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SPORTS

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Wednesday, February 20, 2019



WARRIORS 4, LUMBERJACKS 3

Key: Eric Pohlkamp's power-play goal with 2:02 remaining gave the Warriors their first lead

Overall: Brd 17-9, Bem 8-16-1

Next: No. 3 Brainerd at No. 2 Roseau in Section 8-2A semifinals 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23

RALLY!

Brainerd survives Bemidji's quarterfinal upset bid

By Pete Mohs
Publisher

The players, especially the seniors, on the third-seeded Brainerd hockey didn't want the season to end with a playoff loss. But, ironically it was the Warriors' only freshman, Eric Pohlkamp, who scored the winning goal in the 4-3 comeback victory over the No. 6 Bemidji Lumberjacks in the Section 8-2A quarterfinals Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Essentia Health Sports Center.

Pohlkamp's power-play deflection off Mason Kruse's slap shot flipped over Bemidji goaltender Broc Waldhausen and into the net with 2:02 remaining to give the Warriors

their first lead of the game. The Lumberjacks pulled their goalie in the final minute, but didn't get a quality scoring chance against winning goaltender Luke Saiko.

"I practice that play a lot," Pohlkamp said of the deflection. "I'm a defenseman, but I play the slot on the power play and work on tipping the puck. Mason (Kruse) took a nice shot and I was able to tip it."

"We came out flat, but we were fired up in the second and third periods. We wanted to win for our seniors."

For much of the game, it didn't look like Brainerd would beat the Lumberjacks, who they outscored 14-3 in sweeping two regular

season games. Bemidji grabbed a 1-0 lead in the opening period when Ethan Maish fired home a centering pass from Wyatt Halvorson at 11:22. The Lumberjacks extended the lead to 2-0 at 2:18 of the second period when Hunter Marcotte picked up a loose puck at the Warrior blue line, skated in alone and backhanded a shot past Saiko.

Brainerd dominated play in the period, outshooting Bemidji 23-2 and finally scored at 10:14 after a scramble in front of the Lumberjacks' net. Wyatt Andres poked in the puck with an assist to Mason Kruse.

WARRIORS: Page B4

Brainerd Warriors Nick Hastings and Eric Pohlkamp celebrate after Pohlkamp scored the winning goal Tuesday, Feb. 19, over the Bemidji Lumberjacks at Essentia Health Sports Center.

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Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

ADAPTED FLOOR HOCKEY

Matt Allord, Warriors light up scoreboard

Matt Allord tallied three goals and assisted on four others for the Brainerd Warriors who kept their record unblemished with an 11-0 win over Anoka-Hennepin in a North Conference game Tuesday, Feb. 19 at Riverside Elementary in Brainerd.

Kadyn Robinson and Tate Boelter added two goals apiece and the Warriors collected goals from Brach Delcastillo, Spencer Thompson, Karlee Schuler and Tre'Von Otey.

"Matt Allord showed why he is one of the top players in the state with the way he distributed the puck," said Brainerd head coach Todd Person. "We had a couple of players out tonight with illness so we needed some other players to put in more time than they are accustomed to and everyone responded to that and worked hard."

Boelter and Blaise Edinger combined efforts in goal for the shutout recording four and six saves respectively. Brainerd outshot Anoka-Hennepin 36-10.

"Maddox Canon and Blaise Edinger moved into the chair positions in front of the net for the final two periods and did an excellent job of keeping the Mustangs from getting on the board," said Person.

The Warriors are 5-0 in the conference, 8-0 overall, and have won 39-straight games.



Allord



Anaheim Ducks forward Jakob Silfverberg (33) and Minnesota Wild forward Eric Fehr skate after the puck in the first period at Xcel Energy Center.

USA TODAY Sports

Ducks beat Wild, inch closer to playoff spot

Ryan Miller made 31 saves and the visiting Anaheim Ducks pulled within three points of a playoff spot with a 4-0 win against the Minnesota Wild on Tuesday in Saint Paul, Minn.

Jakob Silfverberg, Corey Perry, Ryan Kesler and Hampus Lindholm scored for Anaheim, which is three points behind the Wild for the second wild card from the Western Conference.

Devan Dubnyk made 20 saves for the Wild, who have lost five straight games and haven't scored in the past seven periods and part of an overtime.

The Ducks shut out the Wild 3-0 in their last meeting on Jan. 17 in Minnesota, one of only four wins by Anaheim in the past 24 games entering Tuesday.

Miller returned from a two-month

absence because of a knee injury and made 25 saves in a 5-2 win against the visiting Washington Capitals on Sunday, earning his 375th career win to become the NHL's all-time leader in wins among U.S.-born goalies.

Miller's shutout was the 44th of his NHL career, moving into a tie with Miikka Kiprusoff for 34th on the NHL's all-time list.

The Ducks took a 1-0 lead at 4:22 of the second period and maintained the advantage until scoring three goals in the final six minutes.

Anaheim was on its first power play when Devin Shore took a backhand shot from the slot that hit the left post and then puck then went underneath Dubnyk. He was unable to secure it before Silfverberg pushed

the puck across the goal line for his 16th goal and fourth in four games.

It was the 15th power-play goal allowed in the past 13 games by the Wild.

Max Jones received an assist for his first NHL point.

The Ducks committed three minor penalties in the first 10 minutes of the third period, but Miller had five saves during power plays to keep the Wild scoreless.

Then Perry scored for the second straight game to make 2-0 with 5:44 left, Kesler scored his first goal in 39 games to make it 3-0 with 4:01 remaining, and Lindholm scored into an empty net with 1:09 to go.

— Field Level Media
See B4 for box score.

Anoka-Hennepin 0 0 0 — 0
Brainerd 4 3 4 — 11
First period: Brd-Matt Allord (Blaise Edinger, Tre'Von Otey) 1:33; Brd-Brach Delcastillo (Allord, Spencer Thompson) 1:58; Brd-Allord (Kadyn Robinson, Delcastillo) 2:17; Brd-Robinson (Allord, Edinger) 14:09
Second period: Brd-Thompson (Maddox Canon, Allord) 0:45; Brd-Allord (Thompson, Canon) 1:35; Brd-Karlee Schuler (Tate Boelter, Thompson) 6:45
Third period: Brd-Boelter (Delcastillo, Allord) 6:30; Brd-Otey (Allord, Boelter) 7:00; Brd-Boelter (Robinson) 14:00; Brd-Robinson (Boelter) 14:58
Shots on goal: Brd 36, AH 10
Goalies: Brd-Boelter (4 saves), Edinger (6 saves); AH-Ashanti Lacy (25 saves)
Conference: Brd 5-0. Overall: Brd 8-0. Next: Brainerd hosts Maple Grove 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20.

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DNR RESCUES COUPLE AFTER ICE JAM CAUSES CROW WING RIVER TO OVERFLOW

By Jennifer Kraus
Staff Writer

MOTLEY —

When it came, it came fast and it didn't give Dan and Elizabeth

Posner a lot of time to get out of their home on their own.

It was an ice jam on the Crow Wing River, causing the river to overflow and surround their home. The water flooded their basement, up to 4 feet and left them stranded.

Conservation officers with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Brainerd West Station used their waterfowl hunting boat and rescued the couple. Tim Collette, one of the conservation officers who assisted in the rescue, said the call came in about 9:50 a.m. Friday, March 29, on the 4700 block of Azalea Road, between Pillager and Motley in Morrison County.

Collette said an ice jam caused the water to overflow the river bank, flooding the area where about six houses are located.



Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch Video

The home belonging to Dan and Elizabeth Posner on Azalea Road southeast of Motley was surrounded by the Crow Wing River Friday, March 29, after an ice jam caused the river to spill over its banks quickly.

Collette said some of the homes had people inside, who were fine and didn't need to be rescued and other homes were seasonal and unoccupied.

"This area has flooded in the

past, but not to this extent," Collette said. "It all depends on an ice dam. That's what happened here. There was an

ICE JAM: Page A11



With conservation officers Randy Posner in the bow and Tim Collette on the tiller, Elizabeth and Dan Posner, Randy's parents, were taken to shore Friday, March 29, after the Crow Wing River rose quickly and surrounded their home Friday morning. With ice piling up downstream, an ice jam was the apparent cause of the flooding.

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Nisswa takes first step in possible sewer system expansion.

Final decision likely next fall

By Nancy Vogt
Echo Journal Editor

NISSWA — It isn't known whether Nisswa sewer fees will increase or by how much, nor is it known whether the city will expand its wastewater treatment facilities.

What is known is that the city is at 90 percent of state permitted wastewater flows so must take some kind of action.

So, the city council on Wednesday, March 20, unanimously voted to allow the process to expand the sewer system to begin. That means a facilities plan will be sent to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for review, a financial package will be created and all details will be clarified.

A city council vote on wheth-

er to proceed with the estimated \$3,927,500 expansion project could occur in September. If the project is approved, it would be designed next winter and built in 2020.

"The city will decide - can we afford it, and whether to proceed. We're talking a \$4 million budget," City Engineer Mark Hallan, of Widseth Smith Nolting engineering firm, said at a public hearing March 20 at Nisswa City Hall that nearly 20 people attended.

Sewer rates

At a February workshop, the council heard a scenario where sewer rates could go up 9.25 percent each year for several years after a sewer system

EXPANSION: Page A9

State looking to expand on successful St. Gabriel's strategy for fighting opioid crisis

Opioids remain a major public health challenge in Minnesota and nationwide, but Little Falls and several greater Minnesota communities are showing real progress is possible, the Min-

nesota Department of Health recently reported.

The Minnesota Department of Health Opioid Prevention Pilot Project involves eight communities across the state, including

the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin and McGregor. Based on six months of data, these

OPIOID: Page A12

CROW WING COUNTY BOARD

Board approves services agreement for life saving app

By Frank Lee
Staff Writer

A life saving smartphone app is no longer on life support after the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners' recently approved a service agreement between the app maker and the county.

The Vitals Aware Services app is a service designed to improve interactions between law enforcement and people living with intellectual, behavioral and developmental conditions.

"The Vitals app enables safer community interactions by allowing individuals with visible and invis-

ible conditions and disabilities to create and share a personalized digital profile with authorized first responders via a secure, mobile app," Sheriff Scott Goddard told the board.

The county provides services to more than 430 people with disabilities and an additional 530 vulnerable people over the age of 65. Crow Wing County Community Services is supporting the implementation of Vitals.

"How this helps us is that it improves real-time communication, reducing the risk of misunderstandings and promoting greater independence," Goddard told commissioners

at their Tuesday, March 26, meeting.

The Twin Cities-based Vitals developed the app-based service with the Autism Society of Minnesota, but it now works for medical or mental health conditions, such as bipolar disorder, depression, dementia, schizophrenia, epilepsy or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

"It's an app that users throughout Crow Wing County can load ... so they can enter their information. If they have a disability, they can list that ... so when we look at our approach on how we would communicate and talk with this person, it gives

us an idea," Goddard said.

Vitals works by equipping first responders with information voluntarily provided by Vitals enrollees. An enrollee must download the app in order for the first responders to see their information.

A vulnerable person or their caregiver must register online, get the app and then the vulnerable person wears a beacon that can be a keychain, necklace, debit card, bracelet or smartphone.

"Each person has a beacon, and when we come within 80 feet of that person — we have the app

APP: Page A10



Frank Lee / Brainerd Dispatch

Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott Goddard talks at the Tuesday, March 26, meeting of the board of commissioners about the Vitals Aware Services app, which may save lives.

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Puppy Kiss To Relieve Stress

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During a stress relief event sponsored by the psychology club for finals week, Central Lakes College student Kortny Villnow wrinkles her nose after receiving a kiss from Prim, a springer spaniel and bulldog puppy at the college Wednesday, May 8. The Babinski Foundation animal shelter provided the litter of eight puppies for the students to hold and cuddle, and the hallway of the college was filled with laughter.

For more photos of stress relief with puppies day at Central Lakes College, go to <https://bit.ly/2H7PbYg>.

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch Gallery and Video

A little or a lot?

Potential of up to 6 inches of May snow in Brainerd area

By Jennifer Kraus
Staff Writer

If all the stars align perfectly with the weather overnight Wednesday, May 8, the Brainerd area could possibly see up to 4-6 inches of snow.

But more likely — residents may just see a trace to an inch of snow by the time the rain and snowstorm makes it way through the lakes area by Thursday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service in Duluth's forecast. Lead Meteorologist Jonathan Wolfe with the NWS Wednesday hosted a webinar on the potential snowstorm, stating the



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

A bunny huddles next to a tree as it snows Wednesday, May 8, in front of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brainerd.

Brainerd area is still looking at a trace to an inch of snow. However, he said the Brainerd area possibly could see up to 4-6 inches if all the weather factors align just right in the atmosphere with the ground and air temperatures, creating more snow than rain.

The NWS issued a winter weather advisory and a winter storm warning to the region northeast

of Brainerd. The snow is expected to be wet and heavy and there is a potential of a foot of snow near Lake Superior. Power outages may occur. Northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin will be the areas most impacted by the snow.

Rain transitioned into snow around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night

SNOW: Page A12

7 deer test positive for CWD at Merrifield deer farm

Seven deer originating from a deer farm in Merrifield tested positive for chronic wasting disease, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health reported Wednesday, May 8.

The board received CWD test results from the "depopulation" of 112-acre Trophy Woods Ranch, which was first known to be infected by CWD in 2016 and has since registered numerous positive tests. On April 16, 102 deer were euthanized. All viable samples were sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory for CWD testing. Seven tested positive for CWD, 82 deer showed no CWD and in 13 cases, the tests were either unsuccessful or the animal was too decomposed.

"We appreciate the cooperation of the herd owner and the collaboration of the other state and federal partners we've worked with to depopulate this farm and get these CWD test results," said Board Assistant Director Dr. Linda Glaser in a news release. "The results give us a clearer picture of the disease prevalence on the farm as we continue our efforts to contain and eliminate any remaining infectious CWD prions in the enclosed property."

DEER: Page A12

Brainerd council to re-examine library proposal for children's museum

By Theresa Bourke
Staff Writer

The Brainerd City Council agreed to revisit its pitch to locate Region Five's proposed children's museum at the Brainerd Public Library site after public criticism Monday, May 6.

In April, the council agreed to send two site proposals to Region Five for the museum — Lum Park being the primary suggestion and the library property being secondary.

John Erickson, a former member of the Brainerd Public Library Board, expressed his "deep concern" with the decision during the public forum



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

The Brainerd City Council revisited its pitch to locate Region Five's proposed children's museum on the site of the Brainerd Public Library after public criticism Monday, May 6.

portion of the council's meeting Monday, May 6.

"I'm speaking to you in dismay and very serious concern about your sending on to Region Five the alternative of probably the most intensely used public facility by the public in the city," Erickson said.

Noting he's not opposed to

the idea of a children's museum in Brainerd and recognizes the educational value it could bring, Erickson said neither the library board, nor the Friends of the Brainerd Public Library, were consulted about the proposal.

MUSEUM: Page A7

Shutdown looming? DFL, GOP lawmakers trade jabs over stalled budget talks

By Gabriel Lagarde
Staff Writer

Budget talks have largely broken down in St. Paul, with both sides pointing fingers at their counterparts and citing a disregard for good faith negotiations.

In the split Minnesota Legislature, House DFLers and Senate Republicans — along with Gov. Tim Walz — are grappling over a \$49 billion budget. Key sticking points in negotiations include a proposed 70% increase to the gas tax, an ambitious paid-leave policy with up to 24 weeks for employees, a 2% provider's tax on the health care industry and beefed up allocations for education in the hundreds of millions.

Essentially, the issue at hand is how lawmakers look to bridge a roughly \$2 billion gap between

the Republican proposed budget in the Senate with DFL proposals inked by the House and Walz administration.



Winkler



Gazelka

Talks broke down Monday evening, May 6. Subsequently, leaders from both parties have leveled blame at the opposition, as Forum News Service reported.

"I am disappointed Gov. Walz and Speaker Hortman have so far refused to drop even one cent of their massive four-year \$12 billion tax increase agenda," Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, R-Nisswa, said in a statement Tuesday morning. His office did not return requests Wednesday for

comment. "Serious negotiations can continue when St. Paul Democrats realize we can't keep

SHUTDOWN: Page A12

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Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

A North Memorial Air Care helicopter that crashed early Friday, June 28, near the intersection of two runways at Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport is covered with tarps. The crash happened about 1 a.m. Friday, with two fatalities reported and one person injured.



HELICOPTER CRASH KILLS 2

1 also injured; prayer vigil for victims set for Sunday

By Jennifer Kraus
Staff Writer

A North Memorial Air Care pilot and a nurse were killed following an early Friday morning helicopter crash in Brainerd. Three North Memorial Health crew members, who officials said worked in the Brainerd area, were on board when the helicopter crashed at 1 a.m. Friday,

June 28, at Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport. There were no patients on the helicopter at the time of the crash. Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott Goddard said a pilot and a nurse were reported dead at the scene of the crash. A third crew member was transported to Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd and their condition was

unknown as of Friday afternoon. The names of the helicopter crew involved in the crash were not released Friday. Calls to a North Memorial Medical Center spokesperson were not returned. Steve Wright, Brainerd airport director, said details on the helicopter's flight information or what led to the crash was unknown. The Federal Aviation Admin-

istration and the National Transportation Safety Board were notified and are investigating the crash. Wright said the helicopter crashed in the middle of the airport, where the runways intersect. The National Weather Service in Duluth had issued a dense fog advisory early Friday morning for Brainerd, but it was not known whether that played a role in the crash.

CRASH: Page A14

4th of July an unsafe time for dogs

Area animal specialists share safety tips for pet owners

By Theresa Bourke
Staff Writer

A mixture of loud noises, large crowds and hot weather make the Fourth of July a hazardous time for pets. More dogs go missing around Independence Day than any other time of year, according to a June

27 news release from State Farm Insurance. Donna Wambeke, executive director of Heartland Animal Rescue Team in Brainerd said she typically sees about 75% more intakes around the Fourth of July. "It has gotten better

INSIDE

Are those purchases fireworks legal to fire off? In Minn., mostly not, **PAGE A13**

over the years," she said. "I've been doing this for 32 years, and it seems that in the last 5-8 years it has gotten a little better, but it is still a large intake time." As booming fireworks and big congregations of people at parades and other

holiday get-togethers are the major factors contributing to runaway pets, Wambeke cautioned pet owners to keep their dogs at home if at all possible. "People take them to parades, they take them to fireworks, they take them to festivals," she said. "A: It's hot out, and B: It's really loud and scary. The dogs don't enjoy it."

SAFETY: Page A13



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Tony Lourey, head of the Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services, says he understands rural areas have different challenges and needs than the Twin Cities metro.

DHS chief looks to expand, streamline rural social services

Tony Lourey brings extensive legislative experience, rural background to DHS

By Gabriel Lagarde
Staff Writer

Cattle rancher. Newspaper owner. State senator. Volunteer foster care lawyer. Public policy consultant. Township supervisor.

Now commissioner for the Minnesota Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services, Tony Lourey, has worn many hats in his time. Stepping down from the Minnesota Senate after 12 years, Lourey found himself at the helm of an agency in flux, dogged by controversies that extend beyond the usual criticisms leveled at an institution tasked with many subsidies, food stamps and health

LOUREY: Page A14

CUTTING IT CLOSE



Drivers compete in Minnesota Lawn Mower Racing Association races Friday, June 28, during Lakes Jam at Brainerd International Raceway as part of a variety of events outside of the concerts. Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

INSIDE TODAY VOL 139-259 DEATHS A5 OPINION A6 CLASSIFIED D1-6 SPORTS B1-4 DEAR ABBY A10 OUTDOORS B5-6



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Wednesday, September 5, 2018



WARRIORS 3, BEMIDJI 1

Key: Brainerd stopped making unforced errors

Overall: Brd 1-1, Bem 0-2

Next: Brainerd hosts Fergus Falls 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6

Brainerd Warriors Delaney Schaeffer (left) and Avery Eckman try to block the ball Tuesday, Sept. 4, against the Bemidji Lumberjacks at Brainerd High School.

BD Photo Gallery & Video
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For more photos of the match between Brainerd and Bemidji go to <https://bit.ly/2wLCbMj>

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Warriors rally to cut down Lumberjacks

By **Jeremy Millsop**
Sports Writer

It's a good thing Brainerd Warriors head coach Rick Kuehlwein already has gray hair.

The veteran coach saw his team start slow, but rally three times to defeat the Bemidji Lumberjacks 3-1 Tuesday, Sept. 4, at Brainerd High School.

After an error-filled first set, in which Bemidji secured a 25-15 win, Brainerd refocused and collected 25-20, 26-24 and 27-25 victories for the team's first win of the season.

"We had a sophomore go in when she wasn't supposed to go in so we were out of rotation right away," Kuehlwein said. "I could tell right away this was going to be

a long night. It's our gym and we wanted to win. We just needed to keep the ball in play. When we were able to get a run we had to sustain it. We didn't do that. We kept missing serves all night. We had 10 hitting errors in the first set alone."

Bemidji roared out to a 10-6 edge in the second set only to have Brainerd use an 8-1 run, highlighted by an Emily Peabody kill to build a 14-11 edge. Errors continued to hamper Brainerd as Bemidji rebuilt an 18-16 lead before Delaney Schaeffer's block stopped a Bemidji run.

Senior Courtney Russell posted consecutive kills and Avery Eckman finished off the Lumberjacks with one of her team-high 18 kills for the 25-20 win.

"Early in the match, we just weren't

playing as a team," Eckman said.

"Throughout the match, we were able to come together. Coach Kuehlwein basically said to stop making mistakes. We knew we had to listen to him otherwise we would be running in practice."

Eckman's consecutive kills finished off Bemidji 25-24 in Game 3, but it took another Warrior rally to rebound from an 11-6 Bemidji lead. Two Eckman kills followed by a Schaeffer kill helped Brainerd climb to 16-12. Sophomore Karlie Anderson posted a tip and a block and Eckman added two more kills before her final two sealed the win.

"We rely a lot on our back row and our setters to get us the ball," Eckman said

WARRIORS: Page B4



John Doman / Pioneer Press

Minnesota Vikings cornerback Jimmy Hitchcock sits alone on the bench following a 30-27 overtime loss to the Atlanta Falcons in the NFC Championship game in Minneapolis, Jan. 17, 1999.

1998 Vikings still painfully focused on the one that got away

By **Chris Tomasson**
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — When NFL Films was assembling footage last year for an episode of its show "A Football Life" on Vikings hall of fame defensive lineman John Randle, it naturally included moments from the 1998 NFC championship game.

That part of the show wasn't much fun for Randle to work on with producers. Until then, he had made a point of not watching any footage from the most devastating loss of his NFL career.

The Vikings went 15-1 in 1998, the best regular season in team history, and were 11-point favorites in the championship game against the Atlanta Falcons at the Metrodome. But Minnesota blew leads of 20-7 in the second quarter and 27-17 in the fourth quarter.

With 2:11 left in the game, Vikings kicker Gary Anderson, who during the regular season made 35 field goals and 59 extra points without a miss, missed a 39-yard field goal that could have given Minnesota an insurmountable 30-20 lead. Instead, the Falcons tied the score 27-27 in the final two minutes, then won the game 30-27 in overtime.

This weekend, Randle will be reminded of that game again as the Vikings celebrate the 1998 team

with a 20-year reunion. He will be among 30 players from that team introduced at halftime of the Vikings' season opener at noon Sunday against the San Francisco 49ers at U.S. Bank Stadium.

"There's going to be mixed feelings, good and bad," Randle said. "You remember the season and how much fun we all had, and it will be good to see a lot of the guys. But all of a sudden, you think of the end result and what could have happened. Any time I hear that Will Smith song, 'Going to Miami,' it always makes me think what we could have done in '98."

Smith's song "Miami" was released in November 1998, three months before Super Bowl XXXIII was to be played in the city on Jan. 31, 1999. Radio stations in the Twin Cities doctored the song to insert names of Vikings players.

It was the Falcons, though, who went to Miami, where they lost 34-19 to the Denver Broncos.

The Vikings have never won a Super Bowl in the franchise's 57-year history, and despite reaching the big game four times in the 1970s, they might have blown their best chance back in '98.

"A lot of people look at that season both ways," said running back

REUNION: Page B4

20 years after miss, former Vikings kicker Gary Anderson at peace in Canadian Rockies

By **Chris Tomasson**
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — After more than 20 seasons in the pressure-packed NFL, Gary Anderson wanted to get away from it all, and he certainly has.

Since retiring in 2004, the former Vikings kicker has made his home in Canmore, Alberta, a picturesque town of 12,000 in Canada's Rocky Mountains, 50 miles west of Calgary.

"It may be the most beautiful place on the planet," he said.

Anderson spends his days coaching the Canmore Collegiate High School soccer team, which has won four of the past five league championships, and serving as a fly fishing guide.

High in the mountains and in another country, Anderson is mostly spared from revisiting the 1998 NFC championship game, but when asked, he's willing to talk about what might be the biggest downer in Vikings history.

After a 15-1 regular season, Minnesota led Atlanta 27-20 on Jan. 17, 1999, at the Metrodome when Anderson lined up for a 39-yard field-goal attempt with 2:11 remaining. During the regular season, Anderson had made all 35 of field-goal attempts and all 59

of his extra points. Overall, he had made 122 consecutive kicks.

It was a chip shot, and if Anderson made it, the Vikings were all but certain to be headed for Super Bowl XXXIII, their first since 1977.

But Anderson didn't make it; the ball drifted a few feet left and Minnesota ultimately lost 30-27 in overtime.

Anderson was devastated after the game, and for a while longer.

"It certainly was difficult," Anderson said in a phone interview. "I took tremendous pride throughout my career about being the one guy on the team that everyone could count on in a critical situation and that time, that particular kick, I missed the kick. So, yeah, that was certainly a difficult thing to deal with."

The Vikings are celebrating that 15-1 season this weekend with a 20-year reunion for the team with the best regular-season record in Vikings history. About 30 players from that squad will be introduced at halftime of Sunday's regular-season opener against San Francisco at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Anderson, 59, won't attend because he and

ANDERSON: Page B4

Furyk names Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Bryson DeChambeau to Ryder Cup team

Field Level Media

Jim Furyk announced Bryson DeChambeau, Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods as his first three captain's picks for the United States Ryder Cup team on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

The three will join the eight players who previously earned automatic spots on the U.S. team that will take on Team Europe at Le Golf National in France beginning Sept. 28. Furyk will announce his final captain's pick after this week's BMW Championship.

There was little drama to Tuesday's announcement after DeChambeau won his second consecutive playoff event on Monday. He finished ninth in the Ryder Cup



Woods



Mickelson



DeChambeau

team points

race and has climbed to No. 7 in the world while now also leading the FedEx Cup rankings.

"I have to say, I guess, 'thanks,' you made it really easy on the captain," Furyk said with a smile as DeChambeau took the podium next to him.

Mickelson and Woods were considered virtual locks, with both Ryder Cup veterans playing well enough

throughout the summer to warrant spots on the team. Woods was already going to be in Paris as a vice-captain, while Mickelson (18-20-7 in Ryder Cup play) has now officially made his 12th consecutive Ryder Cup team.

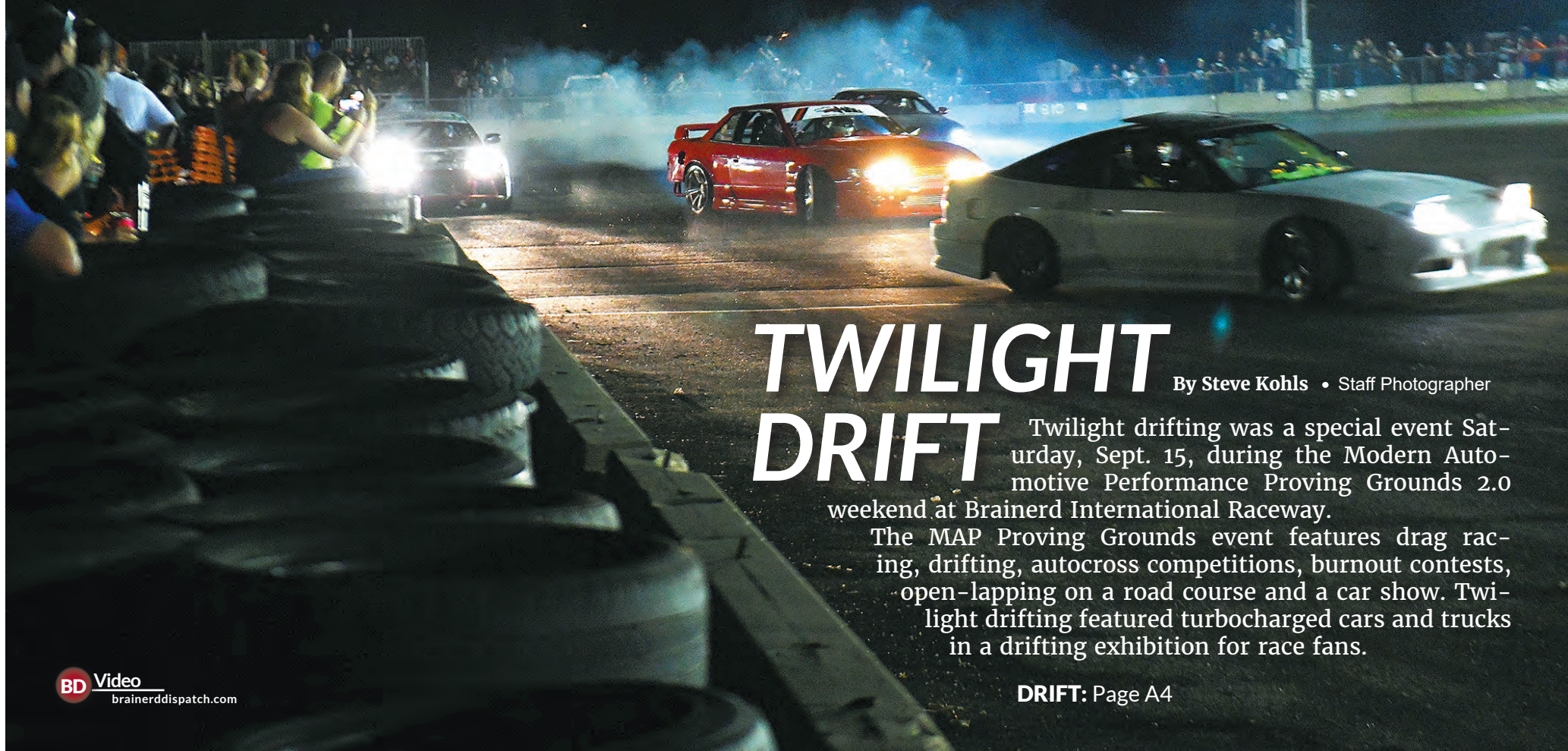
However, Woods will relinquish his vice-captain duties to focus on playing, with Furyk naming David Duval, Zach Johnson and Matt Kuchar as additional vice-captains Tuesday.

Woods, 42, has a 13-17-3 record in seven previous Ryder Cup appearances as a player, and is 4-1-2 in singles. It will be his first Ryder

RYDER: Page B4

BRAINERD DISPATCH

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TWILIGHT DRIFT

By Steve Kohls • Staff Photographer

Twilight drifting was a special event Saturday, Sept. 15, during the Modern Automotive Performance Proving Grounds 2.0 weekend at Brainerd International Raceway.

The MAP Proving Grounds event features drag racing, drifting, autocross competitions, burnout contests, open-lapping on a road course and a car show. Twilight drifting featured turbocharged cars and trucks in a drifting exhibition for race fans.

DRIFT: Page A4

BD Video
brainerddispatch.com

Race fans cheer as packs of turbo-charged cars roar by during twilight drifting Saturday, Sept. 15, as part of the MAP Proving Grounds at Brainerd International Raceway. The twilight drifting event was a special feature during a weekend of racing at the track.

Retirement redefined

More Minnesotans working past 65; number projected to increase with future generations

By Brooks Johnson
Forum News Service

DULUTH — Sixty-five came and went, and Marcia Gurno didn't bat an eye.

"As long as I feel like I'm still making a contribution, and as long as my mind is sharp and I'm still willing to learn and be open to new ideas, and my body holds out — that's my order for how I look at retirement."

The St. Louis County social worker turns 67 in November and has no plans to stop punching the clock anytime soon.

"People expect me to show up and perform, and it keeps me going."

She's not alone — both in her workplace and across the labor force. By 2030, there will be an extra 90,000 Minnesotans over 65 who are working or looking for a job, the state Demographic Center projects.

Some will do so because they want to work.

Some won't be able to get by without it.

"For me, it's a personal choice, but I know people in my world who have no choice," Gurno said.

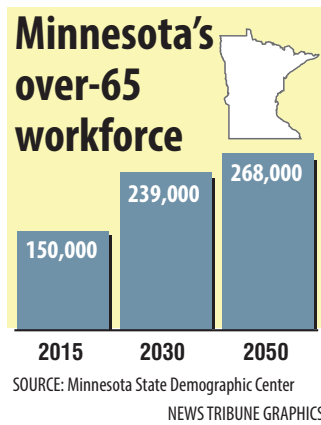
Access to employer retirement plans, health care needs and long-term planning can make retirement, for those who want it, a sure thing

RETIREMENT: Page A4



Photos by Clint Austin / Forum News Service

St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services employees Marcia Gurno, 66, (above) and Jackie Herbert, 72, (below) work at the St. Louis County Government Services Center in Duluth.



'Don't be pushed over'

Experts weigh in on what to trust in election season

By Brady Slater
Forum News Service

DULUTH — If you're a voter growing weary of campaign commercials, political mailers and suspect polls, here's an alarming truth: You haven't seen anything yet.

The August primary election brought mailers galore and gave way to a September that has seen special interest groups stirring up controversies.

That was just the appetizer.

The breadth of the midterm campaigning comes in October, when millions of dollars worth of campaign materials and airplay will descend like a plague of locusts. The political largesse won't blot out the sun, but it may interfere with a voter's best sense.

To help discern good intelligence from tainted claims, Forum News Service spoke with a pair of political experts — one local, one national — to see if they could help voters cut through the baloney.

First, the introductions:
► Cynthia Rugeley is an associate professor and department head of political science at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Forum News Service spent a half hour this month with Rugeley at

ELECTIONS: Page A4



Louis Jacobson
senior correspondent at PolitiFact.



Cynthia Rugeley
political science professor at University of Minnesota Duluth

Group pushes for expanded passenger rail service

By Dave Olson
Forum News Service

FARGO — Expanded daytime passenger train service from Fargo to Chicago with stops in between could become a reality if Minnesota lawmakers can be sold on the idea.

That's the goal of a nonprofit group called All Aboard Minne-

sota, which is hosting a public forum on the subject Wednesday, Sept. 26, in St. Cloud, Minn.

Currently, Amtrak's Empire Builder route accommodates long-distance travel between cities like Fargo, St. Cloud, Minneapolis/St. Paul and Chicago, with trains reaching Fargo at about 2 or 3 a.m.

Under a proposal that's

been studied by the Minnesota Department of Transportation State Rail Planning Office, a new service would be set up that would start with passengers boarding in Fargo in the morning and heading east from there, ultimately arriving in Chicago, said Brian Nelson, president of

RAIL SERVICE: Page A4

IF YOU GO

What: Public forum on expanding daytime passenger train service between Fargo and Chicago, hosted by All Aboard Minnesota

When: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26

Where: Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud, Minn.

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NEAR MISS

Vikings, Packers end in tie after field goal frustrations, PAGE B1



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BRAINERD DISPATCH



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Family, friends remember Erika Dalquist 16 years after murder

MORE PHOTOS ON A2

By Jennifer Kraus
Staff Writer

Erika Dalquist will not be forgotten. The 21-year-old Brainerd woman — known as “Sunny” for

her cheery and bubbly personality — disappeared Oct. 30, 2002, and her remains were found 18 months later. For the past 16 years, family and friends have had to live with the tragic loss and the pain

and agony of what happened to Dalquist. And as night fell on Tuesday, Oct. 30, people gathered around where Dalquist was last seen alive — at the former

ERIKA: Page A7

County buys historic fire tower from DNR

Plans for 1934 tower could include tourist attraction, park or museum

By Frank Lee
Staff Writer

Crow Wing County's purchase of the historic Pequot Lakes fire tower from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is final.

“Not only is the fire tower an icon and a landmark in this community for many years ... it's been a part of everybody's life that has lived here, including my daughter's, my wife,” said Mark Jurchen, Pequot Lakes Economic Development Commission chairman.

“A lot of folks have climbed it, so from that standpoint, it's a piece of our history, and I think it's really important — from just that standpoint — that we preserve it.”

The county board of commissioners approved at its Aug. 14 meeting to enter into

a lease agreement with the DNR to repair the historic landmark before it was purchased by the county.



Jurchen

“Yesterday's reception of the documents that transfers title of the fire tower to the county is a huge step forward,” Board Chairman Paul Thiede said in a Tuesday, Oct. 30, news release.

“We can now begin to move toward a process, which will eventually see it open to the public.”

The fire tower, north of County Highway 11 and east of Highway 371, was built in 1934. It was initially closed last year due to vandalism and misuse. Windows have repeatedly been broken in the cab with equipment thrown from the top of the tower.

TOWER: Page A9

BRAINERD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board hears pros for property acquisition

By Theresa Bourke
Staff Writer

After receiving criticism and hearing various concerns about its property acquisition endeavors, the Brainerd School Board heard from voices on the other side of the spectrum at its Monday, Oct. 29, board meeting.

Carole Paschelke, who owns a house near Harrison Elementary School, told board members during Monday's open forum she was originally very emotional when she heard of the district's desire to acquire her property in September.

Paschelke described her roller coaster of emotions at the thought of having to leave her home but said she came to terms with the idea after realizing it may be in the students' best interest.

“I was kind of mad that I didn't know before

we voted (on the referendum), and now I'm not,” she said. “Had I known before we voted, I wonder if my own personal feelings and selfishness may have had a play in how I would have voted — am I voting for ... what I want, or am I voting for the well-being of the kids in this community?”

The 27 properties near Brainerd High School and Lowell, Garfield and Harrison elementary schools on the acquisition list are rumored to be used as off-street parking for the various schools, though the district has not confirmed any concrete plans. Because of numerous concerns brought forward, the board delayed Monday's planned vote on whether to move forward with the acquisition process. Superintendent Laine Larson sent out a

SCHOOLS: Page A9



Stauber emails show political strategizing on county server

By Brady Slater
Forum News Service

DULUTH — Not quite a nothing burger, the Pete Stauber emails released on Tuesday, Oct. 30, also seemed nothing of the sort that would derail the county commissioner's campaign for Congress.

The emails included some political strategizing, arrangements for an interview with the national Fox News channel, and, ultimately, insight from Stauber himself, who told his contacts with a Washington, D.C. political group to begin using Stauber's private email.

“From here on please use the following email,” Stauber wrote last December to multiple contacts before providing them with a private email address.

Stauber's email correspon-

dence with the National Republican Congressional Committee was made public following a judge's order filed in District Court in Duluth on Tuesday and almost two months of mystery about what was in the emails.

The array of campaign emails, mostly from June-December 2017, showed in one instance a county commissioners' assistant helping to arrange a Fox News television interview related to Stauber's candidacy for Congress.

Another email from Stauber to the NRCC in July 2017 referenced Keith Nelson, a fellow commissioner and chairman of the St. Louis County board who has called the email issue “a nothing complaint.” Stauber asked that

EMAILS: Page A7



Sam Cook / scook@duluthnews.com

Anglers will be allowed to keep walleye on Mille Lacs starting Dec. 1 with no bait restrictions and a limit of one walleye between 21-23 inches, or one fish over 28 inches.

MILLE LACS WINTER ANGLERS CAN KEEP 1 WALLEYE

Surveys show walleye population increasing

Winter anglers on Mille Lacs Lake will again enjoy a walleye harvest this winter for the third season in a row, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Similar to last season, anglers will be allowed to keep walleye on Mille Lacs starting Dec. 1

with no bait restrictions and a limit of one walleye between 21-23 inches, or one fish over 28 inches.

Winter regulations are set after completion of the DNR's annual fall gill net assessment on Mille Lacs. In 2018, this assessment was supplemented by a popula-

tion estimate, in which the DNR catches fish in the spring, marks them, and later recaptures them. While studies indicate the walleye population on Mille Lacs is increasing, some year classes remain below normal or average.

WALLEYE: Page A7

INSIDE TODAY VOL 139-052 DEATHS A5 OPINION A6 CLASSIFIED B4 COMICS A8 SPORTS B1 DEAR ABBY A7 WEATHER A2



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Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Sheryl Yassin and her dog Louie pause on their walk Wednesday, Dec. 5, through the Sertoma Winter Wonderland lighting display at the Northland Arboretum. The display is open on select nights until Dec. 31. For more information, visit www.sertomawinterwonderland.com

Are recession rumors true?

Brainerd council discusses finances ahead of budget approval

By Theresa Bourke
Staff Writer

Is an economic recession in Brainerd's near future? A potential looming financial downturn has been talked about off and on since the country started rebuilding after the 2018 recession. Worries of another catastrophe are partially to blame for disconnect among Brainerd City Council members as they struggle to agree on a final tax levy for 2019.

Brainerd residents will likely see an increase in their property taxes after the city council votes on a final tax levy later this month, but how much is still up in the air.

Council members did not agree when setting the preliminary levy at a 6 percent increase back in September, and opinions still differ with less than week to go until the Truth and Taxation hearing, when residents can voice their concerns. The council has until Dec. 28 to pass the final levy — which can be lower but not higher than 6 percent — and will likely do so either Dec. 10 at the Truth and Taxation hearing or at its regular meeting Dec. 17.

When polled at the last budget workshop Nov. 26, the percentage increase council members said they want to see for the final tax levy ranged from 2.8 to 6 percent, with council member Gabe Johnson on the low end and Mayor Ed Menk siding with council members Kelly Bevans and Kevin Stunek on the high end. Menk, who will not vote on the final measure unless there is a tie, has been vocal about raising the levy enough to give the city a nest egg for the future, recommending a preliminary levy as high as 10 percent in September. During a budget workshop earlier in November, Menk said he feared an

TAX: Page A11



Matt McClain / The Washington Post

Former President George W. Bush, President Donald Trump and former Presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter look on during a funeral service for former President George H.W. Bush at Washington National Cathedral on Wednesday.

A nation bids farewell

Former President George H.W. Bush remembered for his integrity, decency

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Mourners from across the nation gathered Wednesday morning to pay their respects and celebrate the life of former President George H.W. Bush at a state funeral at the Washington National Cathedral.

With President Donald Trump and four living former U.S. presidents in attendance, Bush was remembered by his son former President George W. Bush who said that his father had "showed me what it means to be a president that serves with integrity, leads with courage and acts with love in

his heart for the citizens of our country."

Jon Meacham honors former president George H.W. Bush

He also remembered his father as someone who "valued character over pedigree," who "showed us how setbacks can strengthen," and who, with his optimism, "made his children believe anything was possible."

George H.W. Bush "could tease and needle but never out of malice," his son said, with Trump

FAREWELL: Page A12

Submit Stories of Christmas by Dec. 12

This is the 30th anniversary of the Brainerd Dispatch's Stories of Christmas. Each year we get wonderful stories — some humorous and lighthearted, others are thoughtful, touching remembrances. Tell us your story — fiction or nonfiction.

There will be three categories: kids' category, for ages up to 12; juniors, age 13-17; and adults, 18 and older. Prizes will be awarded.

Stories should be 300 words or less. Email the story to delynn.howard@brainerddispatch.com or mail to DeLynn Howard, Brainerd Dispatch, P.O. Box 974, Brainerd, MN, 56401, or drop it off at the Dispatch. All entries must include a name, address, phone number and age.

Entries without this information will not be considered.

Deadline is 5 p.m. Dec. 12.

Winners will be published in the Dec. 23 edition of the Dispatch.

Rick Nolan's days in office grow short

Congressman reflects on a public life

By Brady Slater
Forum News Service

DULUTH — Rick Nolan emerged from the boardroom at Fitger's Inn on Tuesday, Dec. 4, to be greeted by a smiling, familiar face. "You've earned this," said Craig Olson, president of the Duluth Building and Construction Trades Council, as he presented the retiring congressman with a crisp, new lumberjack flannel. "By the way, how are you my friend?"

Nolan, just days from turning 75, accepted the parting gift graciously. And if he was being honest, the answer to Olson's question wasn't as easy as the one Nolan gave. The sands of his career in politics have nearly

run out, and as he closes his 8th Congressional District office in Duluth and gets set to leave Washington behind, Nolan has endured what could be described as a most difficult year.

Hardly sailing into retirement, Nolan encountered an election-year scandal last summer, saw his daughter's lung cancer diagnosis take a bitter turn and confronted health scares of his own.

"I had four hours of heart surgery — it was not open heart — about 16 months ago, and then I had another heart attack here about six weeks ago," Nolan said.

NOLAN: Page A12



Bob King / Forum News Service
Congressman Rick Nolan touches on the high points of his career during an interview Tuesday.

INSIDE TODAY VOL 139-083 DEATHS A5 OPINION A6 CLASSIFIED C1 COMICS B4 SPORTS A7 DEAR ABBY A5 ENTERTAINMENT B1



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Cowboy Christmas

By Steve Kohls
Staff Photographer

A country Christmas may be seen on television and the movies as the ultimate portrayal of the season. The 15th annual Cowboy Christmas at the Nimrod Community Hall Saturday, Dec. 15, was about as authentic as you can find. The hidden gem of a holiday get together among friends from the ranching and farming community is an unvarnished evening of hot dish, children, friends, live country music and dancing. With worn cowboy boots stuffed with pine boughs adorning every table, the atmosphere is country.

The event started with a gathering at the community

center in the little town of Nimrod. The nearby ranchers and farmers came just to get together before Christmas.

"This is the only time I see these folks," said Deana Malone. "The rest of the year we are so busy with the ranching and cattle, we just do not have time."

As night comes, folks walk through the doors with casseroles and pans of hot and cold creations. When the last of the food comes through the door and the band has tuned up, a prayer is said and the line winds through the building. After a good meal, it is time to dance and the kids meet Santa. This year, more than 140 people attended the event. To the visitor, country charm and authentic values are obvious in the little town hall as neighbors catch up.

Rosie and Levi Kuschel carry their son Zane with them as they dance Saturday, Dec. 15, at Cowboy Christmas in the Nimrod Community Hall. For 15 years, ranchers and farmers have gathered at the little town hall to celebrate the holiday season with their friends.

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Tossing coins for toys

Students learn valuable lessons while taking part in festive fundraiser

By Erin Bormett
Echo Journal Staff Writer

Students at Eagle View Elementary School and Pequot Lakes Middle School raised enough money in one week to donate \$3,320 worth of toys to the Christmas for Kids program, thanks to lots of group effort and a few exceptionally generous student donations.

From Nov. 12-20, fourth- through eighth-grade classes participated in a friendly-yet-fierce fundraiser competition. A select group of students then used the money gathered to buy a variety of toys and goodies for families in need.

Fourth-graders at Eagle View competed individually. For every quarter a student brought in, they received one ticket to enter in a drawing, which determined which 10 students got to go shopping for the toys.

The fourth-grade classes earned a total of \$1,320, the largest total Eagle View has ever collected.

"It's electrifying in the mornings during the competition," said Eileen Nelson, social worker at Eagle View and coordinator of the Christmas for Kids fundraiser. "We hear so many good things from the kids."

One fourth-grader, Jaxon Woodman,

COINS: Page A7



Submitted photo Nolan Hall, Jaxon Woodman, Luke Laposky and Tade Magnuson shop for toys to donate to Christmas for Kids as part of Eagle View Elementary School's initiative on Nov. 28 at Walmart in Baxter.

PEQUOT LAKES

Council takes action on short-term rentals

By Nancy Vogt
Echo Journal Editor

Attempting to better regulate vacation rental homes in the city, the Pequot Lakes City Council adopted a short-term rental ordinance on a 4-1 vote Tuesday, Dec. 4. Council member Jerry Akerson was opposed.

"I buy a house and pay taxes. If I

want to rent it out every lunch hour, I should be able to do that," Akerson said. "I don't know how Pequot thinks it can come in and limit the rental of something I own."

City code limited the rental of property to no more than four leases per year, which the city attorney determined was not enforceable.

After the city received numer-

ous complaints of people renting their property more frequently, the planning commission developed a short-term rental ordinance.

Rather than prohibiting the short-term rentals by VRBO, Airbnb, etc., under the new ordinance property owners can receive a \$75 permit to

RENTALS: Page A7

Teen dies after car hits tree near Little Falls

A 15-year-old Randall Ballou is dead, and two other juveniles are injured after a one-vehicle crash just before 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, in Morrison County.

According to the Morrison County Sheriff's Office, 15-year-old Riley Ballou of Randall was traveling east on Forest Road in Green Prairie Township north of Little Falls when the vehicle he was driving left the road and struck a tree. The Little Falls Fire Department was dispatched to the scene for extraction purposes.

Life-saving efforts were attempted on Ballou but were unsuccessful, and the teen was pronounced dead at the scene.

Ballou's passenger, 15-year-old Harley Gangl of Little Falls, and 16-year-old Derrick Andres of Randall, were both injured in the crash. Both were transported to St. Cloud Hospital, Gangl by North Air Care and Andres by Gold Cross Ambulance. The extent of their injuries is unknown.

The crash is under investigation by the Morrison County Sheriff's Office and the the Minnesota State Patrol.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Minnesota State Patrol, Little Falls Fire Department, North Air Care and Gold Cross Ambulance.

'He's still out there'

Family of missing Lake Elmo hunter hopes for answers

By Mary Divine
St. Paul Pioneer Press

PINE COUNTY, Minn. — Lee Peltier wasn't dressed for nasty weather last month when he went deer hunting east of Hinckley, Minn.

Wearing camouflage pants, a red sweatshirt, a blaze-orange vest and an orange stocking hat, Peltier planned to be in the Nemadji State Forest for just a short time on

Saturday, Nov. 3. It was shortly before lunchtime when he and three friends went out to hunt.

Peltier and John Warner, one of the owners of the cabin where they were staying, headed toward a nearby pond.

"They separated on purpose," said Peltier's daughter Megan DeCorney of Stillwater. "My dad

MISSING: Page A5



Peltier

INSIDE TODAY VOL 139-092 DEATHS A5 OPINION A6 CLASSIFIED A8-9 COMICS A4 SPORTS B1-4 DEAR ABBY A7 HEALTH A10



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