



 Today Mostly Sunny H 53 L 30	 Thurs Partly Cloudy H 54 L 29	 Fri Mostly Sunny H 56 L 39	 Sat Partly Cloudy H 64 L 51	 Sun Mostly Cloudy H 67 L 50
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In this issue ... No CFAP Food Boxes this month. See page 2.

Free meals for our students



Grygla School cooks, Darlyne Roen and Jean Foss, stop for a quick picture in between the breakfast and lunch prep on Monday morning. *Photo courtesy of Travis Smith*

The Grygla School is happy to announce that all students will be receiving free meals, which includes breakfast, along with lunch. The free meals are available through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which is one of the flexibilities extended by USDA on August 31st, 2020. It allows school to continue serving free meals to all children for the time being. This is also the case with the Goodridge School, as well. Breakfast and lunch is also free to all students in grades PK-12.

The Goodridge School shared that their breakfast is now "grab and go". If students are distant learners and want to pick up meals, please contact Tom Loberg at 218-378-4134. Please note: Students who are distance learning in preschool can only receive meals for the days they are in school.

At this time, the USDA stated that free meals will be available until the end of December 2020 or until funding runs out. It is

important to keep this fact in mind, since the schools will have to return to charging for meals with little notice. Parents and community members will be updated as quickly as possible when this change takes place.

Families are asked to fill out the free/reduced lunch applications. If families are income eligible, they'll receive free and/or reduced meals once funding runs out or when school starts again in January 2021. To fill out the application, please visit www.lunchapplication.com. Everyone is strongly encouraged to fill out the free/reduced lunch application. The higher the number of qualified recipient of free and/or reduced meals a school district has, the more federal and state monies become available to the districts in other areas, as well as in their food service department.



Charger Fall Training Season

Starting this week and running for the next three weeks is a special fall training season for our high school athletes.

Charger football training sessions are for grades 9-12 and will be held the next three weeks with weight training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at each individual school. There will be team practices on Tuesdays from 4-6pm at rotating sites.

Volleyball practice is for grades 7-12 and will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 4-6pm with this week being all in Grygla and rotating between sites.

Warroad Forestry News: construction project on the Thompson Forest Road



By Shane Delaney, Assistant Area Supervisor

The Thompson Forest Road will have a construction project starting after Labor Day from

the Bemis Hill Campground and extending westward to the Root Forest Road intersection. The project is approximately 1.25 miles in length. The intersection of the Bemis road is also being upgraded as part of the project. The project is scheduled to be completed before the end of October. Expect the road to be closed while the project is going on. The detour goes across the Palsburg to the Blacks Winner road.

Things are finally starting to dry out a little bit in the forest. Many of the Minimum Maintenance Roads are finally starting to shape up and dry out making conditions ideal for OHV/ATV use. Besides the wet fall, we had over 11 inches of

rainfall in the months of June and July (4" above the 10 year average for those 2 months). August precipitation was closer to normal which has helped tremendously. Several staff have been working to make some needed trail improvements over the course of the summer on several of these trails.

We have had some reshuffling of staff within the area. Jon Myhr, who previously worked at the Wannaska Field Station, has been re-assigned to work in Grygla. Our forestry staff has been busy cruising summer pine stands for our next timber auction in December. Several staff have also assisted park staff with forest projects in both Hayes Lake

and Lake Bronson State Parks.

With the severe western fire season, we have had 7 folks just return from 20 day assignments and recently another 6 leave within the last week to assist in California and Montana. Even though we are going into the fall season a little wetter than normal here in NW Minnesota, please error on the side of caution with burning piles and other debris. If you run into any issues with burning permit system and trying to activate your permit, please feel free to give the Wannaska office a call (218-425-7793). As always if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call the office at Warroad, Wannaska and Grygla.



This was the second bear for Kallie Schulz, but the first time using a bow! She took the bear down over the weekend on her family's hunting land near Moose River. The bear weighed just under 300 pounds.

Photo courtesy of Kallie Schulz.

Food shelf hours

The Grygla-Gatzke Food Shelf will be open one week later this month. It will be open on Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 8-10:30am at the food shelf location in Motel 89.



The good news is, the Grygla Eagle wasn't ripped to shreds just for FUN. Brothers, Philip and Wallace Holte, were fighting over who got to look at last week's bear pictures that were printed on the back!

Photo courtesy of Amy Holte



This photo was taken by Paul Maloney, who lives in Thief River Falls. He posted this on his Northern Nights Photography Facebook page, where it also states, "The desolate and abandoned interest me." Paul traveled east on Saturday night and photographed the Reiner Town Hall under the Milky Way. This old town hall is located right along Highway 1, 12 miles south of Grygla. The photo caption stated, "We had fun using passing cars as our light source!" Make sure to check out his Northern Nights Photography Facebook page.

CHURCH CALENDARS

GRYGLA LUTHERAN PARISH
Grace and Our Savior's, Grygla
Pastor Ken Bowman
Sunday
 Grace: Worship at 9am
 OS: SS at 9:30am with Worship at 10:30am
 Masks and social distancing are required, following CDC guidelines.
 Pastor Ken's service will continue to air on GV channel 36 at 9am Sunday and 7pm Sunday, as well as be posted on the Grace Lutheran website.

GOODRIDGE AREA LUTHERAN PARISH, ELCA
Bethany, Ekelund, Faith
Pastor Kristin Dahlen Ostercamp
Wednesday, August 16th
 7pm Ekelund Worship – outdoor, bring a lawn chair
Sunday
 8:30am Ekelund with Communion, 9:30am FB Live
 10:30am Faith Formation, Ekelund
 7pm Grade 9 Zoom

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF
St. Clement's – Grygla; St. Ann's – Goodridge
Fr. Adam Hamness
Sunday:
 St. Clement's: 10:15am Worship in church
 St. Ann's: 12pm Worship in church

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Skime
Pastor Steve Bliss
Sunday:
 8am Worship w/ 11am Facebook Live Broadcast

LIBERTY CHAPEL Grygla
Congregation-Led
 Calendar/information not available at this time.

CLEARWATER LUTHERAN PARISH
St. Petri – Grygla; Mt. Olive, Nazareth – Trail; Oak Park – Oklee
Pastor Jeff Merseth
Saturday:
 9am Worship at Mt. Olive
Sunday:
 St. Petri: 8am Worship, 9:15am SS
 OP: 8:30am SS, 9:45am Worship
 Nazareth: 10am SS, 11am Worship

UNITED LUTHERAN PARISH Gatzke
 8:30am Worship in church



Funeral Pre-planning Monuments

Thief River Falls • 218-681-4331
 Red Lake Falls • 218-253-2128
 Oklee • 218-796-5177
www.johnsonfuneralservice.com

No CFAP distribution in September

There will be no CFAP distribution during the month of September. The North Country Food Bank only received two shipments of food boxes. They each contained 860 boxes of dairy and vegetables - no protein. They made the decision to

give those shipments to whichever food shelf requested them first, but they had to take all 860 boxes. Since that is way more boxes than Grygla could distribute, they are not participating in the September give away.



American State Agency, an independent insurance affiliate of American State Bank of Grygla, has an **immediate opening** for an **Insurance Professional** for the sale and service of risk management products supporting the needs of our customers. The ideal candidate will have 3+ years of experience in multiple lines of insurance, have knowledge of the agriculture industry, be a motivated self-starter; and possess great integrity with a customer service mentality. Insurance industry experience is desirable, but lack of experience is not a disqualification for the position. A competitive salary and benefits package to include PTO, group health, 401k and long-term disability will be provided to the successful applicant. Please provide a current resume with references to: American State Bank, 102 S Main Ave. , Grygla, MN 56727, or by email to bryan.grove@asbgrygla.com . Applications will be accepted through September 18, 2020. American State Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer. G24-26C

RE-ELECT Tim SUMNER



Beltrami County Commissioner District 4
 "Tim Sumner has been very supportive to help our district on all issues that arise for the betterment of the area." - Wallace Byklum

Paid for by Wallace Byklum of Grygla, MN

Beltrami County DFL is unfazed by Trump's visit

Submitted by Curtiss Hunt, Beltrami County DFL Chair
 "Our Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party extensive campaign efforts in northern Minnesota are starting to pay off and we're pleased we're doing so well that Trump feels the need to give us a visit," said Beltrami County DFL Chair Curtiss Hunt. "His visit is no surprise because our local DFL office is flooded with calls and visits every day by folks who are tired of a President who doesn't perform. A great leader is a person with the ability to react to emergencies in the proper way. Unfortunately, Trump is a fair-weather President who doesn't have a clue how to handle crises."

Hunt added, "We know Trump has no plan to get us out of the multiple economic and medical disasters that he should have seen coming. He keeps downplaying the pandemic while admitting in taped interviews that he fully understands the severity of the situation. We are not pleased that his unmasked rally in Bemidji constitutes a COVID-19 super-

DFL unfazed...
 Continued on page 3

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Northern Lights fishing report

Written by Ben Kucera
 Cold weather north winds - this is the time most hunters and fishermen wait for. Our first couple of frosts have started the migration of shiners in Lake of the Woods into the shallows and to run up the rivers, and the walleye are right behind them. On the Rainy side of Lake of the Woods, reports are the shiners have started to enter 4-mile Bay. They are catching high numbers of fish, but having to ween through all the small ones, which is a lot. The trick has been a jig and shiner. Reports say that trolling spinners and cranks have slowed way down.

If you see a school of bait on the finder, slow down, there may not be any suspended yet, but they are hanging around the bait. Fish on the bottom. Same thing is happening on almost all the shorelines on the south side.

The blinker to swift is starting to pick up again, mainly using jig and shiner in the 10-15' range. Again, look for the bait balls or for marks to see if they are active.

The Elm Point has picked up, as well. People are still pulling cranks and are still effective, but the jig and shiner is starting to be the favorite again. Out of the Longpoint and Rocky Point areas, look for them in 10-20' off of the south shore and Twin Islands. Twin Rocks has produced, as well. The fish weren't fully in shallow yet, but the fishing is going

to get better and better in the coming weeks.

Shiners were not the only thing migrating this past week; we had a big ouch of Canada geese and ducks enter the area just in time for the youth waterfowl hunt. Talking to a couple youth hunters there were tons of ducks around. Bear are going to be moving more with the cold temps. For those that still have a tag, stay persistent. I have been driving around scouting geese in the evenings and have caught 6 bear in the open in bean and sunflower fields. The deer have been active, as well, and I've seen a lot of big bucks while scouting, along with a lot of does out in the fields around 6pm.

If you are looking forward to the archery season, that is coming up fast and opens this Saturday, September 19, along with Ruff and Sharptail grouse and Sandhill Cranes.

I will hopefully be making some jigs in the near future to put up in the store for the upcoming ice season as well. Every one heading outdoors good luck, be safe, and have fun.

Ben Kucera is the owner and creator of Northern Lights Tackle & Custom Rods. He is also a Marshall County Sheriff's Deputy residing in Grygla with his wife and children. Ben is an avid fisherman who will be writing and submitting a fishing report weekly. You can follow his Facebook page at Northern Lights Tackle and/or contact him at 218-684-0588.



This was posted on the Northern Lights Tackle Facebook page with the caption reading, "With the upcoming waterfowl season fast approaching, I will be making Texas rigs and decided to give old decoys a new look." The photo was posted at the end of August, which now, the waterfowl season is underway!

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Answer if your health department calls.

m MINNESOTA

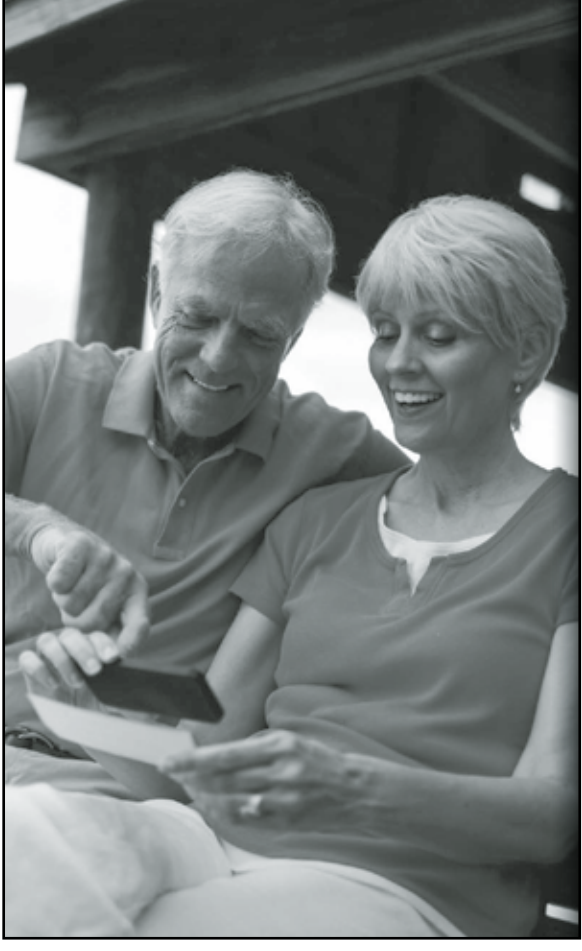
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PEOPLE FACTS

THESE PLACES CAN BE DANGEROUS FOR CHILDREN BECAUSE OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND LIVESTOCK.

ANSWER: FARMS

How they say that in...

ENGLISH: Tractor

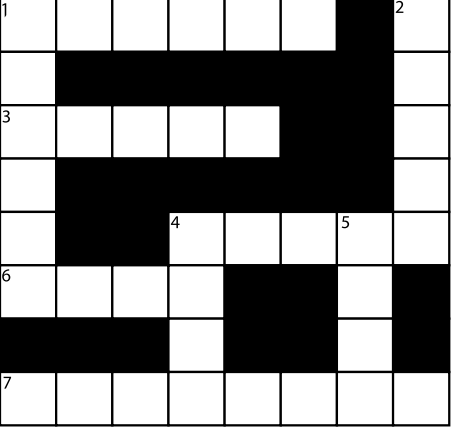
SPANISH: Tractor

ITALIAN: Trattore

FRENCH: Tracteur

GERMAN: Traktor

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Condition of being protected
- Of great weight
- Aches and _____
- Large vehicle (abbr.)
- Gaining knowledge

DOWN

- Education building
- Things to read
- Flow into a stream
- Person, place or thing

Answers:

1. Safety 3. Heavy 4. Pains 6. Limo
 Across
 7. Learning
 Down
 1. School 2. Books 4. Pour 5. Noun

THIS DAY IN...

SEP 14 HISTORY

- 1814:** FRANCIS SCOTT KEY COMPOSES THE LYRICS TO "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"
- 1959:** THE SOVIET SPACE PROBE LUNA 2 BECOMES THE FIRST MAN-MADE OBJECT TO REACH THE MOON WHEN IT CRASHES INTO THE LUNAR SURFACE.
- 1994:** THE 1994 BASEBALL SEASON IS CANCELED AFTER THE 34TH DAY OF A PLAYERS' STRIKE.

New word

CULTIVATE

prepare and use land for gardening

Did You Know?

MANY PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE OF THE DANGERS WITHIN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY. SAFETY IS ESSENTIAL FOR FARM WORKERS AND VISITORS.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: TRACTOR

Only in Minnesota: a weekly feature in the Eagle

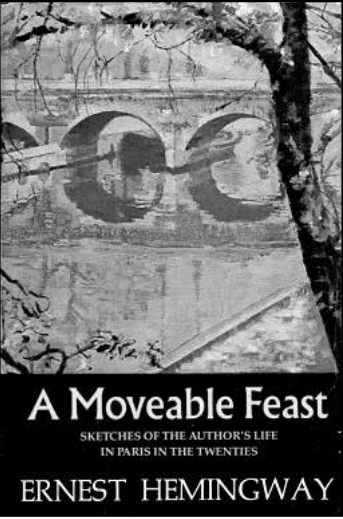
Most people have no idea this unique tunnel in Minnesota exists

If you find yourself way up north, past Two Harbors on the North Shore, you'll likely drive through this scenic tunnel on Highway 61. It goes 1,344 feet through Silver Creek Cliff, and was only finally completed in 1994 to prevent drivers from having to take the treacherous route near the cliff's edge, or a detour several miles inland that was used prior to the 1920s.

The tunnel took 3 years to complete because 500,000 cubic



GRYGLA LIBRARY LINK



Written by Kari Sundberg, Grygla Librarian

“We would be together and have our books and at night be warm in bed together with the windows open and the stars bright.” – Ernest Hemingway

Last week, I shared this picture with you. It's the cover of Ernest Hemingway's A Moveable Feast book, which is considered one of his most popular books.

Anyway, I love the quote above. I want it on a wood sign, hanging in my bedroom. I just love it and it's taken from that book.

I have to confess though, I have NEVER read any Hemingway. Not ever?! Have you guys? And there's no particular reason I haven't, I just haven't. And it feels a little weird to share that when I'm a librarian AND a huge reader, but, it's the truth. However, I'm placing A Moveable Feast on order so I can check it out. And I'm pretty excited for it.

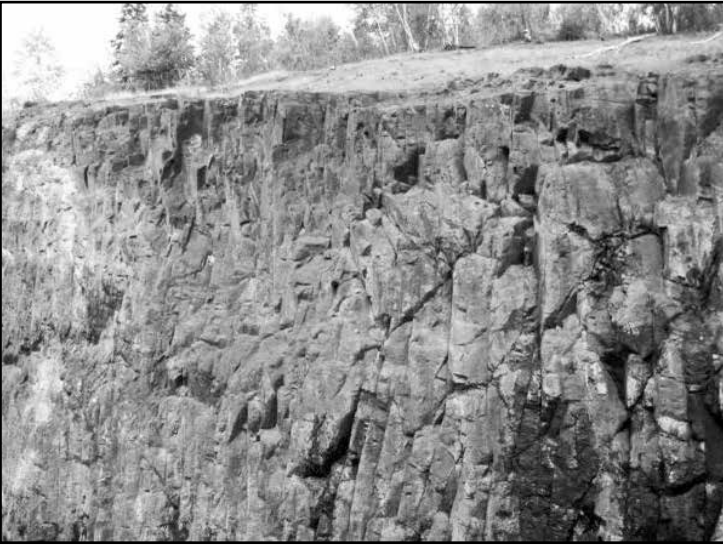
I was doing some research

and reading online and found some interesting pieces. Like, it seems people either love Hemingway or they hate him. Obviously, whether we've read him or not, we all know about him. And that he's ranked the most famous of 20th century American writers and considered one of the greatest literary lights. But there's so many varying opinions about why they should or should not be true.

Some people say they can't even figure out what genre he is. They say his writing is too simple with sentences running together. Others say there is beauty in simplicity and that his writing feels like a real conversation that doesn't require explanation or great detail. One piece I read said, "Every year, someone writes an article on how Hemingway's influence has waned or about how society has moved past Hemingway's subjects. And yet, every year his books continue to sell as much as any modern classics, if not more, and people are still interested in both the man and the myth."

Hemingway had an image as rugged and macho. He was a worldwide celebrity recognizable for his signature beard and his challenging physical pursuits. When he won the Nobel Prize in 1954, Time magazine reported the news under Heroes rather than Books and went on to describe the author as "a globe-trotting expert on bullfights, booze, women, wars, big game hunting, deep sea fishing, and courage." Not that I know, beings I've never read him, but apparently all of these subjects are addressed in his books. Anyway, I can't share

yards of rock had to be blown away. When the prior road was being used, visitors were in constant danger of boulders tumbling down onto the pavement... not to mention the giant drop into Lake Superior that was stopped by only a small barrier. The tunnel is beautifully designed with tile-covered walls, and provides a much safer route. You can still explore the views from the old road, as the Gitchi-Gami State Trail runs right along the cliffside. This 86 miles of trail provides stunning views, and of course most importantly, a closer look at the history of places like Silver Creek Cliff.



Word of the Week
...enhancing vocabularies
one Grygla Eagle at a time.

Ineffable
Incapable of being expressed or described in words; inexpressible

Adjective
\In-ef-uh-buhl\
inexpressible

G	R	E	C	O		W	H	O		P	R	O	F		
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Results from last week's StatePoint crossword puzzle.

DFL unfazed... Continued from page 2

spreader event in the North. And, of course, he has dishonored our significant Native American community, most recently in the form of delaying release of initial payments from the \$8 billion COVID-19 relief fund. Trump has devastated the farming community to the point that many farmers

stay in business only because the government is bailing them out. Plus, he has denigrated our many veterans in the area by saying that those captured in the line of duty are losers. We know differently. Now he's running on a platform to Make America great again, again. We Northern Minnesotans aren't fooled; we recognize a bad performer when we see one."

SIMPLY DELICIOUS



By Kari Sundberg, Eagle Editor

Creamy Crockpot Crack Chicken

One more crockpot recipe for you guys. I was drooling just looking at the picture. We're going to be making this Tuesday night, but I can already safely say we're going to love it. Just

the sound of all those ingredients together, combined with how easy it is to make, well, I think it'll be a Sundberg family favorite.

Ingredients you will need:

- chicken breasts
- ranch dressing mix
- cream cheese
- cooked crumbled bacon
- shredded cheddar cheese
- green onions

In the crockpot add your chicken, sprinkle with ranch and then place cream cheese on top. Cover and cook on low for 6 – 7 hours.

Remove lid and shred chicken. Then stir in the cream cheese. Add your cheddar cheese, bacon and green onions and give it a stir to combine.

Serve on buns, croissants, tortillas, lettuce wrap or just scoop up with some veggies.

A note from Superintendent
Jamie Lunsetter

“Keep Going. Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life. Keep going. Tough situations build strong people in the end.” - Roy T. Bennett

This is why they say, it's not the destination that counts, it's the journey. We all have trials in our life. Some we go through publicly with others, while some we deal with on our own terms, by ourselves. No matter what it is that we're going through, if we maintain faith and know that we will be better for our struggles when we're through it, everything will be ok. The best advice is the first sentence of this quote: Keep Going. Even when we're struggling: Keep Going. When your faith is being tested: Keep Going. Keep going, because when we're on the other side of it, we'll understand why we had to go through certain things, and we'll know that we're better people because of it. Keep the faith and keep going!

Middle River invites you to the 46th Annual Goose Festival

The community of Middle River, MN, announces its' 46th Annual Goose Festival, to be held September 25, 26 and 27. This year's theme is "Can't Mask Our Pride."

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CDC Guidelines: Please don't attend this event if you are feeling ill in any way. CDC Guidelines for COVID-19 will be followed. Please maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. Wash hands frequently (handwashing stations and hand sanitizer will be available for hand hygiene). Face coverings recommended outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings required indoors per Minnesota Executive Order 20-81. High touch surfaces will be sanitized frequently.

FRIDAY, September 25

Farmer's Market is from 1:00-4:00pm at the Main St. Picnic Shelter. Beer Garden & Pork Sandwiches open at 3:00pm in the Sportsmen's shed downtown. At 4:00, the 46th Annual Goose Festival Opening Ceremony is at the Main Street Stage. From 4:00 – 7:00pm is Watercolor Art Exhibit by Debbie Aune at the "Ol Press Building". Goose Drop Squares are available (Get your squares at Cenex Co-op and hope the goose "drops" on your square to win big money). Bingo at the American Legion starts at 6:00. Enjoy three live mu-

sic venues; from 6:00-9:00pm, "Backyard Revival" is playing at the Sportsmen's Shed, and from 9:00pm-1:00am: "The Bad Campers" play at The Wheel Bar and "Tami Lee & The Northern Lites" perform at the American Legion.

Morning - SATURDAY, September 26

From 8:00am-5:00pm, the Craft and Flea Market is downtown - for more information contact goosefestfleamarket@gmail.com. At 10:00am is Children's artmaking with the GMR Art Club next to "Ol Press Building". From 10:00am-6:00pm, Watercolor Art Exhibit by Debbie Aune at the "Ol Press Building". Beer Garden & Pork Sandwiches opens again at 10:00am at The Sportsmen's shed. Morning coffee and a noon meal are hosted by Our Savior's Thief Lake Church, outside the Community Center from 11:00am-2:00pm. Inflatable Kid's Games open at 11:00 next to the Spruce Valley Community Center.

Afternoon/Evening – SATURDAY, September 26

At 12:30pm the Goose Festival Parade runs through town, to register a parade entry, please contact Tishara at 218-222-3928 or text 218-689-

Goosefest...

Continued on back



Artist Nick Reitzel continues to inspire all of us with his attention to detail as he creates this mural to salute Marshall County and surrounding area service men and women. The mural is nearing completion and you are encouraged to view it when you visit the Marshall County Courthouse. It is located in the basement near the Veterans Service Office. The mural will be a centerpiece for the interior portion of the Marshall County Area Veterans Memorial Park. Photo courtesy of Russ Steer



The Marshall County Area Veterans Memorial Park has begun the physical transformation from a courthouse lawn to a "thank you" for our area veterans. Site preparation has been done by John and Nancy Gerszewski and crew from J & N construction with Davidson Construction supplying the fill materials needed in the process. The park couldn't happen without these folks and so many others who have contributed and are stepping up to create this tribute to our military men and women. Photo courtesy of Russ Steer

4076 (Line up at 10:30am behind the Legacy Center, judging is from 11:30am-12:00pm PLEASE COME EARLY). After the parade, Color & Face painting with Ashley will be next to the inflatables on Main Street. From 1:00 to 4:00 pm, “Dickie Miller” will be performing at the American Legion. Goose Drop is a 2:30 on Main Street (Get your squares at Cenex Co-op and hope the goose “drops” on your square to win big money). Bean Bag Tournament is at 3:00pm on Main Street (adult division) 2 person teams – entry fee is \$10 per team – cash prizes.

Bingo at American Legion begins at 5:00pm. BAJA RACING is at the Legacy Center at 5:30pm. From 8:00-11:00pm, Teen dance at the Legacy Center for grades 7-12, music by Kickin’ Entertainment, Kenny Lubarski - \$12 admission – doors close at 9:00. Enjoy live music - “Tami Lee & The Northern Lites” at the American Legion or “Jacked Up” at The Wheel, both venues 9:00pm-1:00am.

SUNDAY, September 27
Sunday also provides a big day of activities. From 8:00-11:00am, at the American Legion, Pancake/Ham Breakfast, donations benefit the Thief Lake/Middle River Living at Home Program. The North Country Horseman’s Saddle Club Game Show located at the Ornnist Arena; 1/4 mile west of MN Highway 32 on Marshall County Road

WHAT A JOKE

I still remember what my grandpa said right before he kicked the bucket. He said, “How far do you think I can

6 – 7:30am registration opens; 8:30am Lead-line & Small Fry divisions. At approximately 11:00, Kittson County Drill Team will perform, followed immediately by all other Game Show Age divisions – for more information contact Shirley at 218-686-4163. At 11:30am Community Church Service at Main St. stage (limited seating, bring lawn chair. If inclement weather, service will be held indoors). At 1:00pm the Daryl Jarshaw Memorial Tractor Pull is at the Farmer’s Coop Grain & Seed Elevator (FREE with Goose Fest button). The American Legion hosts the annual Music Jam at 1:00pm, sponsored by the Legion and the Community Club (FREE with Goose Fest button).

You can purchase your Goose Fest button for \$3.00 at any business in Middle River. The commemorative button provides free events and entry for prizes including cash prizes of \$100, \$200 and \$300, and supports the Middle River Community Club, organizers of the festival. Official Goose Fest Clothing is available with all proceeds benefiting local charities and organizations. Also, Middle River Memorabilia is available for purchase at various locations. The Middle River History book is available at Young’s Store. Many food vendors will line downtown Middle River. There will be many crafts, flea markets and rummage sales throughout town. Come join in for all the festivities, contests, and entertainment at Middle River’s 46th Annual Goose Festival, “Can’t Mask Our Pride.”

kick this bucket?”

My wife and I always laugh about how competitive we are. But I laugh more.

Hunters encouraged to collect spruce grouse feathers for genetics study

Grouse season opens Sept. 19. Spruce grouse hunters in northern Minnesota’s boreal forests are being asked to voluntarily submit feather samples for a genetics research project being conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the University of Minnesota.

“Hunters who enjoy pursuing these birds are critical to the success of this project and our work to conserve this species,” said DNR grouse research scientist Charlotte Roy. “Data collection for this project is simple and can be a fun science activity to engage hunters of all ages.”

The study will use grouse genetics to form a baseline of data to establish how spruce grouse currently use the landscape and to identify changes in habitat connectivity over time. When habitat becomes fragmented and a species loses connectivity to its former range, the species can form smaller distinct genetic groups over time.

Spruce grouse are a climate-sensitive species that rely on boreal forest habitats containing black spruce, jack pine and tamarack – all of which are

expected to shift northward on the landscape as temperatures increase.

Hunters who would like to assist with the project should collect three to five large wing or tail feathers along with the GPS coordinates of the harvest location. The feathers, GPS coordinates and the hunter’s name and telephone number should be mailed to: Grouse Research, DNR regional headquarters, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Harvest locations will not be made public. Hunters should mail samples from each bird in a separate envelope and not

mix feather samples from multiple birds.

This research project is funded by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources with dollars from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Surveys show hunters have harvested between 7,081 and 19,130 spruce grouse each year over the last 11 years. More information about spruce grouse management can be found on the hunting grouse page of the DNR website.

Contact: Charlotte Roy, grouse research biologist, 218-328-8876.

Minnesota DNR invites deer hunters to share their wildlife observations this season

Participation helps broaden understanding of deer and a variety of Minnesota animals

An online questionnaire will make it easier for Minnesota deer hunters to report wildlife they see during their hunts this year.

“This is a simple, direct way for hunters to share their observations of deer and also broaden our knowledge about other Minnesota species,” said Eric Michel, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources research scientist. “We’re really encouraging hunters to participate in the online questionnaire. The results will help us compare what hunters see to population estimates that are a baseline for managing wildlife.”

Using a mobile device or desktop computer, hunters can enter information on the DNR website about wildlife they see each day of hunting, including

deer, turkeys, bears, fishers and other species. They’ll also be able to report specific information about any deer they harvest, including antler size.

Hunters are encouraged to fill out a report after each hunt even if they don’t see any deer that day. The questionnaire will be available when archery deer season begins Saturday, Sept. 19, and remain open through the end of the year.

“Deer hunters tend to be out in the woods sitting still when animals are most active at dusk and dawn. That makes them likely to see undisturbed wildlife,” Michel said.

Data from the observation survey will provide a helpful comparison to the DNR’s population estimates for various species.

This new questionnaire expands on a survey the DNR has made available to bow hunters

for the past three years. In that survey, 1,412 bow hunters responded in 2017, 1,691 responded in 2018 and 2,180 responded last year. Now, the DNR is aiming to increase participation by allowing all deer hunters to participate.

The DNR developed the bow hunter survey following a 2016 report from the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor requesting more checks of the population model used to estimate deer populations for each deer permit area. The observation surveys are a way to compare hunter-provided data with DNR population estimates.

“Our deer population model gives us good numbers, but we still like to check those against what hunters and wildlife managers are seeing on the ground. It’s another way to add confidence to the whole system,” Michel said.

The DNR has deer population goals for areas throughout the state and the public has regular opportunities to provide input. Each year, wildlife managers use deer population estimates to figure out what level of deer harvest will move a local deer population closer to goal. The DNR then sets hunting regulations using past hunter participation and success rates, with the aim of harvest at a level that moves the population toward goal.

The DNR will report results from hunters’ observations in an annual research summary online. Previous bow hunter survey results are available on the DNR website.

Contact: Eric Michel, DNR research scientist, 507-578-8918.

