



**BEARS ARE WAKING UP:** Protect your property from hungry visitors with these tips. **P8**

## Locals adjust to higher prices

### Faced with higher food, gas prices, shoppers shift their habits with disappointment, optimism

BY KIRSTEN FAURIE  
EDITOR@MORAMINN.COM

Abigail Larsen is a mother of three children ages 1-5, with another baby on the way. The first place she noticed higher prices was in the cost of diapers. With inflation and other factors driving up the costs of food, gas and other goods, she and others are re-evaluating plans for summer travel and how they grocery shop. Amid these changes, Larsen is trying to stay positive. "I guess I'm optimistic that it's not going to stay this way, but I don't know that that's true," she said. According to the USDA Economic Research Service's Food Price Outlook, shoppers are facing significantly higher food prices which are expected to keep rising through 2022.



KIRSTEN FAURIE | TIMES

Mother of three children (with another on the way) Abigail Larsen said the first place she noticed inflation was the cost of diapers. Larsen is optimistic prices will decrease some day.

### PRICING PRESSURES

The Consumer Price Index for food increased 1% from January 2022 to February 2022; food prices were 7.9% higher than in February 2021. The food price outlook separates food costs into two groups: food-at-home prices (grocery store or supermarket purchases) and food-away-from-home prices (restaurant purchases). The USDA expects food-at-home prices will increase 3-4% in 2022. Food-away-from-home prices are predicted to increase between 5.5-6.5%. Food categories with the largest relative price increase were beef products (3.9%); the smallest increase was among fresh vegetables (1.1%). In addition to supply chain and pandemic-related pressures, new factors are influencing food prices. According to the USDA, a new outbreak of avian influenza is hitting the poultry industry and predicts price increases for their meat and eggs. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February and the continuing conflict is putting an upward pressure on food prices, meanwhile an expected increase in interest rates by the Federal Reserve could put downward pressure on prices.

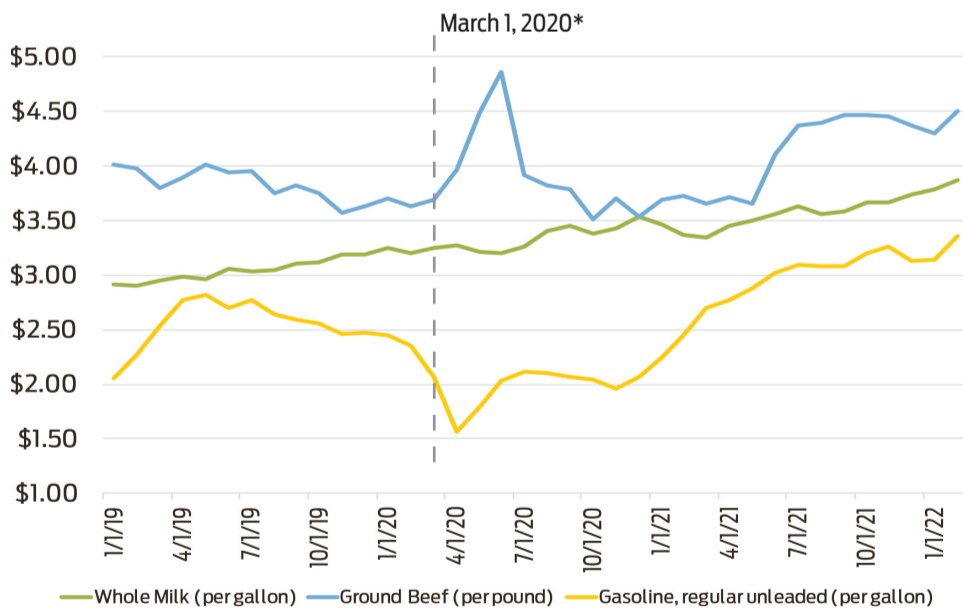
### MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

Lisa Trumble is a retired project

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## Prices of three commodities over three years

Prices of common goods has been anything but usual since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused drastic swings in prices of many items, and now between a pent-up demand for goods, a labor shortage, backed up supply chain and the war in Ukraine —inflation has significantly increased the price of many items Americans purchase on a regular basis. The chart below shows the price of three commodities over three years with data from the U.S. Bureau Of Labor Statistics.



\*The dotted line marks March 1, 2020. It was around this time news of the pandemic truly began to take hold among American consumers. Stores began to see panic buying, meat processors shut down and travel was shut down. You can see these events having stark impacts on the price of ground beef, which was suddenly in high demand, and a steep decline in the price of gasoline.

## COMMISSIONER DIST. PRIMARY ELECTION

# Vote April 12

BY KIRSTEN FAURIE  
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There will be a special primary election held Tuesday, April 12 to fill a vacancy for Kanabec County Commissioner District 2. District 2 is the area within Mora city limits.

**WHEN:** 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 12  
**WHERE:** Mora City Hall, 101 Lake Street South, Mora, MN

Nine candidates filed for the position, creating the need to hold a special primary before a special election. The top two vote winners in the primary will be put on the ballot for a special election on Aug. 9, 2022.

The candidates who filed are: Mandi Yoder, Frank Westling, Todd Sjoberg, Lowell Sedlacek, Robert "Bob" Schroeder, Robert "Bob" Jensen, Alison Holland, Joe Heggernes and Kathleen Parson Eklund. See the *Kanabec County Times* voter guide at [www.moraminn.com](http://www.moraminn.com)

## MnDOT fixing bridge this summer

BY KIRSTEN FAURIE  
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No detours around Mora will be needed as the Minnesota Department of Transportation reconstructs the Snake River bridge on Highway 23/65 this summer.

MnDOT will replace the bridge over the river south of Division Street. The bridge will be open to two-way traffic through the work zone, but drivers should expect lane shifts, no shoulders and reduced speeds.

Construction is expected to last from May until November, 2022.

SEE **BRIDGE**, PAGE 2

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