

EDUCATION

STRAIGHT 'A'S
The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about students from and in our community.
Call the Journal at 285-7411



Annie Schiro, Danielle Erickson, Ainsley Rysdam, Benjamin Jourdan and Haedyn Sutton proudly wear their “Math Masters” T-shirts as they represent Independent School District 363 at the Bemidji competition.

Indus School students compete in Math Masters Challenge

INDUS SCHOOL REPORT

A team of five sixth grade students from Indus and Northome schools, accompanied by teacher Sara Wendt, participated in the Math Masters of Minnesota Challenge April 25 in Bemidji.

Students competed individually and as teams on eight sets of mathematical problems in the competition. Participating from Indus School were Danielle Erickson, Annie Schiro and Haedyn Sutton, and from Northome Schoolm, Benjamin Jourdan and Ainsley Rysdam.

Math Masters is designed to promote excellence in critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities as well as to provide recognition to students for academic effort and achievement. Approximately 5,000 fifth and sixth graders registered to compete in this year’s event.

ASK A TROOPER

Minimum drinking age of 21 issues

BY SGT. CURT S. MOWERS
Minnesota State Patrol

Q: Why don't we just let our youth drink at age 18 like we used to? They would have more experience and guidance by adults if we did.

A: The 21st Amendment to the United States Constitution repealed prohibition — thus allowing states to regulate how and by whom alcohol could be consumed. When this occurred, in 1933, most states had a 21-year-old minimum drinking age. By 1982, only 14 states retained minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) of 21 years. In the 1970s and 1980s the MLDA became a traffic safety problem as it became calculable that youth's traffic crashes increased when states lowered the drinking age.

In 1984, Congress enacted the National Minimum Purchase Age Act which prohibited the purchase and possession of alcohol if under 21. Simultaneously they put pressure on the states that did not raise the MLDA to 21; states that did not comply would lose a portion of their federal highway construction fund-

ing. By 1988, all states had a 21 MLDA.

Even before the last states came on board it was becoming apparent that youth lives were being saved nationwide due to a higher drinking age; from 1975 through 1996 over 17,000 fewer youth deaths having the higher drinking age across the nation.

Alcohol-related crashes involving young drivers have also declined 63 percent since 1982. Taking alcohol out of youth's lives more earnestly than ever before had spectacular side effects — reduced youth suicides, marijuana use, alcohol consumption and crime.

Two national studies showed the positives of a 21 MLDA; both high school students and youth after turning 21 drank less if they were from a state with a MLDA of 21. They also found a direct result from lower alcohol consumption was fewer traffic crashes. (O'Malley and Wagenaar, 1991 and Voas, Tippetts, and Fell, 1999 – FARS DATA).

Other related facts:

- The behavior of 18-year-olds directly affects the behavior of 15- to 17-year-olds,

reducing drinking behavior for the prior also reduces it for the latter

- A drinking age of 18 is associated with adverse outcomes among births to young mothers.
- There is potential harm alcohol may have on the developing brain, which is maturing well into the 20s.
- When teens drink, they tend to drink heavily
- The later a youth is introduced to alcohol the less likely they are to have problems surrounding drinking; DWIs, school dropout rates, dependency, traffic crashes and violent crimes. Waiting until 21 to consume alcohol gives them the best odds.
- Arguing that an 18-year-old can join the service and fight for our nation so they should be able to drink legally means permitting doing something harmful to their emotional and physical well being. Drinking should never be considered a reward or right of passage.

Facts are from U.S. Department of Transportation, National High Traffic Administration-Underage Drinking Prevention Project; MN Department of Health and Education; MN Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted by the Koochiching County Planning and Zoning Commission relative to the following item **on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** in the County Board Room, Koochiching County Courthouse, International Falls, Minnesota.

A public hearing on a parcel rezoning application submitted by **Thomas J. Richardson**. The request is to change the zoning from O-1 (open space) to AF-1 (ag/forestry) in order to allow for future construction of a year around dwelling. The parcel is located along Town Road 382 near Silverdale and is described as the South 1/2 of the SE1/4, Sec. 25, Twp 64N, Rge 22W, Koochiching County, Minnesota.

All interested parties are invited to attend the said hearing to be heard. If more information is desired, please contact the Koochiching County Environmental Services, ph.(218)283-1158.

April 21, 2014

Dale Olson
Zoning Administrator
Koochiching County

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Thurs.	Blueberry Pancakes w/eggs & sausage or bacon
Fri.	Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs & hashbrowns
Sat.	Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs
Sun.	Blueberry Cream Cheese Crepes with eggs & ham

Dinner Specials

Mon.	Half Chicken Dinner	\$10.99
Tues.	Full Rack of BBQ Ribs	\$17.99
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Thurs.	Mozzarella Girsale w/Marinara Sauce	\$10.99
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Thursday, May 8 • 7 p.m.
Good Samaritan Society's Fellowship Hall

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To learn more, call Tammy Jo at (218) 283-8313.

Good Samaritan Society

INTERNATIONAL FALLS

All faiths or beliefs are welcome.