

# SPRING Home Improvement

Spring home improvement

Our special section is in this week's edition.

# MONTICELLO Times

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Covering the cities of Monticello and Big Lake, and Wright and Sherburne counties \$1

## Golden Age of Hollywood

### MONTICELLO PROM 2021

Photos by Jeff Hage / Monticello Times

Monticello High School celebrated its 2021 prom on Saturday, April 17. See more photos on Page 12.

Emma Anacker escorted by Wyatt Kiphuth

Violet Foster escorted by Cullen Ackerman

Peyton Orrock escorted by Colby Kramer

## Just Drive Day raises awareness of distracted driving

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

People will be taking to the streets of Monticello Saturday, April 24, to raise awareness of the potential tragedies related to distracted driving with the sixth annual Just Drive Day.

Held from 9 a.m. to noon at Monticello Middle School, Just Drive Day raises awareness of distracted driving issues.

On Just Drive Day, people from Monticello and neighboring communities are invited to dress in orange to walk, run, and bike along a dedicated loop to bring attention to the perils associated with distracted driving.

There will be snacks, refreshments, and a number of displays and presentations at the school.

There will be pledge sheets available at the "Just Drive Day" event for people to sign and commit to being attentive drivers.

"We encourage everyone to make the commitment to be a safe driver: Eyes on the road, Hands on the wheel, Mind on the task of driving," state Just Drive Day organizers.

Every day in the U.S., 9-10 people are killed and over 1,000 are injured in distracted driving crashes. Just Drive Day comes just eight days after a week of serious crashes on Monticello highways in which two people died in two separate crashes- one April 12 on Highway 25 and another April 16 on Interstate 94.

"By raising awareness and working together as a community we can save lives," event organizers state.

Participating in Just Drive Day is simple. All you need to do is show up at the middle school on the Broadway Avenue side, across from the Monticello hospital. There you will sign in, and then get ready to walk, run, or bike your way along the designated loop.

Participants are asked to wear orange clothing to show their support. Participants are also encouraged to check out the information tables and activities available. Many of the information tables will feature give-aways and safety products.

There will be water and pre-packaged snacks available to Just Drive Day participants.

For those who can't make it to the Monticello Middle School for the Just Drive Day event, there is a virtual event, as well.

If you can't make it in person, then take a photo of your run, walk or bike ride from any location and share it to the Just Drive Day Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Just Drive Day](http://www.facebook.com/Just Drive Day) or on the Just Drive Day Twitter page at @justdriveday.

For more information on the event and about Just Drive, go online at <http://www.justdriveday.org/>

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## School district's 'true heroes' recognized

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

It was a night to recognize true heroes when the Monticello School Board met in special session Monday, April 19.

Specifically, it was a night for the school district's health professionals to be recognized.

Monica Schwickerath, Tana Kalnbach, and Kelly Barrow were the glue that held the school district together since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, said Supt. Eric Olson.

"You absolutely kept us in business this year," Olson said.

The health professionals were given three gifts, including candy Lifesavers. "Without you this year our students

and families would be lost without you navigating the rules of MDH (Minnesota Department of Health) and being able to turn on a dime to do your very best keeping everyone safe ..." Olson said.

The women also received some Monticello Magic spirit wear and a coffee cup and gift card.

"I don't know how you've been able to work the hours you have taking care of people," Olson added.

In closing, Olson noted that the Monticello School District was proud of the knowledge, dedication, and passion showed during the pandemic by Schwickerath, Kalnbach, and Barrow.

"I don't know where the District would be without you," Olson said.



Photo by Jeffrey Hage / Monticello Times

Monticello school health professionals Monica Schwickerath, Tana Kalnbach, and Kelly Barrow (pictured left to right) were recognized by Supt. Eric Olson for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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