

BRAINERD DISPATCH

SERVING THE LAKE AREA AND CENTRAL SINCE 1881



Hands on for Earth Day activities

Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Ledia Mathewson, left, and Averi Siegrist react to getting mud all over their hands while making pollinator seed bombs during the Earth Day Community Fair Saturday at Rotary Riverside Park in Brainerd. The inaugural event, a youth-oriented event aimed at increasing enthusiasm for outdoor activities and conserving nature, was hosted by conservation-based organizations such as Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Backyard Birds, Brainerd Lakers United for the Environment, Central Lakes College Natural Resources and Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District.

Walz urges compromise in state address

Also sets priorities for Minnesota's \$9.25B surplus

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz on Sunday, April 24, urged Minnesota lawmakers to use the state's \$9.25 billion budget surplus to help the state rebuild from the pandemic and set itself up for a successful future.

During the nearly one-hour address, the first-term governor said the state was moving toward recovery after COVID-19. But he said lawmakers need to step in during the last month of the legislative session to offer support to those who've borne the brunt of its impact.

Walz pointed to a nurse who'd worked on a COVID unit, busi-

ness owners hit hard by the pandemic and the state's efforts to curb it, and other caregivers in the House gallery as he made the case for those spending priorities.

He also urged legislators to again bridge the partisan divide in St. Paul to get things done.

"We may not agree on everything. Some of us won't agree on anything," Walz told the chamber. "We owe it to the people of Minnesota to try and find common ground."

The speech was Walz's fourth State of the State address since taking office in 2019 and the second to occur in person at the Capitol.

WALZ: Page 7

Batter up for the big leagues

Brainerd lakes area baseball players among greats

By Frank Lee
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — For fans of America's pastime, Leslie Ambrose Bush, Charles Albert Bender and Herbert Jude Score go down in history as among the greats who have played the game.

The three are the most prominent baseball players from the Brainerd lakes area who went on to play the sport professionally, according to the Crow Wing County Historical Society.



Bialka

"I wrote about them quite a bit," said Mike Bialka, former Brainerd Dispatch sports editor. Bialka knows the sport well. He played baseball in high school in Brainerd and



Contributed / Crow Wing County Historical Society

Leslie Ambrose Bush and Charles Albert Bender were on the World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies team in 1913.

later at St. Cloud State University.

"Score's only tie here was that he was here one year as a high school kid in the summer. He was from New York originally," Bialka said. "... He pitched for what was

then called the Brainerd Braves. They were kind of like a semi-pro team at that time playing with a bunch of other guys from Brainerd, Nisswa, Pierz, Little Falls, but he went on to play in the major leagues as well."

Bender

Bender was probably the Brainerd lakes area's most prominent baseball player, according to Bialka, and he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1953.

BASEBALL: Page 7

'A safe, sober place to go'

Good News Recovery House provides aid to those in recovery

By Travis Grimler
Echo Journal

BACKUS — Sometimes people recovering from addiction need guidance to succeed. That's the lesson Lanaya Percifeld-Tilbury learned from her own personal experience.

In 2017, she was offered the chance to go to prison or something called "drug court" where she would be given leniency

and be allowed to stay out of prison, with conditions.

"They said I needed to have a job. I needed a place to live and I needed to not be around Pine River," Percifeld-Tilbury said. "I had to relocate. I didn't have any registry and even my job history was very scattered. For most of the people in recovery, that's how life is. It's really hard to find a place to go."

It's difficult for recovering addicts to find a home at all. The state has been experiencing

RECOVERY: Page 8

Legislation would extend boat safety training to adults in Minnesota

Currently, young people ages 12 to 17 must pass an online boater safety exam through the DNR

By Bob Timmons
Star Tribune

ST. PAUL — Attempting to make the state's waters safer, proposals before legislators would require more Minnesotans to take a boater safety course before they could operate motorized boats and personal watercraft.

Currently, young people ages 12 to 17 must



Star Tribune / TNS file photo

Current Minnesota law calls for boat safety education for youth only to operate watercraft.

pass an online boater safety exam through the Department of Natural Resources. Companion bills taken up by the

Senate and House this session would increase the age requirement to anyone born on or after July 1, 1987. (The pro-

posal is in the House omnibus package.) Boating and lake association advocates, conservationists and law enforcement support the legislation and say the timing is right to bring operating watercraft in line with other regulations.

Already the state with the most watercraft per capita, Minnesota registered 831,000 boats in 2021, an increase of about 10,000 from 2020. Of the top five states by registration, Minnesota is the only one whose boater education rules don't apply to adults.

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Raiders split doubleheader



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