

Respect Old Glory



Photos by Nancy Vogt / Echo Journal

Nisswa Elementary School fourth-graders made their annual trek Oct. 14 from the school to the Nisswa American Legion for an outdoor lesson in flag etiquette. Legion members disposed of old, tattered flags as Legion Commander Susan Edwards talked to students about the importance of the U.S. flag and respect for it. The Legion provided treats for students at the school after the lesson.

BRIEFS

Cass County 4-Hers participate in Minnesota 4-H State Dog Show

Four 4-H youths from Cass County participated in the Minnesota 4-H State Dog Show on Sept. 25-26. In total, 260 youth and 310 dogs from across the state participated in this annual event, held at the 4-H Building on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul.

Over the two-day event, 4-Hers demonstrate their skills and knowledge in agility, obedience, showmanship and rally, competing against other youths in their age group and experience level.

Youth members of the Minnesota 4-H Dog Project learn to train and build a trusting relationship with their pet. Topics of study include canine behavior, breed characteristics, diseases, ethics, grooming, health, nutrition, responsible breeding, service dogs, therapy dogs, dog-related careers and the wide array of dog sports.

“Youth learn so much responsibility from training their dog and competing in the 4-H State Dog Show,” Kim Lambert, one of the many adults who volunteer with the 4-H Dog Project statewide, said in a news release. “These kids work all year long, building strong partnerships with their dogs. If they don’t work carefully with their dogs, the dogs won’t work for them. The responsibility kids learn here they can use forever.”

The following youth were members of the Cass County delegation:

▶ **Emily Blankenship:** Obedience-Foundation, Red Ribbon.

▶ **Kaitlyn Hanson:** Agility Intermediate, 16 and 20 Inches, Blue Ribbon, Champion Award; Agility Jumpers 2, 16 and 20 inches, Blue Ribbon; Obedience,

Beginner, Blue Ribbon; Obedience, Novice, Red Ribbon; Rally, Pre-Novice, Blue Ribbon; Rally, Novice, Blue Ribbon; Reserve Champion Award; Showmanship-Open, Blue Ribbon, 2nd Award of Excellence.

▶ **Kendall Hovde:** Rally Pre-Novice, Blue Ribbon; Showmanship, Novice, Blue Ribbon.

▶ **Molly Adkins:** Agility, Elementary 4-8 and 12 inches, Red Ribbon; Agility Jumpers 2, 4-8 and 12 inches, Blue Ribbon.

To learn more about the 4-H Dog Project, contact 4-H Local Extension Educator Brooke Remer, at 218-587-8280 and visit the website, <https://z.umn.edu/4Hdog>.

Cass County 4-Hers participate in Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show

Six 4-H youths from Cass County participated in the Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show on Sept. 17-20, where 591 youths from across the state took part in the annual event at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

The 4-Hers demonstrate their skills and knowledge in hippology (showing knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry), horse judging (study of an animal, measuring it against an accepted ideal), horse training and achievement, speech and demonstrations about interest in horses or the horse industry, showmanship and drill team skills.

Youths who participate in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Project learn about show, trail and endurance riding; test their horse knowledge at quiz bowls or on judging teams; and study horse science. Youths may participate if they own or lease a horse. There are options for youths who are interested in horses, but don’t have

access to one in their community.

“Through the Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show, youth build communications skills, gain deeper learning and interest in horses, and build relationships with caring adults,” Renee Kostick, Extension Educator who manages the 4-H Horse Project in Minnesota, said in a news release. “These experiences contribute to their success in school, community and futures.”

The following youths were members of the Cass County delegation:

▶ **Anna Crosby:** Poles, Barrels, Jumping Figure 8, Key Race

▶ **Autumn Mongan:** Western Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Trail, Poles, Jumping Figure 8, Key Race

▶ **Peyton Mongan:** Western Showmanship Pleasure Type, Western Pleasure Pleasure Type, Western Horsemanship, Poles, Barrels, Jumping Figure 8, Key Race

▶ **Dixie Rowell:** Western Horsemanship, Trail, Poles, Barrels, Jumping Figure 8, Key Race. Dixie placed 7th in Key Race, grade 9

▶ **Mikey Rowell:** Western Pleasure, Trail, Jumping Figure 8

▶ **Jourdanna Thurstin:** Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Poles, Barrels, Jumping Figure 8, Key Race

To learn more about the Minnesota 4-H Horse Project, contact local extension educator Brooke Remer at 218-587-8280 and visit the website, <https://z.umn.edu/4HHorseProject>.

A good time to thank a veteran

It was 1984, the hometown gymnasium, attending the annual Veterans Day service.

My good friend’s grandfather walked up the aisle to the stage to receive an award recognizing him for his service in World War I.

I was just a kid with no clue what that meant, but I recall being impressed with all the ribbons on his chest. He looked like a hero to a third-grade kid.

Every year, I would pick him out of the crowd at the Veterans Day service, until one year when his absence caused me to reflect on time; he was in his 90s and WWI was 70 years ago. He had witnessed an event that we were learning about in our history class and I had missed the chance to ask him about it.

My love of history and interest in the story of people’s experiences was kindled as a child and led me to a profession that allowed me to share that passion with other young adults.

Two years ago, after our Veterans Day program in the Athletic Center where we recognized Bob Uppgaard for his service to the nation, community and school, I was approached by

a veteran from the audience. I had just shared the story about the WWI veteran with the audience and the importance of saying thanks to the men and women while they are still with us.

He shared that in his elementary school days, the “old men” at the Veterans Day program were Civil War vets. A living link to historical events 150 years ago, he shared his experience and how as an older adult, he is always impressed with the respect so many of the students show at the Veterans Day service.

I have been involved in planning a Veterans Day program for 14 years. It began when I was a teacher and continues in my capacity as a principal. For me, I appreciate the learning experience it offers our students and the respect it shows our veterans. For students, this is an opportunity to pause from the frantic state of living to witness men and women who defended our nation’s interests being honored for their service.

It gives a kid, who may not have any connection with military service, the chance to hear words like sacrifice, honor, valor and patriotism. It shows our veterans that our students, while obsessed with the business of being a kid, have the capacity to care about

something greater than themselves.

That students know what service means, what sacrifice means, and that they value the freedom those two words have produced.

On Nov. 11, 2021, at 9 a.m., our Athletic Center will again be filled with students, veterans and open to the public for our annual Veterans Day program. A program organized by students will highlight the service of our armed forces veterans and capture for our students the historical significance these veterans represent.

One more time, I will stand with chills as the Honor Guard walks in with the flag and stands at attention for the national anthem. Once more I will feel tears as I look at the veterans saluting the flag of their nation.

And once more, I will remind myself to thank a veteran before the time to do so has passed.

Aaron Nelson is the principal of Pequot Lakes High School.

MAKING THE GRADE

University of Maryland Global Campus

Leslie Erickson, Nisswa, was named to the summer dean’s list at the University of Maryland Global Campus in Adelphi, Maryland.

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