



Tri County Canary

A supplement of the:

- Leader-Record • McIntosh Times • Grygla Eagle
- Red Lake County Herald (Oklee, Plummer - Brooks - Red Lake Falls)



Bagley High School Students will be presenting “The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.” Front: Olivia Larson, Haidyn Friberg, Thea Anderson, Elyssa Baird. Row two: Colin Agnes, Emma Crist, Ava Rolfson, Elinor Davies, Drew Nelson, Hannah Woods. Row three: Alexia Barid, Ayden Hagen, William Gunderson, Bryant Schwegel, Jackson Moen, Chloe Marsh. Back: Adriana Marsh, Logan Masurka, Allen LaFerriere, Dalton Walker.

Bagley High School Student Actors Prepare for OAP Contest Season

The chosen script for this year’s One Act Play competition season is a beautiful children’s story titled “The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.” It is a stage adaptation by Wayne Hartford based on the book by award-winning author Kate DiCamillo’s. Students have been studying the script, building the set, creating unique characters, and explor-

ing the themes in this as they prepare for the upcoming OAP competition season.

The story is about a young child’s toy rabbit doll, Edward, who undergoes quite a journey. He gets tossed overboard, thrown in a garbage heap, used as a scarecrow, then smashed to pieces, but ultimately repaired by a doll mender. Throughout his 20-year journey, Ed-

ward sheds his arrogance and he learns lessons about love, friendship, and family belonging. Ava Rolfson is the narrator of the show and Ayden Hagen narrates the inner thoughts and feelings of the toy rabbit as he gets lost and found by various characters. Emma Crist, Haidyn Friberg, Drew Nelson, Elinor Davies, Bryant Schwegel, Colin Agnes, and William

Gunderson play characters who find Edward Tulane, love him, and teach him life lessons. The ensemble cast members represent townspeople during his journey.

The team, directed by Marilyn Hood, will present their work to the public on Thursday, Jan. 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the BHS Auditorium. Admission is \$7/ticket. On Friday the 24th starting at 4:30 p.m., Bagley High School will host the sub-section competition. Five schools will compete for the opportunity to advance to the Section Contest to be held on Saturday, Feb. 1st in Crookston.

This year’s cast and crew, pictured above, is comprised of twenty students, most with OAP experience. Be sure to add the 23rd of January to your calendar and bring the entire family to the BHS Auditorium to see the work the students have done to create this beautiful show.



The Skjervan Barn located north of Plummer on highway 59. This hard long time working farm barn has now been remodeled beautifully and is used as a wedding and event venue! Beautiful!

Why are barns red?

By Eric Mickelson
I got asked a question the other day. I was asked, “Do you know why barns are painted red?” I didn’t have an answer but knew I had heard an explanation before. I thought it had something to do with using “red soil” mixed with the paint. Well, I took it as a challenge....time to do some further research!
In 1992, when I moved back to Oklee from Newfolden where I had been teaching, I began living on my grandfather and grandmother’s farm where mom had grown up. That was pretty special to me! On the farm was a barn that had not been used since 1969 when grandpa died. It was built in 1934, and it was RED. It was in poor condition but for the next 30 years I still used the barn to house some of my beef cattle, sheep, chickens, and all other livestock I have had. For the first time in my life I also had a hayloft. Most people probably won’t agree but I couldn’t wait to put some hay in the loft! After 30 more years of use the barn had deteriorated and on a cold winter day with strong

winds I heard a cracking noise from the house and looked out the window just in time to see the barn go crashing to the ground! No cattle were in the barn at the time and all that was left was a big mess! The next summer the remains were buried and over the last couple years a new shed was built to replace it.....although nothing can really replace the old barn!
Oh yes, why are barns red! Think of when you watched an old western movie. Often the wood on buildings is “grayed” and not painted any color. But, as settlers moved across the United States they wanted to preserve the new buildings they built, including barns. Farmers would often seal their barns with linseed oil, which is a sort of orange colored oil. It is made from seeds of the flax plant. To the oil they would add many different things. In Europe farmers sometimes added blood from slaughtering their linseed oil mixture. The traditions of “red” barns was brought over by European settlers and sometimes added ferrous oxide, otherwise known

as rust, to the oil mixture. Rust was plentiful on farms and is poisonous to many fungi. This would control mold and moss that would grow on barns. This would help preserve these important buildings on the farm.
When paint became available many farmers wanted red paint for their barns to keep with the tradition. Sadly the red barn my grandfather built is gone. But like I said earlier I was able to build a new shed to replace it. It is just a steel shed, not the double gable barn with a hayloft that was there before, but it is a nice building now full of John Deere tractors!. When I was building the shed the guys at Oklee Lumber asked what color do you want? My house and Quonset are both white with a green roof. Should I make all the buildings match? I looked at the choices of colors of steel.....one of them was barn red, you know what I picked!
*****If you have a fun or historic barn story to share please let me know! I love barns! You can email me at mickelsonauctions@gmail.com.

Support Minnesota’s forests by collecting black spruce and jack pine cones this winter

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Forest Nursery is seeking individuals to collect black spruce and jack pine cones this winter. These seeds are vital for reforesting thousands of acres each year, but the number of collectors has declined in recent seasons—creating a need for new participants.

In addition to helping sustain Minnesota’s forests, cone collectors will receive payment for high-quality cones. Currently, a bushel (about nine gallons) of healthy, viable black spruce cones fetches \$100 and jack pine cones are worth \$30 per bushel. “With growing interest in reforestation, this is an exciting time to get involved and help strengthen Minnesota’s woodlands,” said Nicole Schafer, DNR’s seed and cone consultant. “Each cone collected directly supports the future of our forests.”

Black spruce typically grows in northern lowland bogs and wetlands, while jack pine is found in sandy, well-drained soils in northern and central parts of the state. Seed collectors should make sure they identify the right species before collecting.
Drop-off stations accepting jack pine and black spruce cones include Baudette, Bemidji, Cloquet, Deer River, Hibbing, Littlefork, Orr, Tower, Two Harbors, Warroad, and the State Forest Nursery near Akeley. Before collecting, visit the DNR’s nursery collection

Applications Now Open for Century and Sesquicentennial Farm Recognition in Minnesota

Applications are now open for the Minnesota Farm Bureau Sesquicentennial Farm program, honoring Minnesota families that have owned their farms for at least 150 years. The deadline to apply is March 3, 2025.

To qualify, the farm must:
1. Be at least 150 years old this year (2025) according to the abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. Please do not send originals or copies of records.

2. Demonstrate ownership by the applying family for 150 years or more. “Family” is defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, first cousins and direct in-laws (father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son-in-law).

3. Have continuous ownership. Continuous residence on

farm is not required.

4. Consist of 50 or more acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by the governor of Minnesota, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign. Recipients will be announced in April.

Applications are available at www.fbm.org. For more information, contact Pam Debele at pam.debele@fbm.org or 651-768-2111.

Century Farm program applications are also open. Information is available online at mnstatefair.org or by calling 651-288-4417. Applications are due by March 3, 2025. Recipients will be announced in the spring. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Minnesotans encouraged to try winter outdoor recreation

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 73 state parks and recreation areas on Monday, Jan. 20. This Free Park Day is one of four days each year on which the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit at state parks and recreation areas. There is one fee-free day for each season of the year, giving Minnesotans an opportunity to experience state parks and recreation areas at different times of the year.

The 2025 free park days are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, Jan. 20
- Saturday, April 26
- Saturday, June 14
- Friday, Nov. 28

“While Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are open 365 days per year, most visits occur in the summer,” said Ann Pierce, director of DNR’s Parks and Trails Division. “Minnesota state parks truly shine year-round, and winter is a special time to embrace the state’s natural beauty and recreational opportunities; so we’re hoping people will come out and join us on Jan. 20.”

In winter, visitors can partake in popular activities like sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, if snow conditions are suitable. There are also many winter outdoor activities that don’t require snow, such as birding, wildlife watching, winter hiking, nature photography, and having

a campfire with hot chocolate and s’mores. If ice conditions are suitable, ice fishing is also a popular activity in state parks and recreation areas.

Many parks offer snowshoe rentals, and select parks offer ski rentals. Visitors looking for rental equipment or certain recreational opportunities can use the DNR’s ParkFinder tool (mndnr.gov/parkfinder) to find the best destination for their visit.

The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring water and snacks. Trails are often icy in the winter, so visitors planning to hike may want to bring traction devices for their footwear.

Visitors are advised to check for updates in the visitor alert section on park websites (mndnr.gov/parks) before leaving home. Visitors can also download free maps from park websites, which can be found in the free Avenza maps app that helps visitors navigate even when there’s no cell service. Visitors who prefer a paper map can pick one up at the ranger station; look outside the station if it’s closed.

The entrance fee waiver for fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for activities like camping or equipment rentals.

For more information, visit the DNR’s Free Park Days webpage (mndnr.gov/freeparkdays).



webpage (mndnr.gov/forestry/nursery/collection-map.html) for DNR Forestry area office contacts and give them a call to see if that area is still collecting cones. The area office can also provide instructions on proper collection and labeling.

Cones must be ripe, closed, and free of stems and debris. The DNR collects seeds and cones from more than 20 native

tree species throughout the year, with each ripening at different times. Be sure to check the website or call the local forestry office to confirm collection details. Currently, the collection window for black spruce and jack pine seeds is from now through the end of February. Nonnative trees like Colorado blue, Black Hills, or Norway spruce cones are not accepted.

Eldor and Stella Omdahl Environment and Conservation grant recipients

The Eldor and Stella Omdahl Environment and Conservation Fund has approved four grant applications totaling more than \$60,000 to support conservation efforts throughout Northwest Minnesota.

The Eldor and Stella Omdahl Environment and Conservation Fund is a fund in the family of funds at Northwest Minnesota Foundation. Its mission is to provide financial support for charitable, educational, and scientific programs, projects, and activities that support or benefit environmental and conservation causes.

The projects and programs approved for funding through

the 2024 fall grant round are:
• Programming Support, Agassiz Audubon Society
• Nielsen Center, Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society
• Conserving the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands, The Nature Conservancy
• Pollinator Habitat, White Earth Land Recovery

“The Eldor and Stella Omdahl Fund generously supports the conservation of the Northwest Minnesota natural habitat” said Dawn Ganje, senior vice president of philanthropy at NMF. “We look forward to the work these programs will complete as they support our natural places.”

Governor Walz Announces Department of Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead Stepping Down on February 3

Walz thanks Harpstead for over five years of service to the State of Minnesota

[ST. PAUL, MN] – Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan today announced the resignation of Jodi Harpstead, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Harpstead will depart her position effective February 3, 2025.

"I want to extend my deepest thanks to Commissioner Harpstead for answering the call of public service five and a half years ago," said Governor Walz. "I am proud of her work running the most complex and wide-ranging agency in state government. I am especially proud of how Commissioner Harpstead supported the enterprise-wide work to separate DHS into three separate agencies, which will make each of them more effective, more accountable, and easier to manage."

"With intellect, compassion, and an innovative mindset, Commissioner Harpstead oversaw effective delivery of essential services to our children and families," said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. "Commissioner Harpstead consistently led with a focus on the deeply human component of this work, touching lives in every corner of our state. She oversaw and bettered our state's most critical services supporting Minnesotans

most in need. I am immensely grateful for her dedication and leadership."

Since her appointment in August 2019, Harpstead has overseen significant internal evolution and operational stability of the Department of Human Services. Key among her accomplishments was supporting the enterprise-wide work to separate the Department of Human Services into three distinct agencies, including the Department of Children, Youth, and Families as of July 1, 2024, and Direct Care and Treatment which will become independent on July 1, 2025. Under her leadership, the State of Minnesota's 2024 Medicaid renewals process achieved the goal of no disparities within the Black and overall American Indian communities for the first time, and an 80% auto-renewal rate, earning Minnesota the rank of 8th in the nation.

"I thank Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan for the honor and privilege of serving the people of Minnesota over two terms in their Administration," said Harpstead. "I have been so proud to be the Commissioner of the caring, competent, and high-capacity Department of Human Services. I'm pleased that we were

able to balance new, stronger process controls with greater responsiveness to community partners, worked with the DHS grants and contracts team to imagine a re-design of the agency's thousands of grants, and built an unparalleled team of strong senior leaders."

About Jodi Harpstead
Governor Walz named Jodi Harpstead commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services in August 2019. Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Harpstead was the president and CEO of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) since September 2011. She also was the executive vice president and chief operating officer for LSS and spent 23 years in a variety of positions with Medtronic, Inc.

Commissioner Harpstead has volunteered in leadership capacities for a variety of other organizations including Augsburg University, Lutheran Services in America and ARRM – the statewide association of community-based service providers for people with disabilities. She received her Master of Business Administration in finance and bachelor's degree in business administration from Michigan State University.

Former Minnesota Governor Carlson Supports Effort to Restore Accountability and Confidence in State Government Opposes Governor Walz Plan for New Oversight Effort

Former Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson says he opposes efforts by Governor Tim Walz to create another layer of state government to investigate efforts to "steal public money" while suggesting there are already systems and personnel in place to prevent further efforts to financially defraud the state.

In a letter to State Representative Lisa Demuth, the highest-ranking elected Republican in the state and likely Speaker of the House when the legislature convenes on January 14, Carlson charged that state taxpayers have seen their money wasted as a "result of dishonesty and ineptitude" in the Walz administration.

Governor Walz has suggested the state's current audit system is not working and has proposed an anti-fraud unit to protect the public's money in the wake of the "Feeding Our Future" scandal which saw hundreds of millions of dollars

diverted from the program.

Walz signed an executive order last week creating a new fraud investigations unit within the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The move will see fraud investigators with the state's Department of Commerce moved to the BCA, resulting in a new group called the Fraud and Financial Crimes Unit. The governor's office notes the plan is expected to have a net cost of approximately \$54 million over the next four years.

Carlson charges that the Walz administration did not have a working environment to prevent the theft. "Clearly, that was absent here and now the Walz administration is attempting to absolve itself of responsibility," Carlson wrote, adding that the Walz administration and the Governor lacked "common sense leadership and sound professional planning."

"Another layer of government is not the answer," Carlson

wrote. "Accountability is not about adding more people and passing more laws. Rather, it is about leaders being alert and willing to act responsibly and swiftly in protecting the public interest and that includes the public's money."

Carlson added that as House Speaker, Representative Demuth has "the opportunity to expose incompetence, make certain that officials unworthy of the public's trust are dismissed, and institute reforms that will restore the public's confidence in government."

Carlson served as Minnesota's 37th governor from 1991 to 1999. While considered a liberal Republican, Carlson now identifies as a "moderate" Republican.

The letter was also signed by former Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) representatives Tom Berkelman and Janet Entzel and Duke Skoric, president of Duluth-based Zenith Research Group.

Polk County Sheriff

Structure Fire in Euclid Twp

On 1/11/2025, The Polk County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a residential structure fire in Euclid Township.

The fire is believed to have originated with a wood stove located in the attached garage. When Deputies arrived, the garage was fully engulfed, and the fire had begun spreading to the attached house. The responding fire departments were able to fully extinguish the fire. The garage was a complete loss as well as the residence.

The house was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

Additional responding agencies included the Crookston Fire Department, Crookston Area Ambulance, Warren Fire Department, Warren Ambulance, and Red Lake Falls Fire Department. The Minnesota State Fire Marshall was notified.

No further information will be released at this time.

Winter is here.
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CLOSED

Motor Vehicle office, in Fosston, will be closed Monday & Tuesday - January 20th & 21st

ANTIQUE'S

By John Eggers

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



Remember Maureen O'Hara? When this photo was taken she recently made the movie "Miracle on 34th Street," which was made public in 1947. One of her fans wrote her a letter requesting a signed photo. Maureen O'Hara responded by sending her a photo in green ink. On the back of the photo, the recipient made a notation in pencil, "Miracle on 34th Street."

About fifteen years ago I purchased an album filled with signed photos of Hollywood stars who made movies in the 1940s. On the back of each photo, the owner noted what film the star had currently made. Apparently she would see a film and then write to the stars in the film requesting a photo. I have sold most of the photos but I kept a 8 by 10 photo of Gregory Peck, one of my favorite actors.

Signed photos are extremely collectible and can be worth tens of thousands of dollars. There is one caveat. You have to authenticate the signature. In the case of the photos I purchased, many were signed personally to the person requesting the photo. In these cases the signature was probably authentic. Some merely said, "Sincerely, Allan Ladd" or they used the words, "cordially" or "respectfully yours." These signatures were probably facsimiles.

Maureen O'Hara signed her name in green ink, which might give us some clue that it might be authentic. There are people that will validate a signature but this will cost you some dollars.

Maureen O'Hara was born in Dublin, Ireland and passed away in Boise, Idaho in 2015 at the age of 95. Coincidentally, she was having lunch one day with actress Lucille Ball (another red head), when Lucy first saw Cuban musician Desi Arnaz. As you know, she later married Desi and they made 181 episodes of the I Love Lucy show.

The photo shown is five by seven and is worth between \$25 and \$50. There are many things to consider in placing a value on a signature but the first is, "Is it authentic and not a reproduction?" Collecting signatures is a fun and interesting hobby. There is always a story to accompany every signature. Good luck!

FAX SERVICE
at Richards
Publishing
Gonvick

DINING & entertainment

NO BINGO

WING NIGHT WEDNESDAY

Fri. & Sat., Jan. 17th & 18th, 2025 - Shrimp

SHORTY'S PLACE, 268-4199

CAROL'S COZY BAR & GRILL
Brooks, MN • 218-698-4608

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Jan. 17th, 18th & 19th, 2025
Steak & Shrimp, Ribs & Chicken, Ribeye
Comes with Salad Bar, Potato & Garlic Toast.
Friday ONLY - Walleye

Breakfast EVERY SUNDAY
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

COMING SOON!
FEBRUARY 15TH
Valentine's Dance with the Honky Tonk Troubadours

FOOTBALL PARTY
Feb. 9th, 2025
Social Hour Before the Game. Food Specials.

KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 9:00 P.M. DAILY

BAR BINGO!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21st, 2025 • 6:30 PM

58#S AT \$1,000 UP TO \$1,000 MAXIMUM

CAROL'S COZY BAR & GRILL
Brooks, MN • 218-698-4608

Fiber Gathering Under the Pines Fiber Art Friday Events

Friday January 17, 2025
Clearwaters Life Center, 226 Elm St. Gonvick, MN 56644

Friday February 21, 2025
Clearwaters Life Center, 226 Elm St. Gonvick, MN 56644

Friday March 21, 2025
Clearwaters Life Center, 226 Elm St. Gonvick, MN 56644

From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Sustainable Sheep and Fiber Community of Northern Minnesota (SSFC) is sponsoring Fiber Gathering Under the Pines events again this year. These are informal events designed to teach various fiber art techniques, share projects and enjoy meeting new people.

Bring your wheel (in working order), spindle, or other fiber-related tools. Or share your latest projects and come see what all the fun is about. If you have some fiber, yarns or other fiber art related items you'd like to share, sell or donate, bring them along. All sales do require a Minnesota ST-19 form.

Everyone welcome! This is a free event. More information: 218-657-2502, sheepcommunity.com or sustainablesheep@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Sustainable Sheep and Fiber Community of Northern Minnesota (SSFC).

✓ Fuel ✓ Seed ✓ Fertilizer **Enough Cash?**

If you want to expand your farm or purchase new equipment or simply increase cash flow to manage your day-to-day operating expenses, we offer agriculture lending products to meet your needs.

Wyatt Vettleson

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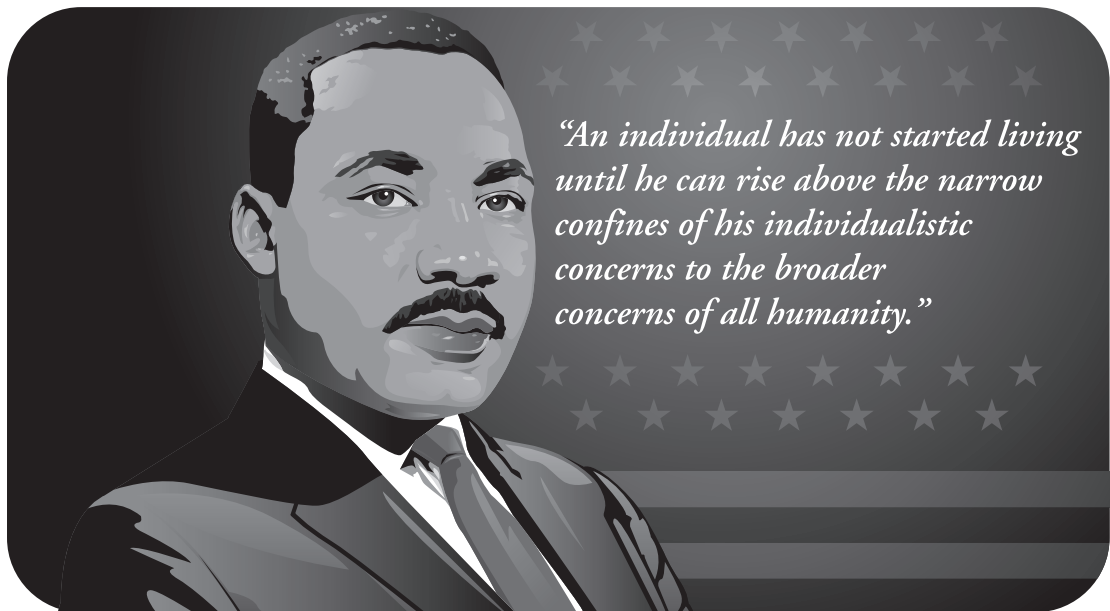
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Okelee, MN 56742

Phone **218-683-7961**

ATTENTION: SNOWBIRDS

Please call our office with change of address. Notifying the Post Office does not include newspapers, they WILL NOT forward them and then they get returned to us with a .62 cent fee. Thank you.

(218) 487-5225
Leader-Record - Grygla Eagle
Red Lake County Herald - McIntosh Times



CLASSIFIED ADS

CONCESSIONS MANAGER

The Clearbrook-Gonvick School District is looking for a Concessions Manager beginning immediately. This position is responsible for the coordination of group sign-up, ordering, and preparation for all home sporting events. Pay is \$2,880 for the concessions year, with a pro-rated amount for the remainder of the current sports season.

Please submit letter of interest and resume to:
Clearbrook-Gonvick School
16770 Clearwater Lake Rd
Clearbrook, MN 56634
Attn: Melissa Weems, HR
mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us



R44-45C

ADSIS INTERVENTION AND/OR ANTICIPATED ELEMENTARY TEACHER

Clearbrook-Gonvick School District has an opening for a Grades 4-6 ADSIS Reading Intervention Teacher and/or anticipated open position for an Elementary School Teacher. This is a full-time position and would be available for the 2025-2026 school year. Salary range for this position is \$45,927-\$74,775 dependent on education and years of experience, with an anticipated salary increase to the teacher scale in 25-26.

Requirements: MN K-6 elementary teaching license is required. Individuals with alternative licenses and those who are interested in extra-curricular or coaching activities are encouraged to apply. 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



R44-48C

Clearwater County Land Department Administrative Assistant/County Park Manager

Responsibilities include maintaining budgetary accounts, receipting, preparing reports, public contact, data entry and general office duties in the management and conservation of tax-forfeited lands, forests, county forest roads, county leases and other natural resources under the jurisdiction of Clearwater County.

This position is directly responsible for the operation of Long Lake Park and Campground, a 89 site county campground with day use areas. Duties include preparing budgets, all financial record keeping, hiring, training and scheduling of campground personnel, purchasing, marketing and merchandising.

Minimum Requirements: A high school diploma and 1 year of directly related work experience in retail operations, clerical and/or administrative support. Wage range is \$23.33 to \$30.21/hour.

Applications may be obtained from: Human Resources Department, 213 Main Ave N, Dept. 205, Bagley, MN 56621, (Phone 218-694-6520) or download from www.co.clearwater.mn.us

Application deadline: 4:30 PM, January 31, 2025

R44-46C

ASSISTANT CLEARWATER COUNTY ATTORNEY

WORK PERFORMED/JOB FUNCTIONS:

Responsible for all aspects of criminal prosecution and civil litigation, including: working with victims and witnesses; appropriately reviewing matters involving criminal or civil issues and taking appropriate action, preparation of criminal complaints and eCharging cases; preparing civil pleadings; conducting legal research and preparing briefs and Memoranda; conducting Court/Jury trials and engaging in plea and/or settlement negotiations; preparing sentence and disposition recommendations; handling appearances in District Court; developing work priorities and assisting the County Attorney in developing and executing department policies; and providing advice to individual County employees and County Departments regarding the conducting of County business as directed by the County Attorney. Performs confidential/professional duties and responsibilities in accordance with office and County requirements. Performs other duties as assigned by the County Attorney.

MINIMUM TRAINING, EXPERIENCE OR CERTIFICATIONS:

- JD Degree from accredited law school
- MN Driver's License
- Licensed to practice law in Minnesota
- Ability to pass a standard background check

Clearwater County offers benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurances, as well as paid holidays, vacation, and sick leave. Further information regarding benefits is available by calling Niki Broten at 218-694-1171.

NOTE: You must complete and return a Clearwater County Job Application and submit a cover letter and resume to be considered for this position. Application form and job description may be obtained from our website at: www.co.clearwater.mn.us. Please email the completed application/cover letter/questionnaire/resume to kristi.thompson@clearwatercountymn.gov or mail it to Clearwater County Attorney's Office, 213 Main Ave. N., Dept. 301, Bagley, MN 56621

Application Accepted to: January 21, 2025 or until filled

Wage Range: \$40.93 to \$52.52/hour



Clearwater County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

R42-33C

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.

R4116C

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.

R4116C

POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR

Special Education Para-Educator: Wage range is \$16.45-\$18.76 per hour, dependent on years of previous experience. Requirements for the position include enjoying working with special education students and having passed or have the ability to pass a para pro exam.

American Indian Education Para-Educator: This position requires the ability to work 1 on 1 or in a small group setting with students in grades 7-12. This is a full-time position with a wage range of \$16.45-\$18.76, dependent on previous years of experience.

Part-Time Cook: This position is a 4 hour per day position, Monday-Friday. Previous food handling experience is preferred. Wage range is \$16.40-\$18.70 per hour, dependent on years of previous experience.

Minimum Requirements for all positions: All candidates must have the minimum of a GED and be able to pass a background check.

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



R44-48C

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

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:

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Sort Line Operator I - II – Fosston:

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

COACHING POSITIONS

The Clearbrook-Gonvick School has the following Extra-Curricular Coaching Positions Available for the 2025 Spring Season:

Head Coach Positions:

Pay for these positions is \$4,320 for the season

Varsity Head Baseball Coach

Varsity Head Softball Coach

Assistant Coach Positions: Pay for these positions is

\$2,880 for the season

Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach

Varsity Assistant Softball Coach

Assistant Track Coach

Junior High Coach Position: Pay for this position is \$1,800 for the season

Junior High softball coach

Coaching requirements and expectations for our District include: Teaching young players the fundamentals of the sport you are applying for, being present at all games and practices, and being a positive role model to young student athletes. It is preferred that an applicant have experience coaching or playing in the sport they are applying for. Must be able to pass a background check. Positions are available until filled.

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



R44-48C

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



M43-44C

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:

- Page layout
- Writing articles
- Attending community events: day, evening or weekends
- Photography
- Some inter-office duties (updating subscriptions, customer service, ad sales)

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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R289C

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Office of Cannabis Management opens public comment period on draft cannabis rules

St. Paul, MN – The Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) announced today it has published a notice of intent to adopt expedited rules and has opened a 30-day public comment period. Members of the public can submit formal comment starting today, Monday, Jan. 13, on draft rules that will complete the regulatory framework for Minnesota's new cannabis industry. A copy of the proposed rules has been published in the State Register and may be viewed at OCM's Rulemaking webpage.

The public can submit comments through the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) website until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Instructions on how to use the system are available on the OAH website.

"Today marks another significant milestone in the work to launch a safe, equitable,

and responsible cannabis marketplace in Minnesota," said OCM Interim Director Charlene Briner.

Leading up to this point, OCM engaged with and reached out to key audiences in a variety of ways. For instance, as early as October 2023, OCM received input through a series of surveys that focused on specific rulemaking topics, as well as held meetings with key partners to gather feedback. OCM shared the first draft of proposed rules and received public feedback on that draft from July 31 through Aug. 30, 2024.

"Consumer health and safety and access to safe products were our primary focus as we crafted clear, consistent rules that reflect industry standards and best practices and that are informed by the existing regulation of both medical and hemp-derived edible products," said Briner. "We are grateful

for the partnership and input from community members, advocates, industry experts, and others who helped shape the rules that will be the cornerstone of our state's regulated cannabis marketplace."

After the closure of the comment period, OCM will make any changes to the rules based on reasonable feedback. OCM will submit those updated rules to a state judge for confirmation. The rules then are sent to the Secretary of State's office and the governor who has a statutory 14-day veto opportunity. After completion of those necessary steps, OCM will publish final adoption of rules in the State Register for adoption, which is anticipated before the end of the first quarter of 2025.

The adoption of rules is a critical step in launching Minnesota's cannabis industry. Qualified applicants for cannabis business license types that

are not capped in statute could receive their business license as soon as rules are adopted, meaning that qualified applicants for a microbusiness license could conceivably begin cultivating cannabis and begin business operations before summer. Similarly, qualified applicants in the other non-capped license types (wholesaler, transporter, testing facility, and delivery service) could have licenses as soon as rules are adopted.

OCM encourages the public to participate in the rulemaking process. All public comments should identify the portion of the proposed rules addressed and the reason for the comment. In addition, the public is asked to propose any change desired and make any comments on the legality of the proposed rules during this comment period. All comments or responses received are public data and will be available for review on the

eComments website.

OCM has developed this additional notice plan, while not required under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.389, to ensure that any and all persons affected by the proposed rules will have notice of the office's intent to adopt rules, and will as such, be afforded the ability to provide official comment on the rules.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Brookfield Apts in Clearbrook, MN is accepting applications for **January - 1 Bd openings with one unit being for HC unit with handicap features.** Accepting applications 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. Limited access entry. Active Community Room. Applications and qualifications, contact Nicole at 218-751-6881 or Laura at 218-407-7681. Applications online @ bemman.wixsite.com/bemidjimanagementinc AN EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. R44-47C

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Ask a Trooper

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

Q u e s -
tion: I'm
wondering
about a light
that seems

to only be on at night on the traffic lights. It's a small purple or blueish light that's near the traffic lights. I've tried to figure out what its use is or if it's a camera. I've asked other people what it means and I've never met anyone who knows what it is. Thank you!

Answer: What you are talking about is a blue light and they are visible during the day. How they work and what are they used for:

1. Signal Activation: The blue

lights are wired into the traffic signal system and turn on when the traffic light changes to red.

2. Officer Visibility: From a distance, officers can see the blue light, indicating that a vehicle has entered the intersection while the signal was red.

3. Enforcement: This allows officers to effectively and safely enforce red light violations, even if they are observing the intersection from a distance.

The blue lights make it easier for officers to see and enforce red light violations, improving traffic safety. The blue lights allow officers to observe intersections from a safe distance and pull over violators without

putting themselves or other drivers at risk. The increased enforcement provided by blue lights aims to deter drivers from running red lights, leading to fewer crashes and improved traffic flow.

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

It Really Wasn't All that Funny

It really
wasn't all
that funny,
but I sure got a kick out of it. The ladies in the church were hanging curtains, and it was no laughing matter. Just before the service, one tapped the other to signal they oughta gather and get-er done—today. In fact, right after the service was the plan and unbeknownst to the men, it was going down.

The service sauntered on and soon the men were notified of their call to duty. "Oh, thank you for staying after to help hang the curtain rods and curtains! What a huge help," said one woman to the other man and vice versa. Yup, that's right. One woman spoke to the other's husband and that was that. It was settled. Proud they were to be helping out.

Help out they did. Dangling near the edge of the deep stairwell was what the men were willing to do. With ladder leaning precariously close to the edge of the steps, they tacked up the rods in no time, and for this, the women were most grateful. Smiles radiated, and the new black rods were looking good.

Soon, the decorating began in earnest as the newly purchased curtains were not only arranged, but rearranged—far above the stairwell to frame it

all just so. And just so you know, admire from afar the women did as the men carried the ladder into the basement while tucking away the tools. So focused the men were on their job, they failed to notice what was taking place.

And what was taking place? Well, the women were talking about whether or not they actually liked that which was just hung. "It's not how it looked in the picture," was spoken in low tones between them. Soon, the solution to the problem became quite clear.

"Should we just send them back?" asked one. "Yes," said the other, and without missing a beat, they approached the men.

"We changed our minds," was all that was spoken. Quietly, as if someone was asking to pass the potatoes, the command was given. "They need to come down."

Up snapped the head of one man who went on to explain that the ladder was already being put away. "Well," said she to be in gentle but firm tones, "It will just have to be brought back up."

And you know what happened next? The men did bring that ladder back up. They stepped right on up and onto it, took down the rods and removed the curtains. They then stepped

back up upon it and replaced the now empty rods which would await the future curtains yet to be chosen.

In no time flat, the women had those curtains packaged up in order to be returned from whence they'd come. Only then did the men put away the ladder and the tools. I was an observer of and can testify to the truth of this story. It all went up, only to come down moments later. No voice was raised, and no negative words exchanged. Then again, I did not accompany either team on their way home.

To be a witness of how these men love their wives as Christ loves the church (Eph. 5:25) was a gift to behold. And you know why these men love wives? These men love their wives because their wives love the church. The men made it about the other because their wives were making it about others and so it goes.

And to be perfectly honest, I still find the words spoken earlier rather humorous. "What? What do you mean you changed your mind? What's wrong?" And the wife looking rather matter of fact kept it simple. "We changed our minds."

And so, it is—sometimes, we just do. Amen.

Sanford Bemidji & Bagley implement visitor restrictions

BEMIDJI, Minn. – Due to a recent rise in respiratory illnesses within the region, Sanford Bemidji Medical Center and Sanford Bagley Medical Center will implement updated visitor restrictions. Sanford is enacting these guidelines to protect patients and employees from potentially catching and spreading illness. Visiting hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Visitor restrictions will be effective at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8. Sanford Bemidji and Sanford Bagley hospitals will put in place the following restrictions for all visitors:

Four visitors are allowed to visit per day.

• It is recommended that only two visitors are in the room at a time.

• All minor visitors must be accompanied by an adult.

• One visitor may spend the night as an emotional support person.

People who are ill or showing symptoms should not visit.

• Visitors recently exposed to a respiratory illness and/or visiting a patient with a respiratory illness must always wear a mask.

• All Sanford Health locations encourage patients to wear a mask if they are showing signs of respiratory illness or have COVID-19.

Special Care

Nursery Visitors:

• No more than two people may visit at one time—one of

the two people must be a parent/caregiver who is wearing an infant identification band.

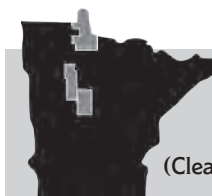
• All visitors must be 6 years old or older and always wear a mask in the nursery. Visiting time will be limited to 15 minutes.

Visiting COVID-19

patients in isolation:

• Visitors should be kept to a minimum.

• Visitors should be aware that they can be at risk of CO-



NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH NUGGETS

(Clearwater, Hubbard and Lake of the Woods Counties)

Radon is a colorless and odorless gas that comes from the soil. The gas can accumulate in the home. Radon gas decays into fine particles that are radioactive. When inhaled, these fine particles can damage the lungs. Exposure to radon over a long period of time can lead to lung cancer.

Radon is produced from the natural decay of uranium and radium, found in rocks and soil. Uranium breaks down to radium, and radium eventually decays into the gas radon. Radon gas is in the soil and common throughout Minnesota. Because soil is porous, radon moves up from the soil and into the home.

Radon is a serious public health concern in Minnesota. The average radon level in Minnesota is more than three times higher than the U.S. radon level. This is due to our geology and how our homes are operated. Minnesota homes are closed up or heated most of the year, which can result in higher levels of radon.

In Minnesota, more than two in five homes have radon levels that pose a significant health risk. A radon test is the only way to know how much radon is in your home. Radon can be reduced with a mitigation system.

Any radon level poses some health risk. While it is not possible to reduce radon to zero, the best approach is to lower the radon level as much as possible. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set the ac-

tion level at 4 pCi/L (picocuries of radon per liter of air). MDH recommends installing a radon mitigation system when the radon level is at 4 pCi/L or higher.

Radon gas enters the home, usually through openings between the soil and the home. These pathways may include cracks in the concrete slab, floor-wall joints, an open sump pit, or a crawl space. Differences in air pressure between the home's interior and the soil can pull radon gas into the home.

Short-term testing typically measures radon levels for 2-7 days and is a quick way to screen a home for radon. Short-term tests can be completed any time of year, but the heating season is the best time to test.

Long-term testing should include both heating and non-heating seasons. A long-term test measures radon levels for a minimum of 90 days. They are the best way to estimate the annual average of radon in the home.

All Minnesota homes should be tested for radon and then retested every 2-5 years. Radon test kits are inexpensive and are available at many local health departments, hardware stores, laboratories, and other vendors.

Radon test kits are available free of charge from Clearwater Country Nursing Service in Bagley and Beltrami County Community Health Board in Bemidji. Call 218-694-6581 (Bagley) or 218-333-8140 (Bemidji) if you have questions.

Essentia Health encourages cervical cancer screenings

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and the perfect time to consider a cervical cancer screening.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year in the United States, about 11,500 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed and about 4,000 women die.

Cervical cancer is preventable, and screening tests are critically important in early detection. If the disease is caught soon enough, cervical cancer can be removed or treated before it spreads and becomes life-altering. The American Cancer Society (ACS) reports that, when diagnosed at an early stage, the five-year survival rate for cervical cancer patients is 92%.

According to the United States Preventive Services Task Force, all women should get their first Pap test (or Pap smear) at age 21, followed by

one every three years, to look for signs of cervical cancer. Starting at age 30, women have the option of the Pap/HPV (human papillomavirus) co-test to look for signs of cervical cancer or HPV infection. You can also have the HPV test alone every five years.

HPV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is responsible for nearly all cervical cancer cases in the U.S. To protect against the spread of HPV, the HPV vaccine series can be started for boys and girls as early as age 9 and can be administered until the age of 45.

Cervical cancer screenings are available at Essentia Health clinics in Fosston, Bagley and Oklee. Call (218) 435-1212 between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or schedule a screening any time through your MyChart account.

Massey Ferguson & Minneapolis Moline

By Auctioneer Eric W. Mickelson

I recently found a copy of the auction bill that contained the first tractor I ever purchased with my own money. The tractor was a ZB Minneapolis Moline that was sold at a sale south of Oklee in 1982.

I was visiting around the coffee table and it was mentioned that the owner of the ZB MM also had a Massey Ferguson tractor so I had to look back and yes on the same sale was a 1962 Massey Ferguson 97 Diesel tractor with 23.1 X 26 tires. That got me thinking about Masseys!

I knew the 95, 97 Masseys were really Minneapolis Moline tractors. The model 95 was really based on the GB Diesel MM tractor. Later there was Super 95 that was essentially a GVI MM. Next came the model 97 Massey Ferguson which was similar to the G705 and G706 MM tractors. These tractors are also known sometimes as muscle tractors. They were big and powerful machines that were capable of handling the big farm jobs like plowing and cultivating and putting a lot of acres behind them.

The Massey Ferguson Super 95 had a 7.0 liter, 6 cylinder, Diesel engine. The belt hp of the 95 was rated at 78 horsepower. The 97, of course, was equipped with a larger engine like its Minneapolis Moline Counterparts.

Recently I was looking at an old magazine and that magazine sparked some interest. There was a picture of a Minneapolis Moline tractor that caught my eye. It was a model G 708 with front wheel assist. I sure wish Minneapolis Moline could have continued to be in the tractor business. They were very often ahead of their time or at least not afraid to try a new concept. In the earlier days they were one of the first companies to get into fueling their tractors with LP which was a cheaper alternative at the time. LP tractors were very efficient and clean fuel burners. Soon other companies followed suit. Now in the case of the G 708 I saw in the picture, it was the front wheel assist that caught my eye. Minneapolis Moline was quick



A 97 Massey Ferguson 2 wheel drive tractor.

to equip some of their tractors in the 1960's with front wheel assist. The G 708 in the picture I saw featured a 3-point hitch and was available for diesel, LPG fuels, 2 wheel drive or 4 wheel drive.

Last summer I was in a tractor pull at Itasca Park. One of the tractors there in my division was a G705 Minneapolis Moline. The big standard tread tractor was introduced in 1962 and replaced the GVI tractor. The G 706 was basically the same machine except it was equipped with MFWD(4 wheel drive). Of course one of the draws of Minneapolis Moline tractors to me was the fact that they were manufactured in Hopkins, MN. Those of you who know me know that I am a huge John Deere fan but Minneapolis Moline tractors are also a favorite of mine!

Years ago I bought a combine near Thief River Falls. The man also had a G708 MM tractor. Well, I said let me know if you ever sell it as I would be very interested! I never did hear back and assume it has long since been sold, but man I would have really liked to drive that one home. The big husky G series of Minneapolis Moline tractors have always fascinated me. All the way back to the G VI in 1959 to the run through the 1960's Minneapolis Moline had a run of some awfully nice tractors. Hats off to Minneapolis Moline

and their Massey Ferguson counterparts for making tractors with great features for the farmers of the northern plains!

How about a little tractor trivia!

1. The model G 708 was only manufacture for one year. What year was it?

2. The G 706 was replaced by the _____.

3. Did Minneapolis Moline ever make a G 707?

4. The G 706 and G 708 both as well as the Massy 95 and 97 had a _____ speed transmission.

5. T or F: The Massey Ferguson 97 had an 8.3L Diesel or LP engine, but was not made with a Gasoline engine.

Answers: 1. 1965 2. G 708 3. Yes, it replaced the G 705 4. 5 speed 5. True

AT THE RINK

U V A A F K N O U A N S I B C N H O L X
R R P L D N J Z T G O P H L N O A W P B
S P I H V O M L U H V Z R A K L H C F U
X P W V B A Y L V B I T U D M J K E U F
J N E S R L Z P L O C G M E Y L U I C D
V D I G X B Z I A X E T F I L D K S B I
T O O P R A S N P S L N V E V P N C R R
U R H W S P C O G N O I T I T E P M O C
P A K T E E W B J J R E Z L Y E K C O H
K F L E P P R M W H T I L E G D E Z D P
C H D E P K R A O O Z I M C D I F T A P
L R W L X E R Z Y L S L G S F S N T H C
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V A O I X A X G Y S M X M S T P G M H Y
O R D H K C L O R P I U R O K L E R T G
O C X A H E V I P D T I J N L I R A S I
E C E E S T N E W I Z D R I K N W W A U
K R C G G K G N I T A K S I G E W E O N
B K R W M H R C O R G S Y V F H Y Y C G

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORD SEARCH

WORDS

AXEL
BLADE
BREAKAWAY
CHECK
COAST
COMPETITION
DISCIPLINE
EDGE
FLIP
HOCKEY
ICE
JUMP
LIFT
NOVICE
PROGRAM
RINK
ROLLER
SEASON
SINGLES
SKATING
SPEED
SPIN
WARMUP
ZAMBONI

Answers on page 7

New snowmobile bridge put in north east of Bagley



By Amanda Brustad
Clearwater Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club has a new bridge that was installed recently. Thank you to Ruben Johnson, Paul & Gail Friborg, Mike Netland, Brady Dyrdaahl, Brandon Wastweet and Travis Stokes for your help. It was much appreciated.
North of Bagley about 1 mile is where the bridge was. It needed to be pulled to the river about 2 miles north and east of Bagley. They used a tractor and the groomer. Man power was needed to get the chain across the river

SBA loans strengthen Minnesota small businesses and 19,200 jobs with over \$849 million during FY24

MINNESOTA – The U.S. Small Business Administration announced that the SBA delivered \$56 billion in capital, disaster relief, and bonding to small businesses and disaster-impacted communities across America in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24). Total number of loans reached 1,963 in FY24, and total dollar amount of SBA backed capital increased, with \$849 million of that capital making its way to Minnesota entrepreneurs. FY24 marks a nearly \$50 million increase in SBA-backed capital in Minnesota, as compared to FY23's total of \$799 million.

"The uptick of SBA-backed capital indicates confidence in the American economy by small business owners," said White House appointed-SBA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Geri Aglipay. "More small business owners in Minnesota and the region are receiving affordable capital to start and grow their business with the SBA, especially Black-owned, Hispanic/Latino-owned and women-owned. This is the result of SBA Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman's customer-centric loan reforms that advance the SBA's commitment to expand equitable access to capital."

"This year's increase in total amount of SBA backed capital in Minnesota demonstrates how critical SBA programs are to businesses seeking to start, grow, expand, and recover," shared SBA Minnesota District Director, Brian McDonald. "Every day, our team has the privi-

lege of working with new and existing small businesses, and small business supporters from across the state. The lending community plays a critical role in the small business ecosystem, and through SBA's guaranteed loan programs, they are helping small businesses succeed."

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy 2024 Small Business Profile, 99.5% of the businesses located in Minnesota are small, employing 1.2 million workers. More Minnesota small businesses are opening than closing, which is generating new jobs for others across the state.

By the Numbers: Minnesota Funding and Impact

In FY24, the SBA approved 1,811 loans in our traditional 7(a) and 504 loan programs which provided more than \$846 million directly to entrepreneurs and supported the creation and/or retention of 19,200 jobs.

- \$687 million in 7(a) loans: The 7(a) loan program, SBA's primary business loan program, guaranteed 1,616 loans worth more than \$687 million to Minnesota small businesses.

- \$159 million in 504 loans: The 504 loan program delivered 195 fixed-rate loans for long-term assets and real estate worth more than \$159 million.

In addition to the traditional SBA guaranteed loan support, the SBA helped provide access to capital for small businesses in Indiana through our Microloan program and Disaster Loan Assistance.

- \$2.7 million in microloan

funding: The SBA microloan program provided 152 small dollar loans up to \$50,000 per business, through our intermediary lending partners in the state.

For more information on SBA-backed loans and small business resources for Minnesota entrepreneurs, visit sba.gov/mn.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration
The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only

New Grant Available for Minnesota Farmers' Markets

Funding available to support market nutrition assistance programs

St. Paul, MN: A new Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) grant opportunity is available for farmers' market associations to help support nutrition assistance programs at the markets.

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Assistance Grant will provide funding to farmers' markets in the state so they can increase participation in food assistance programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), Market Bucks, and Power of Produce (POP) Club. These programs help individuals and families who are experiencing food insecurity purchase foods

directly from farmers at farmers' markets.
The MDA expects to award approximately \$150,000 using a competitive review process. Applicants may request between \$1,500 to \$10,000 per farmers' market association. There is no match requirement for this grant. If the project proposal is approved, the farmers' market association may request an advance of up to 50% of the project funding. Advance funds must be requested as a part of the application process.
To be eligible to apply, a farmers' market association must be located in Minnesota and intends to participate in at least one nutrition assistance program in 2025 that provides food directly to program participants at the farmers' market.
Applications will be accepted until February 20, 2025.



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Governor Walz Announces Over \$5 Million for Food Security in Minnesota

On Wednesday, Governor Walz announced \$5.5 million in new funding for Minnesota food shelves. 50 percent of funds will go toward food from Minnesota producers and processors, supporting the local agricultural community.

"No family should be faced with a decision to either put food on the table or pay the bills.

That's why Minnesota has taken major strides to eliminate hunger, from investments in universal school meals to millions in funding for food shelves and agriculture support," said Governor Walz. "With this funding, we're relieving a strain on family pocketbooks and ensuring a stable supply of healthy food to meet Minnesotans' needs."



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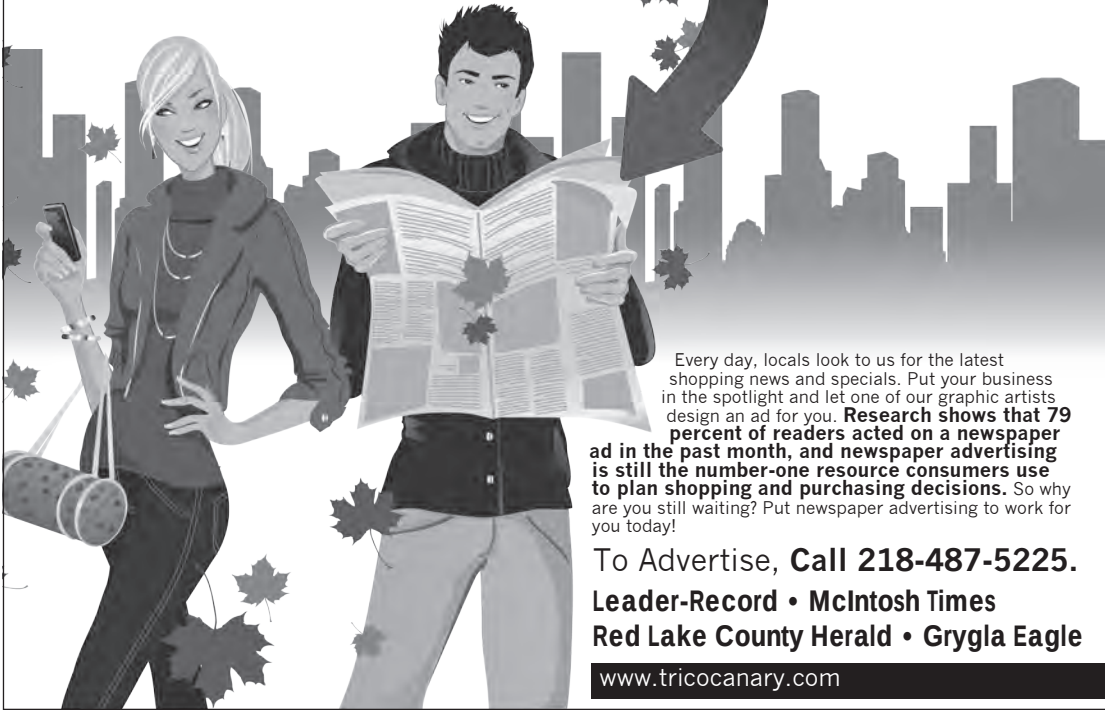
If you receive the paper in the mail, you can view the E-Edition for free! We just need your email address to get you started!

www.TriCoCanary.com
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The Tri County Canary E-edition is included in your subscription to the Leader-Record, McIntosh Times, Oklee Herald or Grygla Eagle!

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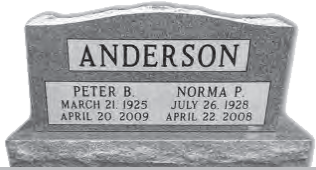
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OBITUARIES



Obituary for
Joan C. Ditty

Joan C. Ditty, 82, of Bemidji, MN died Saturday, January 11, 2025 at Neilson Place in Bemidji, MN.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, January 17, 2025 at Evangelical Free Church in Bemidji, MN. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

Joan was born February 9, 1942 in Chicago, IL, the daughter of Walter A. and Bernice M. (Lowing) Wilson.

She worked as a lab secretary for North County Regional Hospital, both old and new facility and later for Sanford. She was always active at her church, Evangelical Free. She loved volunteering at the 7th Day Adventist clothing depot which was in her back yard and a driver at Northwoods Caregivers. She was an avid dog lover.

She is survived by her children, Jeanette Wiegel of Vallejo, CA, Robin Eggert of Gonvick, MN, and Audrey (Bruce) Emmel of Leonard, MN, grandsons, Charles Lowe of Springfield, OR and Joshua (Kari) Emmel of Salol, MN, and granddaughter, Joanna (Victor) Ordenez of Austin, MN, and 9 great grandchildren, Samara, Elaina, Emmet, Axel, Elizabeth, Elsie, Jack, Eva, and Micah.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Joyce Lexow, brother-in-law, Howard Lexow, first husband David Wiegel and second husband Vern Ditty.

Condolences may be left at ceasefuneralhome.com.



Obituary for
Gail Bowlin

Funeral Services for Gail Elaine Lambert Bowlin, age 71, of Carriere, MS, passed away Saturday, January 4, 2025, was held Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 11:00 am at West Union Baptist Church.

Visitation was Thursday, January 9, 2025 from 10:00 am until 11:00 am at West

Union Baptist Church.

Burial was held in West Union Cemetery under the direction of McDonald Funeral Home.

A native of Oklee, MN, she was an LPN. Gail was a very talented quilter, seamstress, loving grandmother, and friend of many.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter U. Lambert and Marion Boucher Lambert; and her brothers, Bob Lambert and Richard Lambert.

Left to cherish her memory are her loving husband of 40 years, Arthur Elton Bowlin; her daughters, Jennifer (Robin) Lynn Bertzyk and Wanda (Pete) Marie Hendrum Alsten; her 4 grandchildren, Amber Gleason, Nicholas Bertzyk, Cassie Bertzyk, and Owen Alsten; her 1 great grandson, Connor Gleason; her sisters, Lois (Earl) Vraa, Sandy Lambert, and Jo Ann Lambert; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Obituary for
Shirley Shereck

Shirley E. Shereck 87 of Bagley, MN died on Sunday, January 5, 2025, surrounded by family.

Funeral services were held on Monday, January 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Bagley with Father Chuck Huck officiating. A gathering of friends and family was held on Sunday, January 12, 2025, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at the Cease Family Funeral Home Chapel in Bagley. A prayer service was conducted at 3:30 pm. A visitation was also held one hour prior to the services at the church. Interment at the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Bagley.

Shirley was born May 16, 1937, in Moorhead, MN the daughter of Edward (Bud) and Edythe Staehnke. She grew up in Clearbrook and graduated from Clearbrook High School. Shirley married Leonard Shereck on November 22, 1958, in Bagley. Shirley and Leonard were married for 53 years, and you could count on one hand the time

they spent apart.

Shirley worked many jobs including daycare for her Bagley community, joining Leonard in construction for 7 years, and taking care of her children. She had a gift for sewing, knitting, crocheting, and painting. She enjoyed puzzling, morning coffee, gardening, and spending time with her family. Shirley was an active member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and loved the Lord. She spent time volunteering at the Bagley Senior Center and enjoying time with friends. Serving and providing for others was a major part of who Shirley was. All were welcome no matter what.

Shirley is survived by her daughter Stephanie (Mike Kitagawa) Downey of Bemidji, son Lee Shereck of Bagley, daughter-in-law Prudence Shereck of Thief River. Grandchildren Sara (Jordan) Kretzschmar, Katie Shereck, Megan (Brett Hartje) Downey, Trevor Shereck, Andrew Shereck, and Samantha (Jesse) Lee. Great-grandchildren Leo and Ruby Kretzschmar, and Jenny and Jetton Lee. Brothers Rodney and Dennis Staehnke.

Shirley was proceeded in death by her husband Leonard Shereck, son Leslie Shereck, her infant daughter, her parents, and brother Lyle.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to:

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 67, Bagley, Minnesota 56621

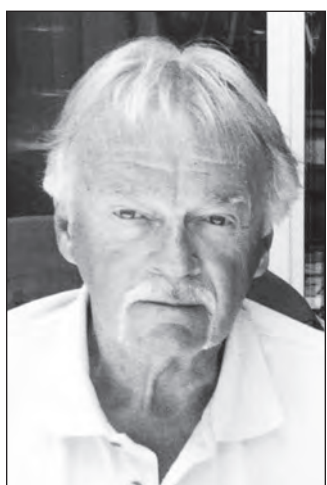
Bagley City Senior Center, P.O. Box 484, Bagley, Minnesota 56621

Clearwater County Humane Society, P.O. Box 296, Bagley, Minnesota 56621



Obituary for
Susan Comer

Susan Comer, age 56, of McIntosh, MN passed away unexpectedly on Monday, December 30th, at her home. A celebration of her life was on Saturday, January 4th, at the Odd Fellows Hall in Devils Lake, ND. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of McIntosh and messages of condolence may be shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.



Obituary for
Noel Thompson

Noel Thompson, age 77, of McIntosh, MN, passed away on Friday, January 10th, at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, ND. A celebration of life will be announced and held at a later date. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of McIntosh and messages of condolence may be shared at www.carlinfuneral.com.

Noel Thompson "N.B." (Jessie Morgan, Magnhild Olsdatter, Ola Halvorsen, Halvor Olsen, Ola Eriksen II, Erik Olsen, Ola Olsen) was the fifth child born to Jessie (Morgan) Thompson and Lloyd Russell Thompson.

Noel was born May 23, 1947 in Crookston, Polk County, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in McIntosh, Minnesota. He attended school in McIntosh and graduated from high school in 1965. In June of 1965, he drove his sister Audrey and her four children to Alaska to join her husband who had gone earlier in the year. Noel returned to Minnesota and farmed

with his Dad until 1968. He then returned to Alaska and worked for Castle Company Excavating.

In 1974 he began working for Alaska General at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. One year while building an ice road on the ocean, his truck fell through the ice. After that experience, he gave up truck driving and became Construction Supervisor for the Badami project until British Petroleum shut it down, due to a low grade of oil in 1999.

In 2003, Noel went to Sakhalin Island Russia as a Construction Supervisor for Sakhalin Mornefte Montazh - Alaska Projects, a subsidiary of Alaska Interstate Construction.

Noel and Lil retired and moved to the farm in McIntosh which was once owned by his father and mother. Noel enjoyed restoring old tractors and working in his yard.

Survivors include his sister, Audrey Holm of Fosston, MN; nieces, nephews and god-daughter, Melissa.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian; his parents; brother, Lyle; sister, Wanda (Richard) LaVoi; brother-in-law, Bob Holm; and aunts and uncles.

House Republicans Ready to
Work, House Democrats Threaten
to Boycott Official Duties

ST. PAUL, MN—With the 2025 House session set to begin Tuesday, January 14th, Representative Knudsen and her GOP colleagues are ready and excited to work. However, Democrat leadership and members have recently threatened to skip out on legislative duties. Whether or not they show up, DFL members are planning on collecting their taxpayer-funded paychecks.

This threat follows a shift from a 67-67 tie between the parties to what is now a 67-66 organizing majority for the Republicans. The one lost seat is due to a DFL loss following a ruling on residency requirements according to Minnesota law. Since the House is no longer at a tie in members, Republicans are planning to exercise the authority granted to them by having this majority. A special election for House District 40B-Roseville, is planned for January 28th.

As public servants, representatives have a duty to serve constituents that have voted

for and entrusted them in St. Paul. The threats coming from democratic members to boycott their elected duty is an example of fraud and dodging their responsibilities as members.

Regardless of what Democrat members decide to do on Tuesday, Representative Knudsen and the rest of the Republican caucus will be at work for you each day. They have big goals this session and will not allow threats like these to hold them back.

House Republicans' goals for this session can be outlined in the following six pillars:

1. Stop the Fraud
2. Make Minnesota Affordable
3. Make Minnesota Safe
4. Raise Standards, Reduce Mandates
5. Minnesota Tax Dollars for Minnesotans
6. Build for the Future

House Republicans will be ready and present for the start of session on Tuesday, January 14Th, as they hope House Democrats will be as well.

Apply for turkey permits
in 'A' season for Carlos
Avery or Whitewater
WMAs by Feb. 21

Contact: Nate Huck, resident game bird specialist, 218-203-4311.

Turkey hunters have through Friday, Feb. 21, to apply for turkey hunting permits for the A spring hunting season in Carlos Avery or Whitewater wildlife management areas. There will be 30 permits available for Carlos Avery WMA and 150 permits for Whitewater WMA.

In addition to a turkey license, a permit is required for those hoping to bag a tom turkey with a firearm in one of these WMAs during the A season. Turkey firearm permits for these WMAs are distributed via a lottery system for the A season. While a license is required for all seasons, hunters

do not need a permit to hunt Carlos Avery or Whitewater WMAs during the B, C, D, E or F seasons. In addition, this year a permit will no longer be required for firearms hunters during any season to hunt Mille Lacs WMA, but a license is still required.

Turkey licenses will go on sale in early March for several hunting seasons from mid-April to the end of May, with the A season kicking off on Wednesday, April 16. Crossbows will be allowed by all hunters with an archery turkey license. Turkey hunting season dates and details for 2025 are available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/turkey).

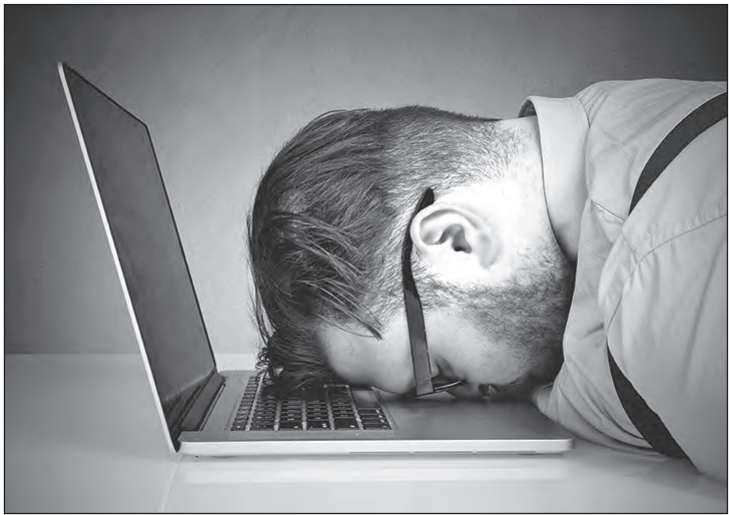
Updated Obituaries on our website
www.tricocanary.com

Tips to make a computer run more smoothly

The spinning color wheel on a computer screen is an unwelcome sight. Despite that, it's a frustration familiar to millions of computer users across the globe and indicative of a device that's overwhelmed.

Though there's never a good time to see the spinning color wheel, it tends to appear at those moments when users are particularly busy or staring down important deadlines. Some computers experience diminished performance due to age, but oftentimes users have options other than replacement when their devices aren't running smoothly.

· **Turn off automatic startups.** The more applications that are running at a given time, the slower a computer is likely to perform. And users may not realize just how many apps are running on their computers at one time. Many apps may be starting automatically whenever a user restarts his or her computer, and these



programs could be running in the background. Individuals who suspect this might be why their devices are operating inefficiently can go into their application settings and turn off automatic startups, particularly with apps they rarely use.

· **Uninstall apps that aren't used.** Device perfor-

mance also can improve when users uninstall apps they don't use. New computers come with a variety of programs that are pre-installed. These programs take up space and memory and adversely affect performance, which makes them prime targets for removal.

· **Save files to cloud stor-**

age and/or a backup hard drive. Inadequate storage space on a hard drive also affects device performance in a negative way. Users with lots of files, be it documents or photos or both, on their computers are urged to utilize cloud storage and delete those files once they're successfully uploaded. Files that users prefer to keep on their computer hard drives can be compressed to free up memory and thus improve speed and performance.

· **Utilize the cleanup function on the computer.** A cleanup function can help to improve performance by deleting temporary files that are created whenever a computer is rebooted or an application is opened after being shut down. These temporary files can take up a lot of storage but the cleanup function will delete them, thus improving the speed of the device.

· **Update the operating system.** An outdated operated system also can adversely affect device performance. Access the settings of the device to determine if a new OS is available. Some people may be utilizing an OS that is several updates behind, and in such instances the performance of the device can be quite poor.

No one wants to see a spinning color wheel on their computer screen. But that wheel might be a byproduct of a host of variables that can be easily and quickly addressed to improve computer performance



Martin Luther
King Jr. Day

Word Search Answers for this week

U R V A A F K N O U A N P S I B C N H O L X
R R P L D N J Z T G O P H L N O A W P B
S P I H V O M L U H V Z R A D K L H C F U
X P W V B A Y L V B I T U A M J K E U F
J N E S R L Z P L O C G M E Y L U I C D
V D I G X B Z I A X E T F I L D K S B I
T O O P R A S N P S L N V E V P N C R R
U R H W S P C O G N O I T I T E P M O C
P A K T E E W B J J R E Z L Y E K C O H
K F L E P P P M W H T I L E G G D E Z D P
C H D E P P K R A O O Z I M C D I F T A P
L R W L X E R Z Y L S L G S F S N T H C
S K H N L A S A P A L I I K H E G C R U P D
X K H L G K W H N P J I H A M I W U S B
V A O I X A X G Y S M X M S T P G M H Y
O R D H K C L O R P I U R O K L E R T Y
O C X A H E V I P D T I J N L I R A S I
E C E E S T N E W I Z D R R K N W W A N
K R C G G K G N I T A K S I G E W E O U
B K R W M H R C O R G S Y V F H Y Y C G



Shannon Nelson has 300th win



Shannon Nelson was hired as the ninth head coach at Northland Community College in October 2010

Nelson's Pioneers have won the MCAC Northern Division outright or tied for the division championship every year since 2012. Nelson's resume also eight Region 13B championships, 10 national tournament appearances, two national runner-up finishes in 2016 and 2020, respectively, and a national championship in 2014.

A 2006 graduate of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Nelson led the Gophers to four straight NCAA tournament appearances, including three appearances in the Sweet Sixteen, and a Final Four appearance in 2004. A three-year starter and two-time team captain for the Gophers, Nelson was the defensive stalwart, claiming the Defensive Player of the Year Award three times. Also, Nelson was named to the Big Ten Conference all-defensive team her junior and senior seasons.

This is her 14th season, and she has two assistant coach Beth Tvedt and Alicia Halvorson Backer.

Tvedt joined the program in 2013. A graduate of Lincoln High School in Thief River. She was a starter and team captain for the Pioneers. She was named first team All Northern Division and first team ALL MCAC in 2012. Tvedt finished with 438 career points, and 269 career rebounds. She earned her bachelor's degree in University Stud-

ies. Tvedt currently resides in Thief River Falls and works as a senior supervisor at DigiKey.

Backer joined the Pioneer women's basketball coaching staff in 2018. Backer was a three-sport athlete at Marshall County Central High School and continued to compete in two of those sports at Northland Community and Technical College from 2002-2004. She was a two-year starter in volleyball and women's basketball and was a captain her sophomore year in both sports. Backer is in the top-ten in the Northland women's basketball record books averaging 4.9 assists per game throughout her career.

She earn her Physical Therapist Assistant degree in 2010. Backer resides in Thief River Falls with her two children, Josie (16), and Camdyn (12), and is the Co-Founder and COO at North Born Physical Therapy in Thief River Falls.

Pioneer team members include:

C 5'8" Lola Garrett, Freshman Moorhead, MN Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton High School

G 5'5" Josie Iverson, Sophomore Winger, MN Fertile-Bel-

trami High School

G 5'8" Leslie Murken, Sophomore Starbuck, MN Minnewaska Area High School

G 5'5" Teagyn Fitzsimonds Sophomore Cavalier, ND Cavalier High School

G 6'0" Tiyana Schwinghammer, Sophomore Brooten, MN Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa High School

F 5'11" Hannah Halvorson Sophomore Park River, ND Park River High School

G 5'9" Jade Reese Freshman Greenbush, MN Greenbush-Middle River High School

F 5'10" Rylie Klopp, Freshman Karlstad, MN Tri-County High School

C 5'11" Sierra Westberg, Freshman Middle River, MN Greenbush-Middle River High School

F 6'1" Sarah Prodzinski, Freshman Ada, MN Ada-Borup-West High School

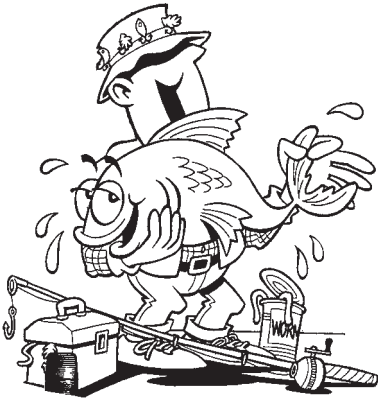
F 5'8" Kinsley Hansonm Freshman Greenbush, MN Greenbush-Middle River High School

G 5'6" Breanna Myers, Freshman Thief River Falls, MN Thief River Falls Lincoln High School

Submit Your Fishing Pictures!

Include:

Name of fisherman/woman, date of catch and any other details you would like to offer.



Email: richards@gvtel.com

Chronic wasting disease reaches endemic stage in 3 southeast Minnesota deer permit areas, DNR adjusts management strategy per CWD response plan

DNR discontinues targeted culling of deer in these DPAs

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will discontinue targeted culling in deer permit areas 646, 647 and 648, in the southeast corner of the state, where chronic wasting disease has reached endemic stage, or a point in which some of the current methods of management are no longer effective.

When CWD prevalence reaches 5% or greater, the disease has reached a threshold where research shows culling is not effective at reducing disease prevalence or controlling the spread. Therefore, the management strategy will shift emphasis toward other CWD management tools within the endemic zone while working to prevent the spread of the disease beyond these areas. This follows the DNR's CWD surveillance and management plan developed in 2019 and most recently updated in July 2024.

"While it is disappointing that CWD prevalence has been increasing in these areas, it still remains relatively low compared to neighboring states, and we have not given up

efforts to minimize its impact," said Wildlife Health Program Supervisor Michelle Carstensen. "There are still many opportunities in these DPAs and statewide for hunters and landowners to engage in the fight against CWD, including participating in liberalized hunting opportunities, getting deer tested for the disease, and following safe carcass disposal guidelines."

Even though DNR is not pursuing targeted culling as a management tool in these three endemic DPAs, local landowners and hunters can still help manage CWD in these areas by actively participating in opportunities to increase antlerless deer harvest, abiding by carcass movement restrictions (mndnr.gov/deerimports), obeying feeding and attractant bans (mndnr.gov/deerfeedban), and participating in additional hunting opportunities.

Outside of the DPAs where CWD is now endemic, the DNR will continue to focus on early detection of new CWD cases through sampling efforts and employing aggressive actions

to contain the spread, including culling where targeted operations are needed and effective.

Research shows that for targeted culling to be effective, landowner-granted access to deer is central to its success. The DNR encourages landowners to participate in the fight against CWD by allowing access to their land for culling operations.

Targeted culling is a management tool used to remove additional CWD-positive animals, focus on social groups that are related to infected individual deer and locally reduce deer densities. The DNR culling strategy targets only deer within two miles of a CWD-positive female deer or group of males that have been detected in the last two years. The DNR does not cull across entire deer permit areas. U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services staff are contracted by the DNR to cull deer on public lands and private land where permission is granted by landowner.

MFU outlines policy priorities for 2025 session

ST. PAUL – The 2025 Minnesota legislative session convenes tomorrow, and Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) is preparing to advocate for a strong agriculture budget, affordable healthcare, support for beginning farmers and other priorities defined by our members.

"As a grassroots organization, we'll be focused on priorities established by members at our state convention in November," said MFU President Gary Wertish. "At a basic level, lawmakers are going to have to come together to pass a new two-year budget for our state. And we want to help make sure that it works well for farm families and others in rural Minnesota—continuing strong investments in agriculture programs, ensuring farm families have access to care and helping young people build lives in agriculture."

Building on the Special Orders of Business that delegates to MFU's 83rd Annual State Convention approved in November, top legislative priorities for the 2025 session include:

- Stable funding for agriculture programs, including full, dedicated funding for Minnesota's Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation program; expanding Minnesota Grown, farm to school and other opportunities to build new markets, and investing in programs that help farmers become more resilient to the effects of climate change. Despite driving nearly a

fifth of the state's economy, the agriculture department budget is less than .5 percent of the state's budget.

- Ensuring affordable and accessible care in rural Minnesota, including childcare, healthcare, elder care and emergency services. This calls on lawmakers to expand healthcare programs, support independent pharmacies, invest in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), address childcare shortages and prevent nursing home closures.

- Promoting land ownership and access by increasing funding for the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, ensuring the Ag Homestead Tax Credit serves all farmers, promoting land ownership programs and defending Minnesota's longstanding ban on corporate ownership of farmland.

- Supporting cooperatives, investing in cooperative development and leveraging the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives to educate Minnesotans on the current and future value of co-ops.

- Ensuring fair markets by ensuring funding for antitrust enforcement, modernizing antitrust laws and passing Right to Repair for farm equipment.

For more of MFU's legislative priorities, visit mfu.org/legislation/.

"We're also looking forward to getting to know new legislators and building on existing relationships," said MFU Vice

President Anne Schwagerl. "One of the most important things we do as an organization is highlight the voices of our members through their interaction with lawmakers and participation in committee hearings."

MFU will hold its annual Lobby Day for members on Feb. 4 to continue building those relationships and sharing stories of how what happens in St. Paul matters to family farmers and rural communities.

The 2025 legislative session must conclude no later than May 19 and the fiscal year ends on June 30, 2025.

About Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Farmers Union works to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and ranchers and rural communities. MFU is a nonprofit membership-based organization. Membership is open to everyone. Learn more and join at www.mfu.org and follow MFU on Facebook, X, Bluesky and Instagram.



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