



Tri County Canary

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



Deep snow banks of 1996-97.

Knock on Wood, No Big Snowstorms Yet!

By Eric Mickelson
People who live in Minnesota or all the midwest region of the United States probably have a horrific snow storm they remember. The winter of 1996-97 was a year with much snow leading to the flood of '97 in Grand Forks and other places in the Red River Valley. I know we have all probably heard people talk about the Armistice Day Storm of 1940. Throughout the midwest the fall of 1940 temperatures were above normal. November 11, 1940, began with mild temperatures and blue skies. The arrival of a low pressure system made things change. The weather was so nice duck hunters had headed out in sleeveless shirts to enjoy a day of hunting. During the late morning and early afternoon temperatures plunged into the single digits. Rain turned to sleet and snow. Twelve duck hunters were trapped on an island near St. Paul on the Mississippi River. Rescue efforts were hampered by gale force winds and the hunters froze to death. Forty-nine duck hunters

died in Minnesota as a result of the storm. There were 20 foot drifts in Willmar, MN. Over a million turkeys were killed in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and other states. Snowfall in Duluth, MN, was over 28 inches. One of the most severe blizzards on record was the March of 1966 blizzard. Some places received wind gusts of up to 70 mph and up to 38 inches of snow! In Minnesota at least 9 people were killed because of the storm and 5 lost their lives in North Dakota. Tens of thousands of livestock died across the Great Plains as a result of the storm. Transportation became impossible, with schools and businesses were shut down across the area, power and telephone service outages lasted for many days. Different from many of the "killer blizzards" which had earlier occurred in the Northern Plains (Like the Schoolhouse Blizzard of 1888, Armistice Day Blizzard, Nov. 11, 1940) many simple storms or blizzards have graced our great state. Here was perhaps one of the worst blizzards and strongest storms. On January 10-12, of 1975, perhaps one of the worst blizzards and strongest storms occurred in Minnesota.. The storm closed most roads in the state, some for 11 days, 20 ft drifts. One to two feet of snow fell. Trains were stuck at Willmar, and 15,000 head of livestock were lost! Many low barometric pressure records were set (28.55 at Duluth), with winds up to 80 mph as the storm intensified over the state, 14 people died in that blizzard, and 21 more from heart attacks. Later that same year, November 10-11, 1975, a severe winter storm with 71 mph winds created 12 to 15 ft waves on Lake Superior. This storm is the one famous for sinking the Edmund Fitzgerald. Storm intensified as it moved over the area. The threats of winter storms are real, but we are happy so far during the winter of 2024-25 not to have any big storms to report! Let's cross our fingers. We can enjoy our winter activities ... but leave out the big storms!

Intercultural Creative Circles begins January 8

Bemidji, MN - Intercultural Creative Circles will resume at Watermark Art Center on Wednesdays in January and February beginning January 8, from 11am - 3pm. Bead Artist Martina Isham will kick off the series with bead work on January 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2025. Sharon Nordrum will lead on February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2025. Learn how to start a project or bring a project you've already started. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Drop in only, no fee or registration required. Participants must provide their own supplies. (Images are courtesy of Martina Isham.) Watermark is accessible, free and open to the public. Winter open hours are Tuesday through Saturday (closed Sunday & Monday) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information regarding the Intercultural Creative Circles, exhibits, classes, or events contact 218-444-7570 or visit watermarkartcenter.org.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota, through a grant from the Region 2 Arts Council, thanks to a

legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Minnesota DNR looking to fill 200 paid summer internships

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is looking for passionate and dedicated students interested in learning more about natural resource careers through paid summer internships. DNR summer interns receive valuable training, develop key skills and contribute in important ways to the department's mission of working with Minnesotans to conserve and manage natural resources, provide outdoor recreational opportunities, and provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. The DNR has a wide variety

of internship opportunities throughout the state, including in fisheries, forestry, park operations, watercraft inspections, communications and more. Interns work 20 to 40 hours per week and receive a competitive wage of \$19 per hour. To be considered for an internship, fulfilling an academic requirement or receiving academic credit is required. To review the internship opportunities and apply for those of interest, visit the state of Minnesota careers website (mn.gov/mmb/careers/). •Select "Search for jobs" from the toolbar. •In the External Applicants

box, select "Search for jobs now" and select "View all jobs." •Filter by "Natural Resources Dept" in the Agency category and "Student Worker and Internships" in the Job Family category. Internship applications will be accepted through Jan. 31. Positions will start in May and June. Applicants seeking employment with the DNR who are not eligible for an internship should regularly check the website for seasonal and year round opportunities. The DNR is an equal opportunity and veteran-friendly employer. We celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Charter Bus heading to St. Paul for State March for Life

Join thousands of pro-life Minnesotans for an unforgettable remembrance of lives lost and a compelling call to rebuild a Minnesota where every human life is valued and loved. Chapter 45 of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life will sponsor a bus to the state March for Life in St. Paul Wednesday, January 22nd. The theme for this year's Walk is Love Them Both. Fetal models lost to abortion during 2023 will be on display representing the 14,000 babies at all stages of prenatal life up to and including 9 months. The bus will depart from the Cenex gas station south of Bemidji at the junction of highways #71 and #2 at 7:30 a.m. and return the same day. Please pack a light lunch for the way down, and water will be provided. A stop for dinner in Little Falls on the way back is planned, making the return back approximately 7:30 p.m. The bus only holds 50 so it is recommended people call and reserve spots on the bus early; contact Phil Ehlke at QFM radio (218-444-1071) who is helping to facilitate the bus charter. Cost for the bus will be a free will offering. **March for Life in Fosston** Chapter 45 will also sponsor a March for Life in Fosston on Saturday, January 25th. Meet at the Hugo Parking Lot at 9:15 a.m. and walk at 9:30 a.m. to the Embassy Center where a program and light lunch will follow. Todd Lundell will share

why we walk, highlights from 2024 and the local Chapter 45 plans for the upcoming year. For more information about the Fosston March, call Todd at 218-431-0156. **March for Life in Bagley** In Bagley on Saturday, January 18th the Clearwater County MCCL will sponsor a March for Life which will meet at the Courthouse at 9:30 a.m. and start the walk at 9:45 a.m. to St. Joseph's Catholic Church. A program starting at about 10 a.m. will feature Don Parker from the State MCCL office sharing legislative action from the last session and tips for future life-saving work; bars and coffee will be served following the program.

First Friday of 2025 at the Bagley Legion

By Pamela French
The first Friday, like every first Friday, the Bagley American Legion was frying

up Walleye fillets with all the trimmings. Sub-zero temps outside had attendance kinda light but it didn't stop Sandy



Sandy Mathison in the Legion kitchen.

Mathison from having a little potato fun! Sandy works with kitchen manager Joyce Moen. Friday Bingo attendance was up from the prior week, where there were not enough players to go for the jackpots, but the low temps didn't deter bingo players this week. There were plenty of players to keep the jackpots in play. No one won the \$500 in 56#, so next Friday it will be 57# for the \$500. Come on over to the Bagley American Legion the second Friday for Rib Eye Steak and Shrimp, plus side items complete this amazing meal! Dinner is served from 5-7pm, or until sells out. Then play bingo at 7. Then on Saturdays, the Legion has Bar Bingo starting at 1:45 pm. The format similar but there are other offerings to mix it up. Much fun is had by all! Friday dinners at the Bagley Legion has a consistent pattern so you have an idea what's cooking. The third Friday is Joyce's BBQ Baby Back Ribs. The fourth Friday is the ever so popular Build a Burger or Taco Salad! If there are 5 Fridays, burgers/taco salad will be on 5th Friday and that 4th Friday is "cooks choice" (beef or pork roast mashed potatoes w/ gravy with all the fixings have been an offering in the past and yup it sells out fast! It so happens January 2025 has 5 Fridays!! It will be fun to see what is served on that fourth Friday!

USDA Accepting Applications to Help Low-Income Individuals and Families Buy or Repair Homes

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area. The Direct Home Loan program offers financing to qualified very-low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability. The program is available in rural communities of generally 35,000 people or less. The maximum loan amount is \$40,000 at a one percent interest rate, repayable for a 20-year term and can be used to improve or modernize homes and do essential repairs. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health or safety hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace. Contact USDA Rural Development at USDAHousingMN@usda.gov for more information. United States Department of Agriculture 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Phone (218) 847- 9392 ext 3296.

MnDOT to clear trees along Highway 87 west of Hubbard beginning January 13

BEMIDJI, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Transportation will begin clearing trees and vegetation within the state right of way of Highway 87 between Highway 71 and Hubbard. Starting January 13 through early February, motorists may encounter slow-moving equipment and potential shoulder and lane closures where crews are working. Motorists should slow down and use caution on Highway 87 during these maintenance operations. Residents and property owners along the highway are reminded to remove any remaining right-of-way encroachments (i.e. fences, fence posts, signs, planters, etc.), or risk damage and/or removal by the contractor. Mailboxes and fire numbers are exempt and do not need to be removed or relocated. The right-of-way work is in preparation for this year's road construction project on Highway 87 from Highway 71 to Hubbard which is scheduled to begin in May, 2025. MnDOT

plans to resurface the 4.6 mile stretch of Highway 87 as well as replace the culvert at Long Lake Dam. For more information,

please visit the project website: www.mndot.gov/d2/projects/hwy87-hubbard



The snow pack and hard freeze makes it challenging for birds to find food. So, on Saturday January 11, the Bagley Public Library will be hosting the making of "Pine Cone Bird Feeders". This class is open to children ages 3-12yrs. The class is from 10am to 12pm. There is no cost to attend this event.

U of M Cow/Calf Days Event to be held in Fosston on January 21

McIntosh, MN. (1/5/2025) University of Minnesota Extension will be holding the 52nd annual Cow/Calf Days workshop in Fosston on Tuesday, January 21st starting at 5:30 pm at Ventures Bar & Grill.

This event continues to be the leading information, technology, and research outlet for cow/calf producers in the state of Minnesota. This year's event will feature information on: The Beef Checkoff Facts and Fiction, price protection for cattle markets, first defense for calf scours, and a beef research update. The corresponding tradeshow will feature vendors with new information, technology, financial opportunities, and products with a wide-array of practical uses for the operators in the cow-calf sector.

The program is directed at cow/calf producers, allied industry representatives, and is open to the public. A meal will be served with the program and a registration fee of \$10 per person (to be paid at the door via cash or check) will include a meal, proceedings book, and program materials. The program is approximately three hours long.

Please RSVP by January 15th by contacting Heather Dufault at the Polk County Extension Office at 218-280-



1129, poh10024@umn.edu or register online at: z.umn.edu/FosstonCCD2025

If you have any questions about the event or would like to be an event sponsor, please contact Heather Dufault at the Polk County Extension Office at 218-280-1129. For more information on more U of M Extension Beef Team events or Cow/

Calf topics, please visit: www.extension.umn.edu/beef

For more news from U of M Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news or contact Extension Communications at extnews@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Save the Date: Bemidji State's Opera Night Gala Coming February 20

Bemidji State University's School of Music brings opera to the North Woods for its annual Opera Night Gala, set for February 20 at Bemidji's Sanford Center.

The Opera Night Gala features solo and ensemble performances by School of Music students, faculty and guest artists performing a variety of opera, Broadway and other repertoire. The event encourages attendees to dress to delight, with cocktail attire optional but not required. The evening begins with a cocktail hour and includes a catered meal.

This year's meal options are slow-roasted beef or chicken cordon bleu, with a dessert option of cheesecake or chocolate truffle mousse cake.

This year's featured guest artist will be Dr. Jeremy Kelly, assistant director of voice at Western Kentucky University. A baritone, Kelly's previous operatic experiences include performances with Opera Pacific and opera troupes from coast-to-coast including Seattle; Omaha, Nebraska; Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo, Ohio; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and in Florida and Kentucky. He also has performed in Bogotá, Colombia and with the New

York City Ballet.

Last year's Opera Night Gala featured more than 20 performances presented across four acts, including ensemble numbers, solo performances and a duet. Guest artists included Emily Bergeron, a graduate vocal performance student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Josh Kohl, a renowned tenor who has performed around the globe, including several years as a member of the ensemble at Theater Freiburg in Germany.

Opera Night Tickets

Tickets for the Opera Night Gala are \$100 and are on sale now through the Hometown Fan app. Meal and dessert choices can be made when purchasing tickets. An additional "Date-Night Package" includes a bottle of wine, commemorative stemless glasses, chocolate from Chocolates Plus of Bemidji and a thank-you bag, is available for an additional \$50.

Hometown Fan is available as a free download on the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

At Bemidji State University, we educate people to lead inspired lives. Located amid the lakes and forests of northern Minnesota, BSU occupies a wooded campus along the shore

of Lake Bemidji and enrolls around 4,100 students. Bemidji State offers more than 60 undergraduate areas of study and 9 graduate degrees encompassing arts, sciences and select pre-professional programs. Our Shared Fundamental Values include civic engagement and leadership, international and multicultural understanding, belief in the power of liberal arts, and environmental stewardship. BSU is a member of the Minnesota State system of colleges and universities. For more, visit bemidjistate.edu or find us at BemidjiState on your favorite social media networks.

Fosston Police Chief, Jim Juve

On January 2, 2025 the Fosston Police Department responded to the report of a weapon located at the Fosston Elementary School. A weapon was located and seized an 11 year old male suspect was detained. This incident is under investigation and no other information is being released at this time.

Fosston Police Department
Fosston, MN

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M State announces Fall 2024 Academic Honors

(January 2, 2025) - Minnesota State Community and Technical College named 602 students to its Presidents List and 577 students to its Deans List for the fall 2024 semester.

Students on the Presidents List earned a grade point average of 4.0 while completing a minimum of six college-level credits and 75% of the courses in which they enrolled for the semester.

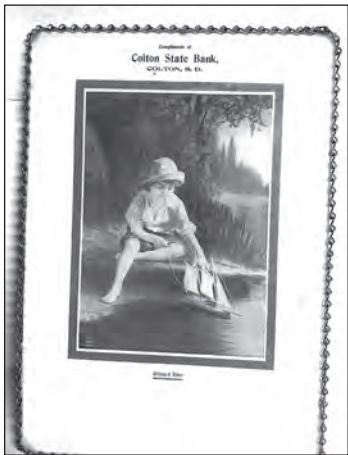
Students on the Deans List earned a grade point average of 3.50 to 3.99 while completing a minimum of six college-level credits and 75% of the courses in which they enrolled for the semester.

Local students named to the fall 2024 M State Presidents List and Deans List are:

Oklee, MN: Natalie Lindemoen, Dental Hygiene-AAS, President's List.



JohnRogerEggers.com, envision@paulbunyan.net, 20269 Irvine Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601, 218-766-9009



My parents introduced me to chain pictures many years ago. They were avid antique collectors and found it comforting to gather things that were commonplace in their homes while growing up during the first half of the 20th Century.

Whenever my father had some time off, they would visit the mom and pop antique shops that once proliferated rural Minnesota. These were the days before eBay, which was the biggest reason for the decline of those out of the way quaint shops. They represented a part of Americana we will never see again. Yes, antique malls are nice but they will never replace the adventure of visiting a shop located on a gravel road, in someone's porch, a basement or a remodeled old shed.

My parents looked for a variety of things, especially primitives like butter molds, kerosene lamps and pretty German dishes. What they especially liked were chain pictures. A chain picture is a piece of glass that has a picture applied to the backside, similar to a reverse painting. Chain pictures date to the early 1900s.

Around the edge of the glass is a brass chain. Chain pictures may have been easier and cheaper to make but also easier to break. For this reason, they are scarce.

Be careful in handling them because they are fragile. They come in different sizes, usually 8 by 10 inches or smaller. The value is increased if they advertise a particular store or product. The chain picture shown here compliments of the Coltan State Bank in Coltan, South Dakota, is worth between \$50 to \$75. Yes, they were often given away to their good customers.

My parents enjoyed hunting for chain pictures and if you like old prints and pictures, you should add one or two to your collection. Caution, don't drop them. They are often one of a kind.

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GONVICK AMERICAN LEGION

Fatal single vehicle crash

On the afternoon of 01/04/25, Wyatt James Sauve (25) of Red Lake Falls died in a single-vehicle crash in Louisville Township. Mr. Sauve was driving a 2018 Chevy Malibu, eastbound on CR. #13, approximately ½ mile west of its intersection with CR. #9, approximately 6 miles northwest of Red Lake Falls. The vehicle left the roadway, entered the south ditch and rolled several times. A Red Lake County deputy, the Red

Lake Falls Ambulance, the Red Lake Falls Fire Department and Minnesota State Patrol responded to the scene. Mr. Sauve was ejected from the vehicle, and he was pronounced dead at the scene. The vehicle was totally damaged and was towed from the scene. The Minnesota State Patrol is assisting with the crash investigation which remains ongoing.

Mitch Bernstein, Red Lake County Sheriff: 01/06/25

2025 Pacesetter Youth Basketball State Tournament features Northwest Region Playoffs

Monday, January 6 - The Pacesetter Youth Basketball State Championships for grades 4-7 will hold Northwest Region Playoffs in Bemidji February 22-23. Boys' and girls' teams in grades 4 & 6 will play Saturday, February 22, and boys' and girls' teams in grades 5 & 7 will play Sunday, February 23.

Teams will each play 3-4 games on one day. Each regional grade/gender bracket is limited to the first 16 teams to enter. Teams may register at www.pacesettersports.net.

Pacesetter Sports will offer region playoffs for grades 4-7 at five sites in 2025:

Southeast - Byron/Waseca - March 8-9; Southwest - Redwood Falls - March 8-9; Central - St. Cloud - March 15-16; Northeast - Mountain Iron/Grand Rapids - February 15-16; Northwest - Bemidji - February 22-23

Five region champions and three wild card selections will be invited to play in the Pace-

setter 8-team Minnesota State Championships for grades 4-7 in St. Cloud on Saturday-Sunday, March 29-30.

Minnesota boys' and girls' teams in grades 8-9 will be able to register directly for the over-all Minnesota state championships in St. Cloud on March 29-30.

The Minnesota state champions and runners-up will be invited to play in the 2025 Pacesetter Great Five-State Championships at the Target Center in Minneapolis against teams from Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota and North Dakota.

Pacesetter Sports has been providing the Minnesota youth basketball state championships since 1993. Pacesetter has also been providing basketball and volleyball camps and tournaments since 1980 and publishing Minnesota Basketball News since 1994.

-Submitted by Jeff McCarron, Pacesetter Sports owner/director

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

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ASSISTANT TRACK COACH 2025

The Clearbrook-Gonvick School District is seeking an assistant track coach for the upcoming 2025 season beginning on March 10th. Requirements of the position include being present for all practices and track meets, teaching and having knowledge surrounding the fundamentals of the sport, being a positive role model for our athletes, and be able to pass a background check. Salary for this position is \$2,880 for the season. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to: Melissa Weems, HR 16770 Clearwater Lk Rd. Clearbrook, MN 56634 218-776-3112 Ext. 105 Email: mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us



R43-47C

Red Lake County Accountant/Administrative Assistant/Safety Clerk

Position is responsible for all accounting and administrative functions of the Highway Department, maintains inventory control, works with computer programs and software, performs Safety Clerk duties and works with the public. Position is full-time with benefits. Wage range is \$24.20 to \$31.48 per hour depending on experience. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent; 2-4 years of post-secondary education in Accounting, Business, or related field and 2-4 years related experience; or an equivalent combination of education and related experience. Experience using a computer and willing to learn various computer software programs is required. Applications and more information are available at www.co.red-lake.mn.us/employment. Questions call the HR office at 218-253-2590 or email hr@co.red-lake.mn.us. Applications will be accepted through January 10, 2025. EOE

O42-43C

THIBERT CHEVROLET is looking for a FULL-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT

We are willing to be flexible with the right candidate and would consider part-time to start. As an Office Assistant, you will be responsible for providing professional, courteous, and exceptional service to our loyal clientele. **What you will be doing?** • Greet and assist customers who enter the showroom • Answer and direct incoming calls and inquiries • Assist the Parts, Service, Autobody, and Sales Departments with various clerical duties, as needed • Assist the Office Manager and the General Manager with various clerical duties, as needed • Daily banking deposits and bookkeeping duties, as needed • Training to eventually learn all of the Office Manager's duties **Who are we looking for?** • A team player who is focused on providing exceptional customer service • Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal • Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced work environment • Previous accounting or bookkeeping skills are a plus, but not required To apply please contact Gary or Derek Thibert at 218-253-2171, or stop in to Thibert Chevrolet Inc. in Red Lake Falls.

R411C

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE ART TEACHER

Job Title: Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher Location: Win-E-Mac School
Position Type: Temporary, Full-Time
Duration: February, 2025 - April, 2025
Job Description: Win-E-Mac is seeking a creative and enthusiastic Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher to join our team. The ideal candidate will inspire students to explore their creativity and develop their artistic skills through engaging and meaningful art education. This position will cover maternity leave. **Key Responsibilities:** • Plan and deliver high-quality art instruction for students in grades K-12. • Develop and implement lesson plans aligned with curriculum standards. • Foster a supportive and inclusive classroom environment where students can express themselves artistically. • Encourage students to explore various art forms, techniques, and materials. • Assess and evaluate student progress, providing constructive feedback. • Maintain an organized and safe classroom space, including managing art supplies. • Collaborate with colleagues to integrate art with other subject areas when applicable. • Communicate effectively with parents/guardians regarding student progress. Qualifications: • Bachelor's degree in Art Education, Fine Arts, or a related field. • Valid Minnesota teaching license in Art (preferred) • Experience teaching or working with students in an educational setting is preferred. • Proficiency in various art techniques and mediums. • Strong classroom management and organizational skills. • Ability to engage and inspire students of all skill levels. • Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. **How to Apply:** Interested candidates should submit the following materials: • Resume • Cover letter • Copy of teaching certification • References Please send a letter of interest and a completed application to Principal Casey Reiersen at creierson@wemschools.org or Win-E-Mac School, 23130 345th ST SE, MN 5-6535. This will be open until filled. Phone: 218-563-2900. Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted until filled. ISD #2609 is an Equal Opportunity Employer



M42-43C

THIBERT CHEVROLET is looking for a LIGHT DUTY TECHNICIAN

whose responsibilities will include detailing new and used vehicles, maintaining buildings and grounds, including the new and used vehicle parking lots, and other various maintenance duties, as needed. This person will work closely with our Service and Sales Teams in assisting our customers and making sure that their experience is a positive one. Applicants should be motivated, self-sufficient, and dependable. To apply please contact Gary or Derek Thibert at 218-253-2171, or stop in to Thibert Chevrolet Inc. in Red Lake Falls.

R411C

CLEARWATER COUNTY ASSESSOR CLERK

Applications are being accepted for an Assessor Clerk position, under the general supervision of the County Assessor. The Assessor Clerk develops and maintains clerical functions, and assists the assessing staff in support and customer service. This position is responsible for record keeping, filing, answering public inquiries as to property tax valuations data entry, work processing and general office support. Minimum requirements, high school graduate or equivalent. Highly prefer someone with previous land records management experience, excellent computer skills, detail-oriented and great communication skills. Must possess a valid Minnesota Class "D" driver license. Applications may be obtained from the Clearwater County Assessor's Office located on the 2nd floor of the courthouse or on the county website at www.co.clearwater.mn.us. This is a full time, 40 hours per week position. Starting Salary range is \$20.61-26.67 with full benefits. Applications must be submitted to the Clearwater County Assessor's Office no later than January 10, 2024



R42-43C

Clearwater County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CLEARWATER COUNTY DEPUTY ASSESSOR

Applications are being accepted for a Deputy Assessor position, under the general supervision of the County Assessor. This position performs a variety of property appraisal tasks including: viewing, inspection, valuation, and classification of property for tax purposes, updating department records pertaining to current assessments and property data and responding to information requests regarding property value, classification, and taxes. This position is also responsible for responding to concerns regarding assessments and interpreting regulations and statutes to seek and resolve disagreements and disputes, reviewing and analyzing Clearwater County property sales data as a resource for determine assessments and utilizing maps and other technologies to complete assessment work. Applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent and minimum of 2 years additional education; be a Certified Minnesota Assessor (CMA) or have a minimum 2 year's assessment, real estate or appraiser experience preferred but not required. Must have a valid driver's license. Experience using a computer and Microsoft Office is required. Must be proficient in computer skills and willing to learn various software applications. Starting salary is \$26.76-34.66 an hour with full time benefits. Applications must be submitted to Allen Paulson, Clearwater County Auditor-Treasurer no later than January 10, 2024. Applications may be obtained from the Clearwater County Service Center located on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse or on the website at www.co.clearwater.mn.us.



R42-43C

Clearwater County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Polk County Full-Time Employment Opportunities:

Clerk Typist Cashier III – License Center:
\$20.18 – \$25.56/hr. Position
Closes on Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Jury Attendant (Part-Time) – Sheriff's Office:
\$19.22 – \$24.34/hr. Position
Closes on Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Secretary/Bookkeeper – Environmental Services:
\$22.32 – \$28.27/hr. Position
Closes on Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Custodian I – Facilities:
\$20.18 – \$25.56/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Deputy Sheriff Patrol I - II – Sheriff's Office:
\$31.55 – \$42.36/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Engineering Technician – Highway:
\$26.99 – \$38.06/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Environmental Technician – Environmental Services:
\$26.08 – \$34.20/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Landfill Technician – Landfill:
\$23.44 – \$29.69/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Public Safety Telecommunicator – Sheriff's Office:
\$26.99 – \$34.20/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

Sort Line Operator I - II – Fosston:
\$18.57 – \$24.70/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

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318B-R

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Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to: Melissa Weems, HR 16770 Clearwater Lk Rd. Clearbrook, MN 56634 218-776-3112 Ext. 105 Email: mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us

R39-43C

EDITOR POSITION

The Oklee Herald is looking to fill the position of Editor. This position is Full-time and includes benefits and 401K. Various duties include, but not limited to:

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- Writing articles
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- Photography
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Knowledge in Adobe InDesign, Acrobat, Photoshop, Microsoft Word and Excel helpful.

Will train. Applications are available upon request, or submit application and resume to the Richards Publishing, PO Box 159, Gonvick, MN 56644. Contact Corrine at 218-487-5225 or email richards@gvtel.com for questions.



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M40-44C

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LCCMR announces expedited funding for monitoring highly
pathogenic avian influenza virus in Minnesota wildlife

Funding to come from Minnesota's lottery-generated Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

SAINT PAUL, MN (01/06/2025) (readMedia)-- Governor Walz on January 3, 2025, approved a recommendation from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for \$1,267,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) to address the novel and escalating threat posed to wildlife by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), commonly known as "bird flu," in Minnesota.

This support for the Wildlife Health Network, made possible through the LCCMR's Emerging Issues Account, will allow researchers at the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine to collaborate with state, federal, and tribal biologists, wildlife rehabilitation centers, zoos, the Humane Society's wildlife unit, and others to ramp up testing of HPAI in

wildlife and better understand the current threat beyond the state's wild and domestic bird populations.

LCCMR co-chair Nancy Gibson said, in a joint statement with fellow LCCMR co-chairs Rep. Rick Hansen and Sen. Fong Hawj, "Rapidly evolving threats like HPAI don't go on hiatus between funding cycles. We are grateful that the LCCMR can provide Minnesota's wildlife professionals with timely support from the ENRTF that allows them to do what they do best – putting their expertise to work bolstering Minnesota's immune system against HPAI."

HPAI, which project lead Dr. Arno Wuenschmann calls a "ticking time bomb" for animal and human health, is a virus that has historically affected wild and domestic bird populations. Previous outbreaks have ended within several months

of beginning. The current outbreak of HPAI, however, is already two years in duration and has spread beyond birds to domestic and wild mammals in Minnesota, including dairy cows, red foxes, black bear, and domestic cats, as well as to humans.

The LCCMR's Emerging Issues Account is for efforts addressing an unexpected and urgent need in an expedited manner, including environmental or disease issues where delay will threaten the viability of segments of the State's natural resources or human health. Requests for funds from the Emerging Issues Account follow a different process than the LCCMR's RFP and funding recommendation process. After recommendation by the commission, this request was sent to the Governor for approval. Funds may be spent upon approval of the project work plan.

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is a permanent dedicated fund in the Minnesota state treasury that was established by 77%

voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1988. The amendment directs forty percent of the net proceeds of the Minnesota State Lottery into the Trust Fund through the year 2050. Since 1991, approximately \$1.1 billion from the ENRTF has been spent on over 1,700 projects that protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources in every county of the state.

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources is made up of 5 state senators, 5 state representatives, and 7 citizen members. The function of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Minnesota State Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The LCCMR developed from a program initiated in 1963. Since then, approximately \$1.5 billion has been appropriated to over 2,600 projects recommended to protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources.



A substance use disorder (SUD) is a treatable, chronic disease characterized by a cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that the individual continues using the substance despite significant substance-related problems. In 2022, more than one in six Americans aged 12 or older reported experiencing a SUD.

SUDs can range in severity from mild to severe and can affect people of any race, gender, income level, or social class. A SUD can be applied to the following types of drugs:

- Alcohol
- Cannabis
- Hallucinogens
- Inhalants
- Opioids (Prescription and Illegal)

- Sedatives, hypnotics, or anxiolytics
- Stimulants and Psychostimulants

• Tobacco (nicotine)
• Other (unknown) substance
Addiction is a disease, not a character flaw. People experiencing SUDs have trouble controlling their drug use even though they know drugs are harmful.

Overcoming a SUD is not as simple as resisting the temptation to take drugs. Recovery may involve medication to help with cravings and withdrawal as well as different forms of therapy. It may even require checking into a rehabilitation facility.

Like many other chronic conditions, treatment is available for substance use disorders. While no single treatment method is right for everyone, recovery is possible, and help is available for patients with SUDs.

There are safe and effective ways to recover from SUDs. Finding the right treatment option can be the key to a successful recovery journey.

Outpatient counseling
Helps people understand addiction, their triggers, and their reasons for using drugs. This form of treatment can be done at a doctor's office or via telehealth appointment.

Inpatient rehabilitation
A full-time facility provides a supportive environment to help people recover without distractions or temptations.

Behavioral health care
Trained providers who help with mental health concerns.

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
MOUD can help with crav-

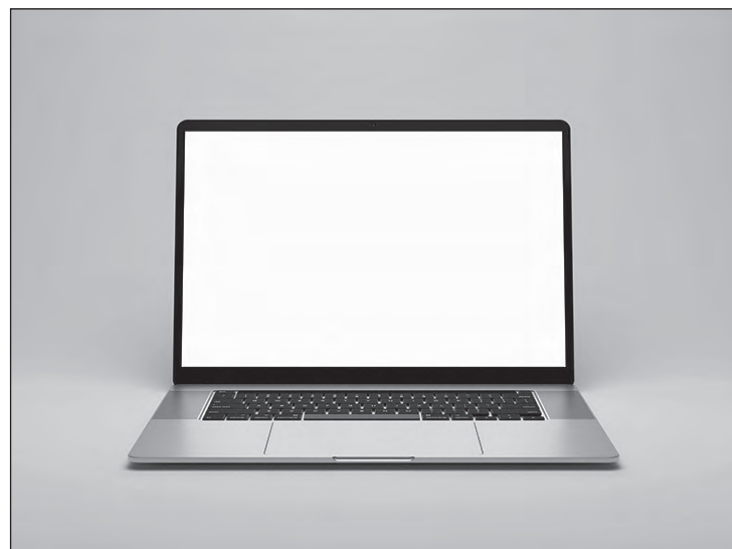
ings and withdrawal symptoms. MOUD is effective in helping people reduce illegal opioid use, stay in treatment longer, and reduce the risk of opioid-involved overdose. MOUD medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- Methadone
- Buprenorphine
- Naltrexone

Research has demonstrated that MOUD is effective in helping people recover from their OUD. It is important to find what works best each individual.

No one driving factor leads to SUD. Some people may use drugs to help cope with stress and trauma or to help with mental health issues. Some may develop a SUD after taking opioids that are prescribed to them by doctors. In any case, using drugs over time may cause changes in a person's brain, leading to intense cravings and continued use.

Some may view acknowledging and receiving treatment for an SUD as a sign of personal failure and weakness. The associated shame felt by patients and families can make it difficult to seek treatment. Finding a doctor who is comfortable discussing SUDs can help ensure long-term recovery.



Did you know?

Computers are vital for work or school. Computers can cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars for a basic model to upwards of \$3,000 for a top-of-the-line machine. Either way, purchasing a computer involves a considerable sum of money and buyers may wonder just how far that money will go in terms of the computer's longevity. According to the technology resource Nerds on Site®, the average life of a computer falls between three to eight years, and varies depending on the type of

the computer and how it is being used. A desktop computer tends to last around five years, while laptops have shorter lifespans because of the batteries needed to keep them running, damage that can occur when transporting the devices and heat buildup from inefficient cooling. Despite the relatively short lifespan of modern computers, users who emphasize proper care and maintenance can likely add years to the life expectancies of their devices.

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Ask a Trooper

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

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them may work and give you enough light to guide you off the road. If your headlights fail on a busy or lighted road, you will probably have enough light to guide you onto the shoulder. If all your lights fail on a dark, deserted road, slow down and keep your vehicle on the pavement until you can move safely onto the shoulder.

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 X @MSP-PIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).



Theology in the Trenches

By Kathleen Kjolhaug

The Ledger

The decorative wooden ledger lay in wait—as if it knew that one day, it would again be needed. As I reached the top shelf of the closet where it had been stashed, my fingers stroked the paint upon it. Norwegian Rosemaling was grandma's passion. Weekly she'd meet with those likeminded and paint away the hours they would.

The open book before me was dated 2001. Intentional were not only the brush strokes surrounding the wooden framed calendar, but what was written within the boxes each month. A red heart outlined the dates which were important. They were important to grandma because the family names meant something. You see, each heart represented birthdays or anniversaries and grandma didn't miss a one.

As I turned the pages, it was obvious that grandma didn't want me to forget them either. You see, I married into the fam-

ily and as I did, she was trying to pass on the generational importance of family.

A new babe will soon be born and whose birthday is not upon these pages as of yet. In fact, by the time you read this, number sixteen will have arrived as rumor has it, it's coming sooner than later. Because of this new one to come, I began turning the pages from the past to see who might have a possible birthday in December when our new baby will be born. It's always fun to find connections one way or another within family.

There were four possible ancestral birthdays our new little one might share that were written upon the pages in December. The first was Aunt Carol, next up was cousin Erick, then came Uncle Dean. However, right there in bigger and brighter letters, one name stood out. On December 25th, within a large red heart was the name Christ. Grandma's testimony of faith was clear. To the left of the boxed dates was a

space on each page where notes could be written—and grandma had written some. In fact, she'd written twelve notes, one on each page. I took note.

1. Happy New Year!!
2. You don't have to compromise to be recognized!
3. Don't criticize your neighbor unless you've walked a mile in his moccasins.
4. Happy Easter! God is so GOOD!
5. We love you all so very much! Dad/Mom
6. Count your Blessings!
7. America is so beautiful!
8. Some of us spend so much time on past mistakes there's no time for today!
9. God has His own plan and timing. Believe it!
10. Happy Halloween
11. Give Thanks and count your many Blessings!
12. Thanks, and Praise to Him who gives us everyone and everything!

Grandma's faith spoke. May it bear fruit as the generations read what was written. Amen.

How breed affects dogs' trainability

Every dog lover has a different set of criteria for what they look for in a dog. Some make size a priority, preferring a pooch who is small enough to be a constant companion. Others seek a dog that has shorter fur for less grooming upkeep. Still, some people prefer a breed that is known for flashy looks that will turn heads on neighborhood walks.

Trainability is another consideration when researching potential pet companions. Many veterinarians attest that positive reinforcement training is one of the tools to keep a dog happy, healthy and well-behaved. Training also can offset behavioral issues that may make spending time in and out of a home with a dog less enjoyable, thus reducing the chances the pet may be surrendered to a shelter. The American Kennel Club says that each dog breed has a distinct personality, instinctive drive and genetic heritage. These factors can affect trainability.

Highly trainable dog breeds

According to renowned dog researcher Dr. Stanley Coren, certain breeds are more trainable than others.

· **German shepherd:** There is a good reason this breed is regularly used for police and military work. The German shepherd is a workhorse and wants to please.

· **Border collie:** This breed can learn very fast and will be



eager to learn more.

· **Poodle:** Although that curly coat may lead a person to believe this breed is more fluff than brains, quite the opposite is true. Poodles are keen to work and willing to please.

· **Collie:** Collies are known for their unwavering devotion and loyalty, not to mention trainability.

· **Golden retriever and Labrador retriever:** Some of the most popular family dogs around, these retrievers tend to be gentle, friendly, trainable, and eager to please.

· **Rottweiler:** This imposing pup is a natural protector that wants a job to do. That makes the Rottie highly trainable.

Some dogs, such as hounds, beagles, huskies, and Akitas, are among the most challenging to train, according to experts. Such dogs' focus may be on sensing prey or doing other things they find fun, and not on a han-

dlar. But people should not grow discouraged if they have their hearts set on less-receptive-to-training breeds.

What about mixed breed dogs?

What can you expect if you have an Akita mixed with a golden retriever? Perhaps aloofness will mix with friendly exuberance and result in a mild-mannered pup. It often is challenging to determine the heritage of a mixed-breed dog with the hopes of gauging its willingness to be trained. "Mutts" tend to have more muted traits. However, if two highly trainable, active breeds comprise the DNA of a mixed-breed dog, that intense desire to work may be a negative in the home environment. Much like other factors regarding mixed-breed dogs, an owner won't know what he or she is getting until spending time with the dog over time.

Trainability is a factor people consider when picking a dog. Certain breeds may adapt to training more readily than others, but most dogs will learn the skills necessary to live peacefully with their human companions.

Did you know?

Glaucoma is an umbrella term used to characterize a group of eye diseases that can gradually diminish individuals' vision and eventually lead to blindness. The National Eye Institute says the symptoms are a result of damage to the optic nerve due to increased intraocular pressure. Treatments designed to reduce eye pressure can help to prevent further damage but will not reverse what already has occurred. Glaucoma can occur at any age, but it is much more common in older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates all people over the age of 60 have a higher risk of developing glaucoma. Glaucoma also is more common among Black people over the age of 40. The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends a more frequent eye exam schedule as individuals age to increase chances of early detection. People 65 and older should see an eye professional every two years, if not every year.

Bailor Motor Cultivator

By Auctioneer Eric W. Mickelson

This past weekend my wife, my sister-in-law, and I took a trip to Bemidji to celebrate my sister-in-laws birthday. After some shopping and Chinese Food we were back on our way home.

As I headed home I asked my passengers if I could take a different route back to Oklee. With no objection I turned off Highway 2 and headed for Leonard. I had an ulterior motive. As we traveled north we drove by the place where my grandma, grandpa, and dad moved to the farm in October of 1946. It is now the Sather farm. When grandma, grandpa, and dad, moved to that farm a steel wheeled F-20 came with the farm they purchased. Being somewhat new to the farm he wanted his dad to start the tractor, but his dad was content to do the chores with the horses. But one March day dad talked grandpa to starting the F-20. They pulled it with the horses and dad got to drive it. The steel lugs and the frozen ground were not a good match, maybe the horses weren't so bad after all. But dad developed a love of tractors and something that has stuck with me all my life.

This reminded me of another F20 story. A couple years ago when visiting with my wife's cousin, Ron, at a family reunion I asked my famous question,

"What is the first tractor you ever drove?"

His answer was also an F20 Farmall. It was his grandfather, A.M. Spangler's F20 Farmall. He was pulling the rope to lift bales into the hayloft with the sling. He also remembered driving the F20 while picking shocks. Being a youngster he had a harder time reaching the clutch and was strictly instructed NOT to drive on the shocks!

Several years ago I asked Larry O'Neill, of Oklee, my question. "What was the first tractor you ever drove?" You see Larry had many years of farming experience. The O'Neill Farm was started by L.J. O'Neill in 1878. He settled in section 5 of Chester Township and also had an implement business in Oklee. His son Owen continued farming there until he retired, then Larry took over. Somewhere in his early lifetime Larry jumped on an F-20 Farmall, the first tractor he ever drove, and worked the land of Chester township. His dad purchased it in 1938. It had steel on the rear and rubber on the front. Of course I wondered what it would have been like to farm with one of these F20 tractors!

I have seen many F20 tractor, but I have never driven one. Maybe one day!

How about a little tractor trivia!

1. T or F International Harvester came up with the name Farmall because of their desire to build an affordable row crop tractor.
2. The F-20 was in production from 1932-_____.
3. The F-20 was replaced by the _____?
A) Model C B) Model H C) Model M.
4. In 1936 International Harvester decided to change their paint scheme from _____ to _____.
5. What was the big brother of the Farmall F20?

Answers: 1. True 2. 1939 3. B) Model H 4. gray to red 5. The F30



Memories Of A Seabee Welder Danang Vietnam 1969

Memories of a welder in Vietnam, is a story that I started about twenty years ago.... it has been a very satisfying trip down memory lane. -Gerald Fenske

If you would like to have a copy of Gerald's book, you can pick one up at the Leader Record in Gonvick or contact Gerald Fenske at Creatensteel@gmail.com



F20 Farmall.

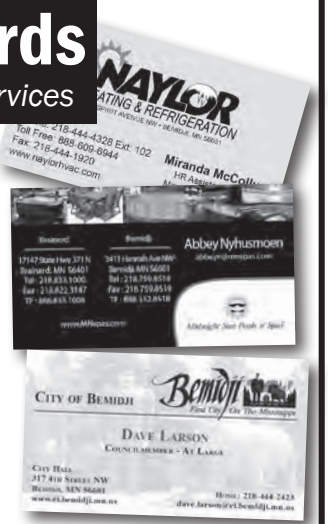
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OBITUARIES



Obituary for Delores Briggs

Delores Joanne Briggs, 83, of Fertile, MN (formerly of Powers Lake, ND), peacefully passed away on Sunday, December 29, 2024, at the Fair Meadows Nursing Home in Fertile, MN.

Delores was born June 11, 1941, in Powers Lake, ND to parents Nels and Mary (Van Berkom) Andersen. She grew up in the Powers Lake area and graduated from Powers Lake High School in 1959. She was an only child.

Delores married James J. Warmesbecker on July 22, 1961. They raised 8 children between living in North Dakota and Minnesota. She lived in Thief River Falls, Crookston and settled in McIntosh, MN in 1982. Delores divorced James and later married Kenny Briggs. She parted ways with Kenny and later reunited with James until his passing in 2005.

Delores was a wonderful mother raising 8 children. Delores was heavily active in her community in Thief River Falls with 4-H, Catholic Church, children's sports and home making, very active in the Catholic Diocese, an active National Catholic Society of Foresters where she was the recording secretary of St Ann Court 855 in Thief River Falls. The family photo was published on cover of National

Catholic Forester in March 1979. Delores also worked at the hospital in Crookston, later she worked at the Mac Manor and Flapjack Restaurant in McIntosh. She attended college for 2 years at the University of Crookston to be a dietician. Delores' passion was her family and the arts. She loved drawing, cooking, baking and anything crafts. Her love for animals, particularly her cats and rescuing them was a labor of love. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was a kind human being.

She is survived by her sons, Adam (Elena) Ashburn, VA, Michael Fosston, MN, Tony (Jennifer) Byron, MN and Paul (Renna) Fertile, MN; daughters, Debbie (Jeryl) Mahnomen, Jennifer (Jim) Leesburg, VA and Melissa Clearwater, FL; 13 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, Mathew (oldest child); her father and mother, Nels and Mary Andersen.

There will be a public visitation held at the Springan Stevenson Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 with a Family Service and Rosary Vigil to follow and begin at 7:00 PM. Delores' Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 10:30 AM at the St. James Catholic Church in Powers Lake, ND. Father Corey Nelson will officiate. Delores will be laid to rest at the Saint James Cemetery in Powers Lake, ND.

The Funeral Mass will be recorded and uploaded; you can view Delores' service directly on her obituary page on our website www.springanstevenson.com.

Springan Stevenson Funeral Home of Stanley have been entrusted with arrangements and services. Friends may sign the on-line register and give their condolences at www.springanstevenson.com.



Obituary for Ardella Lindberg

Ardella Lindberg, 86, of Leonard, Minnesota, passed away on Monday, December 30, 2024, at Cornerstone Nursing Home in Fosston, Minnesota.

Per Ardella's wishes, no services will take place. Interment will be at the Norway Lake Cemetery in Leonard, Minnesota. Memorials in Ardella's memory may be sent to Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 44327 243 Ave, Leonard, MN 56652.

The Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley assisted the family with arrangements.

Sidney and Alma (Jacobson) Churness welcomed a precious baby girl named Ardella June on the family homestead in Clearbrook, Minnesota, on June 6, 1938. Ardella grew up in a large family with eight other siblings. She was baptized and confirmed into the Lutheran faith. She graduated from Clearbrook High School in 1956.

Ardella married Marvin Lindberg on October 27, 1956, at First Lutheran Church in Clearbrook, MN. They celebrated almost 64 years together before Marvin's passing in 2020. Together, they were blessed with two children, Kevin and Shari. Faith was very important

to Ardella. She was a member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Leonard, where she was always helping with ladies' aid or service projects. She was on the board of North Country Arts and Crafts. Ardella was Clearwater County Woman of the Year in 2008 and Clearwater County Outstanding Senior Citizen in 2010.

She truly enjoyed rosemaking and taught others her special gift for several decades with the Norda Gonvick Rosemakers. You could always count on Ardella for helping out in her community, as she had a knack for everything. She made and gave away many quilts over the years as well. Always generous with whatever she had.

She also had a great sense of humor and told people, "You better cry at my funeral even if you have to put onions in your hankie!" But hospitality was her greatest gift to the world. Always ready to welcome anyone into her home and heart. She will be missed by many!

She is survived by her son, Kevin Lindberg; her daughter, Shari Davenport; her grandchildren, Hannah Lindberg, Jessica, Luke, and Lindsey Davenport; her great grandsons, Maza Davenport & Jay (Lindberg) Reed; her sisters, Betty Sorenson and Karen Vogh; many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Ardella was preceded in death by her husband Marvin; her parents, Sidney and Alma Churness; her brothers, Harvey and Melvin; her sisters, Elnora, Viola, Ruth, and Alberta; and her son-in-law, Jim Davenport.

Messages of condolence may be emailed to Shari & Kevin at ArdellaEstate@gmail.com. The family would enjoy any stories you might have to share about Ardella and how she touched your life.



Obituary for Richard Hansen

Richard Carrol Hansen, age 88, of Bagley, Minnesota passed away on December, 25, 2024 at Cornerstone Nursing Home in Bagley, Minnesota.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cease Family Funeral Home Chapel in Bagley, Minnesota with a visitation one hour prior. Interment will be held at Seljord Lutheran Cemetery in Clearbrook, Minnesota. The Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley assisted the family with arrangements.

On October 12, 1936, Richard Carrol Hansen was born at home to Carl and Inga (Melhus) Hansen of Clearbrook, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed at the Seljord Lutheran Church in rural Clearbrook. Richard attended school at the Rydeen Country School District 20 through seventh grade and then he was transferred to the Clearbrook School to continue his education.

On April 23, 1958, Richard joined the Army and was stationed in Germany with the 180th QM Company (FMDS) and trained as a Textile Repairman/Tailor. While in Germany, he received his GED; and would travel around Europe sightseeing whenever he was on leave. He was discharged from the military on April 14, 1960. Richard returned to the

farm and continued to farm while doing various jobs. This included working at Arctic Cat in Clearbrook making crates for the snowmobiles being manufactured, and working with Dennis Holm of Holm Well Drilling as a laborer drilling wells.

Richard met Sarah Horn, while working at Arctic Cat. They were married at Samhold Lutheran Church in Gonvick, Minnesota of May 26, 1979. They had been married for 40 years.

Richard loved animals, especially their dog Dolly. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, listening to music, going to auction sales, reading, driving around the countryside, watching animal shows on TV, going out for pepperoni pizza and playing at the casino.

He is survived by his stepchildren, Karen (Randy) Huppert of River Falls, WI, Betty Meter of Bagley, MN, Peggy (David) Rosnow of Gully, MN, and Wayne (Lisa) Horn of Roanoke Rapids, NC; step grandchildren, Grace (Stephen) Litner, Anna Walton, Charles Walton, Sierra (Dusty) Gilbertson, Stephanie (Clover) Street, Jack (Liz) Huppert, Caleb (Alex) Horn, Carter (Grace) Horn; step great-grandchildren, Penelope Gilbertson, Easton Gilbertson, Kalea Street, Josie Huppert, Austin Street, Everett Huppert, Myla Gilbertson, Naomi Mendoza and Andi Horn; brother, David Hansen; sister, Geraldine (Geri) Newquist, numerous nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

Richard was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah Hansen, step grandson, Miles Rosnow, parents, Carl and Inga Hansen, brother, Glen Hansen and sister-in-law, Julia Hansen, sister, Arlyce Anderson and brother-in-law, William (Bud) Anderson, brother-in-law, Richard Newquist and nephew, Randy Newquist.

Messages of condolence may be sent to ceasefuneralhome.com



Obituary for Duane Falardeau

Duane Falardeau passed away Saturday, December 28, 2024, at the Homestead Rehab & Living Center in Deer River, MN at the age of 82.

Born June 9, 1942, in Grand Rapids, the son of Leo and Esther Falardeau. Duane spent his formative years in Coleraine, where he graduated from Greenway High School. He pursued higher education at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, earning a bachelor's degree in education and later a master's degree from University of Wisconsin-Superior for counseling.

His teaching career began in Finlayson but dedicated most of his professional life to Greenway High School, where he served for 31 years before retiring.

On August 31, 2013, Duane was united in marriage with Shirley Beckstrand at the Salem Lutheran Brethren Church in Grand Rapids.

Duane cherished his time spent in the great outdoors, where he found great joy in hunting and shared many memorable moments with his beloved Springer Spaniels by his side. Duane had a passion for antiques and loved discovering new places to find unique treasures.

Duane is survived by his loving wife Shirley; daughter Michele (Kim) Falardeau; sons: Troy (Stan) Falardeau, Todd (Megan) Falardeau, and Craig (Rachel) Miskovich; 7 stepchildren: Verine (Rodney) Nordlund, Ross (Steph) Beckstrand, Tim (Lisa) Beckstrand, Bob (Steph) Beckstrand, Jamie (Dean) Hammes; 8 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren; 24 step-grandchildren; sister Cherie (Tom) Schwartz.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Thomas.

In accordance with his wishes, no formal funeral services will be held.

Arrangements are with the Rowe Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Grand Rapids, MN.

To sign the online guestbook or send condolences visit www.rowefuneralhomeandcrematory.com.



Obituary for Greg Strand

Greg Strand, age 74, of Erskine, MN and McIntosh, MN, passed away on Sunday, December 29th, at McIntosh Senior Living. A celebration of life will be held in the spring. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of Fosston and messages of condolence may be shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.

Greg Lane Strand was born on July 8, 1950 in Crookston, Minnesota. Greg grew up in Erskine, MN, graduated from Erskine High School in 1968. He held numerous jobs in the area before enlisting in the US Army in May of 1971. He served in Korea in the Demilitarized Zone. After his first tour of duty, he re-enlisted and served in Germany. After 6 years and 3 months of service to his

country, he returned home and attended the University of North Dakota, receiving his degree in education. He took a job in Crownpoint, NM, teaching Math at the high school. He also coached junior high volleyball at the school for a few years. After teaching at the high school, he taught for two years at the Navajo Community College. Retiring, he returned home to MN.

Greg was an avid collector of baseball memorabilia and was a huge MN Twins fan. He collected every Twins baseball card from the first Day the Twins existed to present day. Greg also had an envious collection of vinyl records and CD's from the 60's and 70's. His favorite pastime was reading. He read thousands of books preferring mysteries and spy novels. He shared his books with friends, often giving them a book report before giving them the book. He loved visiting with anybody and was a kind and generous soul. He would often bake krunkake, delivering to the local police force, fire department and numerous others. He would often take ice cream treats to the people whom he did business with as a thank you for their service.

Greg is survived by his brother Jon (Kristine) Strand of Nisswa and Jeff (DeNae) Strand of Princeton, nieces Sara Nelson and Amy Strand, numerous cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gerhard and Lorraine Strand.



Obituary for Irene Rosten

Irene Rosten of Oklee, MN passed away on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 at Poplar Meadows in McIntosh, MN.

Celebration of life for Irene will be held 11 AM on Saturday January 11, 2025 at Salem Lutheran Church near Oklee, MN with Reverend Timothy Lundeen officiating. Burial will be held at Salem Church Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Irene Pearl Barsness was born at her grandparent's farm in Equality Township rural Oklee, on April 11, 1938. As a child she moved into Oklee. She attended and graduated from Oklee High School where she was a valedictorian. Irene was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Oklee.

Irene was united in marriage to John Raymond "Ray" Rosten May 26, 1956 at Zion Lutheran Church in Oklee by Pastor Grorud. They lived in Milwaukee and Minneapolis before settling on the Rosten family farm in rural Plummer in 1958. Which was home for the next 52 years.

The family attended Salem Lutheran Church where Irene taught Sunday School and was active in the WELCA holding several offices also re-

ceiving the Mary Magdalene award for 59 years of service.

She was a longtime employee at Oklee Quilting. First for Wally Groberg and then later for Loretta Syrtveit. After retiring she volunteered with the Foster Grandparent Program at RLCC Elementary for several years. The last years she was a volunteer at the Senior Meal Site and Craft Shop in Oklee.

She enjoyed sewing, her flowers, doing crafts and crossword puzzles, enjoyed playing cards with her group, listening to country gospel music, reading and especially the grand children and great-grandchildren sports and school activities.

She is survived by, four children John Rosten of Plummer, Steve (Bernie) Rosten of Plummer, Sandra (Darrell) Tougas of Oklee, and Bradley Rosten of California; grandchildren Brandon (Francis) Tougas, Jennifer (Pat) O'Neill, Tyler Tougas, Delanie Rosten, Heath (Sarah) Rosten, Jillian, Liam, and Ava Rosten; step-grandchildren Joe (Andrea) Larson, Annette (Jeff Bothun) Larson, great-grandchildren Brady, Jacob, Olivia, Sophia, Micah, Peyton, Owen Quentin, Calvin, Ellianah, William, and Wallace.

Irene is preceded in death by her husband Ray, mother Lovina Barsness, Brother Marlin and her grandparents.

Casketbearers: All of Irene's grandchildren Brandon (Francis) Tougas, Jennifer (Pat) O'Neill, Tyler Tougas, Delanie Rosten, Heath (Sarah) Rosten, Jillian Rosten, Liam Rosten, Ava Rosten, Joe (Andrea) Larson, Annette Larson.

Soloist: Erica Matteberg "Borning Cry" "The King is Coming"

Accompanist: Chelsey Vettelson

Congregational Hymns: How Great Thou Art and Amazing Grace.

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OBITUARIES



Obituary for

Thomas Acree

Thomas Acree, 59, of Gonvick, Minnesota died on December 27, 2024, at his home in Gonvick.

As per the family's wishes, no services will be held.

The Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley assisted the family with arrangements.

Tom was born on March 6, 1965, the son of Charles & Judith (Ball) Acree. He grew up in Nevada and received his GED.

He helped his brother with his Repo business and was also a stunt man in Nevada. He was a limo driver in Nevada and even drove Michael J. Fox around, as well as many other celebrities.

He worked many odd jobs in his life including working at Polaris, Central Boiler and Arctic Cat. His last job was working in Menards in Bemidji in the flooring department.

Tom loved motorcycles, cars, and watching Family Guy and the Simpson's.

He enjoyed going to the races in Greenbush and Roseau and was in several Demolition Derby's with his

brother-in-law.

Tom was a man of few words until you got to know him. He was a hard worker and a good guy.

Tom appreciated the outdoors, especially fishing, ice fishing and camping.

One of Tom's favorite past times was playing cards. His daughter, Courtney, taught him cribbage and he taught her Chess. He was very proud of his daughter. She was his lifeline, and it was because of her that Tom remained living in Minnesota. She was the apple of his eye and the light in his life. He loved her very much.

Tom lived several places in his life, such as Nevada, Roseau, Badger, Greenbush, Bagley and finally settling in Gonvick, Minnesota

Tom is survived by his daughter – Courtney Acree of Duluth, MN, Dad – Charles Acree of Arizona. Brother – Curtis Sullivan of Nevada; Sister – Marie Hanson of Roseau, MN; Sister – Melanie Boutain of Roseau, MN; Sister – Nanette Duncan of Nevada.

Numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Tom is preceded in death by his mother – Judith Acree and his sister – Sammy Acree

The family would prefer memorials to be sent to offset funeral expenses to:

Cease Family Funeral Homes

P.O. Box 87
Bagley, Minnesota 56621
c/o Thomas Acree

A crowd funding fund has been created on the Cease Funeral Home web page as well, ceasefuneralhome.com

Messages of condolence may be sent to ceasefuneralhome.com



Obituary for

George Benson

George Raymond Benson, age 92, passed away on November 22, 2024, at home in Rogers, Minnesota.

Born May 17, 1932, to George and Margaret Benson in Bagley, Minnesota.

After graduating from Bagley High school in 1950, he joined the Navy where he served on the USS Knapp and USS Lloyd Thomas as a boiler tender during the Korean War.

Returned home to work as a boiler engineer in several places finally settling as chief engineer at Sears in Brookdale in 1963 until retirement in 1992.

He was active for many years in the Rogers Threshing Show which became the Nowthen Historical Power Assn. where he owned and operated a steam traction engine during the show, the highlight of his life.

He is preceded in death by parents, George and Margaret Benson, brother Thomas Arthur Benson and grandson Tyler Benson.

Survived by wife of 46 years, Bonnie Leet Benson, Brother Maynard (Mary) Benson, sister-in law Alva Benson, children Vernell (Debbie) Stigen. Roxanne (Gary) Chambliss, Robin Benson and Rick (Becci) Benson, Randy (Carol) Leet, Jeff Leet, Alisa Leet, 11 grandchildren and 6 grandchildren.

He will be missed by his family and many friends.

Memorial service to be held at Peace Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids, January 16, visitation at 10:00am and service at 11:00am.

Minnesota and USDA Award \$9.5 Million to Projects that Strengthen Food Supply Chain Infrastructure

Eleven state projects will receive funding to improve local and regional food systems

St. Paul, MN: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced it has partnered with Minnesota to award \$9.5 million through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI) to build resilience across the middle of the supply chain and strengthen local and regional food systems.

Through this program, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will fund 11 Infrastructure Grant projects to support middle of the supply chain infrastructure (Project summaries are listed below).

"Projects funded through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program are building strength and resilience in Minnesota's food system, diversifying agricultural markets, creating new revenue streams for small and mid-sized producers, and providing economic opportunities for local communities," said USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt. "USDA is grateful for Minnesota's support strengthening local and regional agricultural supply chains."

"We thank the USDA for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program which benefits Minnesota businesses, farmers, and consumers by investing in the middle of the food supply chain in our state," said Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "These grants highlight the diversity of Minnesota's food and ag sector, as the funding will benefit a wide range of industries, locations, and sizes of organizations and businesses."

The Infrastructure Grants are part of a program that will fund projects that expand capacity and infrastructure for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transportation, wholesaling, or distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. Funding for the RFSI Program is authorized by President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

In addition to the grant awards, free technical assistance is available to producers, businesses, cooperatives, and other organizations that are part of the middle of the food supply chain in Minnesota through the RFSI Program. Assistance will be available until Spring 2027.

Technical assistance services are focused on:

- Supply chain coordination
- Food business development
- Market development services for local and regional food products

• Consultation on grant applications and grant administration guidance

For more information, visit the MDA's RFSI Program webpage.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Bongards' Creameries, Bongards, MN - \$1,572,259.50

Bongards' Creameries, a dairy cooperative owned by 176 farmer-producers, will purchase and install a new sliced cheese wrapper and diverter lane at the end of the production line and upgrade the two existing wrappers in its Bongards location. The investments will expand capacity for the manufacturing of Minnesota-made sliced processed cheese by 5.5M pounds per year.

Concept Processing, Melrose, MN - \$304,780.84

Concept Processing will purchase and install automated gallon and 5-gallon bag milk fillers, two refrigerated milk trucks, and equipment for a walk-in cooler. The new equipment will expand Concept Processing's capacity to efficiently package fluid milk from their seventh-generation dairy farm in Melrose into value-added bagged products, strengthening its ability to supply seven wholesale distributors and grow the farm-to-fork milk program with Minnesota public schools and universities.

Featherstone Farm,

Rushford, MN - \$250,535.90

Featherstone Farm in Rushford will expand and upgrade its warehouses and walk-in cooler facilities, and make equipment investments in a food safety compliant wash, dry, and pack line for salad crops; returnable plastic containers (RPCs); and a machine to sanitize the RPCs. The upgrades will allow greater aggregation, processing, storing, and distribution of Featherstone Farm's Minnesota-grown vegetables and crops, as well as products from other Minnesota farms and food producers.

Green Acres Milling, Albert Lea, MN - \$1,500,000

Green Acres Milling in Albert Lea will purchase cleaning and kilning equipment systems for a new innovative oat milling facility that will enhance the local food system and support rural development by filling a middle-of-the supply-chain gap for oat processing infrastructure. Green Acres Milling will work with over 100 local farmers within a 120-mile radius known as the "Oat-Shed" to source oats, offering them a reliable market with fair pricing, enabling production of an estimated 364,800 cwt of high-quality oat groats yearly, and meeting growing consumer demand for traceable, non-GMO, and allergen-free oats.

Hmong American Farmers Association, Hastings, MN - \$1,680,351.38

The Hmong American Farmers Association will construct a new processing, storage, and kitchen facility for value-added food production on their incubator farm in Hastings. The facility will be enclosed and climate controlled so HAF's 104 Hmong farmer-members have access to a facility to process their fresh produce year-round and take advantage of winter sales opportunities.

Hoyo, Minneapolis, MN - \$668,034.70

Hoyo will build out the new Hoyo Food Production Facility with the goal of increasing critical employment for Somali immigrants from the local community and meeting the needs for food production from local sources to support community cultural food demands in the middle of a food and employment desert in Minneapolis. Infrastructure improvements and specialized equipment will enable Hoyo to immediately double its production capacity, with long-term potential to increase production capacity by fivefold as sales grow.

Manna Food Cooperative, Detroit Lakes, MN - \$304,198.19

Manna Food Cooperative will create and outfit a new commercially licensed processing kitchen, purchase processing equipment, and expand food-grade storage capacity for the benefit of local producers. The processing kitchen at Manna Food Co-op in downtown Detroit Lakes will provide the processing capacity onsite to lightly process and store fruits and vegetables for member suppliers and give them the opportunities to generate value-added products for wholesale buyers, particularly Minnesota schools.

Midwest Processors, Pierz, MN - \$530,483.66

Midwest Processors, a family- and farmer-owned processor of sunflowers in Pierz, will purchase milling and screening equipment, install conveyors and temporary storage, and integrate packaging into the production line. The infrastructure investments will allow Midwest Processors to enhance value throughout the supply chain through innovative up-cycling of sunflower meal into high-protein meal, establishing access to premium markets for Minnesota producers.

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Redby, MN - \$872,410

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, through its Department of Agriculture, will expand its existing processing capacities to support new

wholesale and retail opportunities of locally grown produce and value-added products. The project includes constructing a new food processing and storage facility adjacent to its greenhouse in Redby, purchasing and installing necessary processing equipment and technologies for the facility, and obtaining food safety consultation and training.

Sno Pac Foods, Caledonia, MN - \$1,572,500

Sno Pac Foods Inc., a grower and processor of organic fruits and vegetables in southeastern Minnesota, will construct a new cold storage facility in Caledonia to store their own products, as well as provide additional storage for other agricultural companies. The new storage facility will be constructed on property adjacent to Sno Pac Foods' existing processing plant

and office and will be substantially more efficient, saving time, fuel, labor, and leasing expenses, while filling a drastic need in this part of the state for cold storage.

The Food Farm, Wrenshall, MN - \$222,006.22

The Food Farm, a diversified organic vegetable farm in Wrenshall, will construct a cooler and pack house addition to its current storage facility; install new equipment to clean, store, and package produce for markets across northeast Minnesota; and purchase a larger delivery vehicle with a liftgate. These improvements will enable the Food Farm to expand markets and offer middle-of-the-supply-chain capacity to other nearby producers so that newer farmers can grow and develop with less risk.

Minnesota Association of Townships announces 2025 Scholarship Program for high school juniors

(St. Michael, Minn.) – The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is proud to announce its 2025 Scholarship Program, which will award up to five \$2,000 scholarships to high school juniors. The Scholarship Program is designed to heighten awareness among young people about Minnesota's grassroots township government.

All students currently enrolled in 11th grade and attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial school, or a home-study program, are eligible to apply for this program. Since its inception in 2001, the MAT Scholarship Program has had over 2,300 submissions and 103 winners.

Applicants should submit a written essay using critical thinking on the topic of promoting awareness of township government by June 1, 2025. Winners will be chosen by an independent panel of judges and will be notified in September 2025. They will also be invited to attend MAT's annual conference in December 2025.

The 2025 essay question on promoting township government is, "Fire protection is an important part of public safety that is provided by all townships all across Minnesota. There are different ways that fire protection can be provided. What are the different ways fire

protection is provided by townships? How is the cost of fire protection funded by a township and at what meeting is the extent of the cost approved? What challenges are faced by rural fire departments in providing fire protection?"

For more information and application details, please call the MAT offices at 1-800-228-0296 or visit the MN Association of Townships website and its scholarship page.

"The MAT Scholarship Program has made a real difference for our recipients and has also been an opportunity to learn about township government, which embodies the values of 'grassroots government' where local citizens directly participate. We encourage as many high school juniors as possible to apply, whether they are from rural areas or urban cities," said MAT Executive Director Jeff Krueger.

There are approximately 922,013 township residents in 1,776 townships in Minnesota.

The mission of the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is to support and promote the township form of local government in Minnesota through educational programs, structured advocacy, vital collaboration, and procurement of critical resources fundamental to local governments.

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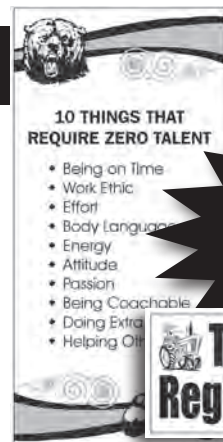
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Word Search Answers for this week

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A N O I S S E R G G A F O C U S Z I B A
P C O N D I T I O N I N G Z T B H R I E
T R U U Q D Y Z T B E H A V I O R O Y F
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Improve your game watch experience

Football season is winding down to the biggest games of the year, and fans can't wait to find out if their favorite teams will make a playoff run.

Watching the big games together with friends and fellow fans makes football even more engaging and fun. With that in mind, fans can consider these tips to improve their game watch parties as the stakes get higher for their favorite teams.

· **Upgrade your equipment.** There's no doubt about it, football is best watched on a big screen. Choose a screen size of at least 65 inches and ensure the television has a high refresh rate, which helps to keep up with fast-moving action on the gridiron. A TV with good motion handling can help ensure that moving objects are clear.

· **Tailgate at home.** There's something about football and the outdoors that works. Although watching the game indoors is perfectly acceptable, think about taking the action outside. Open the door to the garage and set up a viewing area there. Man a grill nearby in the driveway and prepare all of your favorite tailgate foods and beverages. Once the drinks are flowing you might not even notice chilly temperatures.

· **Offer finger foods.** Foods that can be grabbed and shared are ideal options for football watch parties. These include sliders, pizza, tacos, and wings.

The game day menu does not need to be complicated. Just make the food readily accessible and guests will dig right in.

· **Toss around the pigskin.** Get some exercise and test your skills by throwing around the ball during commercial breaks or before and after the game. If you really want to go all out, play a game of touch or flag football (leave the tackling to the professionals).

· **Up the ante.** Make watching the playoffs a little more competitive by taking bets beforehand. Betting boxes (football squares) provide a simple way to collect and pay out during game play. Participants buy as many squares as they like for a set price and write their initials inside the squares they choose. Teams are assigned to the rows and columns which are numbered zero through nine. Those numbers will represent the final digit of the score for the corresponding team. Winners can be called each quarter as well as for the final score.

· **Create a winning playlist.** Compile a playlist of songs that can raise fans' spirits. Include teams' theme songs in the mix when possible; otherwise, incorporate upbeat options that span the last few generations.

Fans gather to watch the NFL playoffs every year and certain watch party pointers can make such viewings even more fun

What to know about the 2024-25 College Football Playoff

The college football landscape has changed dramatically in recent years. Conference realignments and name, image and likeness (NIL) deals have transformed a sport once steeped in tradition into something far less recognizable.

College football fans know that the changes have not affected the excitement on the field, as much ballyhooed matchups lived up to the hype and surprises dominated seemingly every fall Saturday. And one particularly notable change figures to add even more excitement to the 2024-25 season, which will conclude with a new and expanded playoff format.

What is the biggest change about the 2024-25 playoff format?

The College Football Playoff has been in place for 11 years, but this is the first year when the playoff will feature a 12-team format. Critics of the playoff have long argued for an expanded field, feeling that the once-standard four-team field shortchanged smaller schools

and annually left deserving teams from powerful conferences on the outside looking in. Such calls should end this season, when 12 teams will compete for a shot to win a national championship.

How can teams qualify for the College Football Playoff?

The NCAA notes that the new 12-team College Football Playoff field will include the five highest-ranked conference champions, each of whom will receive automatic bids. The other seven playoff spots will go to the seven highest-ranked remaining teams. The four highest-ranked teams in the field will receive a first-round bye.

When do the playoffs begin?

The expanded format means the Playoff, which in recent years has begun on New Year's

Eve, will begin on the weekend of December 20-21. The opening first round game will begin at 8 p.m. EST on Friday, December 20 and will air on ABC/ESPN. The first round continues with three games on December 21, with the first airing at noon EST on TNT Sports and the second, also airing on TNT Sports, beginning at 4 p.m. The final game of the first round will be broadcast on ABC/ESPN on Saturday, December 21 at 8 p.m. The higher-seeded teams will play host for the first round.

Teams that advance beyond the first round will get a 10-day break before the quarterfinals begin with the Fiesta Bowl at 7:30 p.m. EST on Tuesday, December 31. The new year then begins with three quarterfinal games on January 1. The Peach Bowl kicks off the day at 1 p.m. EST and the Rose Bowl (5 p.m.

EST) and the Sugar Bowl (8:45 p.m. EST) will host the final two quarterfinal games. All four quarterfinals games will air on ESPN.

The semifinal round will kick off with the Orange Bowl on Thursday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. EST. The Cotton Bowl hosts the second semifinal on Friday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m. EST. Both games will air on ESPN.

The college football season will then wrap up on Monday, January 20 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. The national championship game kicks off at 7:30 p.m. EST and will air on ESPN.

College football is never short on excitement. This season's expanded playoff format figures to deliver even more exciting action between December 20 and January 20.

Tricks for planning your summer getaway

Summer is a popular time of year. Boasting balmy temperatures and a relaxed atmosphere, summer can seem like a months-long vacation, even for those who spend time at home lounging around the pool or soaking up some late-afternoon rays on the patio.

Even if life at home is a little more laid back in the summer, many still are eager to go on vacation and embrace those feelings of rest and relaxation. Navigating family members' schedules and competing for time during this peak travel season can complicate summer vacation planning. Thankfully, these tips can make scheduling that summer getaway a little easier.

· **Identify your blackout dates.** Likely there already are some things on the calendar that are unmovable, such as kids' summer camp schedules or high school or travel sports practices. Take a calendar and block out any can't-do dates as soon as you know them. This helps to identify the days and weeks that are free.

· **Start planning early.** It's best to get a jump-start on vacation planning early in the year. In fact, you might want to make it a New Year's resolution. The early bird gets the worm, so booking early can ensure you won't be caught paying more by booking last-minute. Narrow down your list of desired destinations, choose a spot and start pricing out travel and accommodations. If you find a great deal, book it.

· **Set price alerts.** Many travel sites enable you to set up search parameters so that you'll get automated messages with deals that match your budget. Keep in mind that some airline sites may track your search history, and prices may fluctuate if you keep checking out the same flights. Clear your cookies and



cache or use a different computer or tablet for each search to get the most competitive price.

· **Check for work conflicts.** Before booking a trip, ensure that others in your department will not be out the same days. Often companies frown upon having too many people out concurrently because they need to keep the work flowing. It's best to float your vacation days with coworkers or a supervisor well in advance to ensure there are no conflicts.

· **Delegate some of the work.** Ironing out all of the de-

tails of a vacation means having many moving parts, which can be stressful. Farm out some of the tasks to others in the family or your group of friends depending on who is traveling together. One person can be in charge of researching transportation, while another can secure rental cars and still another can figure out meals and any excursions while on the trip. Breaking up tasks makes it collectively easier on all.

Winter is an ideal time to plan memorable summer vacations.



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