



Tri County Canary

A supplement of the:
• Leader-Record • McIntosh Times • Grygla Eagle
• Red Lake County Herald (Oklee, Plummer - Brooks - Red Lake Falls)

Minnesota Military Veteran Harvests Bull Elk

Editors Note: Dennis Engbretson of Clearbrook is a member of the Elk Breeders Association. He contributed to this hunt last year. This is the 17th year of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Associaton.

Minnesota Elk Breeders Association (MnEBA), November 28, 2023 – Hunting was something Chad Sheridan could no longer take pleasure in after 16 years in the military, even though he enjoyed hunting when he was younger. But a suggestion from a friend at the American Legion turned into an incredible experience for Chad, one that he still can't believe happened. The opportunity for a military veteran to harvest a bull elk courtesy of the Minnesota Elk Breeders Association and Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch was just something he had to look in to.

Chad Sheridan grew up in Cannon Falls, Minnesota. As a young adult, he served in the U.S. Army and National Guard for a combined 16 years. The first few years were relatively quiet while he served in the 54B Chemical, 11B Infantry and 88M operations as a truck driver. Then 9-11 happened and he went into three years of combat. Chad was stationed in Iraq as a convoy gunner when in 2005, an IED hit his hummer causing blunt force trauma to his head, neck, shoulders, elbows and hands along with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Chad officially retired from the military in 2011 after multiple

surgeries and six years of rehabilitation.

After taking his friend's advice to consider applying for the elk hunt opportunity, Chad visited Fredrickson Elk Farm in Welch, Minnesota to see if this was something he would be interested in doing given he had lost interest in hunting. It did not take long for him to know that yes, he absolutely wanted to apply for this hunt.

Once he made the decision to apply for the elk hunt, his interest in hunting slowly returned. While waiting to be chosen for the elk hunt, he was motivated to go hunting again and successfully harvested grouse, a white-tail deer and a bear; precursors for perhaps one of the biggest hunts of his life.

On the week of November 19th, Chad made the trip with his girlfriend Amanda to Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch near Baudette, Minnesota. While he was excited to go on the hunt, he was completely unprepared for the size of the bull and the incredible emotions afterwards. Chad had chosen to take this hunt alone. After some time in the stand, he heard the bull coming, but it was not yet visible. Once he could see it, his first thought was that he couldn't believe it was that big. That is when the nerves really set in. It was also coming towards him straight on. He could see this would not be the broadside shot he was used to but knew from experience how he would take the bull down. One shot

later, the bull fell, stumbled forward about five yards and dropped. Chad knew he should wait awhile to make sure the bull was dead, but just couldn't stop shaking and had to move. He slowly approached the bull, and the closer he got, the bigger the bull looked! When Chad kneeled down next to the bull, he was still "shaking so bad".

Looking back a week later, Chad shares that he still can't believe the hunt was real. "When I showed my family and friends pictures, they told me I never need to go elk hunting again because I'll never find another elk as big as this one was," Chad says. The meat has already been processed and while he originally did not plan to have the bull mounted, "The elk was so large and beautiful, I just had to do it." Chad is beyond grateful and says, "I am so excited and so appreciative to everyone who made this possible."

MnEBA would like to thank everyone who generously supported this year's hunt including Tony's Trophy Elk Hunt Ranch, Mark & Michelle Lucas who donated the bull, Klint Wylie who transported the bull to the hunt facility, and Lance & Brenda Hartkopf who helped to cover the cost of lodging, meals and processing.

MnEBA offers our heartfelt thanks, support and gratitude to Chad Sheridan and to all United States military men and women for their dedication and service to our country.



Chad Sheridan with his bull elk.

High school seniors hit the gas on their commercial driving careers



A new collaboration between M State and the Perham-Dent Public School District makes it possible for students to graduate high school with a Class A Commercial Driver's License already in hand and gainful full-time employment all but guaranteed. Dubbed "Road to CDL," the initiative is a first for the West Central Minnesota region.

"Road to CDL" is a training program that provides high school students with an affordable and tangible career pathway in commercial driving while simultaneously helping to bridge a regional workforce employment gap. M State's Workforce Development Solutions (WDS) division and K12 department are working together with Perham High School to offer the program, with further support from local trucking businesses.

"We're excited to discuss CDL training with high schools and create another career pathway for students," says G.L. Tucker, Executive Director of WDS. "CDL licensure has been a hot topic for a while, as every zip code in America is short on CDL drivers. M State has been talking to high schools about a CDL program since last spring. Perham is the first to implement it, but other area schools have also expressed interest. We're one of the largest CDL training providers in the region, if not the largest; we're well-positioned to partner on a program like this."

Ten Perham High School seniors are currently enrolled

in "Road to CDL," and a group of juniors is already poised to enroll next year. Arranged through the school's Work-Based Learning program, the training is open to students ages 17 and older (drivers must be at least 18 to take the commercial learner's permit tests). It begins with a trimester-long CDL Theory class, a daily one-hour elective course in which students engage in self-paced online lessons and quizzes. Those who successfully pass the theory class become eligible to take the state-required commercial learner's permit tests. Then there's behind-the-wheel training, at least 20 hours' worth, before a final road test.

M State provides the course curriculum and online platform for CDL Theory as well as the equipment and certified instructors for behind-the-wheel training. Other support and resources, such as practice learner's permit tests and guided time during the school day for students to complete their coursework, are provided by the high school.

"The ultimate goal is to get kids graduating from high school with a CDL license already in hand, so they're ready to go," says Darren Glynn, Perham High School's Work-Based Learning Coordinator.

"There's a need out there. You can't go by a manufacturing site without a 'Drivers Wanted' sign out front, and so many of our kids want to be in that CDL world – a lot are already working at trucking companies

around Perham (changing tires, oil, etc.) and their natural next step is to get their CDL, so our goal is to help expedite that. We hope to create a pipeline of CDL drivers and also continue to build meaningful relationships between schools and employers."

Representatives from several local trucking companies took part in a CDL Career Talk at Perham High School earlier this year, sharing professional advice and CDL career options with students. Many of those companies are now partnering with the school to sponsor students' behind-the-wheel training and/or to offer immediate employment to those who complete the training.

"There is zero chance that these students will not have jobs when they graduate," says Glynn. "There's just such a high demand right now."

Already, "Road to CDL" is changing lives. Carson Byer, a Perham High School senior enrolled in CDL Theory, says, "Being able to work on my CDL license while still in high school has got me excited about my future career path. I now know what I want to do after I graduate."

"Learning about trucks and mechanics is what really interests me," adds Jaxon Vetsch. "Studying for CDL is my favorite part of the day."

M State offers Class A and Class B CDL training programs to the public. For more information about those programs, email CDL@minnesota.edu or call the college's WDS division at 218.846.3733.

A member of the Minnesota State system of colleges and universities, M State (Minnesota State Community and Technical College) serves more than 6,500 students in credit courses each year in over

70 career and liberal arts programs online and in-person at its campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls,

Moorhead and Wadena. The college also partners with communities to provide workforce development

services and other responsive training programs to 500 businesses and 9,000 participants.

Minnesota State Community and Technical College is a member of the Minnesota State system and is an equal opportunity educator / employer. Upon request, this information is available in alternative formats.

Science Fair submissions wanted

Bemidji State University seeks submissions from students in grades 6-12 for the Northern Minnesota Regional Science Fair, hosted at BSU on February 23, 2024. Particularly for students who attend schools that no longer host local fairs, the fair allows students to register and compete directly in a regional competition and potentially advance to a state-level fair in March.

Students who live in one of 18 northern Minnesota counties — Aitkin, Beltrami, Benton, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Morrison,

Pennington, Red Lake, Roseau or Wadena — are eligible to submit projects. Students must register projects before February 7, 2024.

Organizers describe the fair as "a celebration of scientific exploration and innovation," allowing participating students to earn awards in their respective categories. Special prizes will also be awarded for projects demonstrating innovation and potential for real-world impact. Top projects will be promoted to compete at the 86th Annual Minnesota Science and Engineering Fair, March 22, 2024, at the State Fair Grounds in St. Paul, Minnesota.

For those seeking guidance on completing a science fair project and navigating the paperwork, comprehensive tutorials are available on our website, www.bemidjistate.edu/conferences/science-fair/.

"These resources are designed to support students in every step of their scientific journey, from conceptualization to presentation," said Dr. Kjerstin Owens, professor of biology and one of the fair's coordinators.

For questions about the fair or to register projects, contact the fair organizers at NorthernMNScienceFair@bemidjistate.edu.

Goal of new litter on ice law: keep Minnesota's lakes and rivers clean

Every winter, hundreds of thousands of anglers head for the frozen water to fish. Most ice anglers clean up after themselves, but some don't — and it's their behavior that was the impetus for a new litter-on-ice law the Minnesota Legislature passed earlier this year.

Ice conditions so far this season have been highly variable and safety has to be anglers' top priority. As anglers venture out, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds them that the new law requires people to secure their trash in a container such as a bucket, garbage bag or trash bin, and makes clear that depositing sewage — whether from animals or humans — on the ice is prohibited. The latter, particularly as it relates to human waste, has been an increasing problem in recent years, with some owners of deluxe fish houses (also known as wheel-houses) dumping their holding tanks on the ice before heading for shore.

The new law makes it easier for conservation officers and other law enforcement personnel to take enforcement action against people who leave trash and waste on the ice.

"Most anglers leave nothing more than an impression on the ice, and many of them actually take the time to clean up after others because they know trash and waste left on the ice is an eyesore and environmental and human health concern," said Col. Rodmen Smith, director of the DNR Enforcement Division. "We certainly appreciate that mindset, but the reality is we expect all anglers to bring off the ice whatever they brought

on. This law will help all of us ensure that happens."

The new statute reads: "A person using a shelter, a motor vehicle, or any other conveyance on the ice of state waters may not deposit garbage, rubbish, cigarette filters, debris from fireworks, offal, the body of a dead animal, litter, sewage, or any other waste outside the shelter, motor vehicle, or

conveyance, unless the material is: Placed in a container that is secured to the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance, and not placed directly on the ice or in state waters. For the purposes of this section, 'sewage' means excrementitious or other discharge from the bodies of human beings or animals, together with such other water as may be present."



Gerald Dyrda Memorial-Pine Lake Race postponed

The race committee has decided that the race originally scheduled for this weekend has been postponed to January 6th and 7th, 2024. The weather and the upcoming forecast has made it too dangerous to be on the ice. Stay tuned for further updates.

Raffle tickets are still for sale. Our grand prize is our \$10,000.00 to win 1997 Pro 440 class winning ZR 440 from Arlaud Racing, presented by Kost Materials! The second prize is a Beretta Tikka TX3 6.5 Creedmoor donated by Bagley

Motorsports. 3rd through 5th place prizes are \$500.00 race department gift certificates from Arctic Cat, Ski-Doo and Polaris. Drawing will be Sunday night. Get your tickets at these locations: **Leonard:** Side Track Tap, Strands Store

Bagley: Bagley Motor Sports, Main Street Tavern

Clearbrook: North Country Hardware, Community Oil, Y92

Gonvick: The Trap, Northern Bait & Convenience, Sportsman's Lodge

Bemidji: Roth RV, Bemidji Sports Center

Facing southeast, 75 minutes before sunrise January 8

• Venus

Old Moon
• Antares

Minnesota Starwatch for January 2024

By Deane Morrison

January may be frigid, but the cold air means clearer skies for viewing the jewels scattered among the iconic winter stars.

By the 7th, hourglass-shaped Orion, the hunter, and all its companion constellations will be up in the southeast at 8 p.m. The last of the bright winter stars to clear the southeastern horizon is Sirius, in Canis Major, the big dog. Sirius outshines the other stars, but high in the south, brilliant Jupiter dominates the sky.

As you gaze at Orion, notice the glowing nebula in his sword. The sword hangs from the three closely spaced stars of his belt, which form the "waist" of his hourglass shape. Extending a line through the belt stars upward, you'll see Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus, the bull. The V-shaped face of the bull, formed by stars of the Hyades cluster, is also an eye pleaser. Then look to the upper right of Aldebaran to view the young—astronomically speaking—and beautiful Pleiades star cluster.

But as the winter stars climb in the east, Saturn sinks in the west. If you're unsure which object is the ringed planet, a young crescent moon hangs below it at nightfall on the 13th.

In the predawn sky, regal Venus still shines low in the southeast. During the first two weeks of January, watch red Antares, the heart of Scorpius, climb past the planet. On the 8th, don't miss the spectacle of an old crescent moon threatening to blot out Antares.

On the 2nd, Earth reaches perihelion, its closest approach to the sun in an orbit. At that moment we'll be about 91.4 million miles from our parent star and moving at top speed around it.

January's full moon rises on the 25th and follows the gaggle of winter constellations across

the night sky. Following those stars every night is Regulus, the heart of the spring constellation Leo, the lion.

The University of Minnesota offers public viewings of the night sky at its Duluth and Twin Cities campuses. For more information, see:

Duluth, Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium: www.d.umn.edu/planetarium.

Twin Cities, Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics: www.astro.umn.edu/outreach/public.

Essentia Health-Fosston Clinic welcomes family medicine specialist Bryan Johnson

Bryan Johnson, a certified physician assistant specializing in family medicine, is excited to join the Essentia Health-Fosston Clinic.

"I grew up about 20 minutes from Fosston, so the location was important to me," explained Johnson. "Essentia has been a great organization to work with. I spent most of my time as a paramedic student in the Essentia hospital doing my clinical hours. My sister has also worked for Essentia in Duluth for over 10 years."

Johnson received his medical education from the University of North Dakota. He is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

"I chose family practice because it can be challenging and rewarding at the same time," said Johnson. "I am a life-long learner. Family medicine requires a broad base of knowledge of all aspects of health care which requires constant research and learning."

"I was raised in this community therefore I also know the importance of keeping our community members healthy

and happy."

To schedule an appointment with Johnson, please call (218) 435-1212. To see his full profile, please visit [EssentiaHealth.org](http://www.EssentiaHealth.org) and click on "Doctors & Providers."

Find U of M astronomers and links to the world of astronomy at: <http://www.astro.umn.edu>. 12/22/23 Contact: Deane Morrison, University Relations, (612) 721-6003, morri029@umn.edu

night.

Check out astronomy programs, free telescope events, and planetarium shows at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum: www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/astronomy.

Find U of M astronomers and links to the world of astronomy at: <http://www.astro.umn.edu>. 12/22/23 Contact: Deane Morrison, University Relations, (612) 721-6003, morri029@umn.edu



Bryan Johnson, a certified physician assistant specializing in family medicine at the Essentia Health-Fosston Clinic

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Invasive pests can hide on festive foliage

St. Paul, MN: Holiday greenery and Christmas trees bring joy throughout the season, but they can also hide dangerous pests. Diseases and invasive species can make their way into our landscapes on trees and boughs brought into Minnesota from other states.

To protect our environment, the State of Minnesota is asking residents to take these steps to properly dispose of greenery and trees after the holiday season:

- The best option is to use a curbside tree collection or bring trees to a designated drop-off site. Check with your waste hauler, city, or county to see what services are offered in your area. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has a map of yard waste compost locations; contact locations directly to see if they accept trees and greenery.

- Do not toss trees and greenery into your backyard woods or residential compost pile, which can spread the invasive species or disease.

- Wreaths and other decorative greens can be disposed of in trash cans.
- If your city or county does not have an organized pick-up or drop-off, the last resort is to burn the greens. Always check fire danger conditions and burning restrictions before burning and follow local ordinances.

Pests of concern include elongate hemlock scale, a small insect established in the eastern U.S. where many decorative Fraser firs are grown. Feeding damage caused by this invasive insect can cause the needles of hemlocks, firs, and spruces to yellow and prematurely drop. Also, boxwood blight, a fungal disease, and round leaf bit-

FINSETH CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
SAT., DEC. 30TH FROM 4:00 TO 6:30 P.M.

Rudy & Kathy Finseth
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Tis the season! The lights will be bright, the house will be filled with cheer! Come over to see the lights, drink hot chocolate and cider, eat some treats, visit, and see Santa! Bring the whole family. The village is getting bigger!

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DINING & entertainment

New Year's Eve (Sunday) Happenings at Little Bobby's

5:00 PM
Veteran's Honor Flight Fundraiser
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8:00 PM to Midnight
Honky Tonk Troubadours
Come listen, dance and just have some fun. Enjoy a little country!

295 Cleveland Ave, McIntosh, MN • 218-563-3008

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NO BINGO

WING NIGHT WEDNESDAY
Fri. & Sat., Dec. 29th & 30th, 2023 - Ribeye

SHORTY'S PLACE, 268-4199

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 2024 - 6:30 PM
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Comes with Salad Bar, Potato & Garlic Toast.
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HAPPY New Year

Kitchen Hours 8am-9pm Mon.-Sat. & 11am-9pm SUN.

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tersweet, an invasive noxious weed, are sometimes found on wreaths and centerpieces and can endanger native trees and other landscaping.
If you suspect your greenery or tree may be infested with an invasive insect or disease, contact the MDA's Report a Pest line at 1-888-545-6684, reportapest@state.mn.us, or through the online reporting form.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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Charps, headquartered in Clearbrook, MN, maintains a solid reputation as a preferred pipeline contractor in the energy industry and we are looking for a Payroll Specialist to join our team. The position will work closely with the Payroll Manager to ensure accurate and timely completion of weekly payroll and related reports.

Expectations:

In this role you will be responsible for reviewing & uploading field time entry, processing payroll weekly as well as remitting taxes and other payroll withholdings as required. Your ability to prioritize tasks and work within deadlines, maintain strict confidentiality and keep open communication with the Payroll Manager will be vital to the position.

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be detail-orientated with a high level of integrity and confidentiality.
- Effective time management skills and the ability to work within strict deadlines are essential.
- Excellent communication skills are required.
- Knowledge and proficiency utilizing Microsoft Excel, Word and Outlook.

If you fit the expectations and qualifications above and want to join the Charps, LLC team as a Payroll Specialist in our Clearbrook office please submit a cover letter and resume to HR@charps.com. Salary will be determined based on experience and qualifications with a total compensation package to include health, dental, life insurance as well as 401k plan with company match.

R40-41C

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAYS

Polk County Full-Time Employment Opportunities:

Custodian I

\$18.26 - \$23.85/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Assistant County Attorney I

\$40.18 - \$54.97/hr. Position Closes January 10, 2024

Deputy Patrol

\$28.56 - \$37.29/hr. Position Closes January 10, 2024

Campground Host – Cross Lake – Tilberg Park/NE of Fosston

\$1,948.84/month. Position Is Open Until Filled

Loader Operator //Fosston:

\$23.56- \$28.67/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Public Safety Telecommunicator:

\$24.44 - \$31.91 /hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Mechanical Maintenance Technician //Fosston:

\$25.97 –\$31.91/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Sort Line Operator I or II//Fosston:

\$19.60 - \$23.85/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Polk County offers a highly competitive benefits package including but not limited to affordable family healthcare plans and PERA retirement.

For an application, full job description and general job opening information go to www.co.polk.mn.us and click on "Careers" or call 218-281-5408 Polk County Administrator's Office. EOE

R40-41C

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Security State Bank of Oklee is seeking an energetic, customer friendly individual for our Personal Banker Position. Personal Bankers help customers reach their financial needs.

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O39-41C

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

The Clearbrook-Gonvick School District is seeking a highly-skilled, energetic, and innovative 1.0 FTE Career and Technical Education Instructor with Construction Careers and Manufacturing Technology licensures preferred beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

Requirements: MN Teaching License in Construction Careers or Manufacturing Careers and/or Trade Industry is preferred. Individuals with strength and experience in woodshop, welding, construction, and agriculture are encouraged to apply, as well as those who are interested in extra-curricular or coaching activities. Position is open until filled.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, credentials, and three references to:



Clearbrook-Gonvick School
16770 Clearwater Lake Rd
Clearbrook, MN 56634
Attn: Melissa Weems, HR
Or email the materials to:
mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us
For questions, call: 218-776-3112 Ext. 105

Clearbrook-Gonvick School District ISD #2311 is an equal opportunity employer.

R40-43C

CLEARBROOK-GONVICK SCHOOL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

-Full-time kitchen cook or 2 part-time kitchen cooks: Must enjoy working with kids, be able to work in a standing position for a period of time, and pass a ServeSafe food safety course.

-Two (2) Full-time Custodial Cleaners or part-time Custodial Cleaners: Job requirements include the ability to thoroughly clean while paying attention to detail with some lifting and bending required.

-Para-educator: Must enjoy working with children one-on-one or in a small group setting and have passed, or have the ability to pass, a para pro-exam which will be administered by the School District.

All positions include the following benefits: PERA retirement plan, paid holidays, sick time, personal time, vacation time (12 month positions only), and unemployment during the summer for positions less than 12 months. Wage range is \$15.27-\$17.36 per hour dependent on years of previous experience. Must be able to pass a background check. Applications can be found on our school website or call Melissa Weems at 218-776-3112 Ext. 105 with any questions or to have an application emailed to you.

Please submit application, resume, and letter of interest to:



Melissa Weems, HR
16770 Clearwater Lake Rd
Clearbrook, MN 56634
mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us

R39-42C

Positions Available January 2024

- Looking for two (2) part-time Cooks with experience.
 - Looking for part-time waiters/waitresses
- Two Shifts available Breakfast/Lunch and Lunch/Supper. Weekends and Catering Events also. Call or stop by for an application**

Jumpin' Jax Cafe
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Oklee MN
218-688-4059

O40-41C

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Ideal candidate must be team oriented and dedicated to providing exceptional customer service in an accurate and timely manner.

Must be highly efficient, computer proficient, and able to multi-task. Cash handling experience preferred. Full-time position at Bagley branch, the hours are daily including up to two Saturday mornings/mo. Please pick-up application at Bagley location or send a letter and resume to First National Bank, Attn: Sue VanMill, PO Box N, Bagley, MN 56621.

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FDIC R40tfC

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MUST BE DEPENDABLE

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Gonvick 218-487-5225

R34NC

RENTALS

Brookfield Apartments

Brookfield Apts in Clearbrook, MN is accepting applications for **FUTURE 1 Bd openings** for all elderly and all handicapped/disabled persons. Rent is based on 30% of your monthly adjusted gross income. Laundry room facilities available & off-street parking. **Resident Manager** onsite. Locked Entry system. Active Community Room. Applications and qualifications, contact Nicole at 218-751-6881 or Laura at 218-407-7681. Applications online @ bemidjimanagementinc.com AN EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.

R39-42C

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CURRENT JOB OPENINGS OPEN POSITIONS

Substitute Teacher opportunities are available. Applicants should submit their teaching license (or substitute licensure with a 4-year degree) and resume.

Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check.

Native American Home School Liaison position openings. Candidates must be highly qualified, which includes either two or more years of college, an AA Degree, or the ability to pass the ParaPro Exam.

Paraeducator position openings. Candidates must be highly qualified, which includes either 2 or more years of college, an AA Degree, or the ability to pass the ParaPro Exam.

Substitute Para opportunities are available. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

*Application forms may be downloaded from the District Website bagley.k12.mn.us, picked up in the District Office or you may email nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. For more information, please call Nichole Ekre at 218-694-6184. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled. *

Food Service Support Staff - a high school diploma or GED is preferred but not required. This is a 3-hour position.

Substitute Food Service Support Staff - a high school diploma or GED is preferred but not required.

*Application forms may be downloaded from the District Website bagley.k12.mn.us, picked up in the District Office or you may email nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. For more information, please call Jennifer Hecht at 218-694-6184. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled. *

Full-Time Route Bus Driver and Substitute Bus Driver positions. Applicants must have or be able to obtain a school bus driver's license endorsement. The District is willing to help applicants obtain their school bus endorsement. New drivers will receive a \$200 stipend after six months of driving to help defray the cost of certification. For more information, please call Stuart Dukek at 218-694-6122. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled.

Maintenance Personnel positions. Bagley Independent School District #162 is accepting applications for a full time Maintenance Personnel position. Pay range is from \$22.43 to \$28.94 per hour depending on experience and qualifications. For questions about the position call Ron and (218)368-8314

*Application forms and a job description may be downloaded from the District Website bagley.k12.mn.us, picked up in the District Office or you may email nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled. * R38-41C



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DEADLINE NOON FRIDAYS

U.S. Senators Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar Request An Inspector General Audit Of Minnesota-North Dakota Postal Service

December 19, 2023
3:59 pm

Senators point to persistent mail delays in Minnesota and insufficient answers from USPS [WASHINGTON, D.C.] – U.S. Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar (both D – MN) have formally requested that the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service conduct a full audit of the Minnesota-North Dakota District following persistent reports across Minnesota of delayed and unreliable mail service.

“We believe it is time for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to investigate the dysfunction of the MN-ND District,” wrote the Senators. “Minnesotans rely on the Postal Service as an essential public service. Deliveries of medicine, Social Security checks and paychecks, and correspondence with loved ones are critical, especially in rural communities. But too often, the Postal Service is falling short in meeting the reasonable expectations of Min-

nesotans.”

“Even more concerning is that attempts to elevate the concerns of Minnesotans to the USPS have either been dismissed or met with assurances that everything is fine—that the reports of our constituents are incorrect,” wrote the Senators. “This lack of transparency deepens our concern that the serious issues in the MN-ND district are not receiving adequate attention.”

The Office of the Inspector General is an independent agency within the USPS that conducts essential oversight over Postal Service operations. Audits conducted by the Inspector General provide an informed, unbiased view of postal operations with a focus on preventing misuse of funds, promoting efficiency and integrity, and sharing information with the USPS Board of Governors, Congress, and USPS management.

In their request for a full audit, the senators seek answers

to the following issues:

Data integrity and reporting. Is the Postal Service’s data on deliveries in the MN-ND District accurate? Is this data appropriately available to customers, Congress, and the public? What does the data show about the district’s ability to meet service standards?

Staffing and recruitment. Is the MN-ND District adequately staffed? Are efforts to improve staffing levels working? Are there additional steps that the Postal Service should take to improve staffing in the district?

Did the district adequately work to hire seasonal workers for the peak holiday season, especially in communities like Rochester, Duluth, and Bemidji, where there are frequent disruptions around the peak season?

How many new staff has the district hired in the last year? How many of those individuals are still employed by the USPS? Is the district using their full scope of authority to improve

recruitment and retention of workers?

Areas of interest. Where have service disruptions been most prevalent in the district? Has the district adequately tracked this information and taken steps to fix the issues causing disruptions?

Capacity. At current capacity of workers and infrastructure, can the MN-ND District deliver mail in accordance with service standards with the current workforce? Could they do so at

their full workforce capacity?

Smith and Klobuchar have long worked to improve the reliability of postal service in Minnesota. The senators introduced bipartisan legislation addressing transparency at the Postal Service. Both Smith and Klobuchar sent letters to Postmaster DeJoy regarding the disruptions caused by increased Amazon package delivery and decried the USPS’s response. In September, they pressed USPS for answers about a

payroll error that led to 53,000 rural letter carriers missing or receiving only a partial paycheck. They pressed for answers again when a similar issue was reported earlier this month, which affected 2,200 rural letter carriers and their families. Smith and Klobuchar have also asked USPS for answers to widespread missing and delayed mail deliveries across Minnesota.

Possible signs of radon exposure



Exposure to radon gas is the leading cause of lung cancer among people who never smoked cigarettes or other tobacco products. The Environmental Protection Agency says radon accounts for about 21,000 deaths from lung cancer each year.

The EPA notes that radon is a naturally occurring gas that is present in outdoor environments in small amounts. It results from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks. Radon can prove dangerous when it is concentrated. Radon may enter homes and other buildings built on soil with natural uranium deposits through cracks in floors or walls, or through gaps in foundations and around pipes where radon becomes trapped and concentrated.

According to the American Cancer Society, when radon is inhaled, it exposes the lungs to small amounts of radiation that may damage the cells in the lining of the lungs. Over time, this may progress into lung cancer. That is why it is essential to confirm that a home is safe from radon and be aware of any possible symptoms that may indicate its presence. Unfortunately, there are no immediate signs or symptoms to indicate radon exposure. Also, radon itself is colorless and odorless. However, the following are some potential symptoms of radon exposure that should be brought to the attention of a physician.

- **Breathing issues:** Respiratory problems may form from radon exposure. Frequent bouts of bronchitis or pneumonia should be questioned.
- **Raspy voice:** Repeated exposure to radon may cause the voice to sound hoarse or raspy. Non-smokers should be particularly concerned if their voices change.
- **Muscle loss:** Radon exposure may result in a reduction in overall muscle mass. If tasks suddenly seem harder or normal activities cause excessive fatigue, radon may be to blame.
- **Chest pain:** Radon exposure is one of many potential causes of chest pain, which should be addressed by a doctor.

National Radon Defense says radon-related symptoms typically do not turn up until a person has cancer or is on the cusp of developing the disease. That is why it is essential to test for radon so that these health issues do not develop. Homeowners can purchase radon tests and do them on their own. A radon contractor also can determine what level of radon is

present in a home and suggest a radon mitigation system if high levels are detected.

The ACS says no widely available medical tests measure exposure to radon, but people should speak with a doctor if they suspect they’ve been ex-

posed to radon.

Radon is dangerous in high amounts, but people can test for radon levels in their homes and schedule annual health checkups to keep them safer.

January winter nature programs in Itasca State Park

Snowshoeing: Wildlife Watch

Friday, January 5, 2024,
from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Meet at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center

Grab some snowshoes and head down the trail with a park naturalist searching for signs of wildlife in winter. Route will be selected depending on snow conditions. All experience levels are welcome!

Notes: A limited number of snowshoes are available to use during this program. Contact naturalist Sandra if you need to reserve a pair at Sandra.d.lichter@state.mn.us or 218-699-7252. This snowshoe walk is dependent on snow depth. Dress in layers and wear snow boots.

Itasca’s Evening Lantern Lit Snowshoe and Ski

Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 5-7:30 p.m., come –and-go at your leisure

Start at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center. Trail illuminated along the South Entrance Road approximately 3.5 miles round-trip.

Come out and ski or snowshoe by the light of the stars and kerosene lanterns along the trail. Go at your own pace along the lantern lit route during this drop-in program.

NOTES: Program is held out-

doors. Dress warmly for outdoor winter conditions. Snowshoe walk/ski is self-guided at your leisure.

Remember a headlamp or flashlight as some portions of the trail can be dark.

Bring along your snowshoes or skis. Some portions of trail may be walkable in just snow boots. A limited number of snowshoes will be available for check-out at the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center on a first come-first served basis.

Bring your own hotdogs, thermoses of hot chocolate, marshmallows, and snacks for enjoying around the outdoor campfire before or after the walk.

If snow conditions are poor, the event will become a snow boot walk.

Itasca’s Evening Under the Pines: Julie and Bill Kaiser

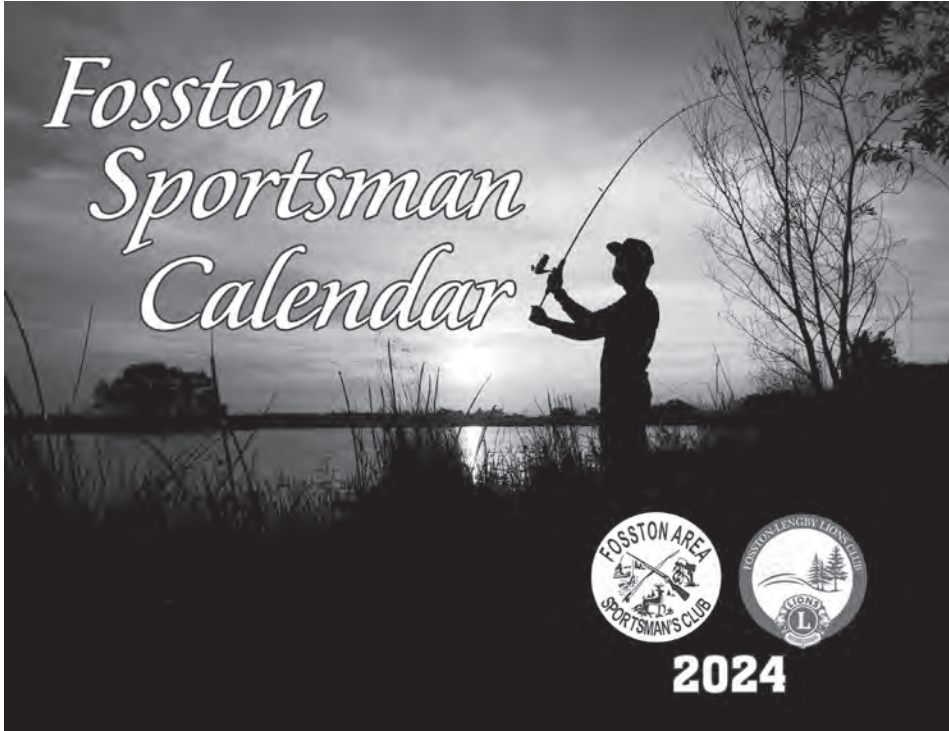
Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 6-7:30 p.m.

Meet in the Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center Lobby

Warm up by the fireplace and enjoy the music of Bill and Julie Kaiser during the night of the Lantern Lit Snowshoe and Ski Event. From the northwoods of Minnesota, Bill and Julie perform a mix of bluegrass, folk, and original songs creating a mix of acoustic “folkgrass” music.

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Santa Says HO HO HO: Rebels are 7-0

By Atley Vetteson, Connor Duden, and Will Gieseke

On Friday, December 15th, the Red Lake County Rebels took on the Stephen-Argyle Storm in the Robert Matzke Gym in Red Lake Falls. The Junior Varsity RLC team had a great game. The Rebels played great defense in the first half and took great shots. In the Second Half, the Rebels came out of the locker room hot and scored a lot more points to add on, and they ended up beating the Stephen-Argyle Storm by a score of 65-43 in favor of the Rebels!

The Red Lake County Rebels took on the Stephen-Argyle Storm in the Red Lake Falls Lafayette High School gym, and the Rebels came hot out of the gates and scored a total of 38 points in the first half, while the Storm scored 20 in the first half. In the second half, the Rebels and the Storm both competed very well the Rebels scored 32 more in the second half, and the Storm scored 30 more, so the final score ended up being 70-50 in favor of the Rebels, so the Red Lake County Rebels improved to 5-0 after the victory over the Stephen-Argyle Storm. Stats: Owen Chervestad scored 20 points and got 8 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 steals. Connor Duden Scored 12 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals. Will Gieseke scored 15 points, 5 rebounds, and 3 steals.

On Tuesday, December 19th, the Red Lake County Rebels took on the Cass Lake Bena Panthers in Oklee, Minnesota. The C team and JV both won their respective games. The Varsity game was a very exciting game to be a part of it was back and forth. The Panthers led for most of the game, but in the 2nd half, the Rebels took the lead even tho it was only a possession or 2 lead. The Rebels didn't give that lead back. The Rebels picked up the win 71-61 they improved to 6-0 on the season. Connor Duden and Owen Chervestad lead the scoring for the Rebels. Duden with 28 points to go along with 13 rebounds, Chervestad with 11 rebounds to pair with his 21 points. Kingsly Whitebird had 14 points with 4 made threes.

Dominic Fairbanks led the Panthers, scoring 16 points, he also added 9 assists. On Friday, December 22, 2023, the Rebels traveled to East Grand Forks to take on the Eagles. The Rebels won that game 79-70, making their record 7-0. The next home games will be Janu-

ary 4th against the Northern Freeze and January 8th against the Sacred Heart Eagles. Both Games will be in Plummer and aired on Garden Valley Channel 35. Mr. Steve Philion and Mr. Randy Huie Coach the Rebels. All photo credit belongs to Dan May.



Owen Chervestad flies up for a 3 pointer, Tyrell Smith, Panther #2, tries to block the shot. Photos by Daniel May.



Connor Duden shoots a three-pointer while Panther, #21 Tristen Gill, soars high to block the inevitable shot.

RLC REBELS BOYS				TRACK & FIELD GIRLS			
NAME	TIME	DATE	EVENT	NAME	TIME	DATE	EVENT
SHANNON WILLETT	6.53	1994	85M DASH	FARRAH BRANTL	7.53	1994	100M DASH
SHANNON WILLETT	10.84	1993	100M DASH	ZOE RUSBILLO	12.82	2001	200M DASH
DARRIN HOFSTAD	52.25	1994	200M DASH	MICHELLE HALVORSON	28.5	2011	400M DASH
CODY GAGNER	1:55.41	2015	800M RUN	FAITH KRUCHOWSKI	2:16.94	2011	1000M RUN
CODY GAGNER	4:25.55	2015	1600M RUN	MELISSA MAGNER	5:00.11	2011	3200M RUN
DEVIN LAMBERT	10:32.95	2012	3200M RUN	MEGAN LAGROSSE	13:09.5	2011	100M HURDLES
BRETT GERARDY	14.45	2016	100M HURDLES	MEGAN LAGROSSE	49.43	2011	300M HURDLES
PAUL PETERSON	41.82	2009	300M HURDLES	FAITH KRUCHOWSKI	19'11 1/2"	2011	TRIPLE JUMP
PAUL PETERSON	29'6"	1996	LONG JUMP	ASHLEY LONGTIN	34'9 1/2"	2011	HIGH JUMP
GERALD MILIN	41'2 3/4"	1996	TRIPLE JUMP	BETSY WINKLER	9'3"	2011	DISCUS
KEVIN LONGTIN	15'1"	2023	SHOT PUT	BETSY WINKLER	11'8 1/2"	2011	POLE VAULT
JAMIE GARRIERE	45'6"	2011	POLE VAULT	RYAN MELBY	44.54	1993	4x100M REL
RYAN MELBY	9'8"	1993	SHOT PUT	RYAN MELBY	1:20.16	2009	4x200M REL
RYAN MELBY	44.54	1993	POLE VAULT	RYAN MELBY	9:17.40	1994	4x400M REL
RYAN MELBY	1:20.16	2009	4x100M REL	RYAN MELBY	9:24.35	2019	4x800M REL



Gunnar Halverson shoots up a three-pointer.



Dan May catches an interesting pose with Owen Chervestad making a nice layup despite Panther, Tateyn Boswell, # 25's attempt to block along with three other Panthers trying to defend their bucket.



Will Gieseke sets up a 3-pointer, Gunnar Halverson, ready to rebound, and Owen Chervestad is ready to help.

WINTER WONDERS WORD SEARCH

W	O	B	U	O	G	P	E	O	B	H	U	I	O	A	W	E	N	G	S
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WINTER WONDERS WORD SEARCH

Answers on page 6

BLANKET	HAZARD	MOUNTAIN	SLIPPERY
BLIZZARD	HEAVY	NORÔEASTER	SNOWMAN
BRISK	ICECAP	PARKA	TEMPERATURE
BUNDLE	ICE SKATING	SCARF	WINTRY
DOWNHILL	LAKE	SKIING	WOODBURNING
FROZEN	MITTENS	SLED	WOOLEN



Theology in the Trenches

By Kathleen Kjolhaug

Flight into Egypt through the Eyes of a Weary Traveler
(Remnants of a trip to Assisi)

Story was inspired by Shellee Leif

“Would you—from a message of an angel, leave your family and all you know and go where I ask you to go?”

It’s a fair question we all must come to terms with at some point in our faith journey. Most likely an easy “yes” pours forth as we gather the gumption to respond, “Yes, Lord. Here am I Lord. Send me” (Is. 6:8).

Mary knew the One she carried was heaven sent and by hind sight we all know the story well. But you know—from our vantage point—saying “yes,” is a lot easier said than done. Knowing what He is asking of us takes discernment and thus we pray, Lord, help me to see things as You see them and not how I perceive them to be. We then pray as He taught us—“Thy will be done” (Matt. 6:10).

Mary’s response to the angel seemed so—angelic! “Yes, Lord. Be it done unto me according to Thy Word” (Luke 1:38).

So how do we discern Thy will? I recently went on retreat. Shellee Leif, the retreat director, shared while in Assisi, Italy. I thought I’d do likewise and tell a portion of what was taught.

At one point in Shellee’s life she wanted to learn more about the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola (used by many from many denominations) in order to learn how to better discern what His desire was for her. As part of the process, one of the exercises given was to take a passage from scripture and imagine herself in it. Imagining the sights and sounds was important as the next step was to have a conversation with those in the scene.

My friend pictured herself traveling with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph after Jesus was born. It was when Joseph was told by an angel to flee to Egypt. Joseph did as he was told.

As my friend desired to gain insight into discerning the will of God, she pictured herself walking along side the Holy Family. For a while, in her mind’s eye, all was quiet. Then, ever so gently, she prodded Joseph. “Joseph, so what are you thinking about?”

In her thoughts, Joseph responded. “Oh, you know—the usual. I’m wondering where we will stay, about the food and where our next meal will come from.” Feeling the weight of Joseph, my friend asked no further questions but continued walking along side the weary travelers.

After a time, she ventured into dialogue with Mary. “Mary, what are you thinking about as you travel the road ahead?” With gentle voice, she gave voice with an essence of calm. “Oh, sort of the same things but you know—but we have the Son of God with us so, we’re trusting Him.”

Trust is key in moments of discernment and knowing Mary entrusted all to Him brought comfort to my friend. There was, however, one more companion on the journey to whom she had not yet spoken. Soon, she did.

“So, Jesus—what are you thinking about on this journey with your family?”

Much to her delight, the Christ child turned her way and said, “I think this donkey is sooo cool!”

The laughter erupting from my friend spilled out freely for

she knew well—her Companion. She explains, “As I pondered, I realized a child does not have the same worries we adults have. They are able to experience and appreciate the journey in a more open, curious way which helps them appreciate the joys at hand amidst the trial.”

The next day my friend, Shellee, returned to the scripture passage and in prayer asked the Lord what she was to make of the illustrated story she’d stepped into. Immediately, a question formed within. “Would you, from a message of an angel, leave your family and all you know and go where I ask you to go?”

The message is one of trust as she challenged us, “If God calls us to go beyond our comfort zone and step into the unknown as He leads, will we trust Him and go?”

Knowing He knows—is trust worth pondering. “Great are the works of the Lord; to be pondered by all who love Him” (Psalm 111:2). Shellee not only ponders them, but now teaches others how to draw nigh in hearing His still small voice. Amen.

Shellee Leif lives in St. Paul, MN with her husband, Larry. She has a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and is a trained teacher and interviewer for the Catherine of Siena’s Called and Gifted Spiritual Gifts inventory. She is currently a full-time Spiritual and Retreat Director and recently published a reflection guide to help people learn and apply the rules of St. Ignatius of which she has been studying for the past fifteen years.

Minnesota DNR enhances protection for turtles

Two changes that enhance protection for Minnesota’s native turtles will go into effect Jan. 1.

Commercial harvest of western painted turtles and snapping turtles is no longer allowed in Minnesota beginning Jan. 1, the result of a new law enacted in 2023. People will still be allowed to raise turtles for commercial purposes under an aquaculture license with a turtle endorsement.

In addition, also beginning on Jan. 1, anglers will need both an angling license and a newly required recreational turtle license to harvest turtles using angling gear like hook and line, landing nets and gaff hooks. In the past, only an angling license was required. Traps will not be allowed for turtle harvest. Individuals under 16 do not need a recreational turtle license and may still collect turtles for turtle races.

Minnesota’s native turtles face several threats including habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution and overharvest. Due to the life history characteristics of turtles — that they are long-lived and slow growing — even low levels of increased mortality can result in declining populations, especially in northern latitudes that have short growing seasons. The enhanced protections coming into effect will help ensure the ongoing health of turtle populations in Minnesota.

Recreational turtle licenses are \$25 annually and will be available Jan. 1 through the Minnesota DNR electronic license system, and more information is available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/fishing/commercial/turtles.html).

Warning signs you or a loved one is being stalked

Most people likely do not pause to consider they could be a victim of stalking. Stalking might seem something more out of the plot of a movie rather than real life. However, according to the Stalking Resource Center, approximately 7.5 million people are stalked each year in the United States. Many times the victims have been stalked by a current or former intimate partner.

In the modern digital age, when so much personal information is accessible online, the lines between curiosity and stalking may be blurred. Stalking involves persistent, intrusive and unwanted harassment in person or online. Victim Connect Resource Center says you may be a victim of stalking if someone:

- Repeatedly calls your phone, including hang-ups.
- Follows you and shows up where you are.
- Sends unwanted texts, emails, gifts, or other items.
- Damages your property.
- Uses technology, like hidden cameras or GPS, to track you.
- Monitors you through spyware.
- Threatens you or others you love with harm.
- Lingers by where you live, work or go to school, or drives by often.

At first, subtle stalking may seem flattering, especially if a person wants to spend time with you or seems to want to connect with you frequently. However, stalking may be an issue when the behavior persists even if it makes you uncomfortable and you ask for it to stop.

If stalking is suspected, individuals can take steps to regain control. Alerting others and even law enforcement when feeling threatened is key. Documenting incidents can help paint the picture of stalking behaviors. Do not engage in contact or act in retaliation, and take any perceived threats seriously. A stalker may threaten self-harm to manipulate a person into staying in contact. Calling 1-855-4-VICTIM also can help a person locate more resources if stalking is taking place.

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Word Search Answers for this week

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Ask a Trooper

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

Question: Can a parent with a revoked license still accompany a permit driver?

Answer: No, they cannot. A permit holder may drive under the supervision of a parent, guardian or other licensed driver 21 or older occupying the seat beside them.

- The permit holder must have the permit in possession to drive.
- It's illegal for drivers under age 18 to use a cell phone,

whether handheld or hands-free, except to call 911 in an emergency.

It takes a commitment by parents and many hours to prepare teen drivers to get behind the wheel. But that doesn't end when a teen gets their license.

A common mistake by parents is thinking their teen is ready for the road as soon as they pass the road test. For example, teens shouldn't be driving alone the first time they hit the road when it snows. Parents should practice with their teens in different types of

scenarios before their teen hits the road solo.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

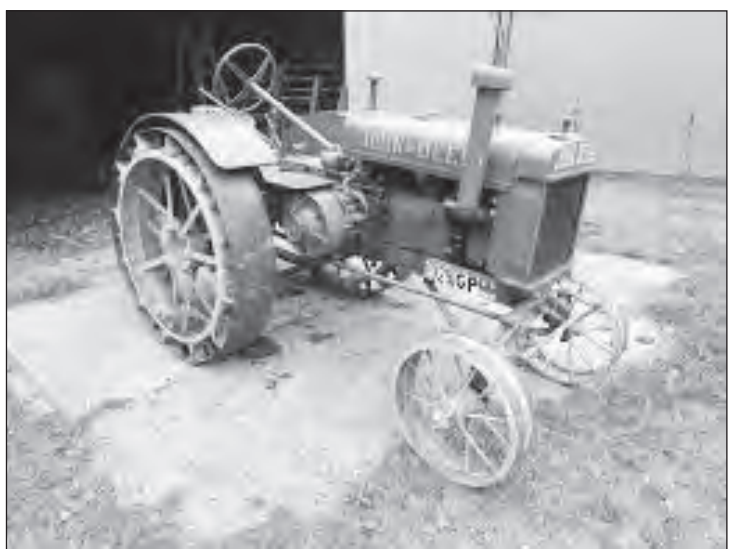
Merry Christmas! Hope you have a “Christmas to Remember!”

By Auctioneer Eric W. Mickelson

Well, I guess you could say we have a “white” Christmas with a last minute rain shower followed by an inch or so of snow! I was satisfied with no snow, but if you wanted some I am glad for you!

I spend many evenings in front of the television set. Many nights when chores are done and supper is eaten we sit down and turn on the TV. Nothing grabs my attention more than a show that includes an old tractor!

As the Christmas season approaches many shows will be coming on that we watch as part of the yearly celebration. One I haven't seen on TV for a long time is called “A Christmas to Remember.” I went to YouTube and I found it. It was fun to watch again. Two of the stars are Jason Robards and Eva Marie Saint. The story begins as the school band is playing and an announcer is bragging up what is inside this big tent. They are unveiling the John Deere 8640! A farmer jumps up in the cab to go for a ride and then it goes back to a flashback when he was young, growing up on a dairy farm with is Grandfather(Jason Robards) and Grandmother(Eva Marie Saint). When he was young he got sent to live with grandma and grandpa, in Minnesota, because his mom and dad in Chicago didn't have enough money to raise him. It was set during the Great Depression. They don't get off to a great start. He grandpa gets him up early to milk cows, by hand. In one scene the grandpa chases the boy around the yard with a steel wheeled GP John Deere. Now maybe you see how come I like this show. I will stop with the storyline there, just in case you haven't seen it and you want to watch a great show, “A



GP John Deere on Steel!

Christmas to Remember!”

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas. We are going to spend some time with the in-laws at a cabin near Blackduck and grandkids are going to be home so I am definitely going to play some “tractors” with them. And by the way, if you have YouTube do a little search, for “A Christmas to Remember,” you just might like it!

How about a little tractor trivia about tractors in movies!

1. What tractor does Clint Eastwood drive in “The Bridges of Madison County?”

- A) A John Deere B) H Farmall C) 4020 John Deere D) E-3 Coop

2. What tractor is seen in the Alfred Hitchcock thriller “The Birds?”

- A) A John Deere B) H Farmall C) 4020 John Deere D) E-3 Coop

3. What tractor is pulling a float in the Christmas parade in the 1983 movie, “A Christmas Story?”

- A) A John Deere B) H Farmall C) 4020 John Deere D) E-3 Coop

4. What tractor is shown on the TV show “The Office”, at Schrute farms gets married?

- A) A John Deere B) H Farmall C) 4020 John Deere D) E-3 Coop

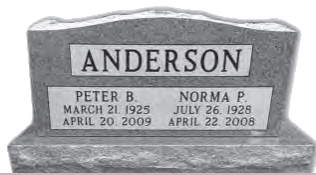
5. In the 1984 movie “Foot-loose” Kevin Bacon drives a 2940 John Deere with a loader on it and plays chicken with another guy driving what kind of tractor?

- A) Massey Ferguson B) AGSCO Allis C) A Ford 5000 D) G John Deere

Answers: 1. C. 4020 JD 2. A. A JD 3. B. H Farmall 4. D. E-3 COOP 5. A. Massey Ferguson

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OBITUARIES



Death Notice for June Schmunk

June Schmunk of Apple Valley MN formally of Gonvick, MN; loving sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed

away on 12-15-2023 while in hospice care at the age of 92 years. Full notice this coming spring.



Death Notice for Peggy Knutson

Peggy Knutson, 73, of Bagley, Minnesota died on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at her home in Bagley surrounded by her family.

Funeral services are pending with the Cease Family Funeral Home in Bagley, MN. Messages of condolence may be sent to ceasefuneral-home.com



Obituary for David Hamre

David Hamre, age 80, of Grand Forks, ND and formerly of McIntosh, MN, passed away on Sunday, December 10th, at Sanford Hospital in Fargo, ND. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 20th, at Grace Lutheran Church in Erskine with the Rev. Pam Thorson officiating. Interment in Fairview Cemetery, rural Erskine. Visitation was held for one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at the church. Arrangements were with Carlin Family Funeral Service of Erskine and messages of condolence may be shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.

David Elmer Hamre was born on September 1, 1943, in Crookston, Minnesota to parents Elmer and Selma Hamre. He grew up in the

rural McIntosh/Erskine area and graduated from Erskine High School in 1961. After high school, David took over the family farm, milking and raising beef cattle.

He was united in marriage to Dianne Lynn Christiansen on March 29, 1975, at Grace Lutheran Church in Erskine. To this union two sons were born, Peter and Erik.

David was a farmer at heart. He farmed at the home farm near McIntosh for many years. Later in his life he transitioned from owning his own farm to working for Bauer Farms of Erskine. David and Diane moved to Grand Forks in 2018.

He liked hunting, fishing, and loved talking about guns and cars, especially Fords. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church and had been a Deacon at one time.

Survivors include his loving wife of 48 years, Dianne, of Grand Forks; two sons, Peter (fiancé, Samantha) of Grand Forks, and Erik (Tanya) of McIntosh; grandchildren, Lexi, Maci (fiancé, Blake), Kobe, Braylon, and Jameson; as well as future grandchildren, Kennell, Rory, Mickey, and Samaya; two sisters, Shirley Kraft of McIntosh and Marlene O'Brien of St. Louis, MO. Nieces, nephews and cousins also survive.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Judy Watts; and two brothers-in-law, Charles Kraft and Jim O'Brien.

Governor Walz Announces \$300 Million in Public Safety Funding Going to Local Governments Next Week

[ST. PAUL, MN] – Governor Tim Walz announced today that the Department of Revenue will send \$300 million in public safety aid to local governments next week. At the Lino Lakes Fire Station today, Governor Walz and public safety leaders highlighted how cities are planning to use the funding. Photos from the event are attached.

"This funding will allow public safety officials to invest in the things that matter most to their communities, whether that's officer recruitment and retention, a new ambulance, or fire and rescue equipment," said Governor Walz. "I want to give a special thank you to Minnesota's law enforcement and public safety officials this

holiday season, who never take a day off from keeping their residents safe."

Public safety departments can use the aid for public safety initiatives such as recruitment and retention, equipment costs, mental health crisis responses, victim services, and first responder wellness and training programs.

Also going out next week are the second half payments of more than \$1.2 billion in other state aid, including County Program Aid (CPA), Local Government Aid (LGA), and Town Aid. County and local governments can use these funds to pay for basic needs such as local roads and public safety. They also can help relieve the burden of

local property taxes. During the historic 2023 legislative session, lawmakers invested an additional \$80 million annually in LGA and CPA to be paid starting in July 2024.

"These aid programs are important investments that impact all Minnesotans," said Minnesota Department of Revenue Commissioner Paul Marquart. "These programs take into consideration multiple factors to ensure that these aid amounts are dispersed in an equitable manner that tries to reflect the diversity and uniqueness we see in communities in every corner of the state."

The total certified aid amounts for 2023 include:

- \$300,000,000 in One-time Public Safety Aid
- \$264,374,444 in County Program Aid
- \$20,250,000 in Statewide Affordable Housing Aid
- \$20 million in Local Homeless Prevention Aid
- \$15 million in Soil and Water Conservation District Aid
- \$10 million in Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid
- \$9,611,507 in Town Aid
- \$8 million in Riparian Protection Aid
- \$3,646,777 in Out-of-Home Placement Reimbursement Aid
- \$526,926 in Local Performance Reimbursement Aid
- \$16,209 in Utility Valuation Transition Aid

Join people across the country for a First Day Hike at a Minnesota state park

First Day Hikes will take place at 12 Minnesota state parks on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, as part of a nationwide effort to connect people with the outdoors.

In an initiative spearheaded by the America's State Parks organization, hikers in all 50 states will take guided walks on New Year's Day. These hikes welcome people to spend time during the first day of the new year outdoors exercising and connecting with nature. For many people, it has become a tradition.

First Day Hikes will be held at Afton, Blue Mounds, Forestville Mystery Cave, Fort Snelling, Frontenac, Lake Bemidji, Mille Lacs Kathio, Minneopa, Nerstrand-Big Woods, Tettegouche, Whitewater and Wild River state parks. Find details about all 12 programs at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's First Day Hikes webpage (mndnr.gov/firstdayhike).

These events are free to participate in, but some require advance registration. In addition, vehicle permits (\$7 per day or \$35 for a year-round permit) are required at Minnesota

state parks. Visitors can save time and purchase permits in advance on the state park vehicle permits webpage (mndnr.gov/permit), or buy a permit in person during open hours at park offices.

For many of these events, if there is sufficient snow, the event will be held on snowshoes. Participants can bring their own snowshoes or borrow a set at no charge. Check the event's online listing to learn if snowshoe reservations are available and if there is enough snow for snowshoeing at that location. Hikers are advised to wear

boots and dress in layers so clothing can be adjusted as needed. For those who are new to winter outdoor recreation, or are new to Minnesota, the DNR winter guide offers suggestions on how to dress for winter (mndnr.gov/dressforwinter).

The DNR encourages anyone unable to attend a guided hike to get out with friends and family on New Year's Day for their own self-guided hike. Trails can be found on the DNR's Hiking in Minnesota webpage (mndnr.gov/hiking).

RiverView Recovery Center Offers Services for DWI Offenders

Crookston – December is a month of celebration, including family gatherings, get-togethers with friends, and work parties. It is also one of the deadliest months due to spikes in drinking and drugged driving, and the reason the month is designated as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.

Did you know that one out of seven Minnesota citizens has at least one Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) charge on their record, according to the Minnesota Department of Safety? A DWI is a public record.

"Research shows that by the time most drivers are charged, they have driven intoxicated at least 75 times; some research shows significantly more often," shared Curtis Hamre, director of the RiverView Recovery Center (RRC). "Each time you drive after only two or three drinks, you may not blow over the legal limit, but your mental function and reaction time decrease. This means you could be responsible for harming someone or their property; this is called victimizing someone."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- In 2020, 11,654 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in the US - a 14% increase from 2019. That is about 32 people every day or one person every 45 minutes.
- 7 million Americans reported driving under the influence of marijuana or other illicit

drugs in 2020.

The RiverView Recovery Center offers services to those charged with DWI and participates in DWI Courts in Marshall, Polk, Red Lake, Pennington, and Roseau Counties.

"RiverView Recovery is dedicated to changing DWI behavior," Hamre stated.

Chemical Health Assessment

If you drive impaired and receive a DWI, a Chemical Health Assessment is generally required. This assessment, based on Minnesota statutes, is a clinical tool used to screen for substance use disorders (alcoholism, addiction, substance abuse, or chemical dependency).

The assessment is a process for defining the nature of the problem, determining a diagnosis, and developing specific treatment recommendations for addressing the problem or diagnosis.

RRC offers in-person or telehealth assessments by qualified, licensed alcohol and drug addiction counselors.

Driving with Care Education
Driving with Care is a cognitive-based drinking and driving program for DWI offenders. The course is comprehensive and covers a range of topics, including alcohol education, blood alcohol content levels, Minnesota state laws, alcohol consumption patterns, and techniques to reduce the risk of reoffending.

Driving with Care is the gold standard for DWI education in

Minnesota.

Level 1 is for the first-time DWI offender with a blood alcohol content level of less than 0.15 at the time of arrest. This education can be combined with treatment services (Relapse Prevention or Structured Outpatient). The central purposes of this education are to prevent re-arrest and to prevent future alcohol and other drug-related issues by providing alcohol awareness education.

Level 2 is also for the first-time DWI offender but with a blood alcohol content level of 0.15 or greater, or for the multiple DWI offender. This education can be combined with treatment services (Relapse Prevention, Structured Outpatient, or Intensive Outpatient). This program expands upon the foundational information offered in Level 1 education, with time dedicated to helping repeat DWI offenders reduce the risk of falling back into problematic drinking.

New classes begin quarterly, as needed.

According to Hamre, research shows that DWI education reduces repeat offenses.

DWI Court

Hamre shared that RRC is a proud partner in DWI Court, a special court dedicated to changing the behavior of the alcohol-dependent offender arrested for DWI. Participants include the offender, treatment providers, probation services, law enforcement, and the

courts. An eligible defendant who enters a guilty plea or is convicted of a DWI has the option of participating in the program, which is an alternative to traditional criminal probation.

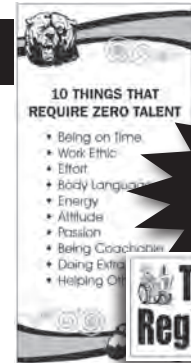
The goals of the DWI Court are to increase public safety by addressing alcoholism as a root cause of impaired driving, helping participants remain clean and sober, reducing alcohol and drug-related crime, and reducing expensive incarceration costs.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, repeat DWI offenders graduating from DWI Courts were up to 65% less likely to be rearrested for a new DWI offense.

For those who need a higher level of care, RiverView Recovery also provides Intensive Outpatient treatment and Relapse Prevention.

RiverView has recovery locations in Crookston (218.281.9511), East Grand Forks (218.230.0787), Thief River Falls (218.681.8019), and Roseau (218.463.3447). For information on specific services in each location, go to www.river-viewhealth.org and look under the Chemical Dependency tab.

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Fish species signal potential for delisting Sand Hill River stretch

FERTILE — The return of redhorse species to a stretch of the Sand Hill River in Polk County reflects improving trends that could lead to removal from the state’s impaired waters list as early as 2026.

“Overall, things are looking much improved in terms of fish passage,” Murphy Steininger, who led the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency monitoring crew and reviewed the results, said in November. “We’ve definitely documented some improvements.”

A lack of redhorse, suckers and other large-bodied species contributed to the fish-based Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) score that landed a 62-mile-long stretch of the Sand Hill River on the state’s impaired waters list in 2014. It’s also impaired for aquatic recreation because of E. coli.

Fertile is at the midpoint of the 32-mile-long downstream segment showing improvement. Removing the IBI impairment could be proposed for all or part of that downstream segment, where 2011 monitoring turned up no large fish species. Since then, 25 rock riffles and four rock arch rapids have replaced four dams west of Fertile on the Sand Hill River, a Red River tributary.

The \$1.6 million riffle and rapids project — backed by a Clean Water Fund grant the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources awarded to the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, a match from the Sand Hill River Watershed District, a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Heritage Fund grant and an Enbridge Ecofootprint grant — followed 20 years of watershed-wide work by local, state and federal partners.

The Sand Hill River Watershed District started investigating ways to restore the fishery in 2003. Backed by a DNR grant, the first projects — a new road crossing west of Beltrami and box culverts west of Fertile — finished in 2007.

Ten years later, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers modified four failing drop structures built in the 1950s to control flooding. The Clean Water Fund-supported work built upon that \$7 million ecosystem restoration project, which drew from nearly \$5 million in US-ACE dollars and \$1.9 million in Outdoor Heritage Funds. The USACE designed and managed construction of the project; the watershed district assumed jurisdiction over operation and maintenance.

“The fish are back, and that’s huge,” said West Polk SWCD Manager Nicole Bernd. “We were able to restore the fish



Clean Water Funds from BWSR supported a project on the Sand Hill River east of Beltrami designed to stabilize head-cutting and allow fish passage across 9-plus miles of channelized segments of the river in Polk County. Other partners included the West Polk SWCD, the MPCA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Enbridge. Additional funding came from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Photo Credit: Ann Wessel, BWSR

habitat, the fish life in that stretch of river.”

The first redhorse appeared in the MPCA’s 2018 monitoring. Since then, three redhorse species have appeared consistently, and the overall number of fish has increased. From 2011 to 2023, the number of overall species recorded increased from 16 to 21.

“The fish community results and composition in the Fertile area seem to be much improved compared to 2011. Our recent samples have documented several larger migratory species that we expect to see in a healthy river of this size,” Steininger said.

“It’s not sturgeon, so it’s not going to get quite the same attention, but it’s still a really cool thing that you now have these fish moving this far upriver. And it’s a direct result of work that they’ve been doing,” Steininger said of work within the watershed.

The MPCA monitors most stations once every 10 years, part of its routine water-quality assessment to determine the need for protection and restoration. Within the 32-mile-long stretch of the Sand Hill River with Fertile at its midpoint, IBI scores are improving at each one of the three monitoring stations.

The westernmost of those, upstream about 5 river miles from the rock riffles and 35 river miles from the Red River, is a long-term monitoring station from which the MPCA routinely collects samples every two years. The most recent sampling, in July 2022, turned up 13 silver redhorse, 10 golden redhorse and four shorthead redhorse. The presence of redhorse species significantly improves three of the 12 metrics used to calculate IBI scores: the percentage of suckers, darters and sculpin; the percentage of pollution-intolerant insectivore species; and the percentage of pollution-intolerant female fish whose reproductive age is at least 3 years old.

Steininger described those metrics as the “catalysts of the increased IBI performance in recent years.”

Meeting water-quality standards for fish-based IBI on the Sand Hill River requires a score of 47 or higher — a threshold surpassed at the long-term monitoring station during the

past five samplings: one in 2022, two in 2021, and one each in 2018 and 2016. The 2022 score was 68.

The two sites farther upstream also showed improving trends in the number of species and number of fish, but to a lesser extent. The trends prompted follow-up sampling in 2023. Those initial scores, which await confirmation, do not meet water-quality standards independently. But the improvements could bolster the case for the MPCA to recommend delisting the entire 32-mile stretch.

“It’s absolutely wonderful,” Bernd said of the positive trends. “The Sand Hill River, along with the other main rivers in the Red River Valley, are some of the few recreational areas for fishing. And it’s good fishing. A lot of people see it as just a ditch, but really, it’s a river.”

Smallmouth bass are the most common sportfish to turn up in samples, but Steininger also sees the occasional walleye and Northern pike.

“It’s definitely helping out

the sportfish — walleye, bass, even catfish. It helps everything. It helps the whole ecosystem,” Steininger said.

MPCA Environmental Specialist Scott Schroeder, whose territory includes the Sand Hill, Buffalo, Upper Red and Otter Tail river watersheds, said the riffle project has captured attention throughout the region.

“I hear people talking about how they themselves, or their family members — their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews — are going out fishing on the river, in places where you couldn’t catch fish previously. And they’re having success and having fun fishing on the Sand Hill River, which they couldn’t have done (previously) because of the old drop structures,” Schroeder said.

While recreational opportunities have brought more anglers and paddlers to the area, Bernd said word-of-mouth about the Sand Hill River project has brought more landowners into the SWCD office seeking erosion-control solutions. The Clean Water Fund-backed project was designed to curb streambank erosion and stabilize the channel — improvements that benefit water quality. (Elsewhere in the watershed, the East Polk SWCD has worked with landowners on Clean Water Fund-backed erosion control projects that curb sediment-loading.)

“All of our work is based on voluntary conservation,” Bernd said. “That (project) has made landowners more aware. They’re more apt to ask for assistance.”

Strong partnerships forged on the Sand Hill River project — which involved staff from the SWCD and watershed district, DNR ecological services and BWSR, plus the USACE — have accelerated water-quality work throughout the region.

“Because we had already collaborated with our partners through the riffles project, it was so easy to come to the table to work on One Watershed, One Plan because those relationships had been established. We had trust built,” said April Swenby, Sand Hill River Watershed District administrator.

Bernd applied for the Clean Water Fund grant and facilitated the riffles project — an experience she said prepared her to facilitate One Watershed, One Plan planning for the Wild Rice-Marsh River, Middle Snake-Tamarack River and Sand Hill River watersheds.

“I’m not afraid of asking people to be a part of something bigger than themselves. I myself don’t hesitate anymore. And I myself have learned to find the right people to engage,” Bernd said.

The Sand Hill River Water-

shed District applied for the Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. Its engineering firm, Houston Engineering, worked with the USACE on the dam removal, and oversaw the riffles design, permitting and construction.

Remaining Outdoor Heritage Funds allowed the watershed district to work with the DNR to remove additional barriers to fish passage: a perched culvert on Kittleson Creek, a tributary west of Fertile; the Sand Hill Lake dam near Fosston, which was replaced with rock arch rapids in 2020; and the Poissant Bridge, which was on the verge of sliding into the river in 2021 when it was removed and rock riffles were installed at the site in Fertile. By the time work finished, a total of 33 riffles had been installed within the project area.

Ecosystem enhancements earned the Sand Hill River Watershed District the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (now Minnesota Watersheds) 2021 Project of the Year Award.

Now, Swenby said a project team is investigating a potential Sand Hill River ecosystem restoration centered on a 3-mile stretch in Liberty and Reese townships.

“I think that we have a lot more opportunity to continue what we’ve already started,” Swenby said. “In our One Watershed, One Plan, that stretch from where we started the riffles going all the way to Nielsville has been determined a priority area. We have a lot of ideas, and we believe that there is a lot of opportunity out there for growth and improvement.”

Ten years from now, Bernd said she hoped to see continued water-quality improvements in the Sand Hill River watershed.

“I want the whole Sand Hill River to come off the impaired waters list. But I also want to continue working with the watershed district and other partners on other needs or assessments along the Sand Hill,” Bernd said. “The Sand Hill project was an excellent steppingstone to continue conservation, water-quality and wildlife habitat work.”

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources’ mission is to improve and protect the state’s water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Thirty-three percent of sales tax revenue from the Legacy Amendment, which Minnesota voters passed in 2008, is allocated to the Clean Water Fund. Clean Water Funds may only be spent to protect, enhance or restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams, and to protect groundwater.

Six from area receive Minnesota 9-man all-state football honors

Grand Forks Herald
By Tom Miller

Six players from the Grand Forks Herald coverage area have been named to the Minnesota 9-man all-state football team, which was selected by league coaches last week.

Area selections include Fertile-Beltrami’s Caiden Swenby and Isaiah Wright, Goodridge-Grygla’s Lewis Jones and Blake Rychlock, Win-E-Mac’s Ryan Kangas and Clearbrook-Gonvick’s Alex Churness.

Kittson County Central’s Morgan Muir was the lone area honorable mention selection.

Fertile-Beltrami advanced to the state semifinals. Swenby, a 6-foot-3, 185-pound senior quarterback, threw for a school-record 1,455 yards on 85-for-124 passing with 13 touchdowns to three interceptions.

For a career, Swenby has thrown for more than 2,500 yards, 28 touchdowns and six interceptions. As a safety on defense, Swenby has a conference record with 11 career interceptions.

Swenby and the Falcons lost just three games across the last three seasons, advancing to the state championship game once and the state semifinals twice.

Swenby is a Minnesota-Crookston basketball signee.

Wright, a 6-1, 185-pound junior running back, ran for 1,655 yards and 27 touchdowns. He also caught 20 balls for 405 yards and four touchdowns. For a career, Wright has more than 3,500 rushing yards, which is a school record.

Rychlock is a senior quarterback-defensive end for Grygla-Goodridge, the Minnesota Section 8 champions.

He ran for 414 yards and six touchdowns, while throwing for 899 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Defensively, Rychlock had 76 tackles and seven sacks. He was named the District 9 West Defensive Player of the Year.

Jones is a running back-safety for Goodridge-Grygla. As a senior, he ran for 764 yards, eight touchdowns and an average of 8.5 yards. He also caught 21 passes for 290 yards and four touchdowns.

On defense, Jones had 80 tackles and three interceptions to bump his career total to 11.

Jones had four kickoff return touchdowns as he was a two-time District 9 Special Teams Player of the Year.

Kangas is a 6-4, 185-pound senior running back-wide receiver for the Patriots.

Kangas ran 73 times for 761 yards and nine touchdowns despite missing five games due to injury. He also had 14 catches for 158 yards and two touchdowns.

Kangas is committed to play at Bemidji State.

Churness is a 5-10, 175-pound senior running back-linebacker for Clearbrook-Gonvick, which finished 7-4 in 2023.

Churness ended the year with 145 carries for 1,140 yards and 21 touchdowns.

He had 105.5 tackles on defense including 11.0 tackles for loss.

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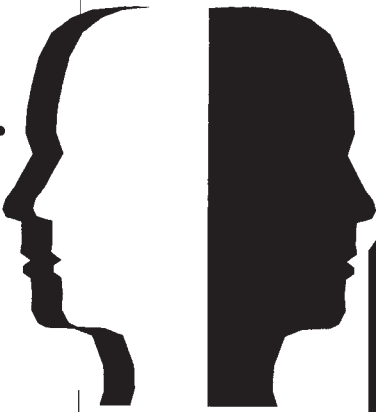
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