

W News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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**Minnesota Organization for Habilitation
and Rehabilitation - MOHR**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEPIER OIL COMPANY NAMED OUTSTANDING DISABILITY EMPLOYER BY MINNESOTA ORGANIZATION FOR HABILITATION AND REHABILITATION

Valuable partnership with East Polk County DAC in Fosston recognized by major state disability organization as model for other employers; award presentation set for 2 p.m. on September 29 at East Polk County DAC, 326 N. Mark Avenue in Fosston

Nominated by East Polk County DAC in Fosston, LePier Oil Company was named an Outstanding Disability Employer by the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation, MOHR, in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October.

“We cannot overemphasize the importance of employers in our efforts to provide meaningful services to people with disabilities in Minnesota,” said Mike Burke, president of MOHR. The organization represents more than 110 disability service providers across the state.

Third generation owners Tami and Larry LePier operate gas stations, convenience stores, a Subway sandwich shop and a deli. The company employs six individuals with disabilities, who work in the kitchen, clean facilities and interact with customers. East Polk County DAC will present the award at

a special gathering scheduled for 2 p.m. on September 29 at East Polk County DAC, 326 N. Mark Avenue, Fosston.

LePier's co-owner Tami LePier said the individuals from East Polk County DAC are wonderful to work with, as are the support staff from the nonprofit. "They are so excited to come to work and interact so well with our customers," said LePier. "Larry's father started this partnership with them (East Polk County DAC) way back in the 1980s and we've kept it going just because of the wonderful people that come and work for us."

Led by Director Holly Lenos, the nonprofit [East Polk County DAC](#) is committed to integrating people with disabilities into the life of the community, and has operated since 1972. It offers day training and habilitation services and job placement services, as well as training in communication, self-care, social, leisure and recreation skills, and assistive technology.

"LePier Oil Company provides an environment that is comfortable and conducive to learning and expanding on skills and abilities," said Lenos. "Any time we approach them with an idea or ways that we can help each other, they are very supportive. They get to know each and every individual we serve."

[MOHR's](#) mission is advocate and support its nonprofit members in providing meaningful services to persons with disabilities and communities served. Members are committed to respect for each individual, a person-centered approach and expanding work opportunities.

Celebrated every October, this year's theme for [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) is "Inclusion Drives Innovation." It celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. The national observance began under a different name in 1945.

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