

Pequot Lakes activities updates

With the many constant changes in this year's activities, I thought I would share information as it stands currently.

All of the dates can be found at www.mshsl.org and on the Pequot Lakes School website at www.isd186.org. For our co-op sports like gymnastics and skiing, dates can be found on the Brainerd School District website at www.isd181.org.

With limited tickets going to families and students, events can be viewed on the [isd186sports](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC186sports) YouTube channel.

Hockey events are viewed on Livebarn.com.

Speech and Knowledge Bowl have held their meets virtually this year. The teams are smaller in numbers but have experienced great success. Speech will compete for sections and the state tournament this spring; however, the dates have not yet been released.

Band and choir will have their spring contest competitions with dates and locations yet to be determined.

Wrestling will start team sections March 11 with Pequot Lakes chosen to host section finals as well as the state quarterfinal round on March 13. Individual sections will also be hosted at Pequot Lakes on March 16. The top four individuals will advance to Foley for a supersectional event.

Section hockey dates are set for March 16, 18, 20 and 25. As teams are seeded, all the events will be held at the high seed. Fans are limited to 90 for the home team and 60 for the visiting team. There will be a state tournament with limited seating of 250 fans. The games will be livestreamed or televised on Channel 45.

Basketball section dates have also been set and the high seeds will host through the section finals. Girls basketball dates are March 18, 20, 24 and 26. Boys basketball dates are March 17, 19, 23 and 26.

Pequot Lakes has been asked to host a state quarterfinal round of the basketball tournament on March 30 and 31. No details have been released as to which class we will host.

Spring sports will start March 29, with middle level programs starting their practices April 6. Registrations for these activities will start up after March 15, after the Minnesota State High School League releases how the seasons will run.

No information has been given for length of season, contests per activity or when section play will start. This information will be out soon so please check the mshsl.org website for up-to-date information on these events.

As we finish our seasons for winter activities, let's celebrate all the hard work from our students, athletes and coaches, and congratulate them for an outstanding job.

Go Patriots!

Byron Westrich is the Pequot Lakes School District activities director.



BYRON WESTRICH
Pequot Lakes Activities Director

Pequot Lakes Early Childhood to host family classes

Pequot Lakes Early Childhood will host family classes for children up to age 5 from 8:30-10 a.m. Fridays, April 9 to May 14.

There will be art, music, free play and circle time with the whole family as well as dedicated time for parents to discuss different topics with an early childhood parent educator.

Registration is open now. For more information and to register, visit the Pequot Lakes Early Childhood website at <https://sites.google.com/isd186.org/earlychildhood>.



Submitted Photo
The Patriot speech team, from left: Mollie Pierson, Bryce Fabian and Megan Buffington.

Driver discount refresher course offered in Pequot Lakes

The Minnesota Highway Safety Center is offering another four-hour driver improvement refresher course in Pequot Lakes for drivers age 55 or older.

This class will be held from 3-7 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at Pequot Lakes High School. The fee is \$24 and pre-registration is required due to class size restrictions. COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

Participants must have taken an eight-hour discount course to qualify.

This class will explore changes in laws and the latest vehicle technology, and will provide easy-to-use defensive driving tips. Completion of this course could allow for a 10% reduction on most automobile insurance premiums for those age 55 and over.

To register, contact Pequot Lakes Community Education at 218-568-9342.

Papua New Guinea is focus of CLC Cultural Thursday event

Central Lakes College English and global studies instructor Lori-Beth Larsen will speak on her experience of growing up in Papua New Guinea for the Thursday, March 4, Cultural Thursday program.

The free virtual event is at noon. To join the Zoom webinar, register at tinyurl.com/xaw4n02b.

Viewers can also participate in the Q&A session afterward. Those who register can also watch the recorded presentation at a later date.

Larsen grew up in Papua New Guinea, living in a rural village from the time she was 2 years old through high school. Her parents moved to Papua New Guinea to work in literacy, linguistics and community development. Hear how these childhood experiences continue to shape Larsen's identity.

For more information about this presentation or the Cultural Thursday program, contact Tracey KloECKl-Jimenez at 218-855-8183.

Bridges launches 'TheGameofCareers.com' virtual career exploration experience

Bridges Career Academies & Workplace Connection will launch a new, localized career exploration experience for area high school students Friday, March 5.

TheGameofCareers.com is a website that showcases local industries and careers through interactive online simulations and activities, videos, photos and relevant career information, all in a free, secure setting.

For the past 13 years, Bridges hosted a Career Exploration Day, offering more than 2,500 students from 28 local school districts a unique way to meet business professionals and explore careers. Due to COVID-19 crowd restrictions, Bridges is prevented from hosting this event in 2021.

Despite this, Bridges still wants to offer students the opportunity to explore the hundreds of careers available to them and better understand local career options.

TheGameofCareers.com brings together the best information from Minnesota State's CAREERwise and the U.S. Department of Labor's CareerOneStop websites, as well as input from the local business community and post-secondary partners, to make career information relevant to central Minnesota and our market needs.

Content is displayed in an engaging, game-like format. Students will receive their login information at their high school. From March 5-26, students will earn points for every exploration activity they experience. Points accumulate into digital Career Badges and provide automatic entry to prize drawings.

This virtual career exploration experience is available 24/7. The password-protected website will lead students to different industries within a community. Each industry will offer background on their field and feature a handful of specific careers. Industry and occupations will be showcased through easy-to-understand descriptions of what each job does, skills and education needed, local salary ranges and local job outlook information, as well as engaging videos and 360 degree "clickable" photos of regional business interiors.

The highlight of this online career exploration experience is the interactive career-based skills simulations, as well as related games and activities, which offer students virtual insight into what each career is like. Business professionals and post-secondary partners will also be available to respond directly to questions students submit.

Students and educators will use TheGameofCareers.com as a career or college readiness project, as an ongoing part of a class curriculum, or as a special "one-day" activity - similar to attending the live event. Students with logins may also access the site independently whenever they are in search of local career information.

The website will include links to the Bridges' Career Depot, www.BridgesConnection.org/jobs - the only jobs website in the region with job postings exclusively for ages 14-18. High school students can search for summer jobs that will earn them some money and teach them about real-world work responsibilities, and possibly their new career pathway.

TheGameofCareers.com will complement the live Bridges Career Exploration Day event when it returns. This website will become the new cornerstone for the Bridges program - incorporating speakers, career videos, the Career Depot and more - to provide a more cohesive career and college readiness package for high schools. Industry-specific promotions are being planned for the 2021-2022 school year.

Funding for this new Bridges project is being provided in part by Sourcewell, the Central Lakes Perkins Consortium, the Initiative Foundation and the Crow Wing Power Community Trust fund. The Bridges Career Academies & Workplace program also partners with the Brainerd Lakes Chamber, Central Lakes College, MSTATE, Rural MN Cep and area school districts.

Patriots first at Lumberjack Invite

The Pequot Lakes High School speech team finished first as a team in the small entry division at the Bemidji Lumberjack Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 27.

More than 40 teams competed at this year's event.

Mollie Pierson finished first for the Patriots in discussion and second in informative speech, while Megan Buffington placed second in extemporaneous speaking and Bryce Fabian took seventh in discussion.

The Patriots will compete in the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley meet on Saturday, March 6.

MAKING THE GRADE

Grand Canyon University
Courtney Boller, of Pequot Lakes, was named to the fall semester president's list at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. She is the daughter of Scott and Karen Boller.

University of Minnesota
The following local students were named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis: **Ryan Seidl**, Breezy Point, freshman, College of Liberal Arts; **Karlle Trotter**, Breezy Point, senior, College of Liberal Arts; **Kristin Skog**, Crosslake, senior, College of Continuing & Professional Studies; **Rylie Young**, Lake Shore, senior, College of Education and Human Development; **Nickolas Barth**, Merrifield, junior, College of Liberal Arts; **Jenna Boutto**, Nisswa, senior, College of Education and Human Development; **Elizabeth Tomlinson**, Nisswa, junior, College of Education and Human Development; **Riley O'Brien**, Pequot Lakes, senior, Carlson School of Management; **Jordyn Tayloe**, Pequot Lakes, junior, Carlson School of Management.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
The following local students recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire: **Sylas Lies**, Emily, arts and sciences, Bachelor of Arts, psychology; **Kennedy Rusk**, Nisswa, education and human sciences, Bachelor of Science, elementary education.

Minnesota State University-Mankato
The following local students were named to the fall semester honor list at Minnesota State University-Mankato: **James Schwartz**, Backus; **Taya Salminen**, Breezy Point; **Cloey Traxler**, Breezy Point; **Morgan Mudgett**, Lake Shore; **Jake Anderson**, Pequot Lakes.



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