

BUDDING WITH BEANIES



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Knitted hats and scarves hang from trees in front of the Brainerd Police Department Friday, Jan. 4, and are there for those who need them. Tags attached to garments proclaim "I am not lost! If you are cold, please take me to keep you warm." On its Facebook page, Utrinkets reported the new items were placed on the Giving Trees with an agreement with the police department.

Minn. AG advocates for defrauded students

By Christopher Magan
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson is asking the U.S. Department of Education to forgive the federal loans of 1,000 students who attended a for-profit college chain when it was found to have committed fraud.

In a letter to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Swanson wrote the department should forgive, under the "closed school discharge program," the loans of students enrolled at Globe University and the Minnesota School of Business in September 2016, when a Hennepin County District Court found the school defrauded students.

A judge found the schools misled students about its criminal justice program, saying it would lead to careers in law enforcement when it didn't meet the state requirements. The fraud ruling led the state to revoke the schools' ability to operate in Minnesota and the fed-

eral government to halts its access to financial aid.

Despite those rulings, the two schools tried to remain open for months, working to place some students in other programs. The delay in closure made it more difficult for students to have their loans forgiven, Swanson said.

Tuition at Globe and the Minnesota School of Business was more than \$20,000, Swanson wrote, forcing students to borrow money to cover the costs. Student loan debt is tough to escape, even in bankruptcy, and unpaid loans can keep students from borrowing again and result in bad credit and even wage garnishments. Globe representatives argued at trial and after the verdict that the problems in the criminal justice program should not have resulted in the schools closures. They said the program was ended after the issue was brought to light and students were generally happy with the other degree programs.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

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5-Day Forecast for Brainerd

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Weather						
High/Low	40°/32°	22°/6°	23°/1°	11°/-2°	15°/9°	23°/12°
Conditions	Near-record warmth	Partly to mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy, breezy and colder	Partly sunny	Rather cloudy	Mostly cloudy

The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® (RF) is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body.

Sun & Moon

	Today	Tue.	Wed.
Sunrise	8:00 a.m.	7:59 a.m.	7:59 a.m.
Sunset	4:47 p.m.	4:48 p.m.	4:49 p.m.
Moonrise	9:05 a.m.	9:41 a.m.	10:11 a.m.
Moonset	6:28 p.m.	7:27 p.m.	8:28 p.m.

Moon Phases

	First	Full	Last	New
Date	Jan. 14	Jan. 20	Jan. 27	Feb. 4

State Forecast Today

INTERNATIONAL FALLS 37/20
THIEF RIVER FALLS 35/12
BAUDETTE 37/16
BEMIDJI 36/17
MOORHEAD 37/16
BRAINERD 40/22
ST. CLOUD 40/25
MORRIS 39/21
MADISON 40/27
WORthington 42/27
HIBBING 36/19
GRAND MARAIS 32/21
DULUTH 38/25
MINNEAPOLIS 43/29
ST. PAUL 43/30
MANKATO 43/30
ROCHESTER 42/30

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Almanac

BRAINERD YESTERDAY
Temperatures high 26° low 5°
Precipitation 0.00"

Weather History

On Jan. 7, 1953, 1-3 inches of ice accumulated in parts of eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. In Norwalk, Conn., 90 percent of the residents lost telephone and electric service.

Regional Cities

City	Today	Tuesday	City	Today	Tuesday
Billings, MT	40 23 pc	35 21 s	Kalispell, MT	36 19 c	31 24 pc
Bismarck, ND	41 21 pc	27 4 pc	Lander, WY	34 7 sn	25 12 pc
Burlington, IA	55 37 r	44 20 s	Lincoln, NE	55 30 pc	48 23 s
Butte, MT	28 2 sn	28 13 pc	Minot, ND	38 11 pc	16 -4 c
Casper, WY	40 17 s	34 21 pc	Pierre, SD	45 28 pc	39 12 s
Cheyenne, WY	44 28 s	44 24 s	Rapid City, SD	45 24 s	38 17 s
Des Moines, IA	51 33 pc	43 21 s	St. Cloud, MN	40 25 c	25 3 c
Duluth, MN	38 25 sn	26 3 c	Scottsbluff, NE	53 22 s	44 16 s
Fargo, ND	37 16 c	17 -2 c	Sioux City, IA	49 30 pc	42 19 s
Goodland, KS	58 23 pc	48 23 s	Sioux Falls, SD	43 31 c	37 15 s
Grand Forks, ND	35 12 c	13 -6 c	Watertown, SD	37 23 pc	24 3 pc
Great Falls, MT	37 22 sf	34 23 s	Williston, ND	38 14 pc	21 3 pc
Helena, MT	34 18 sn	30 19 pc	Yellowstone, WY	23 7 sn	26 13 pc

National Cities

City	Today	Tuesday	City	Today	Tuesday
Atlanta	66 51 pc	67 39 pc	Miami	79 67 s	81 64 s
Boston	32 26 s	46 37 c	Minneapolis	43 29 pc	31 7 c
Chicago	53 36 r	43 19 sh	New Orleans	71 57 pc	73 52 c
Dallas	70 45 pc	64 41 s	New York	35 33 pc	49 40 r
Denver	54 25 s	50 22 s	Oklahoma City	63 38 s	54 32 s
Detroit	48 38 i	47 25 sn	Omaha	55 32 pc	45 22 s
Fairbanks	-26 -33 pc	-17 -24 pc	Orlando	77 58 s	78 57 s
Honolulu	82 69 s	82 68 pc	Phoenix	63 44 s	71 48 s
Houston	72 61 c	73 52 c	Salt Lake City	42 30 c	42 29 c
Kansas City	57 36 s	49 26 s	San Francisco	59 54 c	61 55 c
Las Vegas	56 43 pc	58 43 pc	Seattle	46 35 pc	45 42 r
Los Angeles	61 51 sh	68 49 pc	Washington, DC	42 38 pc	61 42 pc

National Forecast Monday, January 7, 2019

Legend: Showers, T-storms, Rain, Flurries, Snow, Ice, Fronts: Cold, Warm, Stationary.

Constantly updated forecasts online at www.brainerddispatch.com.

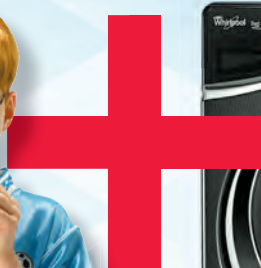


More snow on the horizon

Weather drawing by Clareese Daniels from Mrs. Olson's first-grade class at Garfield Elementary School.

Attention elementary school teachers: Don't forget to submit your students' weather drawings to the Brainerd Dispatch, P.O. Box 974, Brainerd, MN 56401

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ROADS

From Page A1

vehicles off the road, seven property damage crashes and four personal injury crashes that caused minor injuries.

Sgt. Neil Dickenson, Minnesota State Patrol northeast region public information officer, said the incidents were scattered throughout the district.

The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office responded or assisted other agencies in 11 incidents when vehicles went off the road, into the ditch or were involved in a property damage crash in the county.

"We had similar conditions across the county where it was glare ice," Crow Wing County Sheriff-elect Scott Goddard said. "The first ones started at 4 a.m. and were spread across the county to almost the Aitkin County line to Ideal (Township) by Breezy Point. I remember a bad ice storm five years ago, but this storm will be one to put in the books. With the mist and light rain, it made roads impassable."

Goddard said the county sent out an alert for residents to use caution if driving because of the icy roads.

"Everyone has the go, go, go mentality, and we say if you don't have to leave home, don't," Goddard said. "We have to respond and we don't like to be on the side of the road because you see it year after year, of law enforcement getting hurt when on the side of the road. A lot of these crashes occur on the inside or outside corners. We had one on Beaver Dam and Wise Road, one of the county's busiest intersections."

Another thing motorists should think about, Goddard added, is if they do get in a crash they may be stuck for a while waiting for their vehicle to be towed. A tow company Monday morning informed people it would be an estimated hour and a half before they could respond.

Cass County Sheriff Tom Burch said Monday morning was a fairly uneventful day as motorists were driving with caution. Burch said there were a few vehicles off the road, but no major issues.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office warned residents on its Facebook page of the slippery road conditions.

It stated: "Our office has responded to multiple vehicles in the ditch off Dove Road between Randall



Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

A drop of water magnifies the tip of a pine needle Monday, Jan 7, after rising temperatures began to melt the heavy layer of ice that coated the central Minnesota landscape overnight.

and Pillager. There have also been reports of semis running off Highway 10 as well. Use extreme caution if traveling and expect delays."

School districts canceling classes Monday were Brainerd, Aitkin, Crosby, Little Falls, McGregor, Pequot Lakes, Pierz, Pillager, Pine River, Staples, Verndale, Wadena, Walker, Isle, Crosslake Community School, Discovery Woods Montessori, Montessori of Brainerd, Isle and Nay Ah Shing School.

Central Lakes College in Brainerd and Staples ran two hours late.

There is a chance of flurries with a slight chance of snow showers before noon Tuesday in Brainerd, then a chance of flurries between

noon and 3 p.m., the weather service reported. After an expected high temperature of 20 degrees, cold air is expected to move into the area with the temperatures falling to around 9 degrees by 5 p.m., a northwest wind of 20-25 mph and gusts as high as 35 mph. Tuesday night's low temperature is forecast at 4 degrees below zero, and strong winds are expected to continue.

The NWS reported temperature highs of 9 degrees Wednesday, 16 degrees Thursday and 24 degrees Friday in Brainerd. A slight chance of snow showers is again in the forecast on Friday.

Winter driving safety tips

The Minnesota State

Patrol offers these tips for driving in the winter.

- ▶ Slow down and drive to the weather/road conditions. The posted speed limit is reduced when conditions become poor. Duty to drive with due care is the basic speed law.

- ▶ Always wear a seat belt as it could help save a life and avoid or reduce injuries in the event of a crash.

- ▶ Provide for plenty of travel time.

- ▶ Increase stopping distance between vehicles.

- ▶ Turn on headlights.

- ▶ Don't use cruise control on slippery roads.

- ▶ Don't travel if conditions are poor, if it can be avoided.

- ▶ Make sure all vehicle windows are clear from snow and ice.

- ▶ Have four winter-type tires with good tread depth.

- ▶ Eliminate distractions while driving.

- ▶ Buckle up, and make sure child restraints are secured tightly. It is recommended to use bulky clothes and blankets on top of the child restraint harness, not beneath, to ensure harness restraints fit properly.

- ▶ Use extra precautions when driving around snowplows by keeping at least five car-lengths behind plows.

- ▶ If skidding, remain calm, ease foot off the gas, and drivers should turn the steering wheel in the direction they want the front of the vehicle to go.

- ▶ If vehicle has an anti-lock braking system, apply a steady firm pressure to the brake pedal. Never pump ABS brakes.

- ▶ Clear snow and ice from vehicle windows, hood, headlights, brake lights and directional signals.

- ▶ Equip vehicles with a scraper/brush, small shovel, jumper cables, tow chain and a bag of sand or cat litter for tire traction. Blankets, heavy boots, warm clothing and flashlights are also important, as are storing high-energy foods such as chocolate or energy bars.

- ▶ Be sure cellphones are charged for long trips, and inform family of destination plans and schedule.

- ▶ If stranded, stay in the vehicle.

- ▶ Parents of teen drivers should make sure new motorists experience snow and ice driving in a safe environment, such as an empty parking lot.

- ▶ Check www.511mn.org or call 511, for updated road conditions.

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COUNCIL

From Page A1

meeting and assign other council members to serve on either the safety and public works committee or the personnel and finance committee.

Fellow council veteran Sue Hilgart, alderman at-large, will retain her seat as council vice president. Hilgart, who would serve as president in Johnson's absence, won a second council term in 2018 after her opponent dropped out before the

election.

Hilgart nominated Johnson for the president position, and council member Kelly Bevans seconded the motion, with all council members agreeing. Council member Jan Lambert, in turn, nominated Hilgart for the vice president position, with council member Kevin Stunek adding the second, and the rest of council unanimously agreeing.

Hilgart and Johnson, along with veteran council member Bevans and returning Mayor Ed Menk, were sworn in during Monday's meeting. Both

Bevans and Menk ran unopposed.

In other business Monday, the council:

Made the following appointments for 2019: Paul Sandy, city engineer; Joseph Langel, city attorney; Brainerd Dispatch, official newspaper.

Approved several banks as city depositories for 2019: Bremer Bank, Wells Fargo, BlackRidge Bank, US Bancorp, Deerwood Bank, Neighborhood National Bank, Frandsen Bank and Trust, River-Wood Bank, RBC Capital Markets LLC, 4M Money Market, and PMA Financial

Network Inc.

Accepted the resignation of community service officer Tyler Lenz, effective Dec. 26, and authorized the police department to make a conditional job offer to Lucas Caturia, contingent on successful completion of the pre-employment screening process, with a starting date of Jan. 8 or shortly thereafter. Caturia is a Central Lakes College law enforcement student.

Accepted the resignation of police officer Justin Athman. The council directed the police and fire civil service commission to meet and certify the next

three names on the police department's eligibility list.

Authorized the chairman or vice chairman of the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport Commission to be the representative of the city of Brainerd and to sign any and all documents relating to the 2019 capital projects of the airport and any amendments that may arise.

Authorized a lease agreement with Rep. Pete Stauber for office space in city hall for \$200 a month. Former Rep. Rick Nolan previously leased the space, as 8th Congressio-

nal District representatives have for decades.

Approved an easement agreement with Essentia Health to allow a portion of a sign and traffic island serving Essentia Health's property at 2019 S Sixth St. to remain despite encroachment onto the city's right of way. The easement will be in effect until the city's right of way is widened to an extent that the encroachments would interfere with the road.

Theresa Bourke may be reached at theresa.bourke@brainerddispatch.com or 218-855-5860. Follow her on Twitter at www.twitter.com/DispatchTheresa.

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NW 4TH

From Page A1

The project would seek to provide improvements to the road's drivability and access for vehicles, as well as accessibility to pedestrians. The existing storm sewer would be modified in accordance with the proposed alignment changes. Preliminary designs for the project are still in the works.

City engineer Paul Sandy said a traffic study of the Jackson and James intersections completed by Bolton and Menk showed a high crash rate and concluded a roundabout and median would be the best way to mitigate those issues. The Minnesota Department of Transportation reports roundabouts are responsible for reducing 60-90 percent of all right-angle crashes, those typically causing the most severe repercussions.

The project's total projected cost, with engineering services, comes to about \$1,376,000. In November, the city received \$800,000 worth of funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Local Road Improve-

ment Program for this project. Sandy said city officials discussed a cost-share plan with Crow Wing County for the project, as both entities have similar lengths of road involved. This would equate to the city and county each paying about \$288,425 for the project.

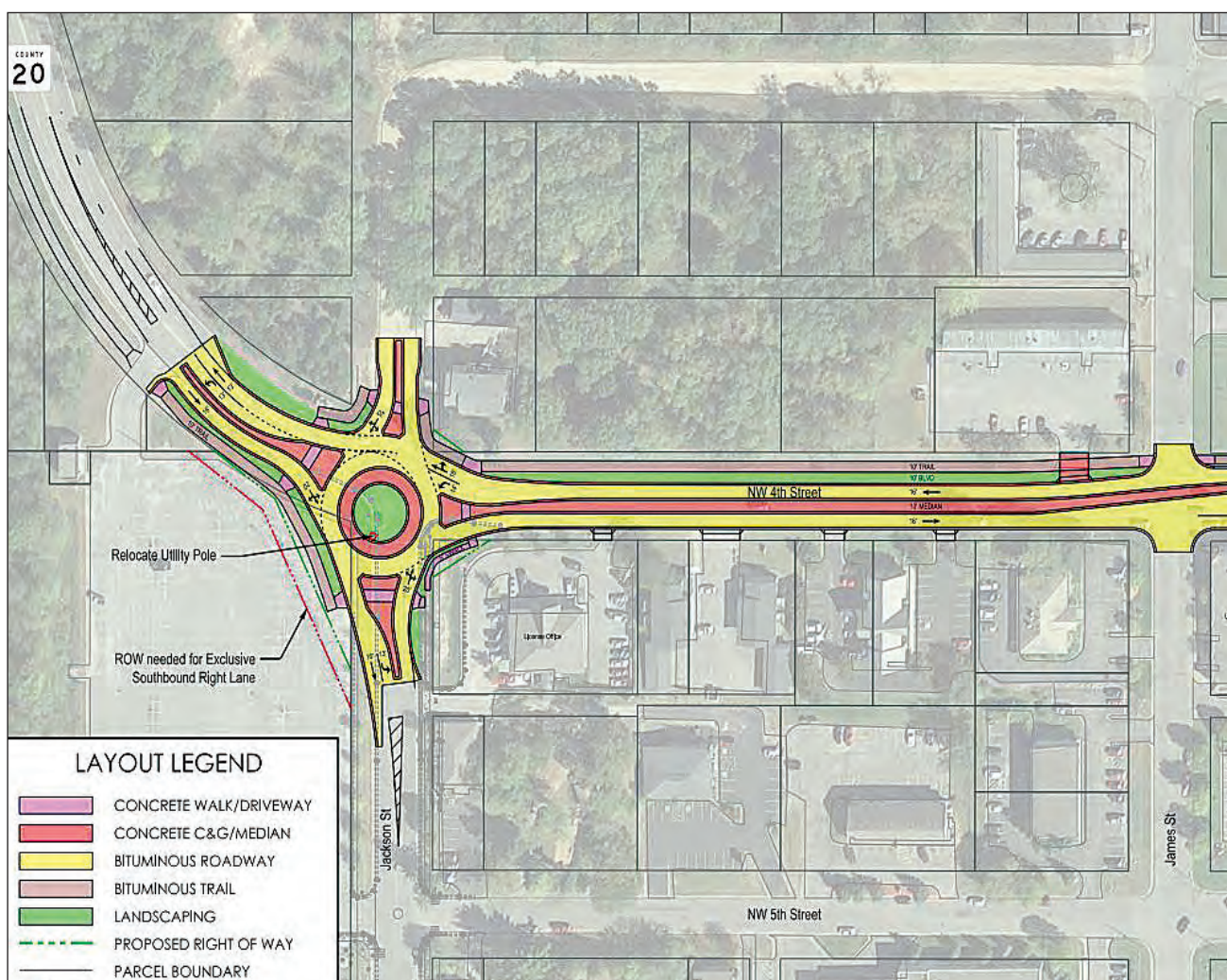
The money, Sandy said, would come from state aid funds, and the project would be part of the city's five-year capital improvement plan.

Sandy said he has talked with property owners with land involved in the project, and they are interested in working with the city and will continue communication.

Timeline

Project construction is expected to begin in June 2020 and finish by the end of the summer.

Engineers will complete the road's preliminary designs this spring, and a public information meeting will likely take place the week of April 15. The final project layout will be completed in May-June, with state approval expected to come in August-September. Bids will go out in February 2020, and the project is expected to be awarded in March.



A map, courtesy of Bolton and Menk, shows the proposed addition of a roundabout at the intersection of Northwest Fourth and Jackson streets in Brainerd.

SERVICES

From Page A1

The county will remove snow, maintain lawns and irrigate. It will also make repairs to buildings, doors, lighting, circuits and generators, according to the new agreement.

"We don't have designated building maintenance personnel, so at the city hall facility, most of those duties are assigned to me," City Engineer Paul Sandy said. "Corky McQuiston, our police chief, is up on the roof on a daily basis trying to reset air handlers and things like that."

The county also agreed to maintain the buildings' interiors with tasks including painting, carpet shampooing, plumbing, and maintenance of heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

"We're going to do this kind of on a trial basis for one year, but I'm excited. I hope it works out. I think it makes total

sense to me," Commissioner Paul Koering said.

According to the agreement, the county will keep track of all labor hours it spends on city-related projects, and those hours will be recorded on a quarterly basis and provided to the city. The contract amount for services is based upon 2,080 hours of maintenance and administrative support.

"For example, when you're doing snow removal out here on the sidewalk, the county goes right up to where they're supposed to go. All they have to do is just go a little bit further, and they can take care of city hall and the police department," Koering said.

"We've got a joint facilities agreement with the city of Crosslake, up in Crosslake. I think we should think about more of those kind of projects. ... It's all of us working together to provide the services that citizens are expecting."

According to the shared services agreement, the county will assist the city of Brainerd in making capital equipment

decisions, provide monthly reports about the work completed, and the city and county will meet quarterly for a more holistic contract review.

"We're going to start off very slow with this process. There's a lot that goes into it. ... And as Paul (Sandy) and I researched this type of agreement that's out there, there's not a lot of them. It's not a common practice in Minnesota for this type of agreement to be in place," Thiesse said.

Sandy said, "Currently, as we stand today, our department heads are the ones that are working on facilities or are making phone calls and doing things to get the facilities taken care of. Is that the best use of taxpayer dollars? We honestly don't think it is."

Commissioner Steve Barrows then made a motion to enter into the shared services agreement, which was seconded by Koering, and the board unanimously agreed to pass the motion at the statutory, organizational and board meeting.

Barrows, a former Baxter City Council member, was elected in November to represent District 3 when former Commissioner Rachel Reabe Nystrom did not run for re-election. Commissioner Bill Brekken, a RE/MAX associate, unseated Chairman Paul Thiede of Pequot Lakes in District 2.

Judge Earl Maus administered the oath of office at the start of the meeting for Barrows, Brekken and Commissioner Rosemary Franzen, who ran unopposed last year in her bid for re-election.

Koering then nominated Franzen to be chairwoman for 2019, which was seconded by Barrows, and the board unanimously voted the District 4 commissioner for chair. Franzen nominated Koering for vice chair, which was seconded by Barrows, and that motion, too, passed.

FRANK LEE, county and features reporter, may be reached at 218-855-5863 or frank.lee@brainerddispatch.com. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/DispatchFL.

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