

## SECTION 8A CHAMPS



photo by Bruce Brierley

Sacred Heart won the Section 8A championship 3-2 over Fosston last Thursday in Thief River Falls and now advance to the State tournament where they will open against South Ridge High School at Joe Faber Field, in St. Cloud. Team member, coaches and staff are: (not in order of photo) #1 Cullen Rohrich, #14 Parker Erickson, #9 Sam Gapp, #13 Ethan Arntson, #15 Nick Brundin, #4 Caden Reimer, #2 Isaac Zavoral, #5 Breck Bloom, #8 David Larson, #6 Josiah Sundby, #3 Isaac Telle, #7 Landon Walker, #11 Mantana Jorgenson, #17 Dawson Rohrich, #12 Kaven Rohrich, #10 Mike Gapp, #22 Jake Satterlund, #19 Landen Denney, #25 Ben Wharam, #16 Elliot Arntson, #24 Levi Dallum, Paul Bethke, Logen Letofsky, Kyle Mallory, Chaise Anderson, Kobe Tomkinson, Sophie Evavold, Greta Bethke, and Grady Horken.

## City requests options for 4th St. NE street construction project

Brenda Halvorson  
 Exponent Reporter

The East Grand Forks city council authorized the preparation of plans and specifications for street and utility improvements on 4th St. NE between 5th Ave. NE and the American Crystal Sugar property at 8th Ave. NE at the June 7 meeting.

As part of that authorization, however, the council requested options to possibly change the scope of the project from full reconstruction of the street to a section of it.

During the public improvement hearing portion representatives of MGI Grain Inc. and A & L Potato Company acknowledged that the east end of the street closest to the American Crystal Sugar property was in bad shape and needed repairs. However they contended that 4th St. NE past their businesses was either "not too broken up" or "in okay shape." A letter from Folsom Farm Corporation, a third business, made the same point that the road doesn't need to be completely repaved and perhaps parts could just be patched.

Randy Boushey of A & L Potato Company said his firm is in the middle section of the proposed project and the road is "in okay shape." He felt the project is "premature" for his company especially given how "income doesn't match inflationary numbers" being experienced at this time.

The city received a petition from American Crystal Sugar and in April directed Steve Emery, city engineer, to prepare a feasibility study with estimated costs and assessments. In his presentation Emery noted that the existing concrete on 4th St. NE is 46 years old and is in "very poor condition."

The project would include removal and replacement of catch basins and storm sewer leads at an estimated cost of \$99,891. That would be paid by the city through enterprise funds.

The street reconstruction is estimated at \$792,612 and would be paid by assessments on the adjacent properties. Assessments on the three properties listed above would be approximately \$386,614 and would be split between them depending on the end benefit footage of each

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photo by Bruce Brierley

Jim Benson surrounded by a multitude of mounts that he and his crew have made, stands next to the moose calf mount that won Best Professional entry across all categories at the World Taxidermy Championship.

## Jim Benson brings home top awards at World Taxidermy Championship

Bruce Brierley  
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East Grand Forks taxidermist Jim Benson, went to Springfield, Missouri where his mount of a moose calf earned a blue ribbon and Best of Category in the professional division along with Best Professional entry across all categories at the World Taxidermy Championship. The mount also earned Taxidermists' Choice Best Life-size Mammal Award in Sioux Falls at the 50th Annual National Taxidermists Association Convention, Competition, & Trade Show last July as well as receiving honors in both Minnesota and North Dakota competitions.

Benson received the calf after it's mother was hit by a vehicle.

"It's A long story," says Benson. "A moose was hit by a car and it had two calves inside and he (the person who hit the moose) saved them and brought them here. A Game Warden gave me a permit to keep one."

Because of the size of the calf there was not a body form that Benson could purchase that would work.

"We skinned it out, took the fur off it and froze the carcass in the pose that I wanted and made a cast of it," explains Benson.

Benson who grew up in East Grand Forks started his taxidermy business, Sportsman's Taxidermy Studio in 1979 after he started doing taxidermy as a hobby when he was 14-years-old.

"I guess what got me into it," mused Benson. "My dad and family hunted a lot. They always just hunted for meat and would just cut the horns off the deer and throw it in the garage and put the meat in the freezer. That's all that was cared about. I always just thought all that stuff should be saved or something else done with it other than throwing the hide away and throwing the horns away. That's what got me into it just wanting to save that stuff."

Benson sports quite a resume having completed work for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota Crookston, the University of North Dakota, Cabela's, Scheels Sports, Streiff Sporting Goods, Itasca State Park, Wetlands Pines & Prairie Audubon Sanctuary, Red Lake DNR, Blue Mound State Park

, Lake Bronson State Park, and numerous individuals.

"People ask, why do you do taxidermy?" comments Benson. "I say well, yeah, we mount the birds and the fish and the deer but the biggest thing we do is we're preserving the memory. Is it the day that was so special? Was it the animal? Was it who they were with? I'll have somebody come in here and they want a two pound bass done. You want to say why are you getting this little thing done for? Then they'll tell you the story. This is the last bass my dad caught. There's a reason why everybody gets something mounted, but it's not necessarily because it's trophy. It's the memory. You're preserving the memory."

Then Benson looked around his showroom and pointed to a Northern Pike mount.

"Like that northern there," continues Benson. "A 10 year old girl caught it. I saw the video of it and it's like, oh my gosh, you know she's so excited. With the video and the fish she'll get to tell that story the rest of her life or dad will. So that's what it's all about."

