



THE TRIBUNE

SERVING GREENBUSH, BADGER, MIDDLE RIVER, MINNESOTA
ESTABLISHED 1908

\$1.00

OUR 112TH YEAR • ISSUE 49 • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

Area communities to host Veterans Day events

Ryan Bergeron
ryanb@wiktel.com

The area communities of Badger, Greenbush, and Middle River will be hosting Veterans Day events on Thursday, November 11. Details for each are listed below.

Badger:

The Badger School will be hosting a Veterans Day program at 10:00 am. Due to state volleyball, the student speeches and the music for the program will be pre-recorded and played during the event.

Greenbush:

The Greenbush-Middle River School will be hosting a Veterans Day program at 2:00 pm. The public is welcome to attend. David Truscinski (Captain MNANG Retired) is the program speaker. A bio on Truscinski is below.

David graduated in 2000 from Greenbush-Middle River High School. After high school he attended Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa (2000-02) to further his education and play collegiate baseball. It was here where David also met his wife Sarri. After 2 years, he decided to no longer pursue his dream of playing baseball and focus on his education. He enrolled at Minnesota State, Mankato (2002-2005). After obtaining his bachelor's degree in nursing, he began his career at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester working in the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit. After one year of work at Mayo, in 2008, David made the decision to join the Air Force, with the 133rd Airlift Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard in St. Paul, MN. David received a direct commission as a 2nd lieutenant. He was assigned as a flight nurse with the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. During his time with the Air Force, David completed Officer Training School, the Air Force Aerospace medicine program, and SERE training (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape). During his 6 years, he deployed to Ramstein Airbase, Germany. He completed medical missions caring for America's greatest heroes to air bases in Afghanistan, Iraq, Qatar. He also performed state side missions transporting wounded troops to their home bases throughout the United States. David also had the opportunity to complete a humanitarian mission in Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo), where he helped train Congolese medical teams on transport medical care and advanced life support.

Veteran's Day

continued on page 10

Gator Volleyball Heading to State



Jacey Wojchowski (#4) lifts up Gator teammate Jade Reese after the Gator Volleyball team clinched the Section 8A Volleyball Championship at the University of Minnesota Crookston on November 5-- the program's first ever section title. With the win, the Gators (29-3) advance to the Class A State Volleyball Tournament, where it will open versus the Minneota Vikings on November 11 at 7 pm from the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. For complete Gator Volleyball postseason coverage and the Gator Volleyball state sponsor page, look inside this week's issue.

photo by RYAN BERGERON

Central Boiler Companies celebrates twenty-ninth consecutive bonus distribution

GREENBUSH, Minn. – Central Boiler Companies held its 29th annual celebration for employees on October 29. The event started with owners Dennis and Terri Brazier reviewing the accomplishments and goals that were met throughout the year. Followed by a company video that revealed the bonus distribution amount, bonus check distribution and hors d'oeuvres and refreshments with a Halloween touch. The event commemorated the company's 37th year of existence and a year of growth for all three subsidiaries: Central Boiler, Altoz and WoodMaster.

The companies matched up to 15% of the contributions employees made to their 401K accounts from their bonus. The bonus, along with the companies' contributions to the employee 401K accounts, totaled \$1,242,237.81.

Companywide there was a 38% increase in employment – which includes the Greenbush and Red Lake Falls manufacturing facilities and employees who work remotely. In addition to the competitive wages and benefits, this growth can also be attributed to the company's culture, which makes it an enjoyable place to work. For the fifth year in a row, Terri was pleased to announce no increases in health insurance premiums for employees. The efforts of the staff and the company's strong safety

culture have attributed to no lost days due to injuries this year and an unheard-of-record in the manufacturing industry of only two injuries with lost days in over 20 years. Other recognizable achievements include receiving the Minnesota Star Tribune Top 175 Places to Work Award and Enterprise Minnesota magazine featuring Dennis and Terri in an article that touched on the history and achievements of the company.

Altoz, having the reputation of an industry innovator, delivered another industry first this year with the release of the first tracked stand-on mower, the TSX 561 i. The TSX received three prestigious industry awards and captured a notable share of media coverage, including being featured on the cover of the global magazine, Diesel Progress. Altoz presented their complete product line at the GIE+EXPO, the industry tradeshow for outdoor power equipment in October. The show was a great success and Altoz's outdoor demo booth had a continuous line of people waiting for a turn to test drive the tracked stand-on and tracked zero-turn mowers. "The tracked mower market has huge growth potential and we can attribute a significant portion of our success this past year from Altoz's boost in sales. Our Altoz dealer base continues to grow and we have almost doubled our district sales managers this year to as-

sist with growth opportunities. The Red Lake Falls manufacturing facility has been key in helping meet production demands as Altoz continues to see tremendous growth. We continue to strategically plan for the growth we are experiencing and to broaden our horizons in the outdoor power equipment market," said Dennis. "Lawn care professionals, municipalities and government agencies have quickly realized the benefits of the Altoz tracked mowers. The efficiency and the ability to safely mow terrain that traditional equipment simply cannot is a huge advantage for them and their bottom line," stated Dennis.

Notably, Central Boiler and WoodMaster currently hold the top three positions for efficiency of stick wood burning appliances on the EPA's website. With six furnaces that currently qualify for the 26% Federal tax credit for qualified biomass heaters and four more with applications for certification, and with home heating costs skyrocketing, both companies have seen remarkable growth this year.

Dennis concluded his speech summarizing the company's growth and opportunities by telling employees, "Buckle up, it's going to be a wild ride."

Central Boiler
continued on page 10

GMR Drama Presents "Annie"



Oliver Warbucks (far right), played by Brennan Collins, introduces Miss Hannigan (second from right), played by Ava Novacek, to some of the people at his mansion during the last scene of the GMR Musical "Annie." Pictured in front are (L-R): Elizabeth Gust (Grace Farrell), Walter Taus (President Roosevelt), Maelee Christianson (Annie), Ava Novacek (Miss Hannigan), and Brennan Collins (Oliver Warbucks). For those who didn't get to see one of the three performances in person on November 5 and 6, they can purchase an on demand option to the show for \$10 at the following link: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/58622>.

submitted photo

GMR voters support school, pass both levy questions

Ryan Bergeron
ryanb@wiktel.com

In four straight election dating back to 2015, Greenbush-Middle River School voters denied the district of increased tax-generated funding. This included last year's operating levy failing with 864 (55.67%) "no" votes to 688 (44.53%) "yes" votes.

Facing two ballot funding questions on November 2, the voters responded and supported the GMR students and staff at the ballot box this time around—both my near three to one margins. The board officially canvassed these results at a November 5 election.

In many of the public meetings related this vote in which he has presented, GMR Superintendent Larry Guggisberg has said he is an optimist with experience, but also knew there were people who would vote against these questions. The results on both questions, he said, were "overwhelming."

"It just made a very strong statement about the school and the school in the Greenbush and Middle River community," Guggisberg said. "And certainly, I think people realize... the vote is for the success of students and this vote is for the success of the district. And in the end, they wanted to support kids and the voters really sent a strong message in favor of that."

On the first question—to renew its expiring \$506.05 per pupil levy, set to expire on June 30, 2022—the voters passed this question with 948 "yes" votes (73.04%) to 350 "no" votes (26.96%). On the second question—to pass a levy \$700 per pupil more than the expiring levy—the voters passed this one with 904 "yes" votes (69.49%) to 397 "no" votes (30.51%).

With both passed, these levies will begin to run for six years, starting with taxes payable 2022 and will provide \$289,934 to the district annually, according to preliminary estimates provided to the district. When district property owners get their next tax statements, these election results will be reflected in their final taxes.

As review, a house, garage, and one acre will be taxed under these operating levies. Seasonal recreational properties and agricultural land and buildings beyond the dwelling value (home, garage, and one acre) are exempt from these operating levies.

Operating levies allow districts to generate additional general education revenue—provided through both local property tax levies and state aid. This revenue can be used for any operating expenses, including staff salaries and benefits, utilities, supplies, and technology, according to an Ehlers & Associates Power Point presentation.

GMR voters
continued on page 10