

## School referendum: 1 pass, 1 fail

TECH LEVY	
✓	
YES	NO

  

BUILDING BOND	
	✓
YES	NO

Over 700 turned out last week to vote on Tech Levy, Building Bond

By Scott Thoma  
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In a special school referendum vote held Monday night, over 700 voters turned out to pass the Technology Levy 384-321, while the building bond failed by a vote of 379-325.

"I'm sad that the building bond didn't pass, but I am happy and elated that the tech levy passed. It means we won't have to cut staff and programs."

The number of voters were approximately the same as those that voted two years ago for renovations/upgrade made at the school.

"There wasn't anything else on the ballot for local or state elections this time," Deitte said. "So, we didn't expect a huge turnout for just two questions. But we were pleased that this many people voted."

The Technology Levy that passed was for \$500,000 for 10

years. "We had nothing left in the budget," Deitte said. "If this hadn't passed, we likely would have had to cut some staff and programs. That is never a good thing."

Technology costs have triple since 2013.

"Currently, technology costs are more than \$450,000 a year," said Deitte. "We asked voters for \$500,000 a year for 10 years in order to cover other costs

that might come up. Inflation is currently around five percent and the state's funding increase is only at two percent."

Devices generally need to be replaced every three or four years. Technology, however, also covers Career and Tech, which is Shop and FACS or home economics classes, as well as servers, curriculum and other infrastructure to support the building.

Career and Technology

equipment also needs to be updated at the school. This includes welding, agriculture, business and woodworking.

The need for paraprofessionals has doubled since 2010 (from 12 to 24), doubling the school's costs as well. Another area with rising costs is Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). Costs have risen from \$7,500.00 in 2008 to \$165,000.00 in 2021.

Vote Continued on Page 5

Former cafe business in Taunton up for auction on Nov. 30

By Scott Thoma  
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The once popular dining establishment on Main Street in Taunton will now be sold during an absolute auction on Nov. 30.

Deutz Auctions will auction off the former restaurant as a turn-key business as-is, where-is.

Included in the sale will be two property parcels, a 4,350 square foot building with freezer, appliances, cookware, fixtures and furniture, along with the 2009 Ford F-350 used for the catering business. This will be a live, on-site auction only. Terms are 15 percent down payment due on the sale date with the balance due at closing.

For 30 years, Rusty Rhymer owned and operated Rusty's Corner Cafe and catering business after taking over the restaurant on Aug. 28, 1988 from his brother-in-law.

Rhymer sold the business to Brad and Courtney Norcutt in late December of 2018 and it then became known as Duke's Corner Cafe.

When the pandemic hit, Duke's Corner Cafe closed when Gov. Walz's Executive Order did not allow eating establishments to remain open for in-dining.

Duke's never re-opened and eventually the Norcutts filed for bankruptcy in 2020. The building has stood empty ever since.

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Minneota volleyball celebrate after winning the Section 3A title Saturday night at SMSU. Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason



The Minneota football team celebrates after capturing the Section 5A title Friday at SMSU. Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

Vikings' volleyball, football teams head to state again

By Scott Thoma  
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Expert analysts have always concluded that defense wins championships. That was never proven to be truer than this past weekend with the Minneota football and volleyball teams.

Both perennial powers punched their tickets to the state tournament again. While neither is the prohibitive favorite to win the Class A title, don't be surprised if each comes with the championship trophy.

"There has to be something in the water in Minneota," a fan from Tracy told this reporter after the game. "They are good in everything every year."

The Vikings' football team blanked BOLD 20-0 on Friday afternoon at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. That marked Minneota's eighth shutout in 11 games this season. Only 25 points have been scored on the Vikings this season, but only one touchdown was scored on the starting defense.

"We take a lot of pride in our defense," said senior linebacker Jonah Gruenes.

"We just don't like giving up any points," echoed senior defensive tackle Jackson Esping.

Minneota will open the state tournament on Friday, Nov. 12 against Mahanomen-Waubun at 7 p.m. in Monticello. The semifinals and final will be played at

U.S. Bank Stadium on Nov. 20 and 26, respectively.

The Vikings' volleyball team swept Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 25-18, 25-14, 25-21 at SMSU on Saturday night before a large and boisterous crowd.

While Minneota has an abundance of quality attackers and servers to put points on the board, it's the Vikings' defense that frustrates and stymies opponents.

"I think our defense has played well all season and wears teams down," said senior setter/hitter McKenna Yost.

"We have played together a long time and we communicate well on defense," said junior hitter/setter Ireland Stassen.

TMB has a host of quality attackers, led by senior Kiarra Danielson, who had 14 kills. But the Vikings stood up to the test on defense and made quality passes all night.

Minneota, the defending two-time Class A state champions (no state tournament was held last season due to the pandemic) will open at state against Badger-Greenbush-Middle River at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 11 at Xcel Energy Center.

The consolation and semifinals are set for Friday, Nov. 12, and the consolation final, third place and championship will be held Saturday, Nov. 13.

See section game stories on the volleyball and football teams on the sports pages.

### VETERAN'S DAY • NOV. 11, 2021

## Serving his country for 20 years

Sergeant Myhre has been deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan

By Scott Thoma  
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Minneota native Dude Myhre, a 20-year veteran of the Army National Guard, recently turned home in late July after his third deployment to Afghanistan.

Myhre, a 2001 Minneota graduate, enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard with the A Battery 1-151 Field Artillery out of Marshall in April of 2001.

"I always wanted to serve our country," Myhre said. And he has been serving

ever since.

Trained in primary Military Operations Specialty (MOS) 13B FA in Fort Sill, OK for four months, Myhre's first deployment was Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004-05 where he was based in Baghdad as a Military Police where his job was training Iraqi Police. He was deployed a second time from 2009-10 and based in Kuwait where he ran operations into Iraq as a Convoy Escort Team.

His most recent deployment began Aug. 3, 2020 where he was a Platoon Sergeant based

in Bagram Afghanistan, operating a Counter Rocket Artillery Mortar System (C-RAM).

Myhre returned to his home in Ghent in late July and reunited with his wife, Jessica, and children Aubree, 9; Maddie, 7; and Brayden, 3.

"The support we received from the communities of both Minneota and Ghent was incredible," said Jessica. "My family helped out a lot and I have no idea what I would have done without them."

Myhre is still enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard out of C Btry 1-194 FA in Alexan-

dria, but currently is still on active-duty orders stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas, on SRU (soldier recovery unit).

During his deployment to Afghanistan, Myhre injured his shoulder lifting heavy equipment. An MRI revealed a torn bicep tendon. Although no surgery was required, he has been going through physical therapy the past two months and recently was placed on remote medical care orders.

"I am home now continuing physical therapy for another few months," he explained.

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Jessica and Dude Myhre with their children, from left to right, Brayden, 3; Maddie, 7, and Aubree, 9. Contributed photo

### Countryside Auto Minneota LLC \* Pre-owned vehicle sales



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