



Submitted Photo  
From left: Jim Johanneck, Bryce Fabian, Mollie Pierson, Megan Buffington.

## Pierson, Buffington qualify for state speech meet

Pequot Lakes’ Mollie Pierson was crowned discussion champion and Megan Buffington was crowned extemporaneous speaking champion at the Section 6A Speech Tournament on Saturday, April 17. Both earned the opportunity to compete at the Minnesota State High School League State Speech Tournament on Saturday, April 24.

Jim Johanneck and Bryce Fabian finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in discussion.

## Pequot Lakes Performing Arts Club to stage 2 shows



Submitted Photos  
The Pequot Lakes Performing Arts Club includes: Christopher Hankins (front row, left), Rowan Lindstrom and Emma Schott; Paige Strong (back row, left), Gavin Hummel, Passion Spielman, Jordan Forsythe, Caitelyn Moser, Ethan Moser, Kailey Gerdes, Mataya Larson, Lilly Palmer, Angelina Doughty, El Niemczycki, Ash Niemczycki and Alessandra Hartwig.



**Above:** The Pequot Lakes Performing Arts Club will stage two shows April 24-25. Here, the cast rehearses “Uptown/Downtown.” **Bottom:** The Pequot Lakes Performing Arts Club rehearses for one of its two productions - “The Murderous Mansion of Mr. Uno.”

## Keeping children safe in digital age is topic of Pequot Lakes presentation

A presentation titled “The Modern Stranger Danger: How to Keep Your Children Safe in the Digital Age” will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 10, at Pequot Lakes High School.

This presentation will take parents through the current trends in technology usage, as well as the good, the bad and the ugly. There will be time at the end of the presentation for a Q&A with Officer Jeremy Rooney with the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Rooney has extensive training in digital and technology based crime.

Those over age 30 probably remember “stranger danger” and parents, teachers and PSAs saying not to talk to strangers, not to go to a van for candy and not to help some guy find his puppy. Many learned from an early age how to stay safe in the world around them.

Although those life lessons

are still applicable today and are great lessons to teach children, there are new lessons that might not be so obvious or apparent. The world has become a lot bigger with the prevalence of the internet, personal computers, mobile devices and smartphone applications.

Although all of these things can be great, they can also be dangerous.

There is no fee to attend, but pre-registration is required by calling 218-568-9200 or emailing [anelson@isd186.org](mailto:anelson@isd186.org). The room at PLHS will be determined after numbers are clear.

## PR-B student to receive Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation scholarship

The Minnesota Telecom Alliance announced it received 158 scholarship applications from across the state and one winning student is from Emily.

Gavin Wosmek was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year from the Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation, Josh Netland, Emily Cooperative Telephone Company, said in a news release.

Wosmek will graduate from Pine River-Backus High School and plans to attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He is the son of Chad and Lorie Wosmek.

In awarding the scholarship to Wosmek, Netland said in the news release, “We’re happy to have this chance to make an investment in this student’s college education. Rural communities

need educated and talented young people to be our leaders of the future. It makes us all proud at Emily Cooperative Telephone Company when one of the statewide winners is from our area.”

The foundation is part of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance, a trade organization based in St. Paul representing more than 44 telephone companies and cooperatives in the state.

### TIGER TALK

# Tigers have active spring

As the season has shifted from winter sports to spring sports, it has been great to see our students back participating in more activities.

While many activities have looked different than in previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been great to see our students still participating and experiencing success. Here are some highlights from the end of the winter seasons at Pine River-Backus and some things to look forward to the rest of the school year.

### Pine River-Backus state speech participants

The Pine River-Backus speech team saw its two participants, Tabitha Kibwaa (extemporaneous speaking) and Randy Yost (storytelling), qualify for the Class A State Speech Tournament, which will take place virtually Saturday, April 24.

### Road Crew wrestling state participants

The Road Crew won the Section 8AA championship Saturday, March 13, over Thief River Falls and then immediately wrestled in the state quarterfinals where they lost to a tough Princeton Tiger team out of Section 7AA. The Road Crew finished the dual season at 29-5.

The Road Crew had eight wrestlers advance to the Class 2A state prelims in Foley on Saturday, March 20 (Parker Zutter, Easton Miller, Owen Carlson, Korey



TIM TUNGSETH  
Tiger Talk

Kinyon, Chance Abraham, Connor Tulenchik, Corbin Knapp and Riley Peters). Tulenchik and Carlson advanced to the state tournament at St. Michael Albertville, where Tulenchik took home a runnerup finish and Carlson made the final eight.

Another congratulations goes out to Travis Hoffarth and Justin Franke for being named Section 8AA Head Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year.

### PR-B girls basketball

The PR-B girls basketball team earned the No. 3 seed in the Section 5A tournament and picked up two playoff wins over Sebeka and Browerville-Eagle Valley before losing a hard fought game to No. 1 seed Belgrade-Brooklyn-Elsa 56-46 in OT in the Section 5A West semifinals.

The Tigers finished the season with a 12-9 record overall. Rylie Hirschey was recognized as All State Honorable Mention by the Minnesota Girls Basketball Coaches Association.

### PR-B boys basketball

The PR-B Tiger boys basketball team received the No. 4 seed in the Section 5A boys basketball playoffs. The Tigers’ season came to an end Thursday, March 18, when they fell to No. 5 seed Browerville-Eagle Valley

in the section playoffs. Overall, the team finished the season with an 8-11 record.

### PR-B Knowledge Bowl team

The PR-B Knowledge Bowl team competed in the region competition Wednesday, March 17, finishing sixth out of 23 teams. Congratulations on a great season!

### PR-B robotics

On Saturday, April 17, the Pine River-Backus robotics team competed at the Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference Tournament at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. The team had a successful showing, taking home a fourth-place finish at the event.

### PR-B band & choir

The Pine River-Backus band has had two concerts within the last month as they held their grades 9-12 concert Monday, March 22, and their junior high concert Wednesday, April 14. The PR-B choir held its grades 7-12 concert Monday, April 12.

### Other activities

► Spring sports are underway at PR-B as our teams started to compete during the second week in April. As is typical in the spring we have seen some schedule changes due to the weather, but we are looking forward to a busy schedule of games and meets in the next few months.

Spring sports that are currently going on include baseball, softball, track and

field, boys and girls golf and trap shooting.

► The Pine River-Backus spring musical, “The Trials of Alice in Wonderland,” is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, May 21-23.

► Opportunities for youth have begun as Coach Jordan Ackerman ran camps for youth basketball during March and has additional offerings for elementary students throughout the rest of April as well.

► We are gearing up for summer ball, which will have practices start in late May.

► The PR-B Booster Club plans its golf tournament for July 25 at Emily Greens. Stay tuned for more information!

### Additional activities information

For more information and updates on Pine River-Backus activities, feel free to follow our new social media pages:

► Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PineRiverBackusTigers>

► Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AdPrb>

I am looking forward to all our Pine River-Backus activities programs having a successful end to the school year, and I am excited to have more opportunities available to our students in the coming months.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me via email at [ttungseth@prbschools.org](mailto:ttungseth@prbschools.org) or via phone at 218-587-8029.

Thank you and go Tigers!

Tim Tungseth is the Pine River-Backus School District activities director and youth sports coordinator.

### BYE

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The jobs and recovery plan also provides good promise of an increase in broadband access, improved affordable housing, restored child care, clean water, clean energy and the list goes on.

As you might well guess, Biden, in addition to constant criticism from Republicans, also gets quite a bit of criticism from the most vocal, extreme and impatient members of his own party.

He did not meet his campaign promise of lifting Trump’s artificially low limit of 15,000 immigrants per annum within 80 days. He now states that he will do so by May 15. Cut him a month’s slack on the difficult and continuous problem.

With the recent and present rash of gun violence, some expect Biden to drop everything else. He has called gun violence an epidemic, an embarrassment to our nation. He advocates a new ban on assault rifles, a ban on any gun that shoots more than 10 shells, and calls for universal background checks.

He can’t do it alone.

Through this early small fraction of his term, Biden exhibits a pattern of patience and a kind of calm that never were his trademarks. The Biden of yesteryear was prone to occasional misstatements and frequent impulsive actions.

He belies the old adage that “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” Nearing 80, he has made a quite remarkable makeover and has turned his long experiences of the past into positive adjustment for today, and for his continued presidency.

Where did Joe go? He went to work. He’s working for us – all of us.