

LITTLE FALLS AREA



Proudly Serving Morrison County Since 1888

NEWS

200 1 St NW
Little Falls MN 56345
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www.littlefallsmnchamber.com

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8:00 am - 6:00 pm ~ Saturday, September 7
9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Sunday, September 8
historic downtown Little Falls

The annual Little Falls Arts & Crafts, Market Place and Man Cave Fairs is here! The Highway 27 road construction this summer has definitely been a hot topic with ensuring the project would be done in time for this large event, bringing in 100,000 - 125,000 visitors into our community. Thank you to Knife River and MnDOT for their work on this project.

We are excited to have vendors selling their handcrafted items from all over the US. Featuring over 88 new vendors and over 500 returning vendors you are sure to find something for yourself or someone else. A sampling of new vendor products include metal landscape art, clothing designs, ceramics and soaps. Don't forget to visit the Man Cave and Market Place area, located west of the river. Since we are an outdoor show, one of the challenges is road construction on Highway 27 west of the river. If the road work is done, business as usual, if not our Plan B is to have the Market Place vendors fill 1st Street NW along with the sidewalk, street and lawn area by the Cass Gilbert Depot.

Like everyone we always wait with anticipation to try the food from a few of our new food vendors. New this year is a Polish food vendor, Babushka's Polish Food, with polish sausage, pirogi, potato pancakes and more. Another new option includes Island Acai with Hawaiian themed fresh fruits and smooths. We of course haven't forgotten about the barbeque, with Fire House Barbeque featuring pulled pork, brisket, pastrami sandwiches and more. Don't worry we will still have cheese curds, corn dogs, lemonade, ice cream and more.

The excitement of the weekend is here and we now hope for good weather



FALS (*Falls Area Leadership Series*) is an eight month course that immerses a diverse group of people into an exciting learning environment. FALS is designed to enhance professional, group and individual leadership skills. If you are striving towards or currently are in a leadership position FALS is the program for you. You will gain knowledge and skills that will benefit you both professionally and personally. FALS is set to kick off October 9 and we are now accepting applications. To learn more about FALS visit our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com.

Business Trick or Treating

Thursday, October 31
3:30 - 5:00 pm

To register your organization as participating email Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155.

From the desk of the CEO . . .

Debra K. Boelz



I often note words that I come across in reading various trade journals and articles that I have added to my vocabulary. My word(s) for this month are “construction fatigue” and I didn’t have to read about it – we have all been living it! As MnDOT and Knife River Construction continue work on the Highway 27/Broadway road project through Little Falls, we can see that it is all worth it to have the beautiful streets and sidewalks completed east of the Mississippi River. And we are waiting as patiently as possible for the west end of project to be completed.

And with the turn of the calendar, the Little Falls Arts & Crafts and Market Place Fairs are days away! Thank you to the community for helping to welcome our vendors and shoppers. After the seemingly long construction season, our brick and mortar businesses are looking forward to the influx of revenue that this event provides for our communities.

And yes, the Chamber does have income from this event as well. In 2018, profit realized by the Fairs was \$80,011. Proceeds are shared in the community that includes stipends to the listed nonprofits for performing various tasks during the Fairs totaling \$6,050.

- Living Hope Assembly of God Church will earn \$250 for staffing the handicapped parking lots at Bank of the West and the Fletcher Creek Lot at the corner of 2nd Street and 1st Avenue Northeast.
- Little Falls Community Schools Track & Field team will be paid \$1,200 for assisting the police and emergency personnel during the event.
- Little Falls Community Schools Boys Soccer team will receive \$1,000 for providing night security throughout the Fair area. These are the people that you see scooting around on golf carts at night.
- Little Falls Community Schools Boys Soccer team will also handle all the trash for the event. They are the group that can be seen with the 4-wheeler and trailer. For this service, the group earns \$1,400 and as many bee stings as they can stand!
- The Knights of Columbus earns \$350 for placing the trash barrels around the area and picking them up again after the event.
- Winter Wonderland Figure Skating Club keeps the food courts clean in exchange for \$350.
- Pierz Healy High School Spanish Club earns \$750 by parking vehicles and assisting shoppers at the Morrison County Fairgrounds who utilize the free shuttle buses.
- The Morrison County Agricultural Society is paid a stipend of \$500 for use of the fairgrounds to park vehicles.
- Little Falls VFW Post #1112 will be providing the ice for the food vendors for \$250.

There are hard costs associated with sponsoring the Fairs. Booth fees are \$230 for a 10’ x 10’ space. To cover those basic costs, the first 381 spaces sold cover the cost of:

- Advertising: 55 spaces
- Credit Card Fees: 6 spaces
- Jury for pre-event and on-site jurying: 5 spaces
- Management Fees: 107 spaces
- Sanitation: 93 spaces
- Security: 35 spaces
- Shuttle Buses & Parking: 27 spaces
- Supplies, Postage & Printing: 28 spaces

Each vendor that participates in the Fair is charged a \$15 license fee. That license fee is paid to the City of Little Falls, who will receive over \$8,000 from the 2019 Arts & Crafts and Market Place Fairs. This money is used cover City employee time for assisting with Fair set-up with pylons, picnic tables and road closing barriers .

Proceeds from the Fair are reinvested in the community through donations to local organizations, for community improvement projects and to support economic development efforts. And most importantly, to keep Chamber dues at very affordable rates for our members!

Minnesota Manufacturers Week will be celebrated state-wide the week of October 1 – 7. In 2018 manufacturing added \$52.7 billion to Minnesota’s economy. Workers took home \$21.6 billion in wages with an average wage of \$67,098, which is 15% higher than the average wage in Minnesota, making a career in manufacturing a great option for a good life! Watch for more news on MMW in the coming weeks.

In closing, you are invited to the grand opening of Broadway Avenue East on Thursday, September 5th at 10:00 am. Watch for a press release with details!

Friday Morning Coffee

Friday, September 20

7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls

sponsored by:



Pay It Forward Foundation (PIFF) is a 501c3 charitable organization designed to help children and families in need. PIFF is the creator of the annual I.C.E. Fest event held annually in January in Little Falls. The Sunny Zwilling Memorial Ice Carousel Extravaganza I.C.E. Fest is a FREE family friendly weekend of events featuring the World's Largest Ice Carousel (reclaiming the world record) and benefiting hungry children and families in need. The 2019 event raised an impressive \$16,500 for hungry kids and hope to set a new record in dollars raised in 2020.

Networking is a powerful tool. After announcements, at 8:00 am, attendees will have the opportunity for 30 second testimonials for another Chamber Member business.

Thank you to our August Friday Morning Coffee sponsor Tourright Bicycle Shop



Pictured left: David & Susan Sperstad, Tourright Bicycle Shop

Lunchtime on Location (LOL)

Wednesday, September 25

noon

Franciscan Room at CHI St. Gabriel's Hospital, 815 2 St SE, Little Falls

sponsored by:



CHI Health at Home has been serving the community with in-home nursing, therapy and end of life hospice services for 30 years. As a department of St. Gabriel's Health, CHI Health at Home is part of our community continuum of care in helping patients learn about medication management, a new diagnosis, receive therapy for rehabilitation and a variety of other services. Generally insurance will cover the cost of services. The agency serves patients in all of Morrison County and surrounding areas. Contact CHI Health at Home with any questions. (320) 631-5575.

There is a \$5.00 fee to attend. Make your reservation by emailing Gina at ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com or call the Chamber (320) 632-5155 by Monday, September 23 to ensure we have enough food for all who wish to attend. Announcements at 12:25 pm.

Thank you to our August Lunchtime on Location (LOL) sponsor Morrison County United Way



Pictured left: Jana Festler, Edward Jones Investments and Morrison County United Way Board; Megan Kruse, Morrison County United Way Board; Doug Dahlberg, Pine Country Bank

and Morrison County United Way Board; Lisa Smude, CHI St. Gabriel's Health and Morrison County United Way Board.

September Employee of the Month, Michelle Athmann, CHI St. Gabriel's Health



The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our September Employee of the Month, Michelle Athmann, CHI St. Gabriel's Health. Michelle is a Recruiter for CHI St. Gabriel's Health and has worked for CHI St.

Gabriel's Health of 11 years.

Lisa Smude states about Michelle: "Michelle is our recruiter at our location. She has worked for us for over 10 years and is a go to person on our team! She is always so patient and positive – no matter how busy the day is! She has recently taken on additional recruiting duties, within our company and did it without missing a beat! She always goes the extra mile with our new employees and goes out of the way to make sure they feel appreciated and welcomed. She is also very generous with her time and volunteers often with our organization in the community. Thanks Michelle, for being a stand out employee and community member."

Michelle states: "I love working at CHI St. Gabriel's Health! It's great to recruit for an organization that provides such wonderful services. There are so many dedicated employees here and I am fortunate to be part of the hiring process. I am grateful to work for a strong faith-based agency. I would like to thank Lisa Smude for the nomination. Lisa is a great mentor who looks for opportunities to serve our employees better every day."

Thank you to our September Employee of the Month sponsors: **Bursch Travel Agency, Design Electronics, Fitness Connection, Franciscan Sisters, Fresh Hair Professionals, Friends of Pine Grove Zoo, GoldSmith Jewelers, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, Maddie B's Photography, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Pine Ridge Golf Club, Pizza Ranch, Subway Little Falls, Vacuum Cleaner Outlet & Service Center.**

Congratulations Michelle Athmann!

Recent Board Action

- Approved the appointment of the following to the Nominating Committee for 2020 – 2022 Board of Director election: two (2) board members in the last year of their current term: *Tom Hoggarth, GOLF (Golfers Organized for Little Falls)* and *Rosi Przybilla, Marshik Insurance Agency*; two (2) members in good standing: *Kristine Hoheisel, Horizon Health* and *Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals*; and one (1) member from either group: *Tim Matros, Five Pines Senior Solutions*.
- Reviewed the financial recap of the 2015 Chamber Golf Outing
- Completed the CEO annual review



2019 Chamber Board & Staff

2017-2019

Tom Hoggarth, Golfers Organized for Little Falls - GOLF
Tim Matros, Chair of the Board, Five Pines Senior Solutions
Rosi Przybilla, Treasurer, Marshik Insurance Agency
Rob Ronning, Pine Country Bank

2018-2020

Steve Andres, Design Electronics
Dr. Allison Girtz, Secretary, Allison Zak D.C., LLC
Patrick Watercott, Vice Chair of the Board, Vernon Sales Promotion

2019-2021

Nancy Berg, Berg's Bug Removal
Brian Gapinski, Rural MN CEP
Pete Mooney, The Source Computing
Laurie Whitlow, PrimeLending

Non Voting Ex-Officio

John Thielen, Immediate Past Chair of the Board, Thielen Meats

Chamber Staff

Debora K. Boelz, President/CEO
dboelz@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Mary Bednarek, Office, Arts & Crafts Fair and Financial Coordinator
mary@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Gina Vetter, Project & Volunteer Coordinator
ginav@littlefallsmnchamber.com

Chamber Sporting Clays

Tuesday, August 20



Pictured above: GoldSmith Jewelers Team winners of the Competitive Division



Pictured above: Little Falls Orthopedics Team winners of the Casual Division

The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's 14th annual Sporting Clays event was held Tuesday, August 20 at LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation with 64 shooters participating. Thank you to all who participated, our corporate and station sponsors. Congratulations to our winning teams they are as follows.

Our Competitive Division winner was **GoldSmith Jewelers** breaking 190 targets with the team comprised of *Bill Backowski, John LeMieur, Jonathon LeMieur* and *Tim Nielson*. High Score Casual Division winner was **Little Falls Orthopedics** breaking 146 targets with team members *Dave Edgerton, Dan Enderlin, Virgil Meyer* and *Trent Schmidgall*. There was a tie in the flurry shoot between **GoldSmith Jewelers** and **Four Cheeks** teams with **GoldSmith Jewelers** winning the shoot off breaking 38 of 40 targets. The Annie Oakley top shooter was *Jack Schulte* shooting on the **North Risk Partners - Deml Insurance** team. *Sony Shay, Central McGowan*, was the top female shooter breaking 31 of the 50 targets; the best individual male shooter was *Tim Nielson, GoldSmith Jewelers* team, breaking 49 out of the 50 targets. The quick draw contest winner was *Derek Lipke* shooting on the **Central MN Credit Union** team.

A thank you is extended to our social sponsor: **Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union**.

Thank you to our corporate sponsors: **Central MN Credit Union; Edward Jones Investments - Kyle Hoggarth; Goldsmith Jewelers; Kampa Gerbi & Associates; Little Falls Orthopedics; North Risk Partners - Deml Insurance; Pine Country Bank; Ron Kresha; Schlenner Wenner & Co.**

Thank you to our Flurry Trophy Sponsor: **Dondelinger Automotive**

Thank you to our station sponsors: *Benefit Innovations; Bursch Travel Agency; Hanneken Insurance Agency; Marshik Insurance Agency; Paradox Chiropractic* and *ServiceMaster Clean by Retka*.

The success of the event would not be possible without the aid of our valued event volunteers, they include: *Heather Brill, Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union; Alicia Noakes, Schlenner Wenner & Co.; Ashley Posterick Schlenner Wenner & Co.; Jeff Tschida, West Side Improvement Association; Deb Retka, ServiceMaster Clean by Retka*.

Congratulations to all our winners thank you to everyone who took part in this event. Mark your calendars for the 15th annual Sporting Clays event, **Tuesday, August 18, 2020**.

Ribbon Cutting

Chamber of Commerce President/CEO, Debora K. Boelz congratulated the following business on their recent accomplishments with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Papa Murphy's



Pictured left: *Emmalea, Austin Kohler, Papa Murphy's; Chamber President / CEO Debora K. Boelz* and *Brianna, Papa Murphy's*.

Papa Murphy's is under new ownership. In celebration of this recent change a ribbon cutting ceremony was held.

Congratulations to Papa Murphy's we are excited to have them continue to be part of the Little Falls / Morrison County business community.

Lindy Greeter Visits

Thank you for your membership! Lindy Greeters *Kurt Muesing, Central MN Credit Union; Jen Odette, Brandl Motors; Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals* and *Kyle Wensmann, Coborn's Marketplace* visited the following members to thank them for their continued membership. The businesses were treated to a Chamber mug full of treats.

Marshik Insurance Agency



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Jen Odette, Brandl Motors; Rosi Przybylla, Nancy Smith, Ashley Janson, Kara Henze, Denise Czech, Marshik Insurance Agency* and Lindy Greeter *Kurt*

Muesing, Central MN Credit Union.

Marshik Insurance Agency is a full-service, locally owned independent insurance agency representing many reputable insurance carriers. They have been in business since 1966. For insurance for your auto, home, farm, business, life and health and all the toys, the team at Marshik Insurance Agency is here to help you. They are dedicated to giving you professional and personalized service to meet all of your insurance needs. For more information visit www.marshik.com

Rural MN CEP



Pictured above from the left: *Bonnie Becker, Sharon Dobis, Judith Swenson, Samantha Froelich, Rural MN CEP; Lindy Greeter Angie Petersen, Keller Williams Realty Professionals; David Stumpf, Nick Becker, Rural MN CEP* and Lindy Greeter *Kyle Wensmann, Coborn's Marketplace*. Not pictured: *Brian Gapinski* and *Gerl Pohlkamp*.

Rural MN CEP exist to assist people, employers and communities achieve success in meeting their economic goals. Their experienced staff provides multiple services to job seekers and employers, whether it's a high school youth learning to navigate the job seeking system for the first time or someone dislocated from a long time job needing to refresh skills in order to re-enter employment. Their career counseling and direction to people in determining appropriate career paths and actions need to achieve their goals. For more information visit www.rmcep.com

Oasis Central MN



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Kyle Wensmann, Coborn's Marketplace; Rose Surma, Sandy Videen, Oasis Central MN* and Lindy Greeter *Angie Petersen, Keller Williams*

Realty Professionals.

In 2015 Oasis Central MN identified homelessness and housing insecurity as a growing community concern and emergency housing as a service gap. Funded by donations and private foundation grants, Oasis Central MN provides emergency housing in motel settings and case management to individual and families experiencing homelessness. Since 2015, Oasis Central Minnesota has provided emergency housing and case management to over 100 individuals and families. For more information visit.

www.oasiscentralmn.org/

Thrivent Financial – Ted Pfohl



Pictured left: Lindy Greeter *Kurt Muesing, Central MN Credit Union; Ted Pfohl, Thrivent Financial - Ted Pfohl* and Lindy Greeter *Jen Odette, Brandl Motors.*

Thrivent is a unique kind of membership organization called a fraternal benefit society. By definition, a fraternal benefit society is a not-for-profit organization that provides insurance to its members and - this is key- has to carry out social, intellectual, educational, charitable, benevolent, moral, fraternal, patriotic or religious purposes for the benefit of its members and the public. So we don't simply sell insurance, and we don't simply do charitable work either. As a fraternal benefit society, we do both as we help Thrivent members on their wise with money journeys. For more information www.connect.thrivent.com/ted-pfohl/

Chamber network steps up private-sector efforts on workforce development

By Doug Loon

It's back to school for students of all ages as they hone their skills for productive working careers. Rest assured, the Minnesota Chamber network has a keen interest in ensuring students are prepared for jobs in our changing economy.

The Center for Workforce Solutions was launched in 2018 with a goal of tackling Minnesota's workforce shortage. Through leadership, collaboration and key partnerships, it offers programs to confront the state's worker shortage, helping the state's economy to change and grow.

Business Education Networks is among our hallmark programs – a proactive, data-driven approach to preserve and grow the local economy led by local chambers across the state. Informed by local employers and fueled by the engagement and partnership of students and educators, BEN programs connect employers with middle, high school and college students to make them aware of and prepare them for career opportunities in their own region. Each BEN program is locally created and distinctly designed to address workforce needs within their community.

Our local chamber partnerships extend across the state with programs thriving in Brainerd, Burnsville, Lakeville, Mankato, Marshall, Metro North, New Ulm, Rochester, Owatonna, St. Cloud, TwinWest, Waconia, White Bear, Winona and Willmar.

Our efforts to grow all our private-sector workforce initiatives were bolstered this summer with the hiring of Deb McMillan as director of the Center for Workforce Solutions. She can be reached at dmcmillan@mnchamber.com.

Business Education Networks offer a multipronged approach to address the worker shortage. Here are some examples of local programs:

- **CEO in the classroom:** Business owners talk with eighth-graders about what jobs are like at their companies and the classes students should take in order to be ready for certain jobs.
- **Career expos:** Local employers host high school students in a trade show-like environment, allowing them to explore jobs and careers that are available in their communities.
- **Teacher in the workplace:** High school teachers experience training and exposure to specific industries by working at companies in those industries for a period during the summer. They use what they have learned to develop or revise curriculum to reflect the needs of the economy.
- **Career academies.** Cohorts of high school juniors are provided mentoring, specialized dual-credit coursework for college, communications and “soft skills” preparation and development. Employers participate in multiple aspects of this program. Following the first year of the two-year program, qualified students are provided internships with local companies. After the second year, students are offered jobs with local employers, or are ready to begin college with credits in the bank.

Since 2016, our Business Education Networks have shown 8,000-plus students real-world experience in their communities. We have worked with 15 high school teachers, helping to make their curriculum reflect fast-changing skills and practices used in the workplace. We have connected with more than 200 employers in the vast Minnesota Chamber network, building a talented workforce *now* that will help them continue to thrive in their communities.

We look forward to expanding programs like Business Education Networks that offer tangible, flexible solutions at the local level to address our workforce needs for today and tomorrow.

Doug Loon is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce www.mnchamber.com

September Calendar of Events

The Little Falls Area Chamber of Commerce event and meetings are in bold. For an expanded list of community events, visit our website at www.littlefallsmnchamber.com

September

- 3 ~ **Lindy Greeter Committee Meeting**, noon, Little Falls Golf Course, 1 Edgewater Dr., Little Falls
- 4, 11, 18, 25 ~ Farmer's Market, 7:00 am - noon, New 2 You Thrift Store parking lot, 505 W Broadway, Little Falls
- 4 ~ Little Falls Business Association, noon, The Royal, 120 W Broadway, Little Falls
- 4 ~ Dog Walk - Yappy Hour, 5:00 - 8:00 pm, Linden Hill Historic Event Center, 608 Highland Ave., Little Falls
- 5 ~ Rock, Roll & Stroll, 5:00 - 8:00 pm, downtown Pierz
- 5 ~ Taize Prayer, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Gathering Space at the St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 5 ~ Open Mic, 7:00 pm, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 7, 14, 21, 28 ~ Farmer's Market, 7:00 am - noon, New 2 You Thrift Store parking lot, 505 W Broadway, Little Falls
- 7 ~ **Little Falls Arts & Crafts, Market Place and Man Cave Fairs**, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm, downtown Little Falls
- 7 ~ West Little Falls Antiques & Collectibles Fair, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm, LeBourget Park, Paul Larson Dr., Little Falls
- 7 ~ Petite Picasso Art Class, 10:30 am, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 7 ~ Curator's Corner, 11:00 am, MN Military Museum at Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy. 115, Little Falls
- 7 ~ Mini Monet Art Class, noon, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 8 ~ Lone Eagle Auto Show & Swap Meet, 7:00 am, Morrison County Fairgrounds, 15575 Hawthorn Rd., Little Falls
- 8 ~ **Little Falls Arts & Crafts, Market Place & Man Cave Fairs**, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, downtown Little Falls
- 11, 25 ~ Sprout Mobile Market, 3:00 - 4:30 pm, Sprout, 609 13 Ave NE door #8, Little Falls
- 13 ~ Monroe Crossing, 6:30 pm doors, 7:30 pm show, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 14 - 15 ~ Man vs. Beast Rodeo, Morrison County Fairgrounds, 15575 Hawthorn Rd., Little Falls
- 14 ~ Breakfast with the Animals (members event), 8:00 - 11:00 am, Pine Grove Zoo, 1200 W Broadway, Little Falls
- 14 ~ End of Summer Bash, 7:00 pm doors, 7:30 performance by KrashKarma, 9:15 pm performance by Eve to Adam, Great River Arts, 122 1 St SE, Little Falls
- 15 ~ Open House, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy 115., Little Falls
- 18 ~ Cruise to the Car Show, 5:00 - 8:00 pm, Polish Palace, Sobieski
- 19 ~ Centering Prayer, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Gathering Space at the St. Francis Convent, 116 8 Ave SE, Little Falls
- 20 ~ **Friday Morning Coffee**, 7:30 - 9:00 am, Chamber of Commerce, 200 1 St NW, Little Falls. **Sponsored by: Pay It Forward Foundation**
- 25 ~ **Lunchtime on Location (LOL)**, noon, Franciscan Room, CHI St. Gabriel's Health, 815 2 St SE, Little Falls.
Sponsored by: CHI St. Gabriel's Health at Home.
- 26 ~ Soul Food at Sprout hosted by Horizon Health, 10:00 am - noon, Sprout, 609 13 Ave NE door #8, Little Falls
- 28 ~ Cheers to Morrison County, 2:00 - 6:00 pm, The Hanger at Camp Ripley, 15000 Hwy. 115, Little Falls
- 29 ~ Blessing of Animals, noon - 1:00 pm, Washington Park, 113 4 St NE, Little Falls

LITTLE FALLS AREA



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200 1 St NW

Little Falls MN 56345