

GIRLS GOLF



# ITALIAN IMPORT

## Bemidji's Buffo forges family ties and more in year with Jacks

By Austin Monteith  
amonteith@bemidjipioneer.com

**F**ilippo Buffo has only been a Lumberjack for one year, but he will certainly leave his mark in the Bemidji High School boys tennis record books.

The BHS senior and Italian exchange student qualified for the Class AA individual state tournament after capturing the Section 8AA singles title last week.

Buffo's section singles title is believed to be the first by a Bemidji player in at least 40 years.

"I'm happy that we're going to state, with the team, too," Buffo said Monday, prior to the Jacks' first appearance in the team state tournament since 1973. Results from Tuesday's quarterfinal match were unavailable at press time. "We're going to try our best and see how it's going to go."

But Buffo isn't the first Lumberjack to qualify for the singles state tournament.

Older brother Nic Buffo advanced to state in 2018 as section runner-up while also

**IMPORT:** Page B3



Photos by Austin Monteith / Bemidji Pioneer

**Above:** Bemidji senior Filippo Buffo eyes the ball during practice at the BHS tennis courts on Monday, June 7, 2021. **Top:** Buffo will compete in the Class AA state singles tournament beginning Thursday, June 10, at Prior Lake High School.

## Wingless Sprints join festivities at Bemidji Speedway

By Dennis Peterson  
Special to the Pioneer

**BEMIDJI** — The Northern Renegade Wingless Sprints joined the field of 86 cars racing on the 1/3-mile oval at Bemidji Speedway on Sunday, June 6.

Picking up feature wins were Caley Emerson in the Sprints, Kalin Honer in the Bemidji Minis, Michael Roth in the Wissota Pures, Blake Higginbotham in the Wissota Midwest Mods, Ruby Eggebraaten in the Wissota Hornets, Conrad Schwinn in the Wissota Mod Fours, Nicholas Jacobson in the Wissota Super Stocks and Scott Engholm in the Wissota Modifieds.

Next Sunday, June 13, is a regular race night with all classes running. Also on tap will be the 2020 season points championship recognition ceremony at 5 p.m.

The first of two Kids Nights at the track will be held at 5 p.m. on Sun-

day, June 20. Kids will be allowed on track to meet their favorite drivers and be eligible for prizes.

### Northern Renegade Sprints Feature

Adam Sobolik and Caley Emerson led the Northern Renegade Wingless Sprints on track for the initial feature of the night with 11 total sprints on track.

Emerson powered to the front of the pack with Sobolik, Ken Hron, Brad Larson and Zach Olson chasing him. Emerson pushed to a large lead while Hron battled with Sobolik for second.

Brandon Palm worked his way towards the front from deep in the pack, racing up into fourth with Chris Lewis doing the same from his third-row starting position.

Emerson dominated the race to pick up the checkered flag. Hron, Sobolik, Palm and Lewis followed in the top five.



Dennis Peterson / Special to the Pioneer

The cars of No. 88 Chad Puschinsky and No. 29 Brandon Bahr duel in the Wissota Midwest Mod class at Bemidji Speedway on Sunday, June 6, 2021.

### Bemidji Mini Stock Feature

The Bemidji Mini Stocks were led on track for their feature by Gordon Hunter and Travis Klein.

Hunter took the lead at the green flag with Klein, Kalin Honer, Ashton Schwinn and Conrad Schwinn close behind.

During the heat race, the red flag was waved when 14-year-old Haden Engen of Gonvick, caught a bit of the front wall, sending him rolling down the front straight before landing on all four wheels. Engen was not hurt and eventually returned to race the feature, finishing in fifth.

With the top two Pookie Race Team cars

out front led by Hunter, Honer drove up side by side with the leader. They were joined in a three-wide battle by Conrad Schwinn. Schwinn moved into second with Honer leading.

With the white flag signaling the last lap, Schwinn moved a bit into the lead. But racing into the last turn, Honer drove inside and made the side by side finish in his favor by a nose to win the race. Schwinn, Klein, Hunter and Engen trailed.

### Wissota Pure Stocks Feature

The Wissota Pure Stocks rolled on track led by pole sitter Austin

**SPEEDWAY:** Page B2

FOOTBALL

## Bemidji State releases 2021 football schedule

Pioneer Staff Report  
sports@bemidjipioneer.com

**BEMIDJI** — The Bemidji State football team will return to action for the first time in nearly two years when the 2021 season kicks off Sept. 2 at Sioux Falls, head coach Brent Bolte announced on Friday as the schedule was revealed.

The Beavers open the season with a Thursday night game at USF on Sept. 2 to mark their official return to the field. The team's remaining 10 games are scheduled to be played on Saturdays.

BSU will host Wayne State for the team's home opener on Sept 11, the first of six home games at Chet Anderson Stadium. The game will also serve as First

### 2021 BSU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- Sept. 2 at Sioux Falls 6 p.m.
  - Sept. 11 WAYNE STATE# 2 p.m.
  - Sept. 18 at Minnesota State 4 p.m.
  - Sept. 25 AUGUSTANA@ 2 p.m.
  - Oct. 2 MINOT STATE% 2 p.m.
  - Oct. 9 at Concordia-St. Paul noon
  - Oct. 16 MSU MOORHEAD! 1 p.m.
  - Oct. 23 at Minnesota Duluth 2 p.m.
  - Oct. 30 SW MINN. STATE\$ 1 p.m.
  - Nov. 6 at Northern State 1 p.m.
  - Nov. 13 U-MARY 1 p.m.
- Dates and times subject to change
- # First Responders/Youth Football Day
  - @ Homecoming
  - % Senior Day
  - ! Battle Axe Game
  - \$ Military Appreciation Day

**FOOTBALL:** Page B2

WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Beavers to open 2021 season at North Dakota

**Pioneer Staff Report**  
sports@bemidjipioneer.com

BEMIDJI — The Bemidji State women's soccer team unveiled its 2021 schedule on Tuesday.

The Beavers will begin their first full season since 2019 with a nonconference match at Division I rival North Dakota on Sept. 3. The season opener follows two preseason scrimmages against St. Catherine on Aug. 21 and Hamline on Aug. 28. BSU and UND have previously met 10 times with Bemidji State taking the most recent three meetings dating back to 2007.

In total, the schedule features 10 home games, eight away games and three contests against 2019 NCAA Tournament teams.

The Beavers will host Northern Michigan in their home opener at Chet Anderson Stadium on Sept. 10 before closing nonconference play Sept. 12 at home versus Michigan Tech.

Sept. 17 marks the beginning of a full 15-match Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference schedule when BSU travels to Northern State, followed by a Sept. 19 match at Minnesota State Moorhead.

Minnesota State will visit the Chet on Sept. 24 to mark Bemidji State's first home league match. The game kicks off a six-game home stand that runs through Oct. 10.

The Beavers conclude the regular season Nov. 5 by hosting Minnesota Crookston.

The NSIC Tournament is slated to begin Nov. 10 with the championship game set for Nov. 14.

## 2021 BSU WOMEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE

- Sept. 3 at North Dakota^ 3 p.m.
- Sept. 10 NORTHERN MICHIGAN^ 7 p.m.
- Sept. 12 MICHIGAN TECH^ 1 p.m.
- Sept. 17 at Northern State 7 p.m.
- Sept. 19 at MSU Moorhead 1 p.m.
- Sept. 24 MINNESOTA STATE 3 p.m.
- Sept. 26 CONCORDIA-SP 1 p.m.
- Oct. 1 AUGUSTANA 7 p.m.
- Oct. 3 WAYNE STATE 1 p.m.
- Oct. 8 MINNESOTA DULUTH 3 p.m.
- Oct. 10 ST. CLOUD STATE 1 p.m.
- Oct. 15 at Winona State 5 p.m.
- Oct. 17 at Upper Iowa 1 p.m.
- Oct. 22 SW MINN. STATE 6 p.m.
- Oct. 24 SIOUX FALLS 1 p.m.
- Oct. 29 U-MARY 6 p.m.
- Oct. 31 at Minot State noon
- Nov. 5 MINNESOTA CROOKSTON 1 p.m.
- Nov. 10 NSIC First Round TBD
- Nov. 12 NSIC Semifinals TBD
- Nov. 14 NSIC Final TBD

^ denotes nonconference match

The NCAA Division II playoffs begin Nov. 18 and run through the national championship game Dec. 11 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

BSU completed the 2019 season at 12-6-1 overall, its 16th straight season finishing at or above .500, and placed fourth in the NSIC at 11-3-1. The 2020 season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bemidji State played three official matches and went 3-0 in a shortened spring 2021 schedule.

## SPEEDWAY

From Page B1

Carlson with Billy Binkley to his right. Carlson raced to the lead into turn one followed by Dusty Caspers, Josh Berg, Binkley and Michael Roth.

Roth caught and passed Berg and moved up to duel with Caspers for second in a side by side race with Caspers holding his position.

A caution flag waved when the left rear tire of Bryan Karl broke loose in turn two.

The restart had Carlson, Caspers, Roth, Kade Leeper and Berg in the top five. Caspers raced up on the back straight on the outside and into the lead, but Roth was charging up as well, making it a three-wide battle for the lead.

Roth pulled out another feature win with Caspers, Carlson, Leeper and Berg in the top five.

## Wissota Midwest Modifieds Feature

Blake Higginbotham drove out on the pole position for the start of the Wissota Midwest Modified feature with Brennen Schmidt outside. Higginbotham took the lead with Austin McClellan, Alan Olafson, Schmidt and Brandon Bahr trailing. Bahr raced low in turn two and took the fourth spot.

Jeff Reed, two-time champion last week, started in the fourth row and was on the move. He raced up into the top five before blowing a rear tire before a caution flag waved in turn three to give him a chance to pit and return to the race tailback.

Higginbotham, McClellan, Olafson, Bahr and Harley Kroening led the field in the top five, but in one lap, Reed was back in fifth after racing on the high side of the fast track. Olafson was also on the move, charging forward into second as he moved up to challenge Higginbotham for the lead.

Reed continued forward with passes of Kroening and Bahr caught

and passed Kroening for fourth as Higginbotham picked up the checkered flag. Olafson, Reed, Bahr and Kroening made up the top five.

## Wissota Hornet Feature

The Wissota Hornets were 19 cars strong for the start of their feature led by Logan Sathre and Derek Wangberg.

Several cautions slowed the start of the race, but once the race got the green, it was 15-year-old Ruby Eggebraaten taking the lead from her second-row inside starting position.

Peyton Edelman pulled in behind Eggebraaten in second with Aidan Helwig, Logan ZumMallen and Sathre in the top five.

A couple of more cautions slowed the race again with Eggebraaten able to maintain her first-place spot on the track with each restart.

After several tries, track officials called the race on time and Eggebraaten picked up her first-ever win in just her third race. She is a third-generation racer with father Dean racing at Bemidji for years and her grandfather Paul was a legendary racer in the North Dakota and Minnesota area years ago.

Edelman, Helwig, Sathre and Chad Reller made up the top five.

## Wissota Mod Four Feature

Conrad Schwinn and Blake Erickson led the field of Wissota Mod fours to the green flag with Schwinn charging to the front followed by Skyler Smith, Dean Larson, Erickson and Jonathan Feda.

Smith moved up high in the 3-4 corner and Larson dove low into second place. Schwinn powered out to a five-car length lead over the field and never relinquished the spot, leading the entire race with just one caution to slow the competition.

Erickson was able to race up and challenge Smith for third, making the pass late following a door to door duel.

Schwinn took the

checkers with Larson, Erickson, Smith and Nick McCann in the top five.

## Wissota Super Stock Feature

Tim Carlson and Kevin Bahr led the field of Wissota Super Stocks down the front straight to the starting flag with Carlson taking the lead followed by son Dalton in second.

Matt Sparby and Bahr were in the top five, but it was Nicholas Jacobson finding traction on the top side, charging up from his second-row outside starting position to take the lead.

Dalton Carlson made the pass of Tim Carlson for second while Sparby and Bahr fought for fourth. Sparby eventually won that race and moved up and passed Tim Carlson for third with an inside line pass in turn two.

Jacobson flew to the feature win with Dalton Carlson, Sparby, Tim Carlson and Harley Kroening trailing.

## Wissota Modified Feature

The final race of the evening held under clear skies was the Wissota Modifieds.

Scott Engholm and Lance Schilling charged down the front straight into turn one with Engholm leading over Schilling, Davey Mills, Josh Beaulieu and Devin Fouquette.

Schilling raced up a bit too high and dropped back to fifth while Mills took over the second spot. Fouquette raced low and into fourth prior to a caution on the track when he spun, sending him tailback for a restart.

The restart had Engholm up front followed by Mills, Beaulieu, Schilling and Nathan Higginbotham. Beaulieu was able to get under Mills and take second as Doyle Erickson made his first appearance in the top five late, taking fifth.

Engholm took the checkered flag followed by Beaulieu, Mills, Schilling and Erickson to end a night of stick racing at Bemidji Speedway.

## FOOTBALL

From Page B1

Responders/Youth Football Day.

Five road games dot the team's schedule, including contests at Minnesota State Mankato (Sept. 18), Concordia-St. Paul (Oct. 9), Minnesota Duluth (Oct. 23) and Northern State (Nov. 6).

Homecoming is scheduled for Sept. 25, when Bemidji State hosts Augustana. Senior Day follows a week later when Minot State visits the Chet on Oct. 2.

The Beavers and Minnesota State

Moorhead will rekindle their Battle Axe rivalry on Oct. 16 by the shores of Lake Bemidji.

The final two home games of the season see BSU welcome Southwest Minnesota State for Military Appreciation Day on Oct. 30 and University of Mary for the regular-season finale on Nov. 13.

The NCAA Division II playoffs begin Nov. 20 with the national championship game set for Dec. 18 in McKinney, Texas.

Find your next apartment at  
**apartmentsHQ**  
www.apartmentshq.com

# Early Bird Registration

## Register by June 15th and Save \$100



**LAKE BEMIDJI**  
**dragon boat festival**

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

PRESENTED BY Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS

Bemidji Rotary Club

#BJIDRAGONBOAT

# Join Us On Lake Bemidji

August 4th - August 7th, 2021

### DRAGON BOAT RACE

The beautiful Lake Bemidji waterfront is host to our 500m dragon boat race course on Saturday. Get your team registered by **June 15th and SAVE \$100**

### SPRINT CUP

The Dondelinger GM Sprint Cup takes place on Friday night. Test your team on a 200m course for a chance to win the Dondelinger GM Sprint Cup! **\$50 REGISTRATION**

## Thank You

### Emerald and Gold Dragon Sponsors!









































**bemidjidragonboat.com**

info@bemidjidragonboat.com

218.444.5678







NEW JOB OPENINGS ADDED EVERY HOUR

WWW.JOBHQ.COM



GIRLS GOLF

# Bemidji duo wraps season at Section 8-3A tourney

**Pioneer Staff Report**  
sports@bemidjipioneer.com

PARK RAPIDS — Two members of the Bemidji High School girls golf team fell short of state tournament berths Friday.

Seniors Nicki Son and Rylie Jones competed as individuals in the second

round of the Section 8-3A Tournament at Headwaters Golf Club in Park Rapids.

Son and Jones carded rounds of 83 and 98, respectively, during Friday's final round. Paired with her first-round 88, Son tied for 12th overall at 171. Jones placed 33rd

after shooting 96 Thursday to finish at 194.

The top five individuals not on the section team champion qualify for state. Son finished six strokes short of earning a state bid.

Alexandria overcame a four-shot deficit and captured the team title

by shooting 630 for the tournament, four shots ahead of first-round leader Brainerd.

Two Alexandria players shared medalist honors as individual section champion. Cora Larson (73-74) and Hannah Boraas (74-73) each shot 147 for the tournament.

Bemidji missed the cut Thursday and did not advance as a team to day two. The Lumberjacks shot 388 to place eighth out of 11 teams through the first round.

**Team Results**  
1-Alexandria 314-316=630; 2-Brainerd 310-324=634; 3-Detroit Lakes 319-333=652; 4-Becker 363-365=728; 5-Sartell-St. Stephen 374-372=746; 6-Buffalo 378-381=759; 7-Moorhead 374-389=763.

SCOREBOARD

AREA SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9**  
Prep Boys Tennis  
Class AA State Team Tournament, TBD (at Prior Lake)

**Prep Track & Field**  
Section 8AA Prelims, TBD (at Sartell)

**THURSDAY, JUNE 10**  
Prep Boys Tennis  
Class AA State Individual Tournament, 8 a.m. (at Prior Lake)

**Prep Baseball**  
Section 8-3A Tournament, TBD (at St. Cloud)

**Prep Softball**  
Section 8-3A Tournament, TBD (at high seed)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 11**  
Prep Boys Tennis  
Class AA State Individual Tournament, TBD (at Prior Lake)

**Prep Softball**  
Section 8-3A Tournament, TBD (at high seed)

**Prep Track & Field**  
Section 8AA Meet finals, TBD (at Ferguson Falls)

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12**  
Amateur Baseball  
Blue Ox at Sobieski, 1:30 p.m.  
Blue Ox vs. Buckman, 4 p.m. (at Sobieski)

BASEBALL

**Section 8-3A Tournament**

**First Round (Tuesday, June 1)**  
No. 5 Alexandria 4, No. 2 Bemidji 2  
No. 4 Rocori 9, No. 3 Detroit Lakes 4  
No. 1 Sartell 8, No. 6 Little Falls 7

**Winner's Bracket semifinals (Thursday, June 3)**  
Sartell 5, Detroit Lakes 1  
Alexandria 6, Rocori 3

**Elimination Game (Thursday, June 3)**  
Bemidji 8, Little Falls 2

**Tuesday, June 8 (all games at St. Cloud)**

**Winner's Bracket final**  
Sartell 6, Alexandria 2

**Elimination games (Tuesday, June 8)**  
Bemidji vs. Rocori, 1:30 p.m.  
Bemidji/Rocori winner vs. Alexandria, 4 p.m.

**Thursday, June 10 (at St. Cloud)**

**Championship**  
Sartell vs. TBD, 11 a.m.  
Game 2 (if needed), 1:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

**Section 8-3A Tournament**

**First Round (Tuesday, June 1)**  
No. 3 Bemidji 20, No. 6 Detroit Lakes 1  
No. 4 Sauk Rapids-Rice 4, No. 5 Little Falls 1

**Winner's Bracket semifinals (Thursday, June 3)**  
No. 2 Alexandria 3, Bemidji 2  
No. 1 Sartell 15, Sauk Rapids-Rice 1

**Winner's Bracket final (Tuesday, June 8)**  
Alexandria at Sartell, 4:30 p.m.

**Elimination Bracket (Tuesday, June 8), at Bemidji**  
Little Falls at Bemidji, 2 p.m.  
Detroit Lakes vs. Sauk Rapids-Rice, 2 p.m.  
Winner vs. winner, 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, June 10 (location TBD)**

**Elimination game**  
Sartell/Alexandria vs. elimination bracket winner, TBD

**Championship (June 10/11)**  
Finalists, TBD on Thursday, June 10  
Game 2 (if needed), TBD on Friday, June 11

# War on the Shore set for July 17

**Pioneer Staff Report**  
sports@bemidjipioneer.com

BEMIDJI — The Bemidji State football program will host its third annual War on the Shore fishing tournament on July 17.

The tournament is open to the public and all proceeds support the BSU football program. Anglers can compete for cash prizes and other merchandise.

Cost is \$300 per boat with a maximum of three

people per boat.

New for this year's tournament is the creation of two divisions for local and national participants. Participants in the local division can only fish lakes located in Beltrami, Hubbard or Cass counties. National division participants can fish any lake anywhere in the country as long as the target species of walleye and northern pike are present.

Prizes for the local participants will be awarded to the top

three teams with \$2,000 to first place, \$1,000 to second place, \$500 to third place and \$200 to the biggest walleye. The national division prize is 50% pay-out of all national division registrants.

The tournament is catch-and-release only. Participants must use tourneyangler.com to upload a picture of the fish on a measuring board and a hero shot holding the fish.

The event will run from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. A social, meal, award

ceremony and silent auction will take place at Ruttger's Birchmont Lodge in Bemidji from 4 to 8 p.m.

To register, visit bsualumni.org/war-on-the-shore-fishing-tournament. For more information, please contact assistant coach Brandon Labath at brandon.labath@bemidjstate.edu or at (563) 639-2922, or Pat Morris at Patrick.morris@bemidjstate.edu or (402) 533-3984.

SPORTS BRIEFS

**College Football Playoff could expand to 12 teams**

The College Football Playoff could expand from four teams to 12 over an eight-team system, Yahoo Sports reported Tuesday, citing influential stakeholders.

Expanding the playoff will be the topic of discussion next month in Chicago when a working group evaluating the topic presents its finding to a committee of influential administrators.

In concept, a 12-team playoff likely would include automatic bids for the Power Five conferences, plus the highest-ranked Group of Five teams. The other spots would be filled by at-large teams.

Under the current four-game system, all participants are selected on an at-large basis.

The CFP has been in effect since after the 2014 season, and only 11 teams have appeared in the seven years: Alabama (six times), Clemson (six), Ohio State (four), Oklahoma (four), Notre Dame

(two) and one each for LSU, Georgia, Washington, Michigan State, Oregon and Florida State.

The working group will outline the options to the management committee — composed of conference commissioners Greg Sankey (SEC), Bob Bowlsby (Big 12) and Craig Thompson (Mountain West), and Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick — in meetings July 16 and 17. The following week, the larger College Football Playoff board of managers will receive the group's findings and is expected to make a decision on future playoffs, per the report.

A new CFP system would not be implemented before the 2023 season.

In the meantime, much remains to be worked out, including television contracts and how the existing bowl games would figure into the expanded playoff.

**—Field Level Media**

**Fowler fails to qualify for US Open by one stroke**  
Rickie Fowler will miss

his first U.S. Open since 2010 after falling one stroke shy in qualifying Tuesday in Columbus, Ohio.

Fowler finished 5 under after his 36-hole qualifier was delayed by heavy rain and thunder at the Brookside Golf and Country Club on Monday. Fowler shot rounds of 73 and 66.

Former major champions Keegan Bradley and Jason Dufner joined Fowler at 5 under to also miss qualifying for the U.S. Open.

Fowler, ranked No. 87 in the world, was able to play in the PGA Championship on special exemption and finished tied for eighth. He also failed to earn an invitation to the Masters in April for the first time in 11 years. He watched the first round with Tiger Woods.

Fowler is in the field for The Open Championship at Royal St George's next month.

The 121st U.S. Open is June 17-20 at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, Calif.

**—Field Level Media**

**NHL fines Bruins coach for criticizing officials**  
The NHL fined Boston Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy \$25,000 Tuesday for criticizing officials following the team's playoff loss to the New York Islanders.

The Islanders defeated the Bruins 5-4 in Game 5 of the second-round playoff series on Monday night to take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Cassidy said the teams both play tough, but the officials don't see the Islanders as aggressors.

"This is my take on it: We're playing a team that has a very well-respected management and coaching staff. But I think they sell a narrative over there that it's more like the New York Saints, not the New York Islanders," Cassidy said postgame. "They play hard and they play the right way, but I feel we're the same way. And the exact calls that get called on us do not get called on them, and I don't know why."

**Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers**

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$14.59-\$26.50 per month and business services are \$23.00-\$48.66 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

**IMPORT**  
From Page B1

spending his senior year in Bemidji as an exchange student.

The Buffos have made themselves at home in Bemidji, specifically the home of the McNallan family. Both brothers have lived with the McNallans, who have hosted exchange students in Bemidji for a number of years.

"If it wasn't for (Nic), I wasn't going to come here," Filippo said. "I like the family. ... They feel like a second family for me."

Junior John McNallan and eighth-grader Jack McNallan are also members of the boys tennis team, but they've been more than just teammates for the Buffos, who hail from Legnago, Italy.

"We're basically like brothers honestly," John McNallan said. "We're super close. I stay in the same room with (Filippo), so we basically do everything together. It'll be hard to see him leave, but it's been fun to have him."

In a case of good timing, Nic Buffo returned to Bemidji this week to spend some time with his brother, whom he had not seen in about nine months. The elder

Buffo now plays tennis at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

"They're both great tennis players and good people," Jack McNallan said. "We're about as close as brothers at this point."

**Unbeaten season**  
Filippo Buffo is accustomed to playing on the clay courts of Italy, but he has taken well to the hardcourts of the U.S.

The Lumberjack entered the week unbeaten on American soil at 24-0 on the season.

"I'm playing good tennis," Buffo said. "I'm having fun."

Buffo's success has not altered his humility.

"One of the things that's so nice about him is, with all of his talent and hard work ethic, he's a really humble kid and a really great team-focused player," head coach Kyle Fodness said. "He never comes in thinking that his ability gives him special status on the team."

Buffo will open the 16-player state singles tournament by facing Orono's Matias Maule, ranked No. 10 in Class AA, in the first round at 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 10, at Prior Lake High School.

Win or lose, Buffo will

have fans on both sides of the Atlantic cheering for him.

"You're always excited to see someone go to state," Fodness said, "but especially when

everybody on the team is rooting for him so much to go to state. That was really cool to see."

**Austin Monteith is the sports editor for the Pioneer. Readers can reach him at (218) 333-9787.**

**ADOPT A NEW BEST FRIEND!**

**MOOSE**  
Moose is a 1 1/2 year old male Pit Bull mix. He came to us all the way from Georgia just to find the perfect home. He is a high-energy, and fun loving pup that would love to be your new favorite companion.

**NEVADA**  
Nevada is a 6 year old male Short-Haired gray Tabby cat. He is a bit shy at first, but just needs to know that you will keep him safe and love him unconditionally. Nevada would prefer a home with other kitties but no dogs.

Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Month, Kylee Benso. Volunteers make a huge difference in the lives of our pets!

**Why Adopt a Shelter Pet?**  
Getting a "free" pet is not exactly free. Here is a list of services covered when you adopt a pet at Great River Rescue...

\$150-\$300 Spaying/Neutering • \$20-\$30x2 Distemper Vaccination  
\$25-\$35 Bordatella Vaccination • \$15-\$25 Rabies Vaccination  
\$50-\$200 Flea/Tick Treatment • \$30-\$50 Microchip • \$310-\$670 Total Cost

**Great River Rescue**  
1612 Carr Lake RD SE • Bemidji, MN 56601  
(218)751-7910 • director@greatriverrescue.com  
Open Tuesday-Friday 12:30pm-5:30pm  
Saturday 12:30pm-4:30pm

**The Bemidji Pioneer** 802 Paul Bunyan Dr. S, Ste. 19 Bemidji, MN 56601

**Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers**

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$14.59-\$26.50 per month and business services are \$23.00-\$48.66 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit centurylink.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.

**CenturyLink**