

1. I bleed for you

January is National Blood Donor month, and both Mayo Clinic and the American Red Cross are looking for donors. On Monday, we'll look at who they want and why.



2. A golden count

The National Eagle Center is counting the local golden eagle population this weekend. Tag along in Monday's Post Bulletin.

3. Bonding with other Bored Humans

A group of "Bored Humans" find conversation, connection and new friends online. We share the story of a growing Rochester Discord community in Tuesday's Life section.

4. A sixth sense

Plainview-Elgin-Millville senior Macy Holtz was first called up to the varsity girls basketball team when her sister Chloe was a senior. That was five years ago. Now in her sixth season on the varsity, Macy Holtz hopes to end her high school career in style. Find that story, and all of our 2021 girls basketball previews, on Tuesday's Sports pages.

5. Let's get ready to wrestle

Southeastern Minnesota traditionally is home to some of the state's top high school wrestlers. We'll take a look at some of this year's best in Saturday's Sports section.

A reduced rally

Minnesota Capitol event draws few protesters, many law enforcement officers

BY MARK WASSON AND JOHN MOLSEED
Forum News Service

ST. PAUL

A large security force — including the Minnesota National Guard — were prepared Saturday, Jan. 16, to meet protesters who planned a "Freedom Fest" at the St. Paul Capitol building.

Instead, the event drew about 20 people who were vastly outnumbered by police and members of the media.

The rally was the first of two events at the Capitol complex this weekend tied to false claims that the presidential election results were invalid. The event is a continuation of "Stop the Steal" protests at the Capitol held by organizers from "Hold the Line," a group of people who are adherents to the false conspiracy that President-elect Joe Biden was not rightfully elected.

Biden beat President Donald Trump by more than 7 million votes in the Nov. 3 election and dozens of court cases, along with multiple vote audits have confirmed that.

The potential for violence overshadowed the Saturday event following the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol building that resulted in multiple injuries and deaths.

On Friday, Jan. 15, Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington said at a news conference that there were no credible threats this weekend, though Minnesota would take the proper precautions to secure the state Capitol building and other areas throughout the state. Earlier reports from the FBI cited threats of violence at state capitol



Joe Ahlquist /jahlquist@postbulletin.com

Steve Brandt, who worked as an election judge in Hennepin County, talks with a protester during an event to protest the results of the 2020 presidential election at the Minnesota Capitol Saturday, Jan. 16, in St. Paul.

protests around the country this weekend, including in Minnesota and Michigan.

The St. Paul protest was peaceful, with people milling about and talking or simply sitting on the ground in a circle. The event concluded as scheduled at 2 p.m.

Steve Brandt, who volunteered as an election judge at a Hennepin County polling site, arrived with a sign that read, "I am an election judge, tell me how I stole the election."

"I want to put them to their proof," Brandt said of the protesters.

One protester asked where he could find the ballots cast in the election. Brandt explained where the results could be accessed publicly.

"I don't care about the

results," said the man, who declined to give his name. "No, you don't," Brandt said.

The Minnesota State Patrol did remove a man in a Spider-Man mask who was playing clown music from a speaker after event organizer Becky Strohmeier confronted him. He was not charged, state patrol officials on site confirmed.

One protester, who was wearing multiple knives and a vest loaded with shotgun shells, characterized the police presence as an attempt to provoke a reaction from the protesters. The man also wore a flag over his shoulders with a vulgar message regarding Biden and people who voted for him.

Strohmeier said the events on Jan. 6 were not a factor in putting on the event Saturday, though multiple conservative activists along with groups like the ultranationalist Proud Boys warned people not to go to any events this weekend.

"(What happened on Jan. 6) didn't have anything to do with us," Strohmeier said, adding that her events have always been peaceful.

Gov. Tim Walz activated the Minnesota National Guard for potential violence at protests in St. Paul, including Sunday, Jan. 17. The Guard has also been deployed to Washington, D.C., in anticipation of potential threats related to Inauguration Day, Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Spande honored for volunteer work with Upper Mississippi River refuge

BY KATHERINE SUBLETT
news@postbulletin.com

WINONA — Beverly Spande learned at an early age the importance of serving others.

She was born and raised in Mabel. Growing up on a farm had its challenges and it was normal for the community of farmers to help each other.

"I was taught by my parents the importance of helping others," she said.

She also believes "it's our job to serve the public" so it's easy to understand how she earned the 2020 Volunteer of the Year

Award from the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge in Winona.

Spande's husband was in the military and when he deployed overseas, she attended Winona State University and earned a bachelor's degree in education. But moving with her husband's military assignments gave her the opportunity to volunteer at the Iran Military Library, Enoch Library in Baltimore and at a library in Kagnew Station in



Contributed photo

Beverly Spande holds her 2020 Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge Volunteer of the Year certificate.

See SPANDE, Page 2

For real-time news updates and in-depth coverage not found in print, go to postbulletin.com. The e-paper, available daily, lets you access digital stories in the same format as the paper. Find it by clicking the yellow e-paper button at the top right of the homepage.

Get help at postbulletin.news/epaperhelp