

A stitch for time

History of Linwood to be memorialized in quilt

Hannah Davis News Editor

On the south wall of the Linwood Senior Center, a fairly empty wall is interspersed by decorations here and there. Soon, though, it will be covered with a kingsized quilt, honoring the past of the township it sits in.

This year Linwood Township celebrated its 150th anniversary. In September, during the township's' Family Fun Days, the history committee opened the typically closed grange, a historical building previously used for community gatherings and



Becky Frego stitches a piece of fabric on the centerpiece for the quilt.



Photos by Hannah Davis

Becky Frego (left) and Concha Brown review the squares for Linwood's 150th anniversary quilt. The two came up with the idea after assisting in creating a timeline for the reopening of the township's grange, a historic building, for Family Fun Days in September.

the town's history, starting happen," Frego said. from one side and working to another.

of the 150th anniversary, do- Frego said. nated by longtime communipiece of Linwood's history, Frego's husband, Ron. and "to honor those older members of the community probably. Concha did a time-

town board meetings. A that passed away that donat- line. ... After we had finished timeline had been set up of ed the money to make this

"As Concha said, if they take the money and put it in It was that timeline that the senior center fund, it'll go led to the inspiration of how away, and nobody will know to use some memorial funds it's for these people that were dedicated for the celebration a big part of this community,"

"Consider what we're ty members. Becky Frego and talking about is past history, quite quickly. Concha Brown, two mem- and the age of the majority bers of the history commit- of the women involved in the hours, because we went by tee, decided to do so with a grange are interested in hisquilt, made up of 108 squares, tory, and there's a lot of quil-104 of which will represent a ters in that age group," said said, 'Figure out the size of the

"It started with the grange,

with the grange's timeline and started on the quilt, we said, 'What are the things in the history that are special about Linwood?' I always think of this as 'What is it about Linwood we love?' So we sat down and made a list," Frego said.

The plan came together

"It took just a couple the timeline," Brown said.

"Concha called me and blocks, see how many blocks

Quilt see page 2

Years after approval, Hy-Vee construction date remains uncertain

Natalie Ryder

Community Editor

More than 2 1/2 years after the city of Columbus approved a plan for Hy-Vee to enter the city, there is still no word on when the "Fast and Fresh" facility might be constructed.

The city of Columbus started discussions with the West Des Moines, Iowa-based national grocer in the fall of 2018 to build a store on the northeast corner of Interstate 35 and Highway 97, off of Hornsby Street, and the Columbus City Council approved the grocer's conditional use permit and planned unit permit in April 2019. Since then, plans have been submitted, but the timing of the construction of the store is still uncertain as the location is awaiting placement on Hy-Vee's construction schedule.

Even though it has been a few years since the approval process was finalized for the project, the city is still anticipating the store's construction soon, although the date is unknown.

"Nothing has changed with the status of the land, with the plan for the project. ... It's just a matter of when they can get us on their construction calendar," the Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes said.

Janelle Grunwald, Hy-Vee communication specialist, said there are no new updates to the Columbus project at this time.

Teacher shortages stretching faculty thin

Higher illness rates are the cause

Natalie Rvder Community Editor

The Forest Lake Area School Board approved a substitute teacher proposal from Superintendent Steve Massey on Thursday, Oct. 7, which offered 11 substitute teacher positions for the whole district through the end of 2021-2022 school year.

"They would be, essentially, dedicated subs that would be, not permanently assigned to a building, they would be assigned to a building but also be available to work elsewhere in the district," Massey said at the October meeting.

The proposal would be funded by ESSER, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, to pay substitute teachers \$180 per day.

It was approved by a 4-0 vote, with board member Jill



Forest Lake Area Middle School students returned to in-person learning on the first day of the school year in September. Columbus Elementary School recently returned to a mask recommendation following a spike in CÓVID-19 cases.

Olson absent and members proposal, Massey said the Alex Keto and Kate Luthner teacher and substitute short- for the system. To make the abstaining because they are ages are still evident at the system work with that level of substitute teachers in the dis- school district this school absence, we need more subs," trict.

year during the Thursday, he said.

Even with this approved Nov. 4, school board meeting.

"It's extremely challenging

The district has had up to

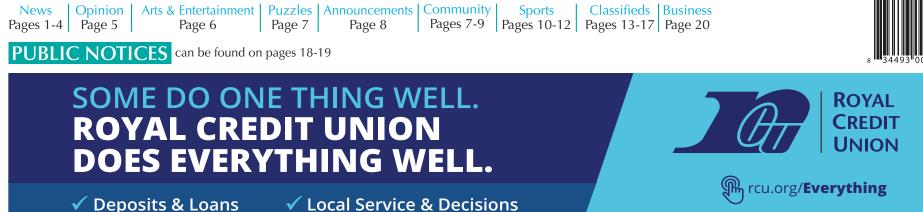
five unfilled classrooms on any given day and has utilized literacy coaches, academic support and media staff, music teachers and physical education teachers to fill the classrooms on the days with high teacher absences. He said it is straining on the faculty.

"I don't know how we've done it, but we've kept our buildings open," he said.

The goal of the school district is to keep students in person at school, which it has accomplished thus far, but Massey said students are missing out on parts of their education without their usual teachers, who have been getting sick and have to remain home, instead of running their classrooms.

"Kids aren't getting those experiences because the teachers aren't coming to class. But the good news is we stay open," he said regarding

Teacher Shortage see page 3



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Forest Lake volleyball rides to section title

Sports

Rangers earn 3rd state berth since 2017

John Wagner Sports Editor

The Forest Lake volleyball team's drive to the Class 4A Section 7 championship nearly went off without a hitch.

Truth be told, one of the few glitches on the Rangers' title ride came after the team accepted the championship trophy at Cambridge-Isanti High School on Saturday, Nov. 6. The squad was engulfed by the large number of students who came to cheer them to victory, and in that celebratory mosh pit a few fans and players tumbled to the floor.

Senior captain Maddie Sandstrom said the post-match chaos was not a surprise.

"The energy was over the roof," she said.

That did not keep Forest Lake coach Sherri Alm from watching the celebration with a tinge of alarm.

"At first I was thinking, 'How can we stop [everyone from falling]?" she said. "Then I started to look around and see if our girls were getting up. Any injuries we got there would be really hard to explain."

No need to explain, because it appeared no one was hurt. And there was no need to explain the excitement after the Rangers claimed the fourth state tournament berth in school history – and the third in the four seasons a state tournament berth has been available since 2017 - by thumping Blaine, the top seed in the section, in three straight sets by scores of 25-20, 25-19 and 25-23.

"Blaine is a good team, and they have a lot of firepower," Alm said. "We tried to pick at seams in their defense and try to make them defend the entire court.



Photo by John Wagner The Forest Lake volleyball team celebrates at center court moments after the clinching point of its Class 4A Section 7 title match against Blaine at Cambridge-Isanti High School on Saturday, Nov. 6.

dialed in and really took care of off and go to the next point." business.'

played out in similar fashion, with match 25-23. neither team able to establish a lead early before the second-seed- at a time," Alm said. "We let a few ed Rangers would ride a scoring points go [in the third set] because run to create a lead they would not relinquish.

"We played like a team," senior co-captain Maddie Sandstrom said. "Our blocking and hitting were on-point, and the defense played phenomenally."

The third set appeared to be different, though, as Forest Lake stumbled out of the blocks early and fell behind 7-2. But the Rangers started a run with back-toback blocks and rumbled to a 16-10 advantage that forced a Blaine timeout.

Coming out of the timeout, the Bengals then made one more run, outscoring Forest Lake 10-3 to take a 20-19 lead.

We told everyone to take a over Duluth East a week earlier. deep breath and shake it off," Sandstrom said. "We said this ready to play from the first point next point matters, so just focus because Andover is a talented

the game plan pretty nicely. They If you give up a point, you shrug it showed up."

"We needed to play one point we weren't mentally there. It's one thing to have physical errors, but you can't leave the court mentally, because the points you lose are something you can't get back.

battled back and earned the team. points we needed to win."

Rangers beat Andover in semifinals

Forest Lake advanced to the section championship match by dispatching third-seeded Andover in three straight sets played at home on Wednesday, Nov. 3. Alm was pleased that her team showed a greater sense of urgency than it did in a lackluster quarterfinal win

"We knew we had to show up

And I thought our girls executed on that point – then build off that. team," she said. "I thought we

The second set of this match And that is what the Rangers provided several challenges to The first two sets of that match did, finding a way to clinch the the Rangers' mettle. On several occasions in this tight set, Forest Lake appeared to score the winning point, only to see the officials overturn the point and hand it to the Huskies.

"When you think you've won three different times, and to have a call change that, and yet stay the course and take care of business -"I was proud of the way we that is awesome," Alm said of her

When the Rangers needed a key point in that set, junior Bethany Weiss was the go-to option. And Weiss delivered, slamming five kills at the end of the set – not including an apparent kill that was overturned.

"She's obviously a go-to, and she's been a key to our success," Alm said of Weiss. "She will tell you that it takes a pass, and it takes a great set off Katie [Brandl's] hands as well. But her capabilities with the ball really were on display in this match."

Weiss said she used the excite-

ment of the set to raise her level of play.

"We just had to keep doing what we knew how to do in that set," she said. "I like the opportunity, and I like how excited we can get when we make plays."

Forest Lake closed out a tight third set with another kill by Weiss to clinch the match 25-20, 29-27, 25-23.

Rangers opened state against Eden Prairie

The Rangers opened state tournament play with a match against Eden Prairie, the tournament's No. 2 seed and the third-ranked Class 4A team in the state, at the Xcel Center on Wednesday, Nov. 10. This contest was not completed at press time.

If it won, Forest Lake advanced to a semifinal match against either No. 3-seed East Ridge or Bloomington Jefferson Thursday, Nov. 11, starting at 3 p.m. The Rangers, win or lose that match, would again play on Saturday, Nov. 13, starting at 7 p.m. in either the championship match or the third-place contest.

If Forest Lake lost on Wednesday, it moved to the consolation bracket for a game against the loser of the East Ridge-Bloomington Jefferson match; that contest will be played Thursday, Nov. 11, at 3 p.m. The winner of that match will play in the consolation winners contest on Saturday, Nov. 13, starting at 11 a.m.

The Rangers return to state after a two-year absence – last year's state tournament was canceled over COVID-19 concerns - and Alm said she could not be happier for her team.

"It's awesome to get back to state," she said. "It's an honor to get there at all. It's great to have this bunch of girls who play hard, and play for one another.'



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Bad start, great finish for Hushagen

Ranger girls CC finishes 9th at state

John Wagner Sports Editor

Forest Lake's Norah Hushagen got off to the worst start possible at the Class 3A State Cross Country meet held at St. Olaf on Saturday, Nov. 6.

"I was taking the first corner, and I got cut off," Hushagen said. "Then multiple people stepped on me, and I got spiked and fell."

That start was a double-whammy for the freshman: It caused an injury to her left foot that she had to run with as she covered the 5K course, and it pushed her far back from the leaders of the pack in the biggest race of the year.

That makes her sixthplace finish as an individual. with a time of 18:27.68, all the more amazing.

"When you're that far behind in a race like this, when you're running against a lot of top runners, it's amazing how

the beginning of the race.

[her final place]. When I with that." saw Norah at the start of in the top 10 would be place finish matched the great."

said she used a simple duced its sixth-best finish. strategy to push through in her attempt to catch the everyone ran really good leaders.

'I'm not hurting, I'm not one ran." hurting," she said. "By the loop I had worked my est Lake was junior Jorway into the top 10, and I dan Parent, who finished could see the lead runners. 106th overall with a time So I ignored [the pain] and kept running."

state honors for her per- 20:33.97 clocking. Anothformance, and junior El- er senior, Isabel Castilleja, lie Hanowski just missed placed 128th overall with those honors by placing a time of 20:55.23 to com-30th with a 19:04.73 clock- plete the Rangers' scoring ing.

"I wanted to finish in

well she did," Forest Lake state, but I'm really happy belle Stang, who was 157th coach John Fick said. "She finishing 30th," Hanows- with a time of 22:46.85, was midway in the pack at ki said. "The last time I while eighth grader Made-"I'm very happy with improved, and I'm happy with a 23:24.35 clocking.

the race, I could tell she placed ninth in the 16- ninth meant the Rangers didn't get a great start - team field with 251 points, were the ninth-best Class and now we know why. I 11 fewer than Lakeville 3A girls cross-country thought any finish for her South in 10th. That ninthresult of the 2018 squad; Hushagen, who was in the program's 12th run in 31st place at the mile mark, the state tournament pro-

the crowd in front of her awesome race - actually, races," Fick said. "I'm very "I kept telling myself, happy with the way every-

Placing third for Forof 20:23.30, while senior Ella Niznik was close be-Hushagen earned all- hind in 115th place with a runners.

the top 25 and earn all- placers were senior Anna-

was here I was 35th, so I leine Bonnett placed 159th

Hanowski was quick As a team the Rangers to point out that finishing team in the state.

"Even if we're not in the top three or whatever, we made it to state – and that's an accomplishment in itself," she said. "I thought "I thought Ellie ran an ninth was pretty good for our team."

Hushagen and Hanowski still running

Hushagen and Hanowski still have at least one race on their calendar as both will travel to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to compete in the NXR Heartland Regional hosted by Nike on Sunday, Nov. 14.

regionals held around the country, invites the best runners from seven states – Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, The Rangers' two dis- North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Min-



Photo by John Wagner

Freshman Norah Hushagen overcame a slow start to finish sixth in the Class 3A Girls State Cross Country Championship hosted by St. Olaf College on Saturday, Nov. 6, earning all-This event, one of eight state honors for her performance.

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nesota - to compete.

In years past, the top re-Nationals in Portland, Or- ally fast times," Fick said. egon. This year those finals

will not be held.

"It's a super-fun race gional runners would then on a super-fast course, so advance to the Nike Cross hopefully they can post re-



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED







VanAcker takes 3rd in state meet

Sievers finishes high school career well

John Wagner Sports Editor

Forest Lake senior Daniel VanAcker was the first to realize his dream of winning the individual title at the Class 3A Boys State Cross Country Championship, which was hosted by St. Olaf College on Saturday, Nov. 6, would not come true.

"I had the whole last mile to realize [I wasn't going to win the state championship]," he said. "I was hurting pretty badly, especially that last 800.

"Winning state was always the goal, and I don't think you want to jinx yourself by saying, 'I want to finish third.' But realistically, I think third was the best I could shoot for. So I can console myself with that."

VanAcker also can console himself with the knowledge that finishing third in a sizzling time of 15:30.71 tied the highest finish in school history for a Ranger boy in this meet, as Eric Pierce placed third in the 1994 race.

"We've had some great runners in our program, so to finish that high – especially in this field, which is an elite field means he ran a heck of a race," Forest Lake coach Andy Richardson said.

VanAcker was content to let the pack set the pace for the first mile, and he covered that distance in 4:49.23.

"I knew we would go out fast, so I knew we wouldn't go any faster for the second mile," he said. "It was a nice change of pace; I didn't have to worry about strategy, I just went out by feel."

VanAcker then ran the second mile in 5:06.63 – but so



Photo by John Wagner Forest Lake senior Daniel VanAcker placed third in the Class 3A Boys State Cross Country Championship, tying him for the highest finish for a boy at the state meet in school history.

did juniors Nick Gilles of Min- ground." netonka and Noah Breker of Robbinsdale Armstrong.

'He didn't hold anything back," Richardson said of VanAcker. "You have to tip your faster than VanAcker. cap to those first two runners. They are incredible runners, and Dan is, too. He did everything shouldn't have any regrets about that race.

first-mile mark, and there were third mile. 16 people who ran from 4:49 to 4:51. So if he wasn't there with lead and pushing the pace up, them, it would have been very, but at the end they kept do- at St. Olaf [in the state meet]." very difficult to make up that ing that and I just didn't have

while Breker was second with a 15:25.13 - roughly five seconds

"Kudos to them; they were faster," VanAcker said. "I think here, so I was happy to get here. we went through the 2-mile possible to win the race, so he mark at 9:55, and the first mile was 4:50, so we slowed down a Finishing was great, because it lot after the first mile. I was feel- was fun to stop running. But "I counted up the splits at the ing pretty good going into the this also is kind of sad, be-

"We took turns taking the cross-country race.

enough at the end. I've never had that bad of a kick at the end of a race before - and my kicks are usually pretty bad."

VanAcker laughed when he heard he had tied Pierce for the best finish in school history.

"Honestly, it's kind of annoying that I didn't finish second and beat that [record]," VanAcker said, then smiled. "But that's cool, and I'm super happy with that."

VanAcker was not the only Forest Lake senior running in the race, as Ethan Sievers placed 92nd with a time of 17:02.51.

"I thought he ran a good race," Richardson said of Sievers. "He may not have run the time he wanted, but it's so difficult when you have so many people running so fast. He ran the time he wanted at the mile mark, but he couldn't run any faster or slower because he was surrounded by people.

"He knows that he ran hard and didn't hold back. I'm going to miss him for sure - fortunately I'll have him in track this year."

Sievers admitted his strategy was affected by the large pack of runners surrounding him.

"I was trying to go out at Gilles eventually won the 5:10 or 5:15 pace, so I could go race with a time of 15:22.81, fast later in the race," he said. "I went out in 5:12, but I died at the end. The last mile and a half was pretty hard. ...

> "It was a lot of fun to run That start was fun, watching everyone charge out of the blocks. cause this is my last high school

"But I'm glad I got to end it

SPORTS BRIEFS

Compiled by John Wagner **Groeneweg leads** nationally ranked Huskies

Forest Lake graduate Abigail Groeneweg is playing an important role on a St. Cloud State volleyball team that ranks among the best Division II squads in the country.

Groeneweg, a sophomore outside hitter, leads the Huskies in service aces with 39 and ranks 38th among Division II players with her average of 0.49 service aces per set. She also ranks second on the team with 36 assists and is third in digs with 269, an average of 3.36 digs per set that is best on the team.

St. Cloud State has rolled to a 22-4 overall record that has it ranked 11th nationally in the most-recent American Volleyball Coaches Association poll. The Huskies are ranked sixth in the Central Region.

Theisfeld leads UW-Eau Claire men's soccer

Forest Lake 2021 graduate Carter Theisfeld played an integral role in leading the Wisconsin-Eau Claire men's soccer team to a 15-4 record in its inaugural season.

Theisfeld, a freshman midfielder, was among the Blugolds' top scorers. He finished third on the team in goals with six, was second in assists with nine and also was second in game-winning goals with four.

Theisfeld had a goal and two assists in his team's season-ending 3-1 victory at Wisconsin-Platteville on Saturday, Nov. 6. That matched his season's best output as he also had a goal and two assists in a 6-1 win at Northland on Sept. 14.











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