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Walking for water

Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

A group of about 40 people makes its way along Highway 371 on Friday near North Long Lake as part of the Treaty People Walk for Water. The two-week walk started Aug. 7 with plans to reach the state Capitol on Aug. 25 to ask for cancellations of the Line 3 pipeline's permits.

Area counties added people from 2010-20

Crow Wing had 5.8% growth, Cass 5.2% and Morrison 2.4%

The 2020 U.S. Census is providing a wealth of information on area communities, covering everything from population changes, demographics on specific age groups, housing, size of households, race, education, poverty, employment, transportation, health and the economy.

The information will provide many ways to look at lakes area communities in the coming weeks and months.

In the first blush, a look at the population shows six of the seven counties in the greater lakes area grew in the last decade, at least by a little.

Population by area county

County	2020 population	2010 population	percent change
Crow Wing County	66,123 in 2020	62,500 in 2010	5.8% growth
Morrison County	34,010 — 33,198		— 2.4% growth
Cass County	30,066 — 28,567		— 5.2% growth
Mille Lacs County	26,459 — 26,097		— 1.4% growth
Todd County	25,262 — 24,895		— 1.5% growth
Aitkin County	15,697 — 16,202		— 3.1% decline
Wadena County	14,065 — 13,843		— 1.6% growth

CENSUS: Page A10

Pickar out as sheriff's deputy

Former sheriff candidate, county agree to separate

By Jennifer Kraus
Brainerd Dispatch

Pat Pickar, who was defeated by Sheriff Scott Goddard in the November 2018 election, was paid close to \$46,000 to leave his deputy position with the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office.

Pickar's last day of employment with the sheriff's office was May 28. Pickar has been with the sheriff's office since 1997. He currently works part time as a police officer for the Pequot Lakes Police Department and is also deputy chief for the Cuyuna Police Department, where he supervises six police officers.

Pickar's departure from the sheriff's office comes after two internal affairs complaints were made against him in May 2019 and September 2020. The May 2019 complaint resulted in no disciplinary action and the 2020 complaint was investigated and closed without a finding, following the completion

of the separation agreement.

Pickar signed a separation agreement — entered between his union, Crow Wing County Law Enforcement Labor Services Inc.; himself; and the county — on June 1. County officials signed off on the agreement June 7.

According to the separation agreement, Pickar expressed interest in separating from his employment with the county. The agreement also means Pickar will not be able to be on the county's payroll at any time in the future.

Both parties agreed to resolve all potential issues through the separation agreement to avoid potential arbitration, litigation costs and any further disputes "which would be expensive and time consuming, that may in any way arise out of Pickar's employment with the County and his separation from employment



File photo

Pat Pickar.

with the County," the agreement stated.

"Sometimes I think it is just in everyone's best interests to separate," County Administrator Tim Houle stated in an email regarding the separation agreement. "Sometimes it's best to shake hands, wish each other well and walk away. Everyone

has their own reasons for agreeing to this and, because of data privacy restrictions, I must leave it at that."

Pickar also provided an email statement:

"I have focused my law enforcement career on building relationships in the community

PICKAR: Page A13

Speeding continues upward trend, state reports 17,205 citations issued last month

By Deanna Weniger
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — "It's a hybrid. I can't hear the engine," was one of several excuses the Minnesota State Patrol heard during a crackdown on speeding during the month of July.

Others said they were "going down hill" or "gas light came on" or "trying to get to a bathroom."

Whatever the reason, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety said

speeding is still trending upward even with more drivers returning to the roads. During July, 294 law enforcement agencies across the state reported 17,205 speeding citations, over one thousand more than the same time last year.

"The pandemic has just really thrown an accelerant on the speeding problem," said Mike Hanson, Office of Traffic Safety director with **SPEEDING:** Page A11

Experiencing an adventure

Camp Knutson hosts first-time camp for kids

By Dan Determan
Echo Journal

Camp Knutson on the Whitefish Chain has long served campers with disabilities, but last week it catered to a new group with Camp Norden, a four-day camp for children affected by cancer.

Camp Norden gets its name from the German word meaning "north." "To us, 'north' really represents adventure,"



Contributed

Kids with cancer play a game of Uno on an outdoor picnic table at Camp Knutson in Crosslake.

Camp Norden Director Sam Binge said. "It represents a journey and community.

We want this camp to be that kind of guiding light or that north star **CAMP:** Page A12

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NHRA

B1

Leah Pruett looks to go back-to-back at BIR



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PICKAR

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Sometimes I think it is just in everyone's best interests to separate. Sometimes it's best to shake hands, wish each other well and walk away. Everyone has their own reasons for agreeing to this and, because of data privacy restrictions, I must leave it at that."

TIM HOULE,
Crow Wing County Administrator

...tled to nor receive any back wages for the 12-day suspension. The county also will remove his paid administrative leave notice dated Oct. 5, 2020, and all other documents regarding the current investigation from his personnel file.

► The county will cease its current investigation into Pickar's conduct involving an incident on or about Sept. 24, 2020, and the case will be closed without a finding.

► The county will make its normal monthly contribution toward Pickar's health insurance premium and his Health Savings Account until he reaches the age of 50.

► Once Pickar reaches age 50, the county will provide him with retiree health insurance until age 65.

► The county will allow Pickar to keep his county-issued bulletproof vest.

In the agreement, Pickar and the county both agreed that neither side violated any policy, contract, state, federal or local statute or ordinance, administrative regulation or had "done any wrongdoing whatsoever, the same being expressly denied."

Pickar also will not bring any lawsuits, claims or make any demands against the county and he agreed to not seek any other monetary damages or other relief.

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and trying to collaborate with other community resources on the needs within Crow Wing County. It's sad that politics is getting in the way," he wrote. "In a time where there is anti-cop rhetoric and those that want to defund the police, I can't believe we as deputies have to worry about bullying, harassment and retaliation from an elected sheriff and his administration against those that didn't support him. The real focus should be on working together to make a safer Crow Wing County for all those that live and visit here."

Responding to Pickar's accusations, Goddard said, "A baseless attack doesn't surprise me. I'm not going to delve into it beyond that."

Goddard said because of the unique situation where both he and Pickar were both sheriff candidates at one time, the sheriff's office relied heavily on the county's human resources department.

"We wanted to make sure this was complete and ensure there were no biases," Goddard said. "We did this as openly as we possibly could, but a lot of issues are personnel related so not a lot of comments can be made (because of data privacy laws)."

Separation agreement details

► The county will pay Pickar five months salary in a lump sum totaling \$29,303.

► Pickar will be compensated for his accrued and unused paid time off amounting to \$15,938.27.

► Pickar will be compensated for his accrued and unused compensatory time amounting to \$557.89.

► The county agrees to provide Pickar a letter of reference for future potential employers.

► Upon separation from employment, the county will rescind and remove Pickar's 12 day suspension from his file. Pickar will not be enti-

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Everyone home safe.

Work has begun on the replacement of Line 3 in Minnesota—bringing jobs and economic benefits to local communities along the route.

Keeping communities, our employees and contractors safe is our top priority.

You will see increases in truck traffic, heavy equipment and more people around town. For your safety and the safety of others, please use caution when driving near construction activities and do not enter our work areas.

We are following robust COVID-19 Safe Work Protocols and practicing strict construction safety procedures to ensure everyone arrives home safe. Our employees and contractors are advised to follow local COVID-19 guidelines while in your community.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

For more information, visit enbridge.com/line3US.

