



# Tri County Canary

A supplement of the:

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

## Red Lake Falls Elementary included

### 12 projects receive Agriculture in the Classroom funding

St. Paul, MN: Twelve Minnesota educators looking to provide more agricultural experiences for their students have received 2025 Agricultural Literacy Grants from the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) Foundation.

The grants are designed to support agriculture and food systems education efforts from kindergarten to high school across the state.

The 12 teachers received grants of up to \$1,000 each to allow students to experience agriculture in a cross-curricular manner. Topics to be explored through this year's projects include soybean growing, field trips, growing fruit trees, and more.

MAITC is a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the MAITC Foundation that

seeks to increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education. For more information about the Ag Literacy Grants, visit the MAITC website.

*Grantee School and City, Teacher, Project Title*

**Northfield High School, Northfield, T.J. Austin, Agriculture Day.**

**Healy High School, Hillman, Brenda Gotvald, Green Learning Oasis Initiative.**

**Minnesota 4-H, 8 school districts, Anja Johnson, Enhancing Agricultural Literacy and Leadership Through the Sensational Soybean Kit Program.**

**AFSA K-12, Little Canada, Kerry Schulte, Farm to Table**

**Highland Park High School, St. Paul, Lillian Thuente, Elementary Reading and Agriculture Activities.**

**JA Hughes Elementary**

**School, Red Lake Falls, Hannah Seeger, Kindergarten is EGGciting!**

**Lucy Laney Elementary, Minneapolis, Joshua Hermerding, Lucy Laney Orchard.**

**Mankato Area Public Schools, Mankato, Melissa Brueske, Camp Ignite.**

**East Range Academy of Technology and Science, Mountain Iron, Noel Cordero, Growing Our Future: Agricultural Learning at Simek's Farm.**

**St. Francis Catholic School, Brainerd, Carrie Allord, Monthly Agriculture Immersion.**

**New Ulm Middle School, New Ulm, Amber Gremmels, From Field to Fork.**

**Mountain Lake Elementary, Mountain Lake, Martha Dukes, First Grade Science Trip.**



ASSE International Student Exchange Programs.

## Bring the World to Your Home This Coming Fall

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), a Non-Profit, Public Benefit Organization, is inviting local families to discover the many rewards of hosting a foreign exchange student. ASSE students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family mem-

ber, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, should call Saphia at 1-800-736-1760, visit [www.asse.com](http://www.asse.com) or send an email to [asseusamidwest@asse.com](mailto:asseusamidwest@asse.com) to request more information or start the application process. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today. The memories and the friendship you create with your exchange student will stay with you forever.

Contact: Saphia Lesch, Midwestern Regional Director, 1-800-736-1760 - [asseusamidwest@asse.com](mailto:asseusamidwest@asse.com)

## Governor Walz Proposes Curbing State Spending to Balance Budget

Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan today presented their 2025 biennial budget. The budget includes the first sales tax cut in state history and closes tax loopholes for services offered by wealth managers and lawyers. It also combats fraud and sets Minnesota up for success for years to come by curbing spending growth in the programs that drive the structural deficit.

"This budget is responsible, measured, and honest, and it starts with one goal: fiscal responsibility," said Governor Walz. "Our plan sets Minnesota up for success in the future by addressing long-term budget challenges and protecting the investments we made to improve lives, including universal meals, paid family and medical leave, and tax cuts for seniors and middle-class families."

"We are providing Minnesota with a strong economy and stability for years to come building on investments in children and families from 2023," said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. "Our dedication to providing services and support for those who need it most remains consistent. This budget is centered on managing spending in areas we know will grow. Minnesota has always been and will remain a generous state, one that is committed to helping our neighbors."

If passed, the budget would leave \$2.1 billion on the bottom line in FY 26-27, and \$355 million in FY 28-29. This comes after fully replenishing the state's rainy day funds and years of passing balanced budgets. Thanks to that sound fiscal management, Minnesota has earned AAA bond ratings for three consecutive years.

### Responsible Cuts and Curbing Growth

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's budget includes

responsible budget cuts and curbs unsustainable growth in spending in the programs that drive the structural deficit. The budget will limit year-over-year growth rates in Medicaid waivers without limiting eligibility for services, saving the state more than 1.3 billion dollars. The budget also cuts state funding to private schools and includes a 5% reduction in Special Education transportation reimbursement costs, saving approximately \$50 million in each of the next two-year budget cycles while incentivizing schools to create efficiencies in transportation.

"The Governor's budget proposal does exactly what we need," said Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Erin Campbell. "It addresses the structural imbalance between revenues and expenses, brings spending on the fastest growing programs in the budget to more sustainable levels, broadens the sales tax base while providing the first-ever rate reduction in statewide sales taxes, and creates a projected positive balance - not only in the next biennium but also in the following one."

### Lowering Taxes and Closing Loopholes

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor propose cutting the statewide sales tax by .075%, which would be the first sales tax cut in state history. They also propose closing loopholes by expanding the sales tax base to services provided to individuals by investors, bankers, and lawyers, making the tax system more fair and less regressive. Additionally, the budget proposes an investment in a new corporate franchise tax division unit to audit complex pass-through entities and close loopholes.

The budget also proposes an increase in the surcharge currently levied on health maintenance organizations from

0.6% to 1.25% of total premium revenue, to ensure large health care corporations pay their fair share.

"The Governor's budget includes smart tax policy that will improve Minnesota's tax system, particularly by cutting the general sales tax rate and broadening the base to include more services," said Minnesota Department of Revenue Commissioner Paul Marquart. "This will help right-size our sales tax code to reflect a more service-oriented economy, create more stable revenue, and increase fairness for consumers and businesses."

### Stopping Fraud

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's anti-fraud package turns the dial toward tighter controls and greater oversight by strengthening enforcement authority and creating tougher penalties. The proposals include adding nine staff members to the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud unit; giving agencies expanded authority to stop payments from going to people and entities suspected, charged, or convicted of fraud or financial crimes; and using artificial intelligence to detect and prevent fraud. The package also increases the criminal penalty for stealing public funds by 20%.

### Targeted Investments

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's budget also makes targeted investments to support Minnesota's economic growth. The budget expands the Research and Development tax credit, maintaining Minnesota's status as a hub for research and innovation. The budget expands Minnesota's nation-leading Sustainable Aviation Fuel tax credit and supports the growth of the industry. It also contains permitting efficiency measures to shorten the time it takes for businesses to obtain the permits needed to safely operate in Minnesota.

## Record-setting 167,163 Minnesotans Used MNsure to Sign Up for 2025 Health Plans

MNsure Chief Executive Officer Libby Caulum today announced that over 167,000 Minnesotans signed up for 2025 health plans using Minnesota's official health insurance marketplace.

At the close of MNsure's annual open enrollment period just before midnight on January 15, 167,163 residents had successfully signed up for private health insurance plans - a 14 percent increase over last year, which was also a record-setting open enrollment period. Sign-ups include consumers who are new to MNsure as well as current enrollees who selected a plan for 2025.

- Private health plan sign-ups: 167,163
- New public program applicants (Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare): 47,210
- Dental plan sign-ups: 48,670
- Percentage of households with premium tax credits: 61%
- Statewide average annual tax credit by household: \$6,452

"I am extraordinarily proud of our work, together with our broker, navigator, and certified application counselor partners, to serve Minnesotans and help a record number find health insurance that meets their needs and budget," said MNsure CEO

Libby Caulum.

MNsure is the only place Minnesotans can access savings to lower the cost of health insurance. Sixty-one percent of MNsure enrollees will save money this year thanks to premium tax credits, which act like a discount to lower monthly health insurance premiums for eligible households. Statewide, eligible households are expected to save \$538 per month (\$6,452 annually), on average.

"Twelve years ago this month, state legislators intro-

duced a bill to establish the marketplace with a vision that Minnesotans would have improved access to quality health coverage and save over \$1 billion by using it to purchase insurance," added Caulum. "I'm so pleased to say that, since we were established, MNsure has helped tens of thousands of Minnesotans get comprehensive health insurance and save more than twice the amount state leaders had hoped for - over \$2.3 billion in savings, to date."

## Klobuchar Statement on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) released the statement below in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:

"Today we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - a pastor, patriot, and peaceful crusader who embodied courage, perseverance, and justice. He dreamed of a nation that lives up to the promise we all memorized in grade school when we learned the pledge: 'One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'

"Generation after genera-

tion of Americans have worked to realize Dr. King's dream, and today that work falls to us. Just as Dr. King fought for the Voting Rights Act - which turns 60 this year - it's on us to ensure that every voter can make their voice heard in our democracy. It's also on us to make economic opportunity available to Americans in every zip code - because as Dr. King once asked, 'What does it profit a man to be able to eat at an integrated lunch counter if he

**Klobuchar..**  
Continued on page 2

## A Barn from the Sears and Roebuck Catalog?

By Eric Mickelson

When I grew up I always waited for the Sears Christmas Catalog to show up. It was great fun for a youngster to look over the pages and pages of toys thinking that maybe one of them would make it under your family's Christmas tree. I don't know if it was the paper or maybe the ink but thumbing through the pages even gave off a smell, that smell of the Christmas Catalog!

Those of you who know me know I love old tractors and over many years of studying tractors you may have heard me mention the fact that you could actually order a farm tractor from the Sears and Roebuck Catalog. They offered the Economy tractor using a Ford Model A engine and transmission. They also sold The Graham Bradley Tractor. I don't think today's farmers can really imagine ordering a tractor from a mail order catalog!

But that is not it. Sears also sold kits to build houses and

barns. After tractors another favorite thing of mine is looking at old barns. They are such a piece of history. In last week's paper I wrote a little story about Eric Gustafson. Another one the subjects he likes to shoot in his photography is barns. You can find books about barns, calendars about barns, and many other decorations featuring barns.

In my research I came across an advertisement for barn "kits" sold by Sears and Roebuck. Prices in the ad I saw ranged from \$680 to \$875 for materials. Everything was included in the order, rafters, posts, door frames, windows, siding, truss lumber, studs, roofing shingles. Even already ready-made barn doors. All of it arrived at the nearest rail depot, ready for assembly, with instructions on how to do it! You could also order a milk house, chicken house, corn crib and hog house from the barn catalog. Many of these buildings can still be found on farms around the country. We

live in a world today where a lot of people are into DIY projects, but a guess that has been around for a long time!

In our fast paced world we often hear about the good old

days, or simpler times. I don't know if that is really true or not. The last Sears Catalog was the spring/summer 1993 edition. I guess I would have liked to live in the time and place where

you could order that new barn from the Sears and Roebuck Catalog. You could also order a milk house, chicken house, corn crib and hog house from the barn catalog.

Eric Mickelson  
Green Magazine  
Richard's Publishing  
Oklee, MN 56742  
218-791-9157



This is a picture of the dairy farm I grew up on taken when grandma, grandpa, and dad moved there in 1952. The bigger barn on the right was the dairy barn. It was added onto in 1959 adding 20 more cow stalls. Again it was remodeled in 1979 as the era of hauling milk in cream cans ended and a bulk route was added.



This picture was sent to me. The barn shown is cement on the bottom with a wooden hayloft on top. Notice the tree growing out the top of the silo. I believe the barn is located west of Mahanomen, MN.



**Essentia Health CEO Dr. David Herman begins role as chairperson of MHA board of directors**

Essentia Health CEO Dr. David Herman is serving as chairperson of the Minnesota Hospital Association's (MHA) board of directors in 2025.

Through leadership, advocacy and collaboration, the MHA helps hospitals and health systems provide quality care across the state. Dr. Herman was selected by his peers to take over for Rachelle Schultz, president and CEO of Winona Health Services, as board chair. It's a one-year appointment.

"I'm honored to partner with my colleagues from across the state on the important work of making health care better and more accessible for every Minnesotan," Dr. Herman said. "The MHA serves a vital role in safeguarding the excellent care that's available here, which is confronting numerous and significant challenges. Collectively, we can address those challenges through innovation and advocacy to ensure that the care our patients rely on is sustainable now and into the future."

A native of International Falls, Dr. Herman joined Essentia in 2015. He serves on the board of trustees for Ronald McDonald House Charities and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. He's been on the MHA board of directors since 2015.

Technical College for the Fall 2024 semester.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, NTC students must enroll in at least 12 credits and earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher for the semester. A total of 136 students earned Fall 2024 Dean's List honors from NTC.

Northwest Technical College is a member of the colleges and universities of Minnesota State. Northwest Technical College Fall 2024 Dean's List Honorees  
**Clearbrook** - Gabrielle Anderson - Alexis Rogstad  
**Bagley** - Cullynn Dowell - Danielle Johnson - Max Johnson - Adrienne LaFerriere - Nataly Stout - Nora Stout  
**McIntosh** - Katie West

Nikki Besser is self-taught in the art of paper quilling. Besser, a Minnesota artist, uses thousands of strips of paper that are rolled or folded, glued and shaped meticulously together to create original artworks.

The exhibition Portrayals in Paper will be on display at Talley Gallery from January 17 to February 20. A closing

reception, featuring an artist talk at 2 p.m., will take place on February 20 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Talley Gallery, located in the basement of the Bridgeman building at Bemidji State University, is wheelchair accessible and open to the public free of charge.

For more information call (218) 755-2950.

Now is a great time to start saving for next Christmas by opening a **Christmas Club Savings Account**

**Ultima Bank MINNESOTA** FDIC

This is an interest accruing account that has no minimum balance and is accessible to withdraw electronically. Terms and Conditions apply. Contact us for more information and to open your Christmas Club account.

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By John Eggers

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



Without looking at the photo for this column, can you guess what collectible I am referring to?

The color is cobalt blue. It is made of glass and used for pouring milk or cream. And, it has a picture of a childhood movie star on the front with her signature underneath her picture.

Even the novice collector will recognize this as a Shirley Temple creamer. Actually, it was designed to be a milk pitcher. I am not so confident, however, that the novice collector would know the current value.

Pre-eBay, you could almost be guaranteed that the Shirley Temple pitcher in good condition and a nice image on the front would bring at least \$35. A cobalt blue bowl with her picture on the base would sell for \$10 or \$15 dollars more as would the Shirley Temple mug. I recently saw on eBay a bowl and picture sell for ten dollars. What a shame!

The Shirley Temple pieces are heavily reproduced and this adds to the problem of a market that is now over saturated. The newer versions have whiter paint and are made of heavier glass. The older pieces are noticeably more delicate.

On the plus side it is good to know that the Shirley Temple dolls have maintained their value when in good condition.

Shirley Temple was a childhood actress sensation who made her film debut at the age of three. You can still see her movies on the Turner Classic Movie channel. She died in 2014 at the age of 85 after serving as ambassador to Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992.

**Klobuchar..**  
Continued from front doesn't earn enough money to buy a hamburger and a cup of coffee?

"At a time when so much threatens to tear us apart, let Dr. King's teachings be a reminder that what unites us as Americans is far greater than what divides us. Let us remember that, in his words, 'we can all get more together than we can apart.' And let us recommit ourselves to building the nation Dr. King dared to envision."



**What happens to blood after it's donated?**

Each year blood donors help to save millions of lives. Individuals who routinely donate blood may not give it a second thought, but this selfless gesture ensures accident victims and others get a helping hand when they need it most. Recipients of blood donations are there for the culmination of a process that begins with generous donors, who may be curious about exactly what happens to their blood after it's collected. According to the American Red Cross, donated blood is kept on ice before being taken to a processing center, where

**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105  
The Light Shines in the Darkness

**The Aurora Resource Center** formerly the Lifecare Pregnancy Center invites you to our annual **2025 FUNDRAISING BANQUET**

**February 1 • TRF Legacy Center**  
**4 p.m. - Social Hour w/Meet & Greet**  
**4:30 p.m. - Seating begins**

**GUEST SPEAKERS: POST ABORTIVE LADIES PANEL (PALs)**  
Hear testimony given by brave post-abortive women about the true cost of abortion.  
www.aurorarc.org Ticket cost is \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at door.

Scan QR code or use below link to purchase tickets.  
<https://AuroraRC2025AnnualBanquet.eventbrite.com>  
- or Stop In - or Call 218-681-1279 to purchase tickets

**DINING & entertainment**

**BINGO** Friday Jan. 24 @ 6:30pm  
Blackout 60#s or less for \$1,000

**BINGO NIGHT! FRIDAYS AT 6:30 PM**  
Goodridge Municipal Liquor Store  
Happy Hour, Free Jukebox, Meat Raffles  
20 games with 5 Specials! • Progressive Blackouts for \$1,000!  
All proceeds from BINGO donated back into our community!

**COMING UP!**  
**LIVE MUSIC BY EAGLE CREEK**  
February 8th from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.!

**GOODRIDGE LIQUOR STORE**

**CAROL'S COZY BAR & GRILL**  
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Friday, Saturday & Sunday Jan. 24th, 25th & 26th, 2025  
Steak & Shrimp, Broasted Chicken, Ribeye  
Comes with Salad Bar, Potato & Garlic Toast.  
Friday ONLY - Walleye

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

**Potato Klub Dinner with Side Pork & Dessert, Thursday, Feb. 6th, 11am til gone**

**COMING SOON!**  
FEBRUARY 9TH FOOTBALL PARTY  
Social Hour Before the Game. Food Specials.

FEBRUARY 14TH Food Specials  
Chicken & Ribs  
Steak & Lobster

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

**KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 9:00 P.M. DAILY**

**BAR BINGO!**  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2025 • 6:30 PM  
59#s at \$1,000 up to \$1,000 maximum

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**BINGO** Starting at 55#s Progressive Blackout 6pm, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025

**WING NIGHT WEDNESDAY**  
Fri. & Sat., Jan 24th & 25th - Chicken & Ribs  
**SHORTY'S PLACE, 268-4199**

**Winter Wonders Market**  
Hosted by Mentor Farmers Market  
**January 25th 9am to 1pm**  
Mentor City Hall

Beat the winter blues and come see many of our regular vendors for all your Farmers Market favorites. Baked goods, gluten free, hot sauce, honey, doll clothes, goat milk soap, and much more.

**Lunch will be served 11am to 1pm.**  
BBQ, Chips and beverage...\$7

**We can't wait to see you all there!**

**College News**

**U of M Crookston announces Fall 2024 graduates**

The University of Minnesota Crookston Office of the Registrar is proud to announce the official list of Fall 2024 graduates. Students completed their degree requirements by the end of the fall semester.

Fall 2024 graduates include:  
• Burgoon, Anna - Animal Science BS/Animal Science/Equine Science; Solway.  
• Espeseth, Lindsey - Animal Science BS/Pre-Vet Medicine; Erskine.  
• Huot, Nathan - Agronomy BS/Crop Production/Agricultural Business; Red Lake Falls.

• Rondorf, Matthew - Information Technology Mgmt BS; Thief River Falls.

• Smith, Amanda - Applied Studies BS/Health Management; Red Lake Falls.

• Sundberg, Kari - Communication BS/English/Communication Studies/Humanities/Writing; Grygla, Minn.

• Van Den Einde, Brandon - Agronomy BS/Crop Production/Agricultural Business; Winger.

**Local students earned Fall 2024 Deans' List**

BEMIDJI, Minn. - Local students, listed below, have earned Dean's List honors at Northwest

**The Northern State Bank**

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As a locally owned bank our dedication to you is our top priority. The Northern State Bank is proud to offer a full line of services including:

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# CLASSIFIED ADS

## JH MATH TEACHER OPENING

Red Lake County Central High School in Oklee, MN is looking for a JH Math teacher 1.0 FTE for school year 2025-26. RLCC High School is a 1:1 educational environment, coaching and extra-curricular activities will be available with this position. Candidates must have a valid Minnesota teaching license. Interested candidates should contact Principal Randy Pederson at 218-796-5136 or email [rpederson@rlcc.k12.mn.us](mailto:rpederson@rlcc.k12.mn.us). Applicants will be required to send a letter of application, resume with 3 letters of recommendation, and official transcripts. ISD 2906 is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

R411fc

## 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.

R411fc

## 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](mailto:mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us)

R44-46C

## EARLY CHILDHOOD & PROGRAM SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Find your purpose, join a dynamic team that makes a difference in the lives of families every day. Would you like an opportunity to work with our youngest learners and their families? Would you like to work in a family friendly environment? Are you looking for a career with great benefits? Inter-County Community Council is accepting applications for openings in our Head Start department. **Home Visitor:** position works with one-on-one with families of children (ages birth to 5 years), providing in-home education visits on a weekly basis. Current caseload in the Thief River Falls and east Polk county areas. **Substitute Classroom Assistant Teachers:** substitute on an on-call, as needed basis. Hours vary significantly. Work with a team to provide care and education to 3-4 year olds in a classroom setting (Thief River Falls or Bagley, MN); primary duties include assisting the teacher in the classroom with group activities, cleaning, assisting children with handwashing/toothbrushing, and meals. Must be able to pass a background check. Position requires Child Development Associate or willingness to obtain within the first year of employment. Experience with children preferred, additional training will be provided. For much more information on the position duties, qualifications and benefits visit our website at [www.intercountycc.org/careers](http://www.intercountycc.org/careers). Send completed application, available on our website, and resume to Inter-County Community Council, attn.: Human Resources, PO Box 189, Oklee, MN 56742 or [hr@intercountycc.org](mailto:hr@intercountycc.org). **Position will remain open until filled.** For questions about the position requirements, office location and salary, please call 218-796-7018. ICCC is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

R411fc

## 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.

R411fc

## 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](http://www.co.clearwater.mn.us) Application deadline: 4:30 PM, January 31, 2025

R44-46C

## 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](mailto:mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us)

R44-46C

## 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](mailto:mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us)

R44-46C

## 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](mailto:mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us)

R44-46C

## PEARLS PROGRAM

Often the losses one endures as they age (loss of loved ones, independence, physical health or social isolation) can lead to feelings of loneliness, sadness, frustration, irritability, anxiousness, or restlessness; gone unattended these feelings can lead to depression. LSS Caregiver Support & Respite services offers PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives) skills training for people, age 60 or older, to help manage unpleasant feelings and improve quality of life. Call 866.787.9802 to learn more.

R41-48P

## FOR SALE

Parts for snowmobiles, motorcycles, 3 & 4 wheelers for sale. Lots of vintage sleds. Also buying parts/machines. **Call Tom's Recycling 218-686-7515**

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R43-46C

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- Office Support Specialist - EGF – Social Services:** \$21.39 - \$27.09/hr. Position Closes on Friday, January 31, 2025
- Nursing Supervisor – Public Health:** \$39.83 – \$50.45/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, February 5, 2025
- Community Health Supervisor – Public Health:** \$39.83 – \$50.45/hr. Position Closes on Wednesday, February 5, 2025
- Deputy Sheriff Patrol I - II – Sheriff's Office:** \$31.55 – \$42.36/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled
- Landfill Technician – Landfill:** \$24.25 – \$30.72/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled
- Sort Line Operator I - II – Fosston:** \$19.22 – \$25.56/hr. Position Is Open Until Filled

R411fc

## FOR SALE

25 1300-1400 lb hay bales. Clover, alfalfa, orchardgrass. Put up dry in July, net wrapped. 5 miles NE Clearbrook. 218-391-5237.

R45-48C

## FOR SALE

2005 Challenger 5th Wheel Camper, 34ft, w/3 slide-outs. Needs some TLC. Further details call 218-487-5284. \$3000 OBO. R211fc-nc

**MCAN** For more information on MCAN ads call: **218-487-5225** Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

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## EDITOR POSITION

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- 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](mailto:richards@gvtel.com) for questions.



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R261c

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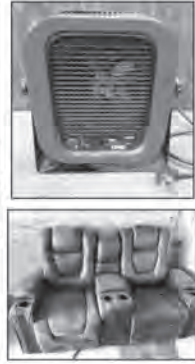
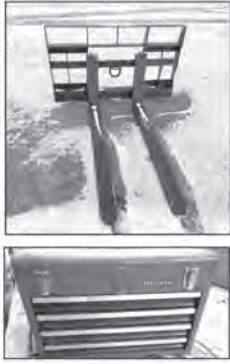
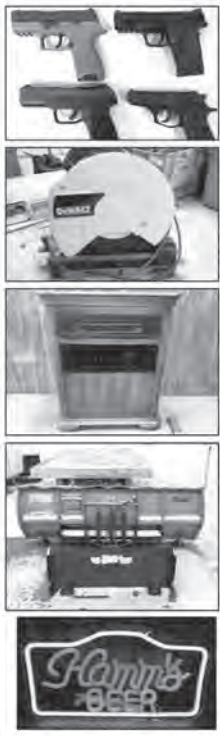
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**GENERAC**



**Ask a Trooper**  
by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

**Q u e s t i o n:** I have seen numerous times where a bicyclist will not stop at a stop sign, if they are sharing the road with automobiles. I have seen a couple of close incidents where the bicyclist is almost hit as well. Are bicyclists under the same rules if they are sharing the road with automobiles?

**A n s w e r:** There was a state law change back in August of 2023. It states, "a bicycle operator who approaches a stop sign must slow to a speed that allows for stopping before entering the intersection or the

nearest crosswalk. If there is not a vehicle in the vicinity, the operator may make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping." Nothing in this subdivision changed the right-of-way requirements. It is important to note that bicyclists must still stop at intersections controlled by a red light, a peace officer, or a person authorized to control traffic.

Essentially, the bicyclist can yield or perform a "rolling stop" at a stop sign if they don't violate anyone else's right of way. When approaching a stop sign, the bicyclist should be traveling slow enough to stop before the crosswalk if necessary. Howev-

er, after yielding, if there is not a pedestrian crossing in front of them or other traffic approaching near enough to constitute an immediate hazard, they may continue without making a full stop.

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

**My Epitaph—What will it say?**

It crossed my mind the other day—and I always figure if it crossed your mind, perhaps it has crossed yours, too. What thought veered in my direction and came to my attention?

I began wondering what could be written upon my tombstone? What words I the form of an epitaph could speak from the grave that might be an encouragement to those passing by?

We've all wandered in a cemetery or two and some graves just speak more loudly than others.

Some have an artistic flair to the stone itself. Others encase a picture to match the name upon it. Some have a verse, others a personal note, while others mere names and dates. Some look like monuments never to forget whose remains lie below and hopefully whose souls are now above.

A few words etched are a tad self-containing while no quote at all leaves it wide open for others to fill in the dash between the years. Once, I saw a picture of someone's farm etched upon it and to be honest, it was kind of cool. Some place benches nearby for those to rest while my favorite of all, is a gravestone in

a small country cemetery near our farm. A little sheep carved just in front of the tombstone beckons the little children to come nigh. It's not the sheep that I like so much as the reactions of little children as they make their way on over to place their hands upon it while climbing on up and over—like children do.

Each time we were expecting a child, I'd wander in-between the rows of graves looking at the names of the saints who'd gone before us. Gathering ideas for a name was a fun and the hope of seeing one I liked was rather appealing. Meandering past the generations that once were, no name ever stood out except one. The name was Amalia. We did not use it, but the name sounded like someone I'd want to gather round the kitchen table with for conversation.

Speaking of names, Denton Alden was dad's name. He never could figure out why any of his six children didn't pick up on that one. The conversation often ended rather quickly as the silence was tell-tale that no one had the heart to say aloud what we were all thinking. Noone wanted to name their little child Denton or Alden—but we assured dad of our love just

the same. (Forgiveness asked for from all of the Dentons and Aldens out there—it's not that I don't like your name, it simply didn't make it to the top of the list.)

Now, back to the idea of an epitaph upon my grave. It stirs within because every so oft I do pass by a grave with words upon it and it's as if they are speaking right to me. A sentence or two says that this one cared enough to communicate with those passing by, and I sorta like that.

The words spoken by St. Francis at the end of his life are nice. Perhaps I could borrow them.

"I have done what is mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours."

Then again, perhaps silence isn't all that bad either. Exodus 14:14 speaks it well.

"I will fight for you; you need only be silent."

My words are not nearly as important as imparting His Word and isn't that the truth. Once imparted, His Spirit hovers over and He will impart that which is needed. His Word sheds light. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

May He have the final Word. Amen.

**NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH NUGGETS**  
(Clearwater, Hubbard and Lake of the Woods Counties)

Every year, millions of women, children and men are bought and sold in countries around the world. The federal Department of Justice estimates that 14,000 to 17,500 people are trafficked in the U.S. every year. Knowing human trafficking indicators and recognizing red flags in a situation are key steps in identifying more victims, helping victims find assistance, and preventing others from being victimized.

Traffickers/buyers and people looking to exploit youth (including family members, trusted adults, friends/boy-friends/girlfriends, or gangs) will prey on any vulnerability a youth might have. They will use psychological manipulation and often physical violence.

Often the exploiter will begin a caring relationship in order to build trust and loyalty to the victim. This can start in person directly with the youth, or they can use other youth to recruit the victim. Traffickers will also recruit victims online. They will often troll the internet looking for youth who are seeking love, acceptance, or even excitement.

Minnesota's Human Trafficking Prevention and Response approach spans a statewide network of partners, including organizations that provide services, housing, shelter, outreach, and support to victim/survivors of human sex and labor trafficking and exploitation.

Under Minnesota's Safe Harbor Law, Minnesota youth who engage in prostitution will no longer be seen as criminals but instead as victims and survivors. The Safe Harbor Law treats these youth with dignity and respect, and directs them to appropriate supportive services, including shelter and housing.

Trafficking situations can be difficult to recognize because it is most often a combination of indicators, but warning signs include:

- Withdrawn, afraid to talk, communication is censored
- Not attending school on a regular basis
- Unexplained new clothing, money, jewelry
- Explicitly sexual social media profile image
- Involved in a relationship with an older man or woman
- History of running away or homelessness
- Little/no eye contact
- Inconsistent story
- Drug addiction

Actions you can take to protect your children and youth are keeping lines of communication open, talking to your children about healthy relationships, take an active interest in their social media life, know your

children's friends, talk honestly about sex, and educate your children about sexual exploitation and trafficking.

No single sign can definitively identify human trafficking. The most important thing to look for is a pattern of control by a trafficker over one or more people. Remember, it's better to report suspected trafficking and be wrong than to ignore it and be right.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger of being trafficked, call 911. To report a suspected trafficking situation, call the BCA at 877-996-6222 or email [bcatips@state.mn.us](mailto:bcatips@state.mn.us).

**REGIONAL NAVIGATOR - SUPPORT WITHIN REACH** Bemidji 218-444-9524 [supportwithinreach.org](http://supportwithinreach.org) **EVER-GREEN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES** Bemidji 218-751-8223 [evergreenyfs.org](http://evergreenyfs.org)

**NORTH HOMES CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES** Bemidji, Grand Rapids 218-751-0282 [northhomes.org](http://northhomes.org)

**NORTHWEST INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER** Bemidji 218-759-2022 [nwicdc.org](http://nwicdc.org)

**Did you know?**

Consumers increasingly are turning to electric vehicles (EVs) because of their perceived benefits to the environment and additional perks. The United States Environmental Protection Agency says EVs typically have smaller carbon footprints than gasoline cars, even when accounting for the electricity used for charging. In addition, EVs can be more efficient in regard to energy use. However, it is important to note that mining the materials that are used in the batteries required for EVs can make the EV manufacturing process more energy-intensive than making internal combustion energy vehicles (ICE), according to Earth.org. The Internetwork for Sustainability says EVs and hybrid cars emit more carbon dioxide than traditional cars during production. The additional environmental cost of transporting these batteries also results in a higher carbon footprint than ICE vehicles. However, the EPA points out that the greenhouse gas emissions associated with an EV over its lifetime are typically lower than those from an ICE vehicle, even when accounting for manufacturing.

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Paul Peterson

**Senator Mark Johnson**  
Minnesota Senate District 1

ST. PAUL – On Tuesday, Senator Mark Johnson (R-East Grand Forks) voted for a series of motions and to pass a resolution enacting the agreement between Democrats and Republicans to share power through a temporary organizing structure. The changes mean Johnson will serve as the Senate Republican Leader, and allotted equal membership from Democrats and Republicans to each committee, along with Co-Chairs and Co-Vice Chairs from each caucus.



and respect. And I'm excited to sit on the State and Local Government committee, which will be a new experience for me. We always have more to learn and I'm looking forward to hearing from our local leaders on how the legislature can improve things for every level of government," Sen. Johnson concluded.

"Senate Republicans are ready to work together to put Minnesotans first this session," Senate Republican Leader Mark Johnson (East Grand Forks) said. "You'll see Republican Co-Chairs highlight our priorities to help Minnesotans afford their lives, reduce the growth of government, and stop the fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer dollars. As The Republican Leader, we will convene floor sessions and take up motions that put Minnesotans first."

Senator Johnson was named Co-Chair of the powerful Senate Rules and Administration and given an assignment to the State and Local Government Committee.

"I'm happy to return to the Rules Committee to ensure the Senate runs itself with the highest levels of integrity

following statement in response to Governor Tim Walz's budget proposal today:

"We have an opportunity to get back to responsible spending, lowering taxes, and helping every Minnesotan get essential services they need to live in their community and secure their future prosperity. The Governor's proposal today missed that opportunity.

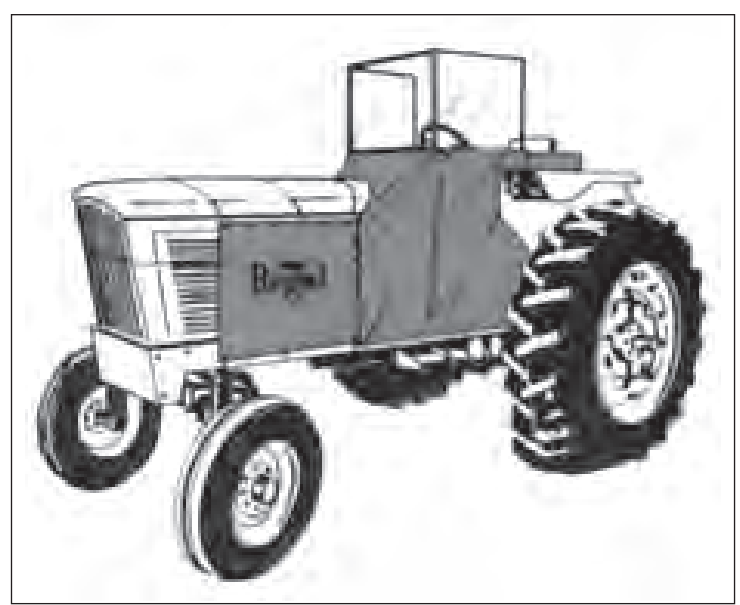
"We need a budget that puts Minnesotans first, not government first. Republicans will stand firm against budgeting tricks that raise fees and taxes on regular Minnesotans. Walz's proposal today ignores Democrat's runaway spending, does nothing to address the massive expansion of free benefits to illegals, and won't address the long-term systemic issues with our disability and special education services. True budgeting reform will protect those most in need as much as it protects the taxpayers' investments."

**Cold Weather and Hard Work**

By Auctioneer Eric W. Mickelson

Cold weather causes trouble for everyone. Cars that don't start and so on. But, on the farm it seems there are many instances where cold weather causes even more problems. Yes, cars or pickups won't start, tractors won't start, water freezes, animals in distress..... it seems when it gets frigid is when the problems occur.

But we have it pretty easy, if you think back to the "good old days!" One time when I was visiting with dad and I asked him to give me a rundown of a day after they had moved to Oklee, in 1952. Often my grandfather, Ames Mickelson, would go work in the woods for a few months in the winter. That would leave dad and grandma at home. Over the summer they had done some haying north of the Trail/Gully area. So that winter this was what a day was frequently like..... Get up early, milk the cows and clean the barn, probably before breakfast. After breakfast start the 1949 B John Deere and hook it to the hayrack and head to Oklee. Then off to the loose hay stack north of Trail. He would meet his brother-in-law, Alvin Stroh, at the field. Alvin was driving a U Minneapolis Moline and came from his farm between Oklee and Trail. There they would each load a rack full of loose hay by hand. When they were done loading dad said often the school bus would be coming by. Then back home again. Dad was a bit jealous of Alvin. His U MM could really cruise in road gear and he also had a canvas Heat-Houser on the Moline. Dad would head back through Oklee where he said it was about getting dark. Finally back home again it was once again milking time. Probably some of the hay would be needed to be unloaded for the evening feeding!



Here is a drawing of a Heat Houser on a tractor. It was a canvas cover that went over the engine and brought some of the heat back to the operator while blocking some wind.

or my grandpa, you definitely have my respect. This is the background and some of the history of farming and I salute everyone who spent their days like this in order to make a living and show the rest of us what hard work is about!

**Answers:** 1. A) 1935 2. C) F-12 3. True 4. D. 1955 5. Prairie Gold

**How about a little tractor trivia!**

1. What year did the model B John Deere come out?  
A) 1935 B) 1938 C) 1939 D) 1941
2. What Farmall model was the model B John Deere somewhat in competition with, when it was released?  
A) F-20 B) F-30 C) F-12 D) Model H
3. T or F More John Deere B's were produced than any other John Deere model.
4. The U Minneapolis Moline was made from 1938-  
A) 1949 B) 1952 C) 1954 D) 1955
5. What is the official name of the "yellow paint" color used on MM tractors?

**AT THE RINK**

**WORD SEARCH**

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S P I H V O M L U H V Z R A K L H C F U  
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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 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  
S K N N L A P A L I I K H E G C R P T 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  
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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

**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

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

Answers on page 8

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## Prune oaks now to avoid risk of oak wilt infection

Winter is the ideal time to prune or remove oaks

DNR Forest Health Specialist August Kramer detects oak wilt in Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area in 2024.

Now is a great time to prune or cut oaks without the risk of oak wilt infection, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Winter is also the safest time to remove infected oaks.

Oak wilt is an invasive fungal disease spread by sap-feeding beetles that can kill all oak species. The disease is common in east-central and southeast Minnesota and is expanding north and west. In 2024, oak wilt was confirmed for the first time in Carlton and Kandiyohi

counties, bringing the number of Minnesota counties with known infections to 33.

Fortunately, the public can help stop its expansion.

"Oak wilt is very expensive to treat, but prevention is often effective and much less costly," said Brian Schwingle, Forest Health Program coordinator. "One of the best ways to help protect oaks is to do any necessary pruning or cutting in winter when the risk of infection is virtually nonexistent."

Schwingle said the beetles that carry oak wilt spores become active in warm weather and are attracted to the sap from fresh wounds on trees,

such as those made by pruning. It's important to avoid wounding or pruning oaks April through July, the period with the highest risk of spread.

On Jan. 22, Schwingle will lead a webinar about how to identify and prevent oak wilt as part of the Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series (mndnr.gov/discover). Registration is free and the presentations are recorded.

More details about oak wilt, including identification, prevention strategies and how best to deal with infected trees and wood, can be found on the DNR's oak wilt management webpage (mndnr.gov/oakwilt).

## Minnesota state parks and recreation areas offer winter camping and lodging

Camping and lodging are available throughout the state

Minnesota state parks and recreation areas have a variety of camping and lodging options for an unforgettable overnight stay this winter. Whether people are looking to ski in and out of a cabin, wake up to frost-covered forests, or simply enjoy the peace of a crackling fire, Minnesota state parks offer the ultimate winter escape.

### Camper cabins

When winter sets in, visitors can cozy up in a camper cabin at a Minnesota state park or recreation area. Parks including Jay Cooke, Afton, Lake Bemidji, Whitewater, and Wild River all have winter cabin options making it possible to enjoy the beauty of the season without sacrificing comfort. These heated, rustic retreats offer the perfect balance of comfort and adventure, providing a warm home base for winter explorations or simply unwinding in the beauty of nature.

While not all camper cabins are available year-round, many that are can be found near popular winter trails and scenic overlooks. Guests can step outside the door and easily enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or a winter hike.

Inside the cabins, visitors will find amenities like bunk beds, tables, and benches. All

campers need to bring is bedding, cookware, and a sense of adventure. Most cabins also come with a fire ring and picnic table outside, giving the option to toast marshmallows or gather around a crackling fire under the stars. Find details on the DNR's camper cabin webpage (mndnr.gov/campercabins).

### Yurts

Yurts are round, insulated, all-season canvas structures with wood floors, woodstoves and basic furnishings. Firewood is provided in winter months, so yurts are a great way to explore the outdoors all day then spend the night toasty warm. Like camper cabins, yurts offer bunk beds, a table and chairs or benches, plus a fire ring and picnic table outdoors.

Yurts are available year-round at three locations: Afton and Glendalough state parks and Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. Find more information on the DNR's webpage about yurts (mndnr.gov/yurts).

### Winter camping

Winter camping might sound daunting at first, but for those who embrace the challenge, it can be one of the most rewarding ways to experience Minnesota's natural beauty. While winter camping might be more physically demanding than its

summer counterpart, it offers a rare sense of peace and accomplishment.

Visitors should be sure to check park-specific details before heading out, as water access, restroom availability, and plowed campsites vary by location. For first timers, it's always a good idea to call the park to confirm conditions.

### Join the winter camping workshop on Feb. 8

Since 2015, Tettegouche State Park has hosted a day-long winter camping workshop for beginners. Led by Interpretive Naturalist Kurt Mead, the workshop provides step-by-step guidance on everything from dressing for the weather to building snow shelters like a quinzhee—a kind of snow cave that can stay surprisingly warm inside. It's also a chance to experiment with different options, such as using a "hot tent" with a small wood stove.

To learn more, visit DNR's winter camping webpage (mndnr.gov/state\_parks/winter\_camping.html) to see which parks offer winter camping, or check out the Tettegouche State Park page (mndnr.gov/tettegouche) for details on the workshop scheduled for Feb. 8.

## Local Food Companies Betting on Winter Fancy Food Show

Six Minnesota food and beverage businesses are exhibiting as part of a Minnesota Pavilion in Las Vegas

St. Paul, MN: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Minnesota Pavilion is returning to Las Vegas for the 2025 Winter Fancy Food Show January 19 - 21. Six local food and beverage businesses are exhibiting at the event supported by the MDA's Make it Minnesota Program, bringing a taste of Minnesota to Nevada and the rest of the world.

The MDA supports Minnesota food and beverage companies who are expanding their market reach by offering discounted booth space, promotion, and logistical support surrounding the shows. The Make it Minnesota Program aims to encourage food manufacturing in Minnesota, increase the use of local agricultural ingredients, create and protect jobs, and promote economic development in Minnesota's agriculture and food sectors.

The following brands are participating in the Minnesota Pavilion at the 2025 Winter Fancy Food Show:

- Mixly Cocktail Co – All-natural, craft inspired cocktail and mocktail mixers. Booth 1917
- Von Hanson's Snacks – Seven distinct pretzel flavors, seasoned peanuts and snack mix, snack sticks, and trail mix. Booth 1911
- Riff's Smokehouse – Meat snacks and BBQ products. Booth 1919
- Maud Borup – Seasonal and everyday sweets, snacks, and food gifts for retail partners and specialty stores nationwide. Booth 1913
- Maazah – Three sauces: cilantro chutney, mango chutney, lemon aioli; and four lentil dips coming soon: basil jalapeno, lemon tahini, roasted red pepper, and turmeric ginger. Booth 1921
- Peace Coffee – 100% organic & fair-trade coffee from small-scale grower cooperatives that invest in their farmers to combat unstable markets and shifting climates. Booth 1915

For companies who are grow-

ing beyond local markets, attending business-to-business (B2B) trade shows like the Winter Fancy Food Show provides new connections and opportunities, potential big wins for the companies and for Minnesota's economy.

"The Winter Fancy Food Show is a great place to connect with our major retail partners and meet new regional retailers and distributors in the specialty food trade," says Johnna Rossbach, Founder/President of Mixly Cocktail Co.

The Winter Fancy Food Show, organized by the Specialty Food Association, is "where specialty food makers go to exhibit their newest and best products and where buyers go to find their next bestsellers." With thousands of specialty food artisans, entrepreneurs, distributors, retailers, purveyors, and importers under one roof, the show offers three days of sampling, networking, and education designed to help grow specialty food businesses.

## Secretary Simon Statement on Opening Session of the Minnesota House of Representatives

SAINT PAUL – On January 14, 2025, Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon presided over the opening session of the House of Representatives for the start of the 2025-26 Legislative Session. After a roll call, Secretary Simon determined a quorum was not met under the standards established by the Minnesota Constitution and state law. He then adjourned the body.

Despite advance notice of this determination, House Republicans proceeded to reconvene the legislative session

without legal authority. Secretary Simon intends to file a petition with the Supreme Court to make clear to the public that these proceedings were not legally legitimate.

Secretary Simon issued the following statement:

"Minnesota's Laws and Constitution are clear on the Secretary of State's authority to preside over the House of Representatives until it establishes a quorum to and elects a speaker. I have no interest in being part of a partisan struggle, but the authority granted by state law

to the Secretary of State was violated today after the house adjourned.

I have made very clear to both caucuses and the public ahead of convening my legal conclusion that 68 members are required for the House to conduct business. I anticipate that the courts will provide clarity both on that issue and on the understanding that the person who holds the Secretary of State's office is the presiding officer until a Speaker is legally elected—an event which has not yet occurred

## What to know about bipolar disorder



ing an episode, the symptoms last a week or two, or even longer, and are present every day for most of the day.

### What is a manic episode?

A manic episode is characterized by a person experiencing an extremely high mood. The NIMH notes that symptoms of a manic episode may include:

- Feeling very up, high, elated, or extremely irritable or touchy
- Feeling wired and more active than usual
- Racing thoughts
- Feeling a decreased need for sleep
- Speaking rapidly about various subjects, which the NIMH notes can be characterized as "flight of ideas"
- Excessive appetite for food, drinking, sex, or other pleasurable activities
- A feeling that one can do many things at once without growing tired
- Feeling unusually important, talented or powerful

### What is a depressive episode?

The WHO notes that a depressive episode is contrary to a manic episode and marked by a depressed mood that makes people feel sad, irritable and/or empty. People experiencing a depressive episode may lack interest in or get little pleasure from activities they previously enjoyed. According to the NIMH, additional symptoms of a depressive episode include:

- Difficulty concentrating or making decisions
- Changes in sleep patterns,

including difficulty falling asleep, waking up too early, or sleeping too much

• Speaking slowly, feeling unable to find anything to say, or frequent bouts of forgetfulness

• Inability to perform even simple tasks

• Feeling hopeless or worthless or thinking about death or suicide

Are symptoms the same for everyone?

The NIMH notes that symptoms of bipolar disorder may be milder for some than others. That's an important distinction, particularly for people with a family history of bipolar disorder. The NIMH notes that the exact cause of bipolar disorder is unknown, but research has shown that people with certain genes are more likely to develop the condition than others. But just because a relative exhibited symptoms in a certain way does not mean an individual will show signs in the same way.

### How is bipolar disorder diagnosed?

A health care provider will consider the severity, length and frequency of an individual's symptoms and experiences after conducting a physical exam to rule out other illnesses. A referral to a mental health professional also is standard before a diagnosis of bipolar disorder is made.

Bipolar disorder affects tens of millions of people across the globe. Treatment for the condition is highly effective, and individuals exhibiting symptoms of bipolar disorder are urged to speak with a health care professional.

### What is bipolar disorder?

The WHO notes bipolar disorder is a mental health condition in which mood swings from one extreme to another are the primary characteristic. Bipolar episodes may be manic or depressive, and each has its own unique characteristics. In addition, the National Institute of Mental Health reports that a person with bipolar disorder may experience "mixed" episodes, which include symptoms of both manic and depressive episodes. When a person is hav-

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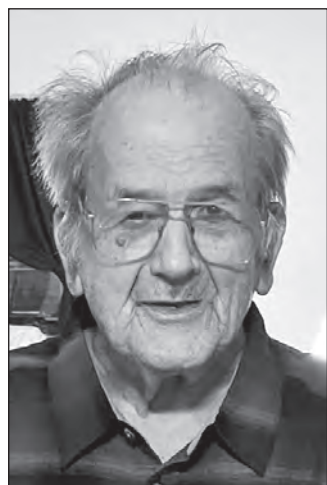


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**OBITUARIES**



**Obituary for Ambrose Bergeron**

Ambrose Bergeron of Oklee, MN passed away on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at Essentia Hospital in Foss-ton, MN.

Mass of Christian burial for Ambrose was held 10:00 AM on Monday, January 20, 2025 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Oklee, MN with Father Bryan Kujawa officiating. Burial was held at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery near Oklee, MN.

Visitation was held on Sunday from 4 – 6 PM with a prayer service at 6:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Oklee.

Ambrose James Bergeron, born November 13, 1935, in Lambert Township, Red Lake County, Minnesota.

The son of Louis and Roselva (Gibeau) Bergeron, Ambrose grew up on the family farm near Oklee, Minnesota. He attended country school and was baptized and confirmed at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Oklee. For much of his early life, Ambrose worked on the family farm before embarking on a new chapter at the age of 40 as a janitor at Oklee High School. He dedicated 24 years to the school before retiring.

Ambrose found joy in simple pleasures. He enjoyed deer hunting and fishing, cherished visits with friends at the casino, and was a regular at the Oklee Café for breakfast. His warm presence and easygoing nature will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.

He is survived by his sister Yvonne McElmury of Winona, Minnesota; several nieces and nephews; and his favorite cousin Jo Lambert. Ambrose was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Roselva Bergeron, as well as his siblings Henry Bergeron, Sydney Bergeron, George Bergeron, Genevieve Bergeron, Delia Bergeron, Theresa Bergeron, and Margaret Bergeron.

May Ambrose's memory bring comfort to all who knew him.

Condolences may be sent at [www.johnsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.johnsonfuneralservice.com)



**Obituary for Marie Konickson**

Marie Konickson, 84 of Grygla, MN passed away peacefully on Friday, January 17, 2025 at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, ND with her loving family by her side.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM with a 6:30 PM prayer service on Friday, January 24, 2025 at Grace Lutheran Church in Grygla, MN with Rev. Marilyn Grafstrom officiating. Visitation will also begin at 10:00 AM with the service to Celebrate Marie's life at 11:00 AM on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at Grace Lutheran Church in Grygla, MN with Rev. Vicki Saude-Worthington officiating. Burial will follow at Valle Cemetery, rural Grygla, MN.

Marie Berthea Nordby was born May 14, 1940 at home on the family farm in Valle Township, Beltrami County. She was baptized at Valle Lutheran Church and confirmed at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, rural Grygla, MN. She attended Benville Country School, Grygla Elementary School, Goodridge High School and Bemidji State College.

On September 28, 1957, Marie was united in marriage to Rodney Anderson. To this union 6 children were born, Steve, Denise, Scott, Tim, Dayle, and Sherri. They lived in Hatton, ND and moved to Grygla, MN in 1965.

Marie worked at various places in the area including Community Action Leader, Grygla Implement, Grygla School, Northern Pride, editor of the Grygla Eagle and for many years worked at Polaris in Roseau, MN.

On August 18, 2001, Marie was united in marriage to Wayne Konickson with his entire family accepting her, which meant the world to her. They made their home at the Konickson log cabin in Thorhult, MN and eventually

moved to Grygla. Through their marriage the couple traveled many miles together, went 4-wheeling, and snowmobiling. Together they made their cabin into a home with their beautiful vegetable and flower gardens.

Marie was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church in Grygla and active in the church choir. She was a charter member of the Lions Club and currently a member of the Lions Club. She was a long-time member of the Fourtown-Grygla Sportsman's Club and the Red Hats. She loved music and sports since her early childhood. Marie attended hundreds of various sports activities of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and she was a huge MN Vikings and MN Twins fan.

Survivors include children, Steve Anderson, Denise (Shannon) Ostby, Scott (Gwen) Anderson, Tim (Mary) Anderson, Sherri (Rodney) Hagen; grandchildren, Alex (Amanda), Cory (Allison), Jason (Jenny), Keesha (Nathan), Tabitha (Michael), Tyler (Sarah), Adam (Alex), Greg, Shalin (Tiffany), Geoff (Steph), Justyne, Dayle (Kaitlyn), Cory (Jordan); great-grandchildren, Torii, Emma, Paizley, Jena, Aubree, Tressa, Walker, Caitlyn, Sawyer, Shay, Nolan, Cooper, Finley, Kellen, Ellie, Brynny, Brody, Stefonia, Joseph, Easton, Greyson, Kendall, Lyrick, Theryn, Keston, Kember, Kutler, Lainey, Edyn Jo, Violet, Oliver; sisters, Ardy Erickson and Carol (Leland) Lee; sisters-in-law, Shirley Nordby and Joy Nordby; brother-in-law, Kenny Njos; special forever sister, Dolly; Wayne's children, Vicki (Rick) Stokke, Mike (Joy) Konickson, Janelle (Chad) Nelson; grandchildren, Haeli (Zach), Morgan (Ryan), Alaina, Holden (Kelsey), Wyatt, Ellie; great-grandchildren, Grayson, Norah, Emery, Willa; and many other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her husbands, Rodney Anderson and Wayne Konickson; son, Dayle Anderson; great-grandson, Beckett Gast; parents; brothers, Roy and Orvis Nordby; brother-in-law, Jerry Erickson; and many other relatives and friends.

Memorials are suggested to Grace Lutheran Church or Valle Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent at [www.johnsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.johnsonfuneralservice.com)



**Obituary for Helmer Homme**

Helmer Homme, age 91, of Winger, MN, passed away on Friday, January 17th, at his home. Funeral services 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](http://www.carlinfuneral.com).

Helmer Olav Homme was born on May 22, 1933 in McIntosh, Minnesota to Mikkel and Helma (Skipple) Homme. He lived all his life at the homestead farm south of Winger until October of 2024 when he moved to Poplar Meadows. Attending grade school in Winger, he graduated from McIntosh High School in 1951. He then studied carpentry at Dunwoody Industrial Institute in Minneapolis and also attended MN School of Business following his U.S. Army tour. Helmer was drafted on April 23, 1953 serving in Korea through December 1954. Following his discharge in April 1955 he returned to the home farm in Winger.

In the spring of 1966 Helmer met Verlys Maureen Malme, a Home Economics teacher at Erskine High

School. They married September 10, 1966. In 1969 they both accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This faith decision became the guiding light of their lives and the promises within God's Word sustained them. Helmer and Verlys farmed 30 years together, before retiring in 1996. Helmer was a life long active member of Dove Free Lutheran Church. Along with farming, he sold Garfield Insurance. He served his community by being on the Polk County Fair Board, involved in the Fegestad-Solie American Legion Post #200 of Winger, in Gideon's International, and in Prison Ministry at the Crookston Regional Jail.

More than anything Helmer wished for his community, friends and family to walk in fellowship with God the Father through Jesus Christ. Helmer was a friend to all, loving to visit with everyone he met. If he didn't know you, he likely knew your parents or grandparents.

Helmer was a faithful caregiver and companion for his beloved wife Verlys, until her death in December of 2020. They enjoyed sightseeing and fishing trips throughout the years, often with his sister and husband, Sigrid and Dale Chambers. At home, friends could expect to be greeted with coffee and bars, a card game of Rook, or to watch a ballgame together.

Helmer is preceded in death by his wife Verlys, his parents Mikkel and Helma Homme, only sister Sigrid Chambers, brother-in-law Dale Chambers, nephews Gary Chambers and Mark Chambers.

He is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, friends, and neighbors who have been blessed by his testimony, stories, and many shared memories.



**Obituary for Merlin Stone**

Merlin Stone, age 75, of East Grand Forks, MN, formerly of Thief River Falls, MN and Erskine, MN, passed away on Friday, January 10th, at his home. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 18th, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Mentor with Father Larry Delaney and Father Dave Super Celebrating. Interment was in St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery, Mentor. Visitation was held for one hour prior to the Mass on Saturday at the church. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of Erskine and messages of condolence may be shared at [www.carlinfuneral.com](http://www.carlinfuneral.com).

Merlin Joel Stone was born on September 26, 1949, to Theodore R and Margaret (Poppler) Stone in Clearwater Hospital in Bagley, Minnesota. He grew up in Lengby, Minnesota and attended Fosston Public School and graduated with the class of 1967.

Following graduation, he began his working career for Larson Lumber Mill in Bagley. Then he moved to M+D Auto Sales. In 1984 he opened Merlin's Auto Sales with his fiancé Dottie Carlson.

On June 16, 1984, he married Dorothy "Dottie" Burrell Carlson and became the blessed father of 4 children, Leslie, Laurie, Lesa, and Robert.

Merlin remained in business until the flood of 1997 and then started working for Northern Motors in Thief River Falls until his retirement in 2011.

While waiting for his wife

to retire, he continued to work part time at 1st Great Lakes Airline and then Challenger Elementary School until 2018 when he became too ill to continue to work.

During his life he coached Legion Baseball in Winger. He was a school board member for Erskine Public Schools where he helped form the baseball program. He also taught Sunday School at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. For years he was involved with the Erskine Water Carnival. He was also very proud of playing Santa Claus for many years.

Anyone who knew Merlin knows sports was his all-time favorite pastime. Merlin enjoyed coaching his son and watching football and baseball events. His idea of a good life and what made him happy was attending many activities for his kids and grandkids including baseball, football, wrestling, swimming, basketball, softball, tennis, dance, plays, volleyball, gymnastics, and scouts.

He will be missed by all of us!!!

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy "Dottie" of East Grand Forks, MN; four children, Leslie (Gary Laidley) Fisher of Thief River Falls, MN, Laurie (Bill) Forest of Fort Lupton, CO, Lesa Page of Panama City Beach, FL, and Robert (Heather) Carlson of West Fargo, ND; grandchildren, Bailee (Austin) Audette, Morgan Nordheim, Ridge Fisher, Hope Hickman, Tiana Hickman, Kayleigh Hickman, Cole Forest, Berni (Rachel) Bratager, Alexander (Ella) Page, Quinten Page, Bryanna (Nash) Perrigo, Abigail Carlson, and Kaitlyn Carlson; two great-grandchildren, Porter Perrigo and Oaklyn Forest. Brother Michael (Donna) Stone, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Walter and Maryannette Burrell, sister-in-law Beverly Boothman, and sister-in-law Marilyn (Dave) Bauer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, James Joel Carlson; great-grandson, Clyde Perrigo; brother, David; and sister, Agnes Stone; brother-in-law Fred Boothman, brother-in-law and sister-in-law James and Dianna Werfelman.



**Obituary for Sandra Grange**

Sandra Kathleen Grange, age 82, passed away at home on Saturday, January 11, 2025.

Sandy was born in Shevlin, MN on April 3, 1942, to Oscar and Elizabeth Lindmark. She graduated in 1960 from Clearbrook High School as the salutatorian of her class and then completed her associate's degree at Bemidji State University. She worked for the Minnesota Highway De-

partment in Bemidji until she married William Grange on May 30, 1970. She continued her employment at Brainerd Regional Human Services Center until her retirement in 2001.

Bill and Sandy made their home on White Sand Lake in Baxter for 54 years. Sandy was the light of our family's life. Caring and selfless, she has filled our hearts with a legacy of love which will be cherished forever.

Sandy is survived by her husband William, son Matthew (Kerstin) Grange of Lakeville, and daughter Melissa (Ben) Fogal of Lino Lakes; five grandchildren, Liam and Isla Grange, and Ethan, Samuel, and Abigail Fogal as well as two brothers, Sidney Lindmark of Chanhassen and David Lindmark of Bemidji.

Visitation is Saturday, January 25 at 10 a.m. with funeral services at 11 a.m. at Park United Methodist Church in Brainerd.

Interment will be this spring at Sinclair Township Cemetery.



**Obituary for Richard Bourque**

Richard Bourque age 80, of Elk River. Passed away on January 19, 2025, in St. Cloud, MN.

He was born in Crookston MN on June 10, 1944, to William and Eunice (Boucher) Bourque. He grew up near Oklee and graduated from Oklee Public schools, before enlisting in the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Alaska.

Following his Honorable Discharge, he moved to Minneapolis, MN where he met and married Barb Smith.

They were married for 55+ years and raised 3 daughters, Elaine, Karen, and Becky. Richard proudly worked for Hennepin County for 34+ years as a heavy machinery operator.

He was preceded in death by daughter, Karen; wife, Barb; and his parents; 2 sisters, Lucy and Judy; and brother, Mike.

Richard is survived by his daughters Elaine (Travis) Betterman and Becky Halvorson; son-in-law, Jay Rupprecht; grandchildren, Dustin, Cole, Amanda, Annika, William, Jonathan, Trever, Elizabeth; great-grandson, Knox; sisters, Marie (Richard) Van Vooren and Louise (Earl) Leiran; brother, David Bourque.

In lieu of flowers, the family will be accepting donations which will be directed to the St. Cloud VA Hospital in a show of appreciation for the excellent level of compassionate care Richard received.

Mass of Christian burial at 12:30 PM on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the Church of Saint Andrew, 566 – 4th Street NW, Elk River, with visitation starting at 11:30 AM.

Interment in Saint Andrew's Cemetery in Elk River, MN.



**Obituary for Leimona Martin**

Leimona (Monie) Martin, age 84, of Bagley, Minnesota, passed away Monday, January 13, 2025 in Bagley, Minnesota at Bagley Sanford Medical Center.

Services will be held on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church in Bagley, Minnesota with a visitation one hour prior. Interment will be held at Bagley City Cemetery in Bagley, Minnesota. The Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley assisted the family with arrangements.

Leimona (Monie) Mae Kronback was born May 2, 1940, in Springfield, Minnesota. She lived on a farm in Lamberton, Minnesota before moving in 1942 to the family farm in Westbrook, Minnesota. Growing up she was a member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. She attended District 68 rural school and graduated from Westbrook High School in 1958. In 1962 she graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in Home Economics. She was a 4-H member and leader all

her life.

She started teaching in Laverne, Minnesota, and in 1963 was married to Fred Martin. She went on to teach in several schools in Omaha, South Dakota and Fargo, North Dakota while her husband attended medical school. Upon the completion of his doctorate, the couple moved to Bagley, Minnesota where they started a family.

Leimona was a member of Faith Lutheran Church. She started the youth program there and was superintendent of the Sunday School. She loved designing and making the church banner, many of which are used by the church today.

Monie had many talents; painting, quilting, but she excelled at basketmaking. She started the Headwaters Basketmaking Guild in Northern Minnesota. She was a member of Gallery North in Bemidji, exhibiting baskets, selling, and teaching classes. Every summer when the families would get together, she always brought a craft to entertain us. She was a very loving and caring person who left many good friends behind and will be deeply missed. Her grandchildren were a special joy in her life.

She is survived by her two sons, Troy Martin of Bagley, Minnesota, and Todd (Karen) Martin of Fosston, Minnesota; sister, Darla (Lars) Trahnstom of Denver, Colorado, brother, Eugene (Maydelle) of Westbrook, Minnesota; and three grandchildren, Laci, Brooke, and Logan Martin.

Monie was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Orina Kronback; daughter, Leisa Martin; and husband, Dr. Fred Martin.

**Submit Obituaries & Memorials to Richards Publishing at [richards@gvtel.com](mailto:richards@gvtel.com)**

# Ottertail 100 Recap

CorPowerSports kicked off the 2025 season in Ottertail, Minnesota for the Ottertail 100! This is the second year of this event with the inaugural race being held in January of 2023. Wes Selby (Pro Stock) and Zach Herfindahl (Pro Open) were the big winners in 2023. In 2024, the race was cancelled due to warm weather conditions. This year, we had more than enough ice to go racing! The race course was a plowed 9.6 mile course with long straights and an ample amount of corners. This made this race not only focus on speed but technique as well.

**Saturday morning** started off at about 10 degrees above zero with a light snowfall. Those conditions last throughout the day with overcast skies. The first race of the 2025 season was the Pro Open (17 entries) and Semi Pro Improved (21 entries) qualifier. These sleds ran two laps based on time with the top six starting on the front row of their finals. In the Pro Open class the top six sleds after two laps were Paul Brown (Arctic Cat), Ross Erdman (Polaris), Jesse Hallstrom (Ski-Doo), Taylor Bunke (Polaris), Zach Herfindahl (Arctic Cat), and Alex Hetteen (Polaris). The second row would consist of B. Bunke, Christensen, Langaas, C. Revering, D. Revering, and Busse. The final row had Tate, Dohrn, Feil, Peppel, and Olson. In the Semi Pro Improved class, Vince Van Slyke (Polaris) was top qualifier with Luke Van Lyssel (Polaris), O'Ryan Bosek (Polaris), Craig Ritzinger (Ski-Doo), Derek Kloety (Arctic Cat), and Cooper Kangas (Ski-Doo) joining him in the front row.

Race two of the day was the Sport Improved Qualifier with 21 entries. After two qualifying laps, Sullivan LaVoie was top qualifier on his Polaris with Marcus Moldaschel (Arctic Cat), Dylon Tollefson (Polaris), Reese Novacek (Polaris), Anakin Bosek (Arctic Cat), and Braden Sillerud (Arctic Cat) also starting on the front row.

The next few races were classes that ran a two-day combined time format. Some key battles that were close after day one were in the Junior 10-13 class. The Diesen siblings, Bryden and Kynsie were only 1.4 seconds apart! Reese Novacek had a 12 second lead over Unity Gausen in the Pro Women's class and Luke Fredman was leading the Expert 600 Limited class by only 0.812 seconds!

With the snow still falling, race seven took the starting line. The Sport Improved final was a four lap heads up race. Lavoie, Moldaschel, Tollefson, Bosek, Sillerud, and Gausen took the front row with Novacek not making the call to staging in time. The green flag dropped and Bosek took the early race lead! After four fast laps, Marcus Moldaschel took the race win on his Arctic Cat with a total time of 31 minutes and 57 seconds. Anakin Bosek (Arctic Cat) came in second 25.940 seconds back and Sullivan LaVoie (Polaris) -30.083 second back to round out the podium. In fourth was Dylon Tollefson (Polaris) -36.666 seconds and Elliott Clark (Arctic Cat) in fifth -47.765 seconds back.

Race eight was the next race to the line; the Semi Pro Improved final. Five laps, heads-up racing. Van Slyke, VanLyssel, Bosek, Ritzinger, Kloety, and Kangas took the front row with three more rows lined up behind them. After five laps of tight racing up front, O'Ryan Bosek took the race win with a total time of 39 minutes 15 seconds on his Polaris. Vince Van Slyke (Polaris) took second 12.636 seconds back and Derek Kloety (Arctic Cat) took third 16.172 seconds back. In fourth was Oliver Olson (Polaris) -33.571 seconds and in fifth was Brady Wadena (Arctic Cat) -39.018 seconds.

The last race of opening day was the Pro Open 10 laps heads up final. This race was just shy of 100 miles and scored based on finishing position not time. All racers had to complete a mandatory fuel stop taking a minimum of two gallons of fuel before the white flag. The green flag dropped and Taylor Bunke got the early race holeshot on his Polaris Mod. After one completed lap, Ross Erdman had the early race lead with Paul Brown and Alex Hetteen in tow. After two laps, Hetteen took the lead with Erdman sitting 0.369 seconds behind and Brown only 1.137 seconds back in third. After three laps, Hetteen began to stretch out his lead to 5.148 seconds over Erdman and 12.540 over Brown in third. After five laps Hetteen started to run away with the lead stretching it to 17.333 seconds over Brown in second and

Boe Bunke now in third 19.612 seconds back after Erdman stopped for fuel. After six laps, Hetteen's lead was 20.742 seconds over Brown and another 4 seconds back was B. Bunke. Seven laps in Hetteen had a 22.344 second lead with Brown in second and now T. Bunke in third 1:09.510 after his younger brother Boe stopped for fuel and now sat 4th. Hetteen and Brown both pulled into fuel on lap eight which tightened the gap for the lead and Boe got around his brother Taylor for 3rd. After ten laps of racing, Alex Hetteen was victorious on his Polaris twin pipe mod with a total time of 1 hour 16 minutes and 6 seconds. In second was Paul Brown on his four stroke Arctic Cat only 8.921 seconds behind Hetteen. Rounding out the podium was Boe Bunke on his single pipe Polaris mod -43.065 seconds. Taylor Bunke finished fourth on his single pipe Polaris mod -1:10.945 and Dan Revering finished fifth on his stock Polaris sled -2:34.51.

**Sunday morning** brought 30+ mph winds, 0 degree temperatures and real feels conditions reaching -25 degrees. After a few test laps from the Pros and some discussion it was decided that we were going racing! The crew along with the input from the Pros it was decided the best decision would be to have no qualifiers just timed finals. All classes except the Pro class would run one less lap just so that we could get through the day faster and get people out of the cold and on the road! It was very important to let all the racers have a chance to race their second day which is why we decided to just cut down laps and not just race the premier classes. After everyone got a look at the track on the parade lap, racing got started after 10 AM.

The first race of day two was the Junior 14-17 classes, Masters 50+, and Vet 30+. In the Classics class, Kyle Grover took the win on his Polaris with a total time of 41 minutes 22 seconds with Kellin Geisler (Polaris) in second and Paul Votava (Polaris) in third. In the Junior 14-17 class, Rielly Clark (Arctic Cat) won with a time of 42 minutes 1.305 seconds. Luke Fredman (Polaris) finished second and Brady Wimpfheimer (Arctic Cat) in third. Taylor Cloose took the win in the Junior 14-17 Girls class on her Polaris with a time of 44 minutes 25 seconds. Rachel Wimpfheimer (Arctic Cat) in second and Charlie Kangas (Ski-Doo) in third. In Masters 50+ Todd Severson won with a time of 44 minutes 25 seconds on his Arctic Cat and Shane Boyer took second on his Polaris. In Vet 30+, Adam Longtin (Arctic Cat) took the win with a time of 41:49 with Jared Christensen finishing second on his Polaris.

Race two consisted of the Junior 10-13 classes and the Junior 8-10 Transition class. These racers only got one lap on day two due to weather conditions. After day one the Junior 10-13 class was tight between the Diesen siblings, but Bryden had a stellar day two and took the win with a total time of 27 minutes 54 seconds on his Arctic Cat. Cole Prusak (Polaris) was able to make up time on day two and take over the second spot finishing 20 seconds behind the lead. Taking third and the win in the Junior 10-13 Girls class was Kynsie Diesen on her Arctic Cat.

Next the Pro Women, Trail, and Vintage classes took the track. In the Pro Factory Women's class, Reese Novacek extended her lead and earned her first Pro Factory Women's race win! Her total time was 41 minutes 22 seconds. In second was Unity Gausen -33.672 seconds and in third was Kenna Cloose -1:06 minutes making it a Polaris podium sweep. In the Trail class, Paul Votava took the win with a time of 43:40 with John Parker taking second only 6.1 seconds back and Paul Sillerud in third. In the Vintage class there was one brave entry, Nick Gustafson who finished his two laps in 19 minutes 53 seconds.

Race four were the remaining classes that were placed based on combined two-day-time; Expert 600 Limited, Masters 40+, and Pro Vet 30+. In the Expert 600 Limited class, Rielly Clark took the win on his Arctic Cat with a total time of 42 minutes 7 seconds. In second was Luke Fredman (Polaris) only 1.1 seconds behind Clark! Rounding out the podium was Brady Wimpfheimer on his Arctic Cat. In Masters 40+, Todd Severson (Arctic Cat) took the win over two Polaris' with a time of 24 minutes 34 seconds with Jacob Felerabend and Tommie Quam taking second and third. In Pro

Vet 35+, Aaron Christensen took the win on his Polaris with a time of 39 minutes 5 seconds over Jon Arneson (Arctic Cat) and Justin Tate (Polaris).

The last three classes of the day were all timed finals. Sleds took off one at a time due to visibility and conditions on the race course. The Sport Stock final was first running three laps. After three laps of close battles, Sullivan Lavoie was victorious on his Polaris with a total time of 25 minutes 34s econds. Only 2.5 seconds out of the lead was Kenna Cloose on her Polaris and Kyle Quesenberry (Arctic Cat) rounded out the podium only 5.5 seconds back! Finishing fourth was Marcus Moldaschel (Arctic Cat) -6.6 seconds and Braden Sillerud (Arctic Cat) in fifths 9.5 seconds back. The top five were all within 10 seconds of each other!

The Semi Pro Factory final was next on the starting line. This race was a four lap timed final. After another very close race, Brandon Wolter took the win on his Polaris with a total time of 32 minutes 33 seconds. Oliver Olson came in second -4.794 seconds back and Luke VanLyssel in third -9.351 seconds back. In fourth was Lucas Vaadi -10.690 seconds and O'Ryan Bosek in fifth -19.646 seconds all on Polaris making it a top five sweep for the red machines. Another key point in these results are that the top 11 were all under 1 minute of each other making it a very close battle after 40 miles.

The last race of the weekend was the Pro Factory Stock final. These racers competed in 10 laps, with a mandatory fuel stop before lap nine. At the start of the race the temperature was 2 degrees above 0 with gusts up to 31 mph and a real feel of -22 below. After one lap Evan Peppel earned the early race lead with a lap time of 7 minutes 58 seconds. Sitting second was Busse (8:00.584), third was D. Revering (8:00.768), fourth was B. Bunke (8:01.278) and fifth was Christensen (08:01.557). Places two through seven were all within 2 seconds of each other. On lap three, the race leader Peppel ran a lap time of 7:58.4 and on lap four ran his best lap thus far at a 7:54.4

On lap seven, race leader took fuel dropping him back to fourth. This put B. Bunke into the lead with Hetteen in second, and Hallstrom in third. After the rest of the leaders fueled, Peppel was back in the lead after lap nine running his best lap of the race thus far with a 7:50.420 lap time! Boe Bunke also ran his fastest lap on the ninth lap running a 7:53.742 in second and Alex Hetten ran his fastest lap was well running a 7:54.581. After ten laps of racing, Evan Peppel was able to secure his first Pro Factory Stock win on his Polaris with a total time of 1 hour 19 minutes 33 seconds. Coming in second was Boe Bunke -39.392 seconds. Rounding out the podium was Alex Hetteen -42.727 seconds. This made it a Polaris sweep with all three racers being from the home of Polaris Roseau, Minnesota! Marshall Busse (Polaris) came in fourth -44.663 seconds and fifth was Taylor Bunke (Polaris) -46.148 seconds. After 100 miles, the top six racers were all within a minute of each other!

Cor PowerSports will be back in action on January 25-26, 2025 in Park Rapids, Minnesota for a lake race on Fish Hook Lake!



Jesse Lessard caught a 21 inch walleye on January 10th, 2025 at Lake of the Woods. Photo submitted.

## Minnesota DNR urges snowmobile riders to prioritize safety

Even small amounts of snow can hide dangers

Snowmobile enthusiasts still await a large, widespread snowfall, but are finding places to ride in some parts of Minnesota. Frozen lakes are seeing plenty of attention, as are road ditches and trails where there's adequate snow. With a long holiday weekend on tap, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds riders to ensure their desire to get out doesn't get in the way of making safety their top priority.

Small amounts of snow can hide dangerous obstructions on both ice and land; and even though temperatures generally have been low, swampy areas might have poor, if any, ice. "People are understandably excited to get out and enjoy the snow where it's available," said Capt. Jon Paurus, DNR Enforcement education program coordinator. "Given it's been a couple years since we've had really good riding opportunities all across Minnesota, we ask everyone to brush up on the basics of snowmobile safety before they start their sleds."

### Paurus offers the following tips to ensure a safe ride:

- Know where to ride. Riders who stay on marked trails are less likely to strike an obstacle or trespass onto private property. Riders can check trail conditions ([mndnr.gov/snow\\_depth/index.html](http://mndnr.gov/snow_depth/index.html)) before heading out.
- Leave the booze at home. Drinking and riding is one of two main factors in crashes and plays a role in about 60% of those that are fatal.
- Watch the speed and stay to the right. Going too fast is the other main factor in crashes. Many serious and fatal crashes occur when a speeding snowmobiler loses control or strikes an object.
- Be careful on the ice. Obstacles such as pressure ridges have been common this year. There must be at least 5 to 7 inches of new, clear ice to support the weight of a snowmobile and rider.
- Take a snowmobile safety course ([mndnr.gov/safety/vehicle/snowmobile](http://mndnr.gov/safety/vehicle/snowmobile)). It's required of anyone born after 1976 and recommended for everyone. People with snowmobile safety certification are less likely to be involved in serious or fatal crashes.

Additional safety tips can be found on the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/snowmobiling/safety.html](http://mndnr.gov/snowmobiling/safety.html)).

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## Itasca State Park has expanded winter lodging in 2025

Itasca State Park has transformed into a true winter adventure hub, offering expanded overnight options for both seasoned cold-weather enthusiasts and first-time winter travelers. Stay at Pine Ridge Campground with drive-in electric campsites for easy access to ski and snowmobile trails. Embrace the wild side with remote back-country campsites accessible by ski or snowshoe.

Several of the Bert's Cabins are now open year-round. Their location offers direct access to Itasca State Park's snowmobile trails, and pet-friendly cabins are available. The Headwaters Inn is a lodging option that oozes with historic charm. Book one room or all six; the inn offers the perfect set-up for a group getaway. For ski-in/ski-out convenience, stay at the Four-Season Suites in the historic Douglas Lodge area. All winter lodging at Itasca State Park offers free guest Wi-Fi.

Winters at Itasca State Park feature the Twinkle Light Trail, an illuminated loop trail perfect for a short nighttime adventure under the stars. For longer treks, Itasca offers trails for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Visitors can stop by the Forest Inn to rent snowshoes or skis from Itasca Sports, warm up by the fire, and connect with the park's vast winter trail system.

Additional information about camping, lodging and recreational opportunities is

on the Itasca State Park page ([mndnr.gov/itasca](http://mndnr.gov/itasca)).

### Planning and safety tips

Being prepared is key to making a winter overnight trip to a state park or recreation area successful and fun.

• **Book early:** Camper cabins, yurts and lodging suites are very popular even in winter months and often fill quickly for weekend dates. Consider a weekday stay for more availability. Make reservations on the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/reservations](http://mndnr.gov/reservations)).

• **What's provided:** Be aware of what amenities are available. Camper cabins and yurts require visitors to bring their own bedding, but lodging suites do not. Visitors should familiarize themselves with amenities before packing. Visit the park's website or call the ranger station for more information.

• **Water access:** Check the park website or talk with park staff to confirm where water will be available. Some campground bathrooms and spigots will be shut off for the winter.

• **Check weather:** Before heading out, check the forecast and pack for the conditions.

• **Dress in layers:** Choose moisture-wicking materials and bring extras to stay dry and warm.

• **Stay active:** Cross-country skiing, hiking, or even building a snow shelter will keep one warm and engaged.

### Word Search Answers for this week

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