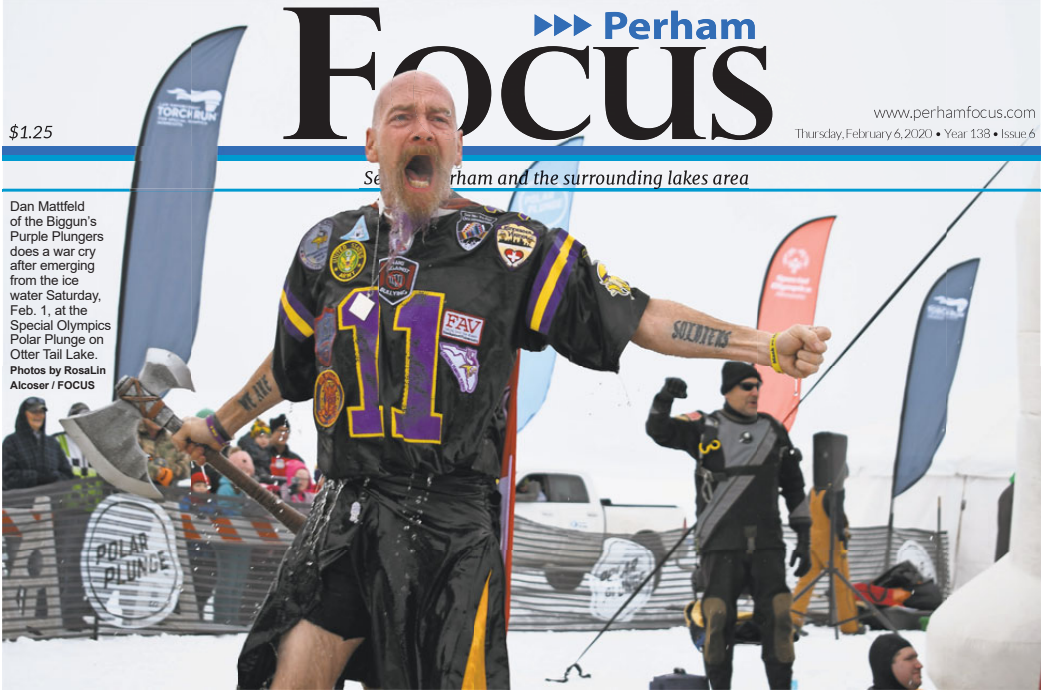


\$1.25

Serving Perham and the surrounding lakes area

Dan Mattfeld of the Biggun's Purple Plungers does a war cry after emerging from the ice water Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Special Olympics Polar Plunge on Otter Tail Lake. Photos by RosaLin Alcoser / FOCUS



## HUNDREDS BRAVE POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Lisa and Jeff Moon, center, took the plunge Saturday dressed as pirates. The City of Ottertail Fire and Rescue helped the jumpers out of the icy water of Otter Tail Lake.

By RosaLin Alcoser  
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Ottertail

**T**hirty teams made up of 199 plungers from all over Otter Tail County and around the area came out onto the ice Saturday, many in costume, to take the plunge for Special Olympics at Otter Tail Lake.

For participants such as Biggun's Purple Plungers, having a plunge on Otter Tail Lake allowed them to take the leap closer to home. Last year the team plunged in Burnsville, said Purple Plunger Dan Mattfeld, of Perham.

"I did this one today and I've got another one two weeks from today," Mattfeld said, as he plans to plunge for the Special Olympics again this year in Burnsville.

The teams were greeted with warm temperatures of 35 degrees and sturdy ice underfoot for the first Otter Tail County Polar Plunge for the Minnesota

Special Olympics Feb. 1. The polar plunge was put on jointly by Special Olympics Minnesota and Otter Tail County Law Enforcement.

"I had the honor of holding the torch with one of the Special Olympics athletes as they did their pledge," Otter Tail County Sheriff Barry Fitzgibbons said. "And to take the first jump with one of the athletes from Fergus Falls."

Special Olympics athletes recited their pledge, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," before Tigirlily sang the national anthem, kicking off the polar plunge.

Each team came out of the warming tent ready for the jump. Ottertail Fire and Rescue stood by in the water and on the ice to help plungers out of the water so they could run back into the warming tent, where they could change and warm up with coffee and hot cocoa.

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## Local group ready to take on management of city's golf course

By RosaLin Alcoser  
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The new local managers of Perham's city golf course and country club say they are ready for the challenge.

"We're basically talking over all the day to day financial obligations of the golf course," said Todd Colilton, one of the five partners in PBC LLC, who will be overseeing the daily operations.

On Jan. 13, a new management agreement was signed between the City of Perham and PBC LLC, a limited liability company in Perham, for the management of the Perham Lakeside Country Club. PBC's other partners are Paul Hunt, Charlie Nelson, Chase Rasmussen and Brad Helmke.

In the new agreement, the Perham Lakeside Golf Board, a volunteer nonprofit board, has subleased the management of the Perham Lakeside Country Club to PBC.

The golf board, which has overseen the management of the golf course for the past 30

years, has made similar agreements with private parties for the management of the facility's restaurant and bar in the past, Perham City Manager Jonathan Smith said. For the past four years, the board took on all of the facility's management.

Due to a lack of time and expertise to run the restaurant, bar, event center and pro shop side of the golf course, the board accrued a debt with the city, Smith said. The board's nonprofit status bars them from taking on a loan, leading them to borrow from the city, to help keep that side of the facility operational, he said.

The management agreement will help to pay back that debt with the city — once PBC has recouped its initial investment, part of the profits will be going back to the city and the community.

"Giving back to the city," Colilton said. "Giving back to local organizations, on our end."

"If we make a profit, after we recoup our



RosaLin Alcoser / FOCUS

PBC LLC partner Todd Colilton, left, and chef Jake Vanderbeek at the Lakeside County Club's clubhouse. PBC, a local limited liability company, is taking over the management of Perham's golf course and country club.

### WHO IS PBC LLC?

PBC LLC, a limited liability company in Perham, has been contracted by the city to manage the Perham Lakeside Country Club.

PBC is made up of five partners: Todd Colilton, Paul Hunt, Charlie Nelson, Chase Rasmussen and Brad Helmke.

initial investment, we are going to be paying to the city 25% of all profit." PBC partner Hunt said in an email to the Focus. "We are taking over all of the overhead expenses and costs associated with running (the facility) so that the City will not lose money on the facility anymore."

"The Management Group, our entity, is a group of us who are passionate about Perham and the Golf

Course. We are making it a point to invest in and hire people who are passionate about the success of the Golf Course/restaurant and bar and event center," he wrote.

The golf board will continue to meet through the year and will be devising an exit strategy in the event that the private party is not successful in its management.

GOLF: Page A7

## Who's responsible when a mailbox gets plowed?

By RosaLin Alcoser  
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Winters snow events are common occurrences in Minnesota, and snowplows are a regular sight. For those living on county highways, the plow might go by two or three times during the snow event, said Shannon Terry, Otter Tail County Public Information Officer.

Mailboxes on county roads are allowed to be there within the road right of way, meaning the county generally is not liable for any damages, repairs or replacements. The only case in which the county will repair or replace a mailbox is if it is damaged by direct contact with snowplow equipment.

Direct contact with snowplow equipment is "if part of the plow hits the mailbox," Terry said.

Mailboxes are often damaged by large chunks of heavy snow flung by the plow. When this happens the county is not responsible for the damage, Terry said, because the mailbox is within the road right of way.

Mailboxes being hit by a snowplow is rare. So far for the 2019-20 snowplowing season, only five mailboxes have been damaged by direct contact with a county snowplow, Terry said.

In the rare event that a mailbox is damaged by direct contact with a snowplow, the professional plow driver will mark the box with pink tape the reads "county will fix," Terry



said. A report will then be filed by that driver with the county, and the county will fix the damage to the mailbox on a date that the plows are no longer running. Depending on the snow event, repairs might not happen for a few days or a week after the damage takes place.

Both break-away and swing-away mailbox types are recommended by the county for safety in these events, as both kinds pose less of a danger if hit.

The county will replace or repair mailboxes if the damage is caused by direct contact with a snowplow. When the county replaces a mailbox, they do so with a swing-away mailbox, Terry said. However, it is the responsibility of the resident to initially obtain and install their original mailbox.

For more information on Otter Tail County mailbox policy visit ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/mailbox-information.

### - QUOTE FOR THE WEEK -

"An ice-fishing shanty is basically a tin outhouse on a frozen lake, except that in an outhouse, the hole has a purpose. In ice fishing, the hole is what you stare at for hours, hoping that at some point you'll break the monotony by falling in." —Author W. Bruce Cameron

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