

Rothsay High School Chapter Attends State FFA

By: Wylie Brenden

From April 23rd through April 25th members of Rothsay's FFA chapter attended Minnesota's 94th State FFA Convention. Rothsay had a record number of members attending this year with 29 members. All those members made up the teams of Forestry, Milk Quality and Dairy Foods, General Livestock Evaluation, Fish and Wildlife, Horse Evaluation, Small Animals, and Parliamentary Procedure. Josh Honer from the forestry team said, "I liked getting to see all the posters and dioramas about projects members from around the state had done." Of those teams, 1 placed in the top third of teams in their competition, 1 and 3 individuals placed in the middle third, and 8 placed in the bottom third. Along with those teams 6 members were also part of the State Band. Chapter

Advisor Rita Olson said, "It is great to see our numbers increasing year by year. It shows our improvement and all of our members dedication to developing in their competitions." This year also marked the first time that Rothsay has had members receive their State Degrees and walk across the stage at State. Three members received their degrees this year, those being Wylie Brenden, Jacob Christenson, and Alivia Zilmer. State Degree recipient Jacob Christenson said, "It was an honor to be one of the first members to walk across stage. Years of work paid off and it was nice to be recognized." Along with the state degrees, the chapter also received the Superior Chapter Award. Chapter President Conrad Stockinger and Vice President Claire Metzger were presented with a plaque and got to walk across stage.



State Degree winning seniors Wylie Brenden, Jacob Christenson, and Alivia Zilmer.



All Rothsay Chapter members that attended the State FFA Convention.



Rothsay's Parliamentary Procedure officer team.

DNR Advises Of Hydraulic Jet Use In MN Lakes

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to blast muck and aquatic plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though they can be purchased in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of a waterbody or uproots plants.

A person may legally operate a hydraulic jet if it is placed at the surface of the water in a way such that it does not disturb the bottom or destroy rooted aquatic plants. It should be directed slightly upward toward the water's surface. This can prevent dead vegetation and duckweed from collecting around docks and boat lifts.

Aquatic plants are important to lakes and rivers. They help maintain water clarity, prevent erosion, stabilize the bottom of the waterbody, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants are protected under state law.

Specific regulations govern what situations require permits for aquatic plant removal. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html). To apply for an aquatic plant management permit, visit the DNR's permitting and reporting system (mndnr.gov/mpars).

Stolen Car Chase Concludes South Of Rothsay



A car chase that was called off at least once due to the dangerous conditions, came to a conclusion just south of Rothsay. The incident occurred on Saturday, May 6.

The vehicle chase began between Erhard and Elizabeth about 3:45 on Saturday afternoon. Law enforcement officers were on alert in the area due to the report of a stolen vehicle in Pelican Rapids. The vehicle was spotted and the chase was on with Ottertail County deputies trying to stop the speeding, fleeing vehicle. Due to public safety concerns and the manner in which the fleeing vehicle was being operated, the original chase was terminated.

A short time later, Ottertail deputies again spotted the vehicle which tried to accelerate away from them again. This time the second pursuit was successful. The driver of the stolen car abandoned the vehicle at a farm site south of Rothsay. But he did not give himself up.

Instead he fled on foot into a wooded area around the farmsite. Deputies were able to win the foot pursuit and the suspect was eventually taken into custody.

Arrested at the scene was Luan Huynh, 29 years of age, from Fargo. He was transported to the Ottertail County Jail in Fergus Falls. There he was charged with motor vehicle theft, fleeing a police officer, possession of a controlled substance, and reckless driving.

The stolen vehicle was not damaged in the pursuit and has been returned to its rightful owner. Huynh was held in the Ottertail County Jail awaiting a court appearance.

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DNR Shares 10 Tips For Planning Camping Trips

As Minnesotans prepare for the summer camping season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shares tips to help in planning an outdoor adventure.

"We know Minnesotans love being outdoors, and getting outside after a long winter is exciting," said Ann Pierce, Parks and Trails Division director. "We also know time and knowledge can be barriers in planning a camping trip. We're working to alleviate this for folks by providing information to help them prepare for a fun experience."

Book campsites early, and be flexible if you can't book early

Reservations for campsites in state parks and recreation areas can be made up to 120 days in advance. Reservations are in high demand for holiday weekends and at the most popular parks, like those on the North Shore.

If reservations are full, the DNR has three suggestions. First, sign up for the "notify me" function on the reservation website to get notified by email if there's a cancellation. Second, consider a camping trip on weekdays instead of the busy weekends if your schedule allows. Third, look for open reservations at less busy parks. Our list of quiet state park getaways on the DNR website(mndnr.gov/state_parks/starter_kit/quiet) provides suggestions for locations more likely to have open reservations.

Looking for flexible camping options? Try camping in a state forest.

If spontaneity is your style, try camping in a state forest where all campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and dispersed camping is allowed. Learn more on the DNR's state forest camping web page(mndnr.gov/state_forests/camping).

Buy a vehicle permit

A permit is required for each vehicle entering state parks and recreation areas. Permits can be purchased online or at park offices during open hours. The cost is \$7 per day or \$35 per year. If you're camping just one night, a one-day permit will be valid until check-out time. Find details on the Minnesota state park vehicle permit web page



(mndnr.gov/permit). State forests do not require a vehicle permit.

Pack smart

Sometimes it can be hard to figure out what to pack for a camping trip, especially for those who are new to camping. For a good starting point, the DNR has a camping supply checklist (mndnr.gov/state_parks/stay_overnight/packing101).

Check equipment before you leave home

Broken tent poles or a leaky air mattress might ruin a camping trip or make it less comfortable. If your camping gear hasn't been used in a while or is new, test it at home before the trip to make sure it works.

Research events to enhance your trip

Events and programs are scheduled at state parks throughout the year, offering a wide range of activities from fishing and birding, to interpretive hikes, to crafting. Visitors of all ages are welcome, and no prior experience is needed. Find event listings on thestate parks and trails event calendar (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar).

Check visitor alerts before leaving home

State park and recreation area websites post visitor alerts to communicate important information related to safety, closures, construction projects and other helpful details. Find visitor alerts by choosing a park from the state parks map(www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_

parks/map.html).

Don't get lost, navigate with a smartphone

The Avenza Maps app uses GPS location tracking so visitors can stay found, even off the grid. After you download the app and a GeoPDF map, no internet or cell service is needed. DNR maps can be downloaded for free. Get details on the DNR's GeoPDF web page (mndnr.gov/geopdf).

Watch the weather

Stay in the know by enabling severe weather notifications on your smartphone. Because cell service is not available in all locations within state parks, recreation areas and forests, visitors may want to bring a weather radio to get information about severe weather warnings, watches and advisories.

Document your trip and share your photos

Make sure to bring a camera to document the great memories made on the camping trip, and we'd love for you to share your photos with us. Images submitted may be featured on the Parks and Trails social media accounts. Share photos on the DNR photo sharing web page (mndnr.gov/sharephotos).

For more information about any of these camping tips, visit www.mndnr.gov or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday).

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