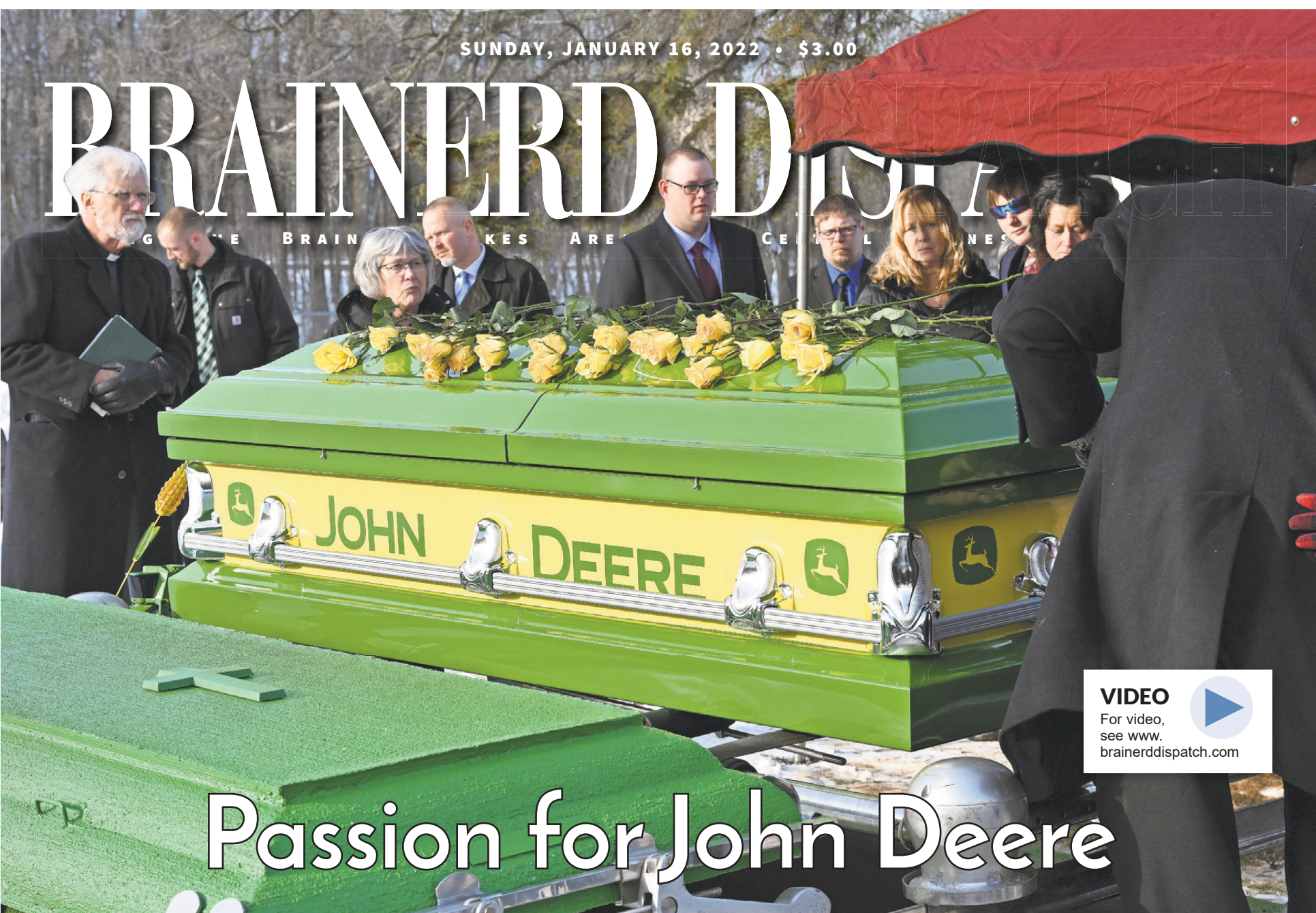


BRainerd Dispatch

THE BRAINERD LAKES ARE CENTRAL



VIDEO
For video,
see www.brainerddispatch.com

Passion for John Deere

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Yellow roses line the top of Charles “Bud” Sedlachek’s John Deere themed casket before burial Wednesday at Bethel Luthern Church cemetery in rural Brainerd.

Brainerd man is remembered with tractor-themed casket, procession

By Frank Lee
Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd

Charles “Bud” Sedlachek had a lifelong passion for John Deere that he took to his grave.

The 83-year-old farmer from Brainerd died Jan. 3 of congestive heart failure. But he loved the farm equipment provider so much he was buried in a John Deere casket he had ordered.

“He was just a great, just a happy guy and inviting,” said Brian Sedlachek, the Jasper native’s son. “He always loved it when people stopped over in order to talk and have something to eat or whatever.”

The funeral service Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Halvorson-Taylor Funeral Home and the tractor-led funeral procession to Bethel Lutheran Church Cemetery near Brainerd certainly had people talking around town.

“Actually, the tractor being at the funeral home was Tim’s idea, the funeral director,” Brian Sedlachek said of Tim Taylor. “He suggested having the tractor in there ... for the wake. And then we kind of talked it over and decided we’d leave it there and lead the procession out of town with it.”

SEDLACHEK: Page A10

Irma Cragun’s legacy

Resort owner remembered for generosity

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

EAST GULL LAKE — She was a queen, a pistol, a fierce leader.

She arranged an outdoor art show that was to become Arts in the Park and established the Heartland Symphony Orchestra Ladies Auxiliary. Her smiling face and bright blue suit graced the inaugural edition of the Brainerd Dispatch’s “Her Voice” magazine. But perhaps most notably, she took up a post at Cragun’s Resort more than 55 years ago, often working

behind the scenes to keep the enterprise going and growing. And that’s just the beginning. Irma Cragun was a staple of the Brainerd lakes community. She died Jan. 10 at the age of 87, leaving an absence that will be felt by many.

“She was something else. She was very gregarious, outgoing, fun,” said Don McFarland, a longtime friend of Irma and her husband Dutch.

McFarland once owned the Paul Bunyan Amusement Center and got to know the Craguns through the tourism industry. He fondly remembers Irma’s birthday bashes on the boat Dutch bought, as she danced the night away and always had a ball.

CRAGUN: Page A11



Contributed

Irma Cragun enjoys a meal on the water, outfit complete with the hat she liked to wear when on her boat. Irma and husband Dutch owned Cragun’s Resort for many years. She died Jan. 10 at the age of 87.

Simon responds to Crow Wing County election audit request

By Chelsey Perkins
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — While not doubting the sincerity of many of those questioning the 2020 election, Minnesota Secretary of State Steve



Simon

Simon said conducting more audits of an already well-vetted and accurate process is not war-

ranted.

“Given this process and how important it is, we can’t launch into this kind of inquiry of unspecified misconduct based on a hunch, or a vibe, or a gut feeling. We

just can’t do that,” Simon said Tuesday, Jan. 11. “And I don’t think people should expect government to do that, and we just simply can’t do that at this late day. It’s not proper. And it’s not called

for in this instance.”

The state’s chief elections administrator shared his views on audits, Minnesota’s election system and what he expects headed into the midterm elections during

an interview conducted via video conferencing. He called the continued disinformation about the 2020 election “demonstrably wrong.” Simon’s

AUDIT: Page A12

The Nest to promote inclusivity at CLC

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — Welcome, namaste, boozhoo. Family, gesin, familie. Together, juntos, ensemble.

Inviting words painted in French, German, Afrikaans, Spanish, Hindi, Ojibwe and English greet visitors to the new multicultural center at Central Lakes College.

The Nest, as the space is called, was in the works for more than a decade and is now ready for students.

“We’ve always known

we needed a center like this to live up to our commitment in our heart to build futures,” said CLC President Hara Charlier, during the center’s grand opening ceremony Wednesday, Jan. 12. “... We needed to elevate our commitment to diversity, to equity, to social justice, to anti-racism. We knew that. We needed this to be a place where every single student belongs and to be truly inclusive.”

And that’s just what the Nest is meant to be.

The name came from recommendations after

VIDEO

For video,
see www.brainerddispatch.com



the idea was put out to the CLC community.

“We just really liked it because obviously we’re the Raiders, so the Nest kind of made sense,” said Student Life Director Erich Heppner. “And if you think about a nest being an inclusive space, safe space for folks, that seemed to make sense to us.”

CLC: Page A11



Tim Speier / Brainerd Dispatch

With welcoming words of peace and joy from cultures around the world on their windows, the Nest, a Multicultural Center at CLC opened on Wednesday.

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Lakes Area

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Snow makes travel treacherous in southern Minnesota

By Tim Harlow
Star Tribune

A snowstorm expected to bring 5 inches of snow Friday to parts of the metro area and even more to southern and western Minnesota has turned roads treacherous and is making travel difficult.

Between 5 and 11:30 a.m. Friday, the State Patrol responded to 159 crashes across the state and 66 vehicles that spun out or went off the road. No deaths were reported with any of the incidents, but 22 people suffered injuries, said Sgt. Troy Christianson of the State Patrol.

At 12:30, a multi-car crash was blocking lanes in both directions of Interstate 94 at Weaver Lake Road in Maple Grove. Traffic was crawling along on eastbound Interstate 494 near Hwy. 100 in Bloomington where a motorist landed in the ditch. A semitrailer truck jackknifed and landed in the center median on I-35 near Dundas, Minn., just south of the Northfield exit, the Minnesota Department of Transportation said.

"Snow covered roadways and reduced visibility are making travel conditions difficult in south central and southwest Minnesota," the Minnesota Department of Transportation said.

"Please drive with care," the State Patrol added.

Conditions were deteriorating rapidly as snow piled up across the state as the storm moved from the northwest to the southeast. Forecasters predict between 6 and 10 inches of snow to fall in an area stretching from Fergus Falls south to the Iowa border and from the South Dakota border east to the Mankato area, the National Weather Service said.

The heaviest amounts are likely to fall in a line from Glenwood in west-central Minnesota to Albert Lea. A Winter

Storm warning remains in effect until 9 p.m.

Lesser amounts — 3 to 6 inches — are expected on a line from St. Cloud through the western metro and southern metro to Red Wing and Rochester, where a winter weather advisory is in effect until 9 p.m. Friday.


As of 12:30 p.m., 7 1/2 inches of snow had fallen in Dawson in western Minnesota and 5 1/2 inches had piled up in Redwood Falls. About 2.6 inches had accumulated at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the National Weather Service said.

A sharp cutoff, however, means places such as Anoka, Ramsey and northern parts of Washington counties may see only 1 to 3 inches while Hennepin, Scott, Dakota and Carver counties could pick up 2 to 5 inches, the weather service said. Brainerd, just outside of the path of the storm, received only a dusting of snow Friday.

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Elizabeth Flores / Star Tribune / TNS
Judy Suddendorf braved the snow and cold on her day off as a professor to play with her 11-month-old puppy, Maddie, at Greenhaven Park in Burnsville.



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2022

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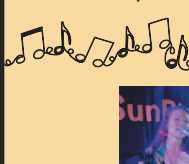
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Friday, February 11 • 7-10pm



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NYC & NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE

October 6-14

* Less than 4 spots left



BRIEF

U of M announces mandate for indoor events

All University of Minnesota campuses will add a new temporary vaccination policy for indoor campus events.

"In alignment with our commitment to public health, today we are announcing a new, temporary proof of vaccination policy," University of Minnesota President Joan Gabel wrote in a university-wide email Friday, Jan. 14. "This policy will be in effect from Wednesday, Jan. 26 through at least Wednesday, Feb. 9 at indoor events on any University campus — both in the Twin Cities and across the state."

The policy applies to any events with an attendance of 200 or more people, including those at University of Minnesota facilities that are rented or leased by third parties.

Gabel said the decision follows the recent vaccination requirements made by the mayor of Minneapolis and St. Paul for guests of restaurants and other entertainment venues effective Wednesday.

Students, faculty and staff will need to show their student ID as proof of vaccination compliance with the policy to gain entry to events.

All others age 5 and older must show proof of vaccination or a negative, third-party COVID test taken in the previous 72 hours.

"In consultation with medical and public health experts, and health care system leaders, we will reevaluate the policy as the course of the omicron surge and its impact on local hospitals changes. Any policy extension will be announced prior to Feb. 9," Gabel wrote.

— Forum News Service

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Jared Piepenburg

Jesse Ritka






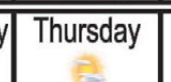


Chief Meteorologist John Wheeler

Lydia Blume

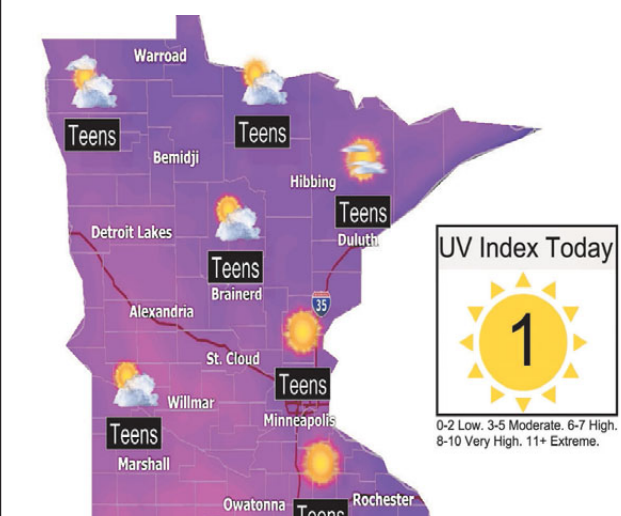
Robert Poynter

StormTRACKER

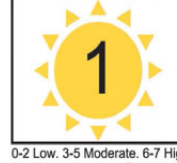
BRAINERD FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
 14/5 Partly Cloudy Wind: S 9 mph	 34/13 Cloudy Wind: W 11 mph	 25/19 Cloudy Wind: W 4 mph	 28/-6 Snow Showers Wind: SW 11 mph
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 0/-18 Partly Cloudy Wind: NW 14 mph	 1/-9 Mostly Sunny Wind: W 7 mph	 10/3 Partly Cloudy Wind: SW 8 mph	 11/-2 Partly Cloudy Wind: NW 9 mph

*Average wind speed for each day

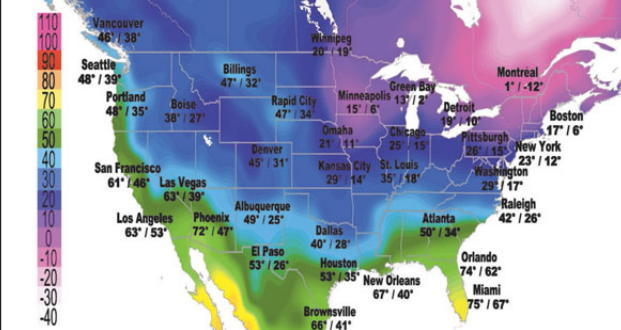


UV Index Today



0-2 Low. 3-5 Moderate. 6-7 High. 8-10 Very High. 11+ Extreme.

Regional Weather	Today	Lo	Tomorrow	Regional Weather	Today	Lo	Tomorrow	
Bemidji, MN	14	8	29	10	Marshall, MN	11	5	34
Duluth, MN	17	10	28	14	Minneapolis, MN	15	6	33
Eau Claire, WI	16	5	22	17	Rochester, MN	16	4	29
Fargo, ND	10	9	33	17	Sioux Falls, SD	16	10	38
International Falls, MN	15	9	27	2	St. Cloud, MN	12	3	34



StormTRACKER Forecast

Mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid teens.

Almanac Through 6 pm Friday

Temperature	High	Low
Friday	18	11
Normal	21	0
Record	52 in 1987	-37 in 1994


Precipitation

In Inches	
Friday	0

Sunrise: 7:55 a.m. Sunset: 4:57 p.m.
Moonrise: 2:42 p.m. Moonset: 7:24 a.m.

Constantly updated forecasts online
www.brainerddispatch.com

Full Jan. 17
Third Jan. 25
New Jan. 31
First Feb. 8



Gone fishing

Weather Drawing by Brennan of Mrs. hall's first grade class at Garfield Elementary School.

Attention teachers: Don't forget to submit your students' weather drawings to the Brainerd Dispatch, P.O. Box 974, Brainerd, MN 56401



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PRO WRESTLING

Varga hopes to pack the Pacific

By Jeremy Millsop
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — Franco Varga is on a similar career path as one of the most famous people in the United States.

Ask any young person, or most any person for that matter, who “The Rock” is and they’ll answer he’s a former college football player turned professional wrestler turned action movie star.

Varga, a Dover, Delaware, resident, is a 23-year-old former football player turned professional wrestler for the North Star Professional Wrestling circuit. He just turned 23, with a birthday Wednesday.

Varga will be in the feature event Saturday, Jan. 22, when the North Star Wrestling visits Brainerd’s Northern Pacific Center for a seven-bout night.

“I played football my whole life and just on a whim I was invited to a tryout,” Varga said. “I was always a fan of wrestling and so I tried out and I fell in love with pro wrestling again just by the process of becoming a pro wrestler. I was just a former football guy who used to work out all the time and they asked me if I wanted to be a pro wrestler.”

Varga travels the world competing in 93 to 100 matches a year. He’s wrestled in six different countries. In February, he’ll wrestle 20 times in the United Kingdom.

“It’s a tough life, but it can get even tougher than that,” Varga said. “I know guys who have about 300 days on the road.”

Varga does get time to visit the cities he’s wrestling in and to fill the time he started producing “Franco Varga’s Tales from the Trip.” It’s a YouTube channel highlighting Varga’s adventures in the cities he wrestles. The first one was about a four-day London trip. Varga is also branching into acting and hopes fans can see him acting in the near future.

The very near future, however, will be Jan. 22 in Brainerd.

“When fans come to Brainerd and North Star Pro Wrestling, it’s going to be a show that everyone can enjoy,” Varga said. “Bring your mom, dad, cousins, the dog. It’s going to have something for everyone. You’re going to laugh, cheer and you’re going to boo, but you’re going to have a good time.”

Doors will open at 6 p.m. with wrestling starting at 7 p.m.

This is the second time North Star Wrestling has visited the NP Center. Varga was on the card last April.

“It was the tail end of mask-wearing,” Northern Pacific Center general manager Derek Owen said. “There were probably close to a couple of hundred people, which was close to what we wanted during that time period. We had no idea what to expect because it was the first time even having it. Afterward, we just thought that this could be a cool event to create like a series here. They are coming four times at least this year.”

“They’ll switch up the wrestler and the talent. Let’s be honest, not everyone knows a lot of these names unless you follow independent pro wrestling, but this EC3 guy was a World Wrestling Entertainment guy so he’s been at the top of the trade and he’s in the main event with Franco.”

Franco vs. EC3 will be the highlight, but other top matches include Richard Holliday vs. Jake Hollister, Math Magician vs. JJ Garrett and Madi Wrenkowski will battle Kilynn King. There will also be a title bout on the docket.

“There are hot up-and-comers on the show like Jake Hollister and Richard Holliday,” Varga said. “Those guys are up and coming, but a lot of people are already talking about them.”

“There’s the daughter of a legend in Miranda Gordy and she’s wrestling a legend in her own



Contributed photos

Professional wrestler Franco Varga poises with a young fan after his battle during a North Star Professional Wrestling show in April of 2021 in Brainerd.

right, Holidhead, for the title of the All-Women’s Cup. They’re actually going for the Mission Pro Wrestling heavy-weight title. When that announcement came out, I know my match with EC3 is big, but when that announcement came out, if you’re a fan of women’s wrestling you were already all in.”

There is one \$600 suite remaining that seats eight people and features elevated, lounge seating with a snack bar, personal wait service and a meet and greet with the wrestlers.

There are \$50 VIP tickets with ringside luxury seating and food and beverage service. General admission is \$30 with \$10 tickets for fans 12 and younger.

Visit www.northern-pacificcenter.com/prowrestling to get tickets.

“We don’t have a cap on admission, but we’d like to see 500 people, which is about perfect for that event,” Owen said. “I don’t remember exactly the last time pro wres-



Aero Boy jumps from the top rope toward his opponent Franco Varga during a North Star Professional Wrestling event April 24, 2021, in Brainerd. Franco and North Star Wrestling will return to the Northern Pacific Center January 22.

ting was in our area, but I have that memory when I was growing up going to the high school and watching something.

“Kids don’t care what the names are. They just

want to come and see a show. These are great athletes. I was talking with Franco and he laughed and said EC3 has an eight-pack. Franco is a big man, too. These guys

are athletic and they’re putting on a great show.”

JEREMY MILLSOP may be reached at 218-855-5856 or jeremy.millsop@brainerddispatch.com. Follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jeremymillsop.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

These are some of the stories you might have missed that appeared in the Dispatch e-edition last week.

Monday: Breezy Point Resort celebrated Ice Fest. Despite voting against it, Rep. Pete Stauber, R-Duluth, touted an infrastructure bill that will bring \$9.4 million in federal grants to airports in northeast Minnesota, including to airports in Aitkin, Brainerd, Little Falls, Longville, Pine River, Staples, Wadena and Walker. The 1872 “Blueberry War,” between American Indians and European settlers in the Brainerd lakes area was profiled. A Backus mother and daughter receive a letter sent eight years ago. A Brainerd man faces criminal charges after leading Baxter and Brainerd police officers on a chase through the two cities. The Central Lakes College Raiders men’s basketball team rallied to beat Hibbing Community College. The Brainerd Warriors girls and boys Nordic skiing teams finished fifth and 11th, respectively, at the Mesabi East Invite at Giants Ridge. The Brainerd Warriors wrestling team finished second at the Bluejacket Invite. The Brainerd Warriors dance teams finished in the top five in kick and jazz in Edina.



Tuesday: Brainerd Public School Superintendent Laine Larson announced her intention to retire in June. A judge ruled the intellectual disability of Alfonso Rodriguez, who in 2003 murdered Pequot Lakes native and University of North Dakota student Dru Sjodin, was not a factor the prevented hi from being sentenced to death. The Brainerd Fire Department responded to a house fire in southeast Brainerd. A Bemidji woman was injured after falling asleep and rolling her vehicle on Highway 10 near Cushing. The Pierz Pioneers and Staples-Motley Cardinals girls basketball teams earn victories.

Thursday: The VELYS Robotic-Assisted Solution technology at Cuyuna Regional Medical Center was profiled. The Brainerd School Board announced it would cut back regular board meetings to one per month. The Brainerd Warriors adapted floor hockey team continued its winning ways, beating Robinsdale to bring its win streak to 56. The Brainerd

Warriors boys and girls Alpine ski teams finished first and second, respectively, at Afton Alps. The Central Lakes College Raiders men’s basketball team lost to Northland Pioneers.

Friday: Lawyers for Cameron Moser, accused in the murder of Bethany Bernatsky in October at Cozy Bay Resort near Merrifield, argued testing of evidence in the case. A fire severely damaged a home on Pine Street in southeast Brainerd. Brainerd Warrior wrestler Isaiah Jillson notched his 100th win as the Warriors split at home against Fergus Falls. The Brainerd Warriors boys basketball team defeated Sartell, the Brainerd Warriors girls hockey team beat River Lakes and the Brainerd Warriors boys hockey team bested Bemidji. The Brainerd Warriors Nordic skiing team earned a sweep at Maplelag Resort. The Brainerd Warriors cheer team won in Minnetonka, and two of its members — Bailey Schuler and Elizabeth Knutson, were named Minnesota All-State Competition Team members.

These stories and many more from traffic and construction updates to more state and local news are available in the Dispatch e-edition, on the Dispatch app and online at brainerddispatch.com. Listen to the Dispatch Minute podcast each weekday morning and check online for additional photos and video.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Nominees sought for Brainerd Public Schools hall of fame

The Brainerd Public Schools Distinguished Achievement Hall of Fame will induct new members in September, and nominations are being accepted now through March 1.

Members of the Distinguished Achievement Hall of Fame are role models and aspirational symbols of what students can become, inspiring and motivating Brainerd High School students to excel in life. Hall of Fame inductees foster outstanding citizenship, fairness, honor, pride and respect for themselves, their classmates, their school and their communities in and among BHS students. Inductees provide in-class instructional hours during Homecoming Week, sharing their knowledge about their professions, trades, arts and crafts and lives in general. A large percentage of the student body attend the induction convocation itself, learning more about these distinguished graduates from Brainerd High School.

Distinguished Achievement Hall of Fame members come from all walks of life and live in all parts of the world, from Brainerd to New York City to Stockholm, from Sweden to Hanoi and back again to the Brainerd lakes area. Among them are research scientists; highly decorated war heroes; pioneering women in law, medicine and journalism; a Broadway star; an early explorer of Antarctica with a 10,000-foot mountain discovered by him and later named after him; a naval captain whose name graced a World War II U.S. navy destroyer at the Battle of Iwo Jima while another inductee was a twice wounded Marine lieutenant storming Iwo’s beaches; a Minnesota governor and friends and neighbors

on main streets across the U.S.

While induction to the Hall of Fame honors those few selected to it, its principal mission is to further the education of Brainerd Public Schools students through creation of in-person opportunities for Brainerd High School students to meet inductees.

To make a nomination, contact John Erickson at bps.history@isd181.org, or write to BPS Archives, Washington Educational Services Building, 804 Oak St., Brainerd, MN 56401, to request a nomination form.

March for Life planned for Jan. 22

The Crow Wing County Minnesota Citizens Concerned For Life March for Life will be Saturday, Jan. 22, to commemorate that Supreme Court of the United States’ decision.

The march will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the corner of Sixth and Oak streets in Brainerd and will end at the Crow Wing County Courthouse on Laurel Street with an outdoor rally.

Signs and banners will be provided to participants.

Crosslake City Council to have special meeting Wednesday

CROSSLAKE — The Crosslake City Council will have a special meeting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, at City Hall for the purpose of reviewing the decision to change banks, reviewing the decision for employees to keep log sheets, and considering filling the vacancy for the zoning administrator.

Council member Dave Schrupp will attend the meeting via Zoom because he is out of town. He will participate from 752 Avenida Estancia, Unit J, Venice, Florida, which is open and accessible to the public, as required by Minnesota State Statute 13D.02.

Mille Lacs Band chief executive encourages emerging leaders in State of the Band address

MILLE LACS RESERVATION — In her 2022 State of the Band address, Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin reflected on 2021 as a year of great progress for the Mille Lacs Band and for Native Americans at the federal and state level, but also a year of great loss as many band elders passed away due to complications from COVID-19 and other health issues.

One significant example of progress for Native people with the state and federal government has been the advancement of tribal consultation, band officials said in a news release. In 2021, the Mille Lacs Band was involved in hundreds of consultation sessions with federal and state government agencies. In the first year of the Biden Administration the band has had more federal consultations than with all previous presidential administrations combined.

Benjamin noted the significant impact of American Indians being appointed as cabinet secretaries and other key leadership positions in federal agencies.

“American Indian people are now seated at the tables of power throughout Washington D.C.,” Benjamin said. “These are people who understand tribal sovereignty, who know the challenges we face, and who do not need a history lesson because they are one of us.”

Benjamin also lamented the many Mille Lacs Band elders who were lost in 2021.

“Some were drum-keepers, knowledge-keepers, story-tellers, first-language speakers, or artists. Some served as officials in Band government. And some were all of those things. These losses have been hard to take.”

Noting that historical moments come along like this once in a generation, Benjamin issued a call for the next generation of community leaders to emerge.

“Life always comes down to moments. We must recognize what is possible and seize the day. The question comes down to us. Do we have the wisdom and the will to rise to this historic moment? To make positive change, we need more community leaders who dream of a brighter future and inspire others to want that future, too.”

Historically delivered to a ballroom filled with band members and dignitaries, this was the second consecutive year the State of the Band was delivered via an online webinar to protect the community from COVID-19.

Highlights from the speech include:

COVID vaccine mandate starts Feb. 1

American Indians, by far, have the highest COVID-19 mortality rate of any population in the United States,

and the majority of loss has been among elders. “According to the Center for Disease Control, and almost every vaccine expert in the world, there is no evidence that vaccines cause harm. There is plenty of evidence, however, that vaccines can save lives,” Benjamin said. In her speech, she announced a vaccine mandate will go into effect beginning Feb. 1.

Language revitalization achieved critical milestones

The band published five new books that are written in Ojibwe in 2021. This is the first time in modern history that this has been done. Also, the band will be releasing the first level of Ojibwe language lessons on the Rosetta Stone language learning platform this month. The lessons are free to Mille Lacs Band members and descendants.

“Chi miigwech to all the Band elders who worked on these projects, along with our younger language-learners. These Band Members have been called ‘Language Warriors’ and have gifted us with their knowledge through story-telling and speaking. And this is a gift that many future generations will be grateful for,” Benjamin said.

Reservation boundary signs made an important symbolic impact

In her speech, Benjamin said one of the most eye-catching changes in 2021 was when the state erected road signs marking the federal boundary of the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation.

“After fighting for state recognition of our boundary for so many decades, I will never forget the moment I saw these signs for the first time. My heart soared,” Benjamin said. “These signs are largely symbolic but had a deep emotional impact on many of us – especially our elders who have fought this battle most of their lives.”

Employment of Band members at band-owned businesses never been higher

COVID-19 forced the band to cut back its workforce at the beginning of the pandemic. The good news is almost all band-owned businesses are at an all-time high for band member employment, and 23% of band member associates are in leadership positions, including CEOs, general managers, vice presidents, directors, managers and supervisors.

Relationships with most local governments continues to strengthen

The Mille Lacs Band meets monthly with Pine County and works closely together on many issues, and the band has good relationships

with Aitkin and Crow Wing counties. Recently the band also began working with Sherburne County when they invited Mille Lacs Band DNR Commissioner Kelly Applegate to accompany them to Washington, D.C. to jointly advocate for funding to protect county public lands.

“For one day, the Mille Lacs Band and Sherburne County walked the halls of Congress together supporting the same goal. This was history-making, and hopefully the start of more projects with county governments,” Benjamin said. “Collaborations like this are the kind of relationships we want with surrounding counties, and which might be possible someday with Mille Lacs County, if only their leadership would ever decide to stop fighting every single thing that we do. Miigwech (thank you) to Pine, Aitkin, Sherburne, Crow Wing, Ramsey and Hennepin counties for respecting tribal sovereignty and working for the benefit of all our citizens. Also, miigwech to the cities of Brainerd, Garrison, Onamia, Hinckley, McGregor and Aitkin. We value our government relationships with each of you.”

Wild rice gained additional environmental protections in 2021

Every year, the federal Environmental Protection Agency requires states to submit a list of polluted waters that need help. For years, the State of Minnesota refused to include wild rice waters that are polluted on this list, Benjamin said, and last year, for the first time, the EPA conducted meaningful government-to-government consultation with the tribe and others, and the EPA ordered the State of Minnesota to include wild rice waters that are polluted on the state’s list of impaired waters.

Band launched new alternative learning program; Band members made educational achievements

In 2021, the band started a ninth to 12th grade Alternative Learning Program at Nay Ah Shing Schools. Oshki Maajitaadaa (“Let’s start new together”) is a year-round program during and after school to meet the needs of students.

“This was a major project started by former Commissioner of Education Joycelyn Shingobe, and she would be so proud of it being launched,” Benjamin said. “Also, congratulations to the 68 adult Band members who finished their degrees, from the GEDs to PhDs, and received awards from the Band. And we are very proud of our 84 Band members who are receiving college scholarships from the Band to support their tuition, fees and books.”

CLC postpones performing arts events due to COVID

Central Lakes College announced Friday, Jan. 14, the postponement of its January and February performing arts events due to the impact of COVID-19 in the community.

The decision was under the guidance of MinnState, the governing body of Minnesota’s state colleges and universities and the Minnesota Department of Health, according to Friday’s email.

According to a Jan. 6 email sent by the community college: “The Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center is an affiliate of Central Lakes College, and as such we must adhere to masking protocols at all our events as set forth by the college.”

Those protocols require all audience members to be fully masked for the duration of performances at the Brainerd campus, including these previously scheduled ones that are now postponed:

- Jan. 21: “I Am — He Said,” a celebration of Neil Diamond.
- Feb. 10-12 and 15-17: “Ama-deus.”
- Feb. 18: Chris Koza.
- Feb. 26: Monroe Crossing.

“We are currently working on rescheduling these events and will be in touch with all ticket holders with updated information as soon as it becomes available,” according to Friday’s email sent by the college.

Updates will also be posted on the Central Lakes College Performing Arts Center website at www.clcperformingarts.com.

VFW Auxiliary announces the winners of 5th grade essay contest

BRAINERD — The Brainerd Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary sponsored its annual patriotic essay contest for fifth graders with the theme, “What Have You Done for Veterans Today?”

Students living within 50 miles of Brainerd were invited to write an essay with 250 words or less. A presentation ceremony was recently at the Brainerd VFW.

Taking first place was Macayla Green from Nisswa. Second place went to Clare Caughey from Fort Ripley and taking third was Dominick Melin from Deerwood.

“Patriotism is a subject no longer emphasized in school these days, but it is a vital component in growing a stronger America,” said Brainerd VFW Auxiliary officials in a news release “The VFW is dedicated to helping veterans and the community. To instill a sense of patriotism and pride within our community, the VFW sponsors several contests throughout the year involving children of all ages, working with both public and private school teachers.”

To find out more about this

activity or the many things the VFW does to help veterans, visit www.brainerdvfw.org/essay.html.

New financial aid webinar series to launch in February

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Office of Higher Education, Minnesota Department of Education, ECMC’s The College Place Minnesota and Minnesota Goes to College are launching a series of financial aid webinars for students and families as they prepare for the college-going process. All sessions will have simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, Somali and Hmong. Participants who attend four out of five sessions will be eligible to win a \$500 scholarship, the news release stated.

The series, which runs 7 p.m. Feb. 8 through March 1, will focus on a variety of topics, including general financial aid information, details on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Minnesota Dream Act for undocumented students and other ways to pay for college.

- Feb. 8, Financial Aid Overview
- Feb. 15, Complete the FAFSA
- Feb. 17, Complete the MN Dream Act
- Feb. 22, Understanding Your Offer Letter
- March 1, Scholarship Search

“The cost of attending higher education is a significant barrier for many Minnesotans, which makes raising awareness about available financial aid a vital part of our outreach,” said Minnesota Commissioner for Higher Education Dennis Olson, in the news release. “Regardless of family income, numerous grants are available to help make college more affordable, and filing out the FAFSA is an important first step in accessing these funds and being able to pursue a postsecondary degree.”

“Across the board, fewer students have been completing their financial aid application process. However, the good news is, it’s not too late and students have resources to support them,” said Tara Pribnow, director of ECMC’s The College Place Minnesota, who will be presenting during the virtual event series, in the news release. “This collaboration illustrates the breadth of assistance and guidance for Minnesota students, and we are hoping to increase completion and get more students on track to postsecondary education.”

To register any of the webinars using Zoom, visit: https://ecmc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rjnQTRwAR66hPQ_10bYkkg.

Visit <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/> for information about each of Minnesota’s financial aid programs. Questions can be directed to the state’s financial aid hotline at 651-642-0567.

Hospital capacity strain continues amid omicron wave

By Chelsey Perkins
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — Hospitals in the central Minnesota region remained under significant strain Friday, Jan. 14, as bed availability was below 4% inside and outside intensive care units.

The Minnesota Department of Health reported a total of four staffed ICU beds available in the region as of Thursday, along with 30 available non-ICU beds.

In Brainerd, Essentia Health-St. Joseph’s Medical Center reported Friday its intensive care unit held eight patients, five of whom were hospitalized due to complications of COVID-19. None of the five were vaccinated, Essentia Health stated. Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby reported its COVID-19 patient census was too low Friday to provide data without compromising patient confidentiality.

Although new cases and hospitalizations dipped in late December, both measures are escalating again as the state experiences a spike driven by the highly contagious omicron variant.

For the sixth day in a row, the seven-day rolling positivity

rate in the state broke a pandemic record, sitting at 21.6% Friday. In Crow Wing County, the test positivity rate was 17%, according to a New York Times analysis. These figures do not account for positives (or negatives) among at-home rapid tests, the results of which are not collected by the state.

The deaths of 12 north-central Minnesota residents because of COVID-19 were among those reported this week, including five Crow Wing County residents and an Aitkin County resident age 35-39. The Crow Wing deaths were people ages 50-54, 55-59, 80-84, 85-89 and 95-99. Four of the five people who died were men, with the gender of the person in their 90s unavailable Friday.

Mille Lacs County reported its 100th COVID-19 death Friday — an 80- to 84-year-old — along with the deaths of people ages 65-69 and 95-99 earlier in the week. Other deaths included two Morrison County residents ages 65-69 and a Todd County resident age 40-44.

CHELSEY PERKINS, community editor, may be reached at 218-855-5874 or chelsey.perkins@brainerddispatch.com. Follow on Twitter at twitter.com/DispatchChelsey.

Minn., reports 1,616 hospitalizations for COVID

By Alex Derosier
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Health on Friday, Jan. 14, reported 11,560 new cases and 1,616 hospitalizations for COVID-19 as the state continued to experience an unprecedented surge of new infections.

After dipping slightly in late December, the number of hospitalizations for COVID-19 is shooting up again amid a wave of new cases driven by the highly contagious omicron variant of the virus.

The seven-day rolling average test positivity rate as of Jan. 6, the most recently available date for that figure, was 21.6%. That breaks the pandemic record for the sixth daily report in

a row.

The seven-day rolling average for new cases per 100,000 also continued to climb into record territory — 154.6.

Both figures are well beyond the threshold set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as “high-risk” — 10% for tests and 10 cases per 100,000.

Following are the MDH COVID-19 case rates, deaths, hospitalizations and vaccinations as of Friday. Because all data is preliminary, some numbers and totals may change from one day to the next.

Statewide case rates

- NEW CASES: 11,560
- SEVEN-DAY, ROLLING AVERAGE OF NEW CASES

PER 100,000 PEOPLE: 154.6 (as of 1/6)

► TOTAL CASES, INCLUDING REINFECTIONS: 1,138,246

► TOTAL REINFECTIONS: 27,553

► SEVEN-DAY, ROLLING AVERAGE TEST POSITIVITY RATE: 21.6% (as of 1/6)

Hospitalizations, deaths

► ACTIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS: 1,616

► TOTAL HOSPITALIZATIONS: 53,478

► DEATHS, NEWLY REPORTED: 32

► TOTAL DEATHS: 10,971

Vaccinations

► FIRST DOSE ADMINISTERED: 3,795,237 or 72.8% of ages 5 and up

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Next drawing: Wednesday
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DEATHS


▼

Gregory John Cool

Take a seat while you read the story we're honored to write. Greg Cool was a man that many were privileged to know. Our job as his family is to introduce/remind everyone of who this amazing man was. As the oldest of five children, Greg became the protector of his 3 sisters, Nanette, Natalie, Nadine, and his brother, Glenn. This role stayed with him his entire life. He was the man you would call and he was there to help, give wisdom, and a laugh when needed. Our dad spent significant time with his Grandpa Bross, whom taught our dad how to treat people with love and respect, and where dad gained the sense of humor we have grown to love. Always living by the golden rule, where his handshake was his word, he shaped our lives with his patience, guidance and wisdom. Sgt. Cool is a true patriot and was extremely proud to serve in the US Army as a Fire Direction Control Specialist, who basically 'pi\$\$ed excellence' per the evaluation conducted by 3 superior commissioned officers, which included one by a major (We have copies available upon request!). In 1987, our dad married his person, the true love of his life, our mom Ronda. With Ronda, our dad also married her 2 young children, Alicia and Steve, taking on full responsibility of being a dad without 9 months notice! This journey would ultimately show the immense amount of patience and unconditional love this man held in his large heart. Together, mom and dad created the balance of the Cool Legacy. In 1988, our dad somehow figured out how to clone himself, giving the world a fresh dose of the Cool Family Traits and named the clone Matt. In 1989, the life of the party arrived in true celebratory fashion (They were at a parade when Ronda went into labor!). Becca completed the missing day of our famous June Birthday Week. From June 15th-18th, our birthdays created the party the Cools were known for, our annual June Party. Our dad was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed spending time with his brother, Glenn, Uncle Larry, and many cousins hunting at the family farm. Together they introduced Steve and Matt to hunting, having guy time, instilling the importance of family tradition, as well as shaping their morals and guiding them on the path to becoming men. Throughout our childhood, our dad was extremely involved in all our extracurricular activities, including but not limited to, Boy Scouts, science fairs, band, and volunteering for each of our visits to Camp St. Croix. He sat with us as we worked through our math homework, explaining things as many times as needed. As each of us began our journeys as adults, he welcomed our spouses with open arms. In 2007, he became a Papa at age 43 with the birth of his first grandson Riley. Over the years, his legacy grew to include 11 grandchildren, some of which were brought into our large family through marriage; Robert, Adrian, Riley, Ace, Ryan, Ava, Christian, Mason, Shaelie, Sydney and Drew. He was THE BEST Papa ever! He loved playing with the grands, no matter what it was they wanted to do, he was down for it. Nerf battles, four wheeler rides, extreme riddles and rhymes, he did all the things the worlds best papa would do. He truly did it all. Greg's professional life after the Army included years of dedicated employment at General Litho Services. In 2002, The Estimating Guru relocated to the Brainerd Lakes Area and continued his printing career with Range Printing. In 2014, he left the printing industry and joined Ronda at their family owned business, Rosewood Emporium. He thoroughly enjoyed many conversations with anyone who stepped into our store. He quickly became the face of Rosewood Emporium as he was always behind the counter with a smile on his face, ready to help in any way he could. Words cannot fully express how amazing our dad is. We hope our story has allowed you, the invested reader, to catch a glimpse of who our dad was and how much he meant to everyone he knew. Our dad impacted so many people in a short 57 years, even he himself couldn't have known the impression he left on every person he met. We are sharing our dads story and wish everyone had the pleasure of knowing him. Greg is survived by his wife, Ronda, children: Alicia, Steve (Mary), Matt (Brittany), Rebecca (Damien), 11 grandchildren, sisters: Nanette, Natalie (Rob), Nadine and brother Glenn, uncles and aunts, many cousins, nieces and nephews, Brother-in-Laws Jim (Kristi), and Shane (Jessie), Father-in-Law Bruce (Sandi). Preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, and many other family and close friends. If you have memories or stories to share, we invite you to his Celebration of Life on Saturday, January 22nd at the Northern Pacific Center, Blacksmith Main, from Noon-4pm.




Richard A. Musolf



Richard A. Musolf, age 83, of Blaine, Minnesota, was called to heaven on January 3rd, 2022. Richard was born and raised in Brainerd, Minnesota, and married the love of his life, Susan in 1960. He will be remembered for his passionate love and kind-hearted devotion to his wife, children, grandchildren, family, and friends. Rich is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Susan; his children: Gregory (Jeanne), Leanne, Jeffrey (DeAnna); his 11 grandchildren: Allison, Zachary, Matthew, Kaylee, Jerod; Nicholas (Angela), Amanda, Brittany (Scott), Tyler, Alex (Shane), Meagan (Connor); and his 11 great-grandchildren: Natalie, Luke, Thomas, Fiona, Annabelle, Hayden, August, Aria, Jon, Michael, and Isaac; and beloved nieces, nephews, and countless other relatives and friends. Rich joins his beloved family in heaven, parents: Alvin & Hazel Musolf; grandsons: Jeremy Musolf, Alex Engelbrekt, Levi & Hezekiah Peoples; sister, Beverly (David) Bisek and nephew Thomas Bisek. We believe the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, Romans 6:23. Rich had an adventurous spirit of joy and enjoyed creating experiences of "togetherness" with family and friends. He was committed to celebrating & honoring people, especially each child, grandchild, and his wife. It gave him great pleasure to challenge us all by creating opportunities golfing, boating, poolside, skiing, traveling, and sharing dinners out! Rich taught us all "Love is something you build!" A Christian Family Service of God's Word will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church, Forest Lake and Interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis will be held at a later date to celebrate Rich's life. Please direct all Memorials of Honor to Cancer Kids Fund at Children's Hospital & Clinics of Minnesota: www.childrensmn.org select Give & select Designation "Cancer Kids Fund" or mail Children's Minnesota Foundation "Cancer Kids Fund" 5901 Lincoln Drive, Edina, MN 55436.

Mary Ellen Emory



Mary Ellen Emory, 68, of Merrifield, passed away on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. A Visitation will take place from 1-3 PM on Sunday, January 16, 2022, at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Baxter, MN.

Mary was born on July 28, 1953, to Marvin and Mary (Reikofski) Lorenzen in Norfolk, Nebraska. She was married to James Emory on September 22, 1971, and shortly thereafter they made Minnesota their home. Mary retired from Nortech after 17 years of service when the Merrifield location closed. She enjoyed sewing, playing BINGO, gardening, and bird watching. She also enjoyed spending time with her family. Mary will be greatly missed by all those who knew her.

She is survived by her siblings Marvin (Sonny) Lorenzen, Leona Klipp, and Wally (Marla) Lorenzen; Niece Melanie (Shon) Snyder; great niece Kenzie (Shawn) Shreve; and great-great nieces Khloe, Karlie, and Bayleigh. Mary was preceded in death by her parents and her husband James Emory.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brenny Family Funeral Chapel-Crosslake.

Karen (Smude) Wanner



Karen Marie Wanner, 58, of Monticello, passed away with family at her side on Monday, January 10, 2022, at her father's home in Brainerd.

A gathering of family and friends will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2022, at Nelson – Doran Funeral Home in Brainerd.

Karen was born September 21, 1963, in Little Falls, the daughter of Larry and Valerie (Tougas) Smude. From a young age, Karen had an independent spirit and a love of animals. She received her Associates in Accounting Degree from St. Cloud Technical College and put her skills to use assisting her husband's business, Northwest Metro Stucco. And although she did enjoy her work, her passion for animals was always foremost in her heart and inspired her to earn a diploma in dog training. Karen was a talented artist who painted with acrylics and a true green thumb who grew gorgeous clematis. Karen especially enjoyed her adventures with Robin, most recently to the Grand Tetons.

Karen will be missed by her daughter, Holly (Brandon) Greenside; father, Larry (Barb) Smude; mother, Valerie Smude; husband, Scott Wanner; stepdaughter, Brittney Wanner; grandchildren, Logan, Makenna, Dylan, Layla, Dante, and Isabella; siblings, Mandy (Al) Rademacher, Ginny (Dave) Hays, Brian Smude, Bela (Tina) Smude, Brenda (J.R.) Esparza; and Deanna Adams; and many extended family members and friends. She was preceded in death by grandparents Helen & Steve Tougas and Vincent & Agnes Smude.

Nelson – Doran Funeral Home
www.nelson-doran.com
218.829.4755

Donald M. Mass



Donald M. "Don" Mass, age 70 of Otsego died at his home on December 22, 2021. Don was born and raised in Brainerd. He worked primarily as a mechanic most notably at National Bushing (Auto Value) in Brainerd, Willis Trucking in Rogers, and for 19 years in the Public Work

Department at the City of Otsego, where he retired in 2018. Stock car racing was his life-long hobby where he transitioned from a driver, to a track official, to a spectator and fan. Don also loved riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle with his friends.

Don is survived by three daughters, Angie (Robert) Kugel of Aitkin, Kristina (Roger Britton) of Brainerd and Lisa Hattabaugh of Little Falls; one brother, Walter (Brenda) Mass of Wheaton, MN; two sisters, Marie Kittredge of Boston, MA and Lawanna (Bryan) Dosh of Brainerd; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Preceding Don in death are his parents, Melvin and Doris Mass; two sisters, Candice Mass and Wendy Showers and one brother, Charles Mass.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring. An announcement containing the date and time will be placed closer to the event. Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

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Have You HEARD?

Presented by
Brian Hillesland, BC-HIS



LEARNING TO SPEAK

One of the biggest problems for the deaf and people with severe loss of hearing is communication. While sign language works very well with those who understand it, the skill is not well practiced among those with traditional hearing. The inability to communicate easily with others can lead to depression, anxiety, and frustration, which is why many deaf and hard of hearing individuals choose to learn how to speak vocally. This process is called "oralism." Touch is vital to this process as students place their hands on the throat of their speech therapist to learn how the muscles move when forming words. This is paired with mimicry of lip movement until the proper sound is replicated.

There's no doubt about it- proper hearing promotes better communication. When deafness or a hearing impairment cause the loss of special and important moments in your life, it is a good time to explore and learn about different approaches toward better communication. Come see us at PREFERRED HEARING AID CENTER and find out about enhancing your life by enhancing your communication. We offer a complete range of hearing healthcare services at 17474 State Hwy 371, Brainerd. You can reach us at 1-800-458-0895. PREFERRED HEARING provides this information as a public service. If we become aware of any unusual condition during a hearing consultation that warrants additional professional attention, we can provide an expert referral.

P.S. Modern technology has made learning speech easier for the hearing impaired with programs that help with visualizing facial movement and practicing sound development.

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OTHER OPINION

COVID is surging. Mixed messaging and reluctant leaders aren't helping

The omicron surge couldn't have come at a worse time.

After two years of things like mask-wearing, fights over mask-wearing and constant risk calculation over mask-wearing, people are exhausted and more divided than ever. Add in a healthy dose of mixed messaging and conflicting information, and we've got a real problem on our hands.

One example of that mixed messaging: The Well, UNC-Chapel Hill's in-house news source, published — and later changed — an article from UNC Health Monday telling people not to wear KN95 masks because they “remain in short supply” and “aren't necessarily better if they don't fit properly.”

Yet most medical experts have said you should, in fact, ditch your cloth mask for a medical-grade one. Unlike at the beginning of the pandemic, there isn't really a shortage of masks anymore, and respirators like the KN95 provide significantly higher protection against the omicron variant, especially given how infectious it is.

These mixed signals are nothing new, leading to confusion and mistrust about what guidance to follow. Should you get tested before ending your isolation? Are at-home tests even reliable? How careful does one need to be, really?

The blame can, in part, be attributed to the federal government, namely the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, whose constant flip-flopping has spurred a crisis of credibility. The CDC's own advice, as well as that of the president, is often at odds with what public health experts and doctors recommend, including this week's mask guidance from UNC Health. The American Medical Association, the nation's largest association of physicians, criticized the CDC's updated isolation and quarantine guidance, saying it risks further spread of the virus.

Still, conflicting information is only partially to blame for the crisis at hand.

Instead of getting tougher on COVID, we sometimes appear to be giving up. We have vaccines now and omicron appears to be milder, thankfully, at least among those who are vaccinated. Nonetheless, our pseudo-surrender does come with a price. As cases are surging, hospital staffs are pushed beyond their limits. Our lives are disrupted anyway, not out of precaution, but out of necessity. Flights are being canceled, surgeries rescheduled, schools closed, because there simply aren't enough healthy people to keep things running smoothly.

We seem determined to let omicron run its course, but as the virus burns through the population, what carnage is it leaving behind? More deaths. Sick children. Vaccinated people who are now saddled with long-term illness and disability. But if we can't rely on our institutions for protection — or even reliable information — the virus itself may be the least of our worries.

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JANUARY 16
20 years ago (2002)
Saying “it's not worth the potential disaster,” Sheriff Dick Ross has postponed the Brainerd Jaycees 13th Annual Ice Fishing Extravaganza. The event has been moved to North Long Lake and will now occur on Feb. 9. “This decision wasn't made lightly, but we're just not comfortable with the ice thickness,” said Ross.

30 years ago (1992)
With a deadline just hours away, the C-I school board approved a contract with its teachers. It was the last district to settle among the area's 13 districts. It provides for a 4 percent wage increase in each of the next two years. The district would have been penalized by the state if it had not concluded the contract by midnight.

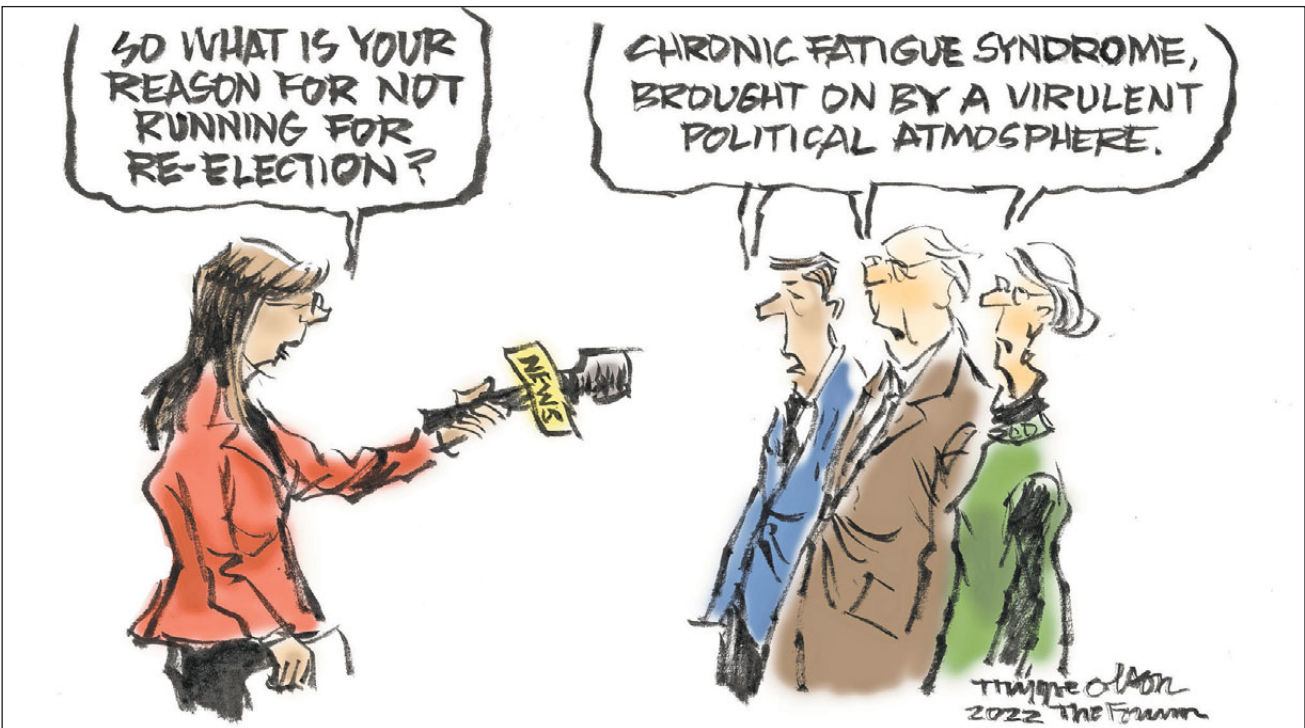
40 years ago (1982)
Members of the city council were wrestling with a cutback in state aid of \$103,000, and an overall shortfall of \$110,000 for 1982, when Fire Chief Ray Shortridge gave them some help. He said he's retiring in the spring after 25 years of service. Since his salary was already budgeted, not hiring a replacement til year end will help the shortfall.

60 years ago (1962)
Brainerd's fast-break style of play nearly blew Wadena away as the Warriors ran to an 80-59 win, with Laumann, Brown, Blanck and Akre all in double figures. This follows a solid win against Grand Rapids with Bill Laumann leading the way with 23 points. Brainerd's next game is with unbeaten C-I, who beat the Warriors in their opener.

80 years ago (1942)
Seeking donations from 100 percent of businesses and individuals, volunteers for the Red Cross fund drive set out to raise the county's goal - \$3,080. Meanwhile, Brainerd accountant Elmer Peterson has been placed in charge of the sale of defense bonds and stamps, with school kids and faculty already buying \$3,000 worth of stamps.

100 years ago (1922)
Mrs. Dale Helm has won the \$5.00 prize offered by Val Witte for suggesting a name for his new meat market in Northeast Brainerd. “The Economy Meat Market” was the name selected by eight judges from the list of 142 entries submitted.

—Compiled by Terry McCollough—



GUEST OPINION

To protect, serve, cops may have to fire weapons

San Diego

Let me confess my bias right upfront.

As the son of a retired cop who was on the job for 37 years, my bias is against the attempted murder of police officers by violent mobs who attack them with stun guns, baseball bats, hockey sticks and other weapons. I'm also biased in favor of cops using deadly force against criminals and thugs to save their own lives or the lives of other cops.

The media coverage of the recent anniversary of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was almost entirely — and predictably — about politics.

Liberals called the incident an “insurrection” and a “terrorist attack.” Conservatives insisted that it was neither, and then bashed liberals for using such language. The national bickering goes on.

As someone who grew up around cops, I worry a lot about their well-being. That said, I would have preferred more discussion about an aspect of the uprising that gets short shrift: the toll on law enforcement. The events of Jan. 6 showed the nation, and the world, how the American people have made the job of being a police officer nearly impossible.

Members of the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia ran toward chaos instead of away from it. That's what heroes do. And, on that day, these heroic public servants did their jobs well, while showing

remarkable restraint.

Too much restraint, if you ask me.

I'm with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. According to The Washington Post, as lawmakers were being evacuated from the Capitol, the senator was irate.

According to the Post, Graham yelled at the Senate sergeant-at-arms, “What are you doing? Take back the Senate! You've got guns. Use them. We give you guns for a reason. Use them.”

Later, on Fox News, Graham confirmed the quotes were accurate.

I'm also onboard with PBS White House Correspondent Yamiche Alcindor, who — during a recent appearance on “PBS NewsHour” — suggested that it is likely there would have been more bloodshed had the riot involved African Americans or Latino protesters.

“The memory that sticks most with me, watching the Capitol being attacked, is that sense of entitlement that these White protesters had, to break in,” Alcindor told host Judy Woodruff. “I kept picturing what it might have been like had these people been the protesters that I covered so closely in Ferguson — the Black people that were demanding justice and police accountability. It's very easy to see those people being shot, frankly, dead on the steps of the Capitol if they were Black or brown or immigrants. And to see some of the White protesters walk away with their lives, ... it's something that sticks with me.”

As a Latino, I feel the same way. But the image of Jan. 6 that really haunts (BEG ITAL)me(END ITAL) most is the one instance where I believe officers should have fired their guns.

What seemed to be about two-dozen men were pushing with all their might against D.C. police officer Daniel Hodges as he stood trapped in a glass doorway. The mob was crushing Hodges with enough force to cause serious bodily injury or even death. As the helpless young officer screamed in agony, with blood dripping from his mouth, rioters were brazen enough to take off his helmet and face mask and hit him in the head and face with his own nightstick. All the while, at least a dozen fellow officers looked on as they tried to free Hodges.

Watching it on television, this son of a cop was filled with rage.

We know that, elsewhere, protesters attacked other officers while chanting: “Kill him with his own gun!” Had the rioters reached Hodges' service weapon, that is exactly what one of them might have done.

Some of the Jan. 6 officers say that they feared using their guns would only inflame the situation. That's always a risk. But, as we saw, not using them is risky, too.

The fact that police officers would hesitate to use deadly force against a mob of violent insurrectionists, even to save the life of a fellow officer, is a problem.

The cops I know would just as soon never fire their weapon. A “good shoot” still means mountains of paperwork and a mandatory internal investigation. A bad one could mean a possible firing or civil lawsuit. Often, that's why cops hesitate.

Americans are right to be concerned when police fire their guns when they shouldn't. But we also need to be concerned when police fail to discharge their weapons when they should.

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READER OPINION

Don't follow lies

To those individuals who choose to follow their “heart” regarding the integrity of the 2020 election. Might I advise following facts, reason, critical thinking and our great American democracy. To believe in the “big lie” is to question the foundations of our democracy. Christopher Krebs, head of cybersecurity of the 2020 election for Homeland Security, is on record as stating the election was the most secure in American history. After failed court challenges, numerous audits and analysis by AP of election fraud in six swing states, 430 incidents were reported. There was no fraud. The election wasn't stolen, but those assertions are damaging our great country. The big lie is nothing more than a fundraising grift by the biggest loser of all, who wants to see our country in ruins. He never served the citizens, he served himself. Sad.

Judy Bird
Byron

Vote them out

Regarding the Bill of Rights being added as a means of restricting the government to ratify America's Constitution, Anti-Federalists wrote, “It stands therefore on its own bottom... And hence was of the highest importance, that the most precise and express declarations and reservations of rights should have been made.”

Officials thereafter being bound by oath or affirmation throughout our federalist system was deliberate

“to ensure accedence to America's Constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land.” The redundancy is by design. Solemn obligations propagating constitutional principles and protections from the highest to lowest levels of government across America, promoting safety and survivability for the benefit of the American people and republic.

Civic preparedness is hardly new. Any wonder hundreds of jurisdictions nationwide have passed Second Amendment resolutions or declarations. Yet some officials dismiss calls to affirm constituents' rights, like Fergus Falls officials recently claiming such affirmations provided no additional protections. Searching county meeting minutes throughout Minnesota, revealed at least one commissioner more concerned about jeopardizing state funding by protecting unalienable rights. Tit-for-tat statements of one Minnesota Democrat leader claiming to have voted in favor of funding for a northern Minnesota county, later criticized them for not voting as he expected. Is it bad judgment or extortion?

Undeniably, ongoing bias and censorship aided and abetted serial defamation and national hoaxes, manifesting today's political abomination — a president, his administration and a cabal of Democrat-media and vaccine-industrial complexes promoting fear to the point of “mass formation psychosis,” making government abuse to the injury of American citizens self-evident. Among them, radical

progressives feigning moral superiority as ultimate determinants of rule of law, K-12 curricula, science, truth, and even a child's gender, treating parents of America's progeny like domestic terrorists.

Vote them out while you can.

Warner Gouin
Inver Grove Heights

How America should work

Today, more than ever, I am thankful for the growing awareness of our moral lapses and failures as a great nation. Looking in the mirror is not easy. We will not hide from our failures. With our eyes wide open, we will humbly ask, “God mend our every flaw, Confirm our Soul in self control, our liberty in law!” (America the Beautiful lyrics). In this new year I am hopeful that those who “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) will continue to expose the raw nerves of our culture's chronic inequalities. I am doubly hopeful that through the work of dialogue at your favorite coffee shop, in the classrooms of study or in the exchange of opinions in print, together we will find a new path forward. Like the feeling of a fever that finally broke, this great gift of free speech, especially in the marketplace of daily life, will open the door for healing between opposing views. This is the America that works. Respectful conversations will set the stage for justice. Anyone for coffee?

Terry Frovik
Lake Shore

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Write us a letter or send us an email

The Brainerd Dispatch welcomes letters on recent articles and current issues. Letters should include the writer's full name, city and a phone number (for verification only). Letters are limited to 300 words. Only one letter per person per week.

Letters airing a personal complaint with a private enterprise will not be considered. Letters containing personal attacks will not be considered. Letters endorsing candidates will be limited to 150 words. Send letters to Reader Opinion, Brainerd Dispatch, P.O. Box 974 Brainerd, Minn., 56401 or email them to readeropinion@brainerddispatch.com.

Wife gets no support in dealing with MIL

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice regarding my mother-in-law. She has hated me since the first time she met me because I'm not from the country but from "the city." I have given her gifts for birthdays and holidays and invited her on day trips with us, but she always refuses. She also makes up lies about me. She claims I have STDs, spend all her son's money, etc. She even spread a rumor that I wouldn't allow her at our wedding. She lives 46 miles away and, in the five years we have been married, has never once visited her son. I take him to visit her because he can't get a driver's license because of medical issues.

Our child and I aren't even allowed in her home. We have to sit in the car. She acts like our child doesn't exist, but she has pictures of her other two grandchildren on Facebook and drives to see them almost weekly. My husband sees nothing wrong with her behavior and says he "won't take sides." I don't know what to do. – PEEVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PEEVED: Please accept my sympathy for your situation. While your husband refuses to recognize there is anything wrong with his mother's behavior, it is off the charts. I hope you realize that most men stand up for their wives and children when they are



JEANNE PHILLIPS
Dear Abby

mistreated. Because you can't change your husband or his witch of a mother, and you made no mention of leaving the marriage, you will simply have to adjust to it. Start by planning an activity you and your child can enjoy while your husband is visiting his mom, rather than sitting for hours in the car. Even better, arrange "other" transportation for your husband.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 24-year-old woman who has been in a relationship with a man for seven years. "Ken" is 27 years older than I am. (I pursued him.) I love him, but I have always been slightly confused about my relationship with him, and he knows this. Lately, I have been feeling very guilty. My heart knows that my love for Ken isn't enough for what he truly deserves.

He's a good, honest man, and I enjoy our relationship. We get along great, have a lot in common and make a great team. I am comfortable with us and our life. But recently I have realized that I want to be on my own, alone, and not in a relationship. I feel a strong

desire to focus on me and only me, so I can grow into the person I envision myself being. Any advice besides the obvious – my leaving the relationship? – WANTING MORE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WANTING: You became involved with Ken while you were still very young. It appears you never gave yourself time to fully develop as an individual. You state that you are still "in a relationship" rather than a marriage, which may be a blessing considering your ambivalence.

Many women would be glad to live their life in a relationship that has all the positive qualities that yours has with Ken. I am sure you both will discover this when you move on. However, since you asked my advice, talk this through with a licensed relationship counselor before making any final decision.

DEAR ABBY: A year and a half ago, I separated from my husband because I was being neglected, not respected, and mistreated emotionally. During the separation, he had to have surgery and needed to be taken care of while he healed. I went back because, as his wife, I felt obligated to do the right thing.

I have tried to move forward and restore my marriage, but I still don't feel loved or appreciated. In the back of my mind, I can't forget the way he treated

me in the past. I feel stuck because he isn't working and doesn't plan on working again. He says he's not able to, but I believe he could do something that's not strenuous. How do I find my happiness and still do the right thing? – CONFLICTED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CONFLICTED: Have you told your husband how you feel – about everything? If you have and nothing has changed, make an appointment with a lawyer to find out what your obligations may be to a husband who is no longer self-supporting.

If he has no income, you may have to provide for him financially from now on. For some women, this might mean remaining unhappily married but living their own lives to the extent they can, and not relying on their spouse for emotional or any other support.

DEAR ABBY: I have to meet my fiance's adult children. They are not happy he's in a relationship since their mom's death two years ago. I'm very nervous about it, and so is he. What do we do? – TAKING THE NEXT STEP

DEAR TAKING: You meet them, and do your best to relax and be friendly and open with them. Understand they are still grieving the loss of their beloved mother, and be prepared to do a lot of listening. Refrain from physical displays of affection

with your fiance until they get to know you.

If it becomes necessary, their father should be prepared to make clear to them that you two are going to be married and, while they do not have to "love" you, he expects them to treat you with courtesy, respect and kindness.

DEAR ABBY: Is it customary to give a house cleaner or cleaning service lunch or offer them food if they are doing an extensive cleaning job? I ask because my mother-in-law hired a cleaning crew. She watches my infant daughter during the day. She doesn't cook or clean, although I pay her. Well, she gave the crew lunch. Mind you, she didn't ask me if it was OK or if I wanted the leftovers for my own lunch. I wouldn't mind, but I'm wondering if this is typical. – CLEANING CREW LUNCH

DEAR CLEANING CREW: Let me put it this way: It is intelligent and hospitable to offer lunch if you want a happy, energetic cleaning crew who look forward to coming back. The practice is NOT uncommon.

P.S. If there are leftovers you would like to have for lunch, take them with you before the housekeepers arrive.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069

CITIZENS' WATER TOWER COMMITTEE

Meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19
Brainerd City Hall
Second floor conference room

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Jody Converse
Approval of Minutes from Meeting Dated December 15, 2021
5. Action on Report
5. Mary Koep
Treasurer Report
6. Ashley Storm
Publicity/Fund Raising
7. Paul Skogen
Grant Information
8. Amy Klobuchar – Congressional Direct Spending Grant
9. Baz Selassie (Senator Klobuchar Aid) is looking into this for us.
10. Save America's Treasures Grant Program
8. Paul Skogen
Chairman Report
- Made a Formal Grant Announcement to Brainerd City Council at their Dec. 20 meeting
- Meeting with Mike Lovato (LHB) and Paul Sandy to go over schedule for bid and plan set release to qualified contractors.
- February Develop Requests for Proposal
- March Bids Posted
- Site Walkthrough
- April Bids Due
- Contractor Selected
- Late May Project Kickoff
- November/Project Closeout
- Will need to keep Minnesota State Historical Society Posted on Activity
- Contacted Chuck Hanson (VFW) to set up Publicity Event. Waiting for Chuck to come up with Date and Time

- Letter of Appreciation and Acknowledgment of Donations to Marisa Mills and the Mills Automotive Group
9. David Badeaux
 10. Other Items for Discussion
 - Merchandise Items
 - Arts in the Park
 - Crow Wing County Fair
 - Flapjack Festival
 11. Next meet, Feb. 16
 12. Adjournment

BRAINERD CITY COUNCIL

Meets 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18
City Hall council chambers
501 Laurel St., Brainerd
The public is invited to attend these meetings in person.

Attend by phone City Council: 844-992-4726; Meeting Access Code: 2497 456 1176

Attend by phone Safety and Public Works Committee, 6:15 p.m. 1-844-992-4726; Meeting Access Code: 2486 236 9425

Attend by phone: Personnel and Finance Committee, 7 p.m. 844-992-4726; Meeting Access Code: 2494 768 1954
Meeting is also streamed live on YouTube: www.youtube.com/CityOfBrainerdMN

1. Call to Order - 7:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge Of Allegiance
4. Approval Of Agenda - Voice Vote
5. Consent Calendar
- NOTICE TO PUBLIC - all matters listed are considered routine by the Council and will all be enacted by one (1) motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless good cause is shown prior to the time the Council votes on the motion to be ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL
- A. Approval Of Bills
- B. Approval Of Minutes
- Regular City Council Meeting January 3, 2022
- C. Approval Of Licenses
- Contractor Licenses
- D. Department Activity Reports
- Police Chief Report
- Finance Director Report
- IT/GIS Report
- Community Development Report

- E. Resolution- Accepting 4th Quarter Donations 2021
6. Community Member Of The Month
7. Council Committee Reports
- A. Personnel And Finance Committee 7 p.m.
- WebEx Teleconference Call-In Information
- Call Toll-Free: 1-844-992-4726
- Access Code: 2494 768 1954
1. Discussion On 2022 Downtown Landscaping
2. Approve 2022 Street Department Unit Heater Replacements
3. Consider The Creation Of An RFP For The Charter Contributions
4. Annual Authorization To Perform Electronic Transfers
5. 2022 Workers' Compensation Renewal - Informational
- B. Safety And Public Works Committee - 6:15 p.m.
- WebEx Teleconference Call-In Information
- Call Toll-Free: 1-844-992-4726
- Access Code: 2486 236 9425
1. Approve Event Application - Tour Of The Lakes
2. Presentation - Brainerd 2022 Pavement Condition Assessment
3. Presentation - StreetScan Proposal And Software
4. Review Street Light Policy Capital Project Cost Examples
8. Unfinished Business
- A. Committee Recommendations - Recommended By Mayor Badaeux
- Janet Decker- HRA Board (Expires 12/31/2026)
- Susan Hardy- Library Board (Expires 12/31/2028)
- Patrick Wussow- Public Utilities Commission (Expires 12/31/2026)
- B. Call For Applicants - Informational (Application Information at www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/boards/)

Mayor Recommended: (terms to expire on 12/31 of said year)

Cable TV Advisory Committee – 1 term (Expire 2021) – 2 terms (Expire 2022)

Charter Commission – 1 term (Expire 2022)

Rental Dwelling License Board of Appeals – 3 terms (Expire 2022)

Mayor Recommended: (terms to expire 09/07 of said year)

Economic Development Authority (EDA) – 1 term (Expire 2026) – 1 term (Expire 2027)

Council President Recommended: (terms to expire 12/31 of said year)

Planning Commission—1 term (Expire 2023)

Ad Hoc Committees – Applicants Needed

Water Tower Fundraising Committee – Two positions available

9. New Business
- A. Consideration Of Rental Ordinance Committee Recommendations
- B. Consideration For Special Meeting To Consider Adopting A Resolution To Apply To The USDA For Their Rural Energy Savings Program (RESPP) On January 24, 2022 At 6 p.m. In The City Council Chambers
- C. Consideration For City Council Workshop On Code Enforcement And Conducting A Codification Of The City Code
10. Public Forum

Time allocated for citizens to bring matters not on the agenda to the attention of the Council - Time limits may be imposed

11. Staff Reports
12. Mayor's Report
13. Council Member Reports
14. Adjourn

PLANNING COMMISSION

City of Brainerd
Meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19
City Hall
501 Laurel St., Council chambers
The public is invited to attend this meeting in person

Attend by phone: 1-844-992-4726; Meeting Access Code: 2497 976 2835

Meeting is also streamed live on YouTube: www.youtube.com/CityOfBrainerdMN

CASS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18

Land Department Public Meeting Room
Washburn Ave. E., Backus

1. 9 a.m. Call to Order
- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Approval of agenda for discussion. (Any requests to be heard not on the proposed agenda are considered for inclusion at this time.)
2. 9:05 a.m. Josh Stevenson - County Administrator
- 2.a Consent Agenda
- 2.b 2022 Legislative Priorities with Cass County Senators and Representatives
- 2.c Report Back from the Personnel Committee of the Board
- 2.d Sourcewell Board of Directors Election
3. 9:45 a.m. Pamela Smith - Elections Administrator
- 3.a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Application Approval
4. 9:55 a.m. Darrick Anderson - Highway Department
- 4.a Agency Agreements for Federal Participation
- 4.b Agency Agreements for Federal Participation

5. 10:10 a.m. Kirk Titus - Land Department
- 5.a Receive and File Forest Certification Audit Summary
- 5.b Approve Expanded Recreation Trail Improvement Program
6. 10:25 a.m. Confirm Upcoming Meeting Schedule
- 6.a Commissioner's Board Meeting on Feb. 1, beginning at 9 a.m., Board Room, 1st Floor Ctse. Annex, Walker, MN.
- 6.b Commissioner's Board Meeting on Feb. 15, beginning at 9 a.m., Land Department Meeting Room, Backus, MN.
7. 10:30 a.m. Adjourn
- Consent agenda**
- 8.a Approve Minutes Regular Meeting January 4, 2022
- 8.b Approve Auditor Warrants and HHVS Warrants
- 8.c Approve Licenses - Tobacco, 3.2 Beer, Liquor, Gambling, Etc...
- 8.d Approve Capital Fund Activity
- 8.e Approve ARPA Grant Activity
- 8.f Approve HHVS Personnel Items
- 8.g Approve Sheriff's Office Personnel Items
- 8.h Approve SWCD Invoices # 59 and #60 for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
- 8.i Approve Agreement with Physical Therapist Teresa Watson
- 8.j Approve Agreement with Pequot Lakes Physical Therapy
- 8.k Approve Agreement with Sheriff's Department for Public Health Nursing Services
- 8.l Approve Child & Teen Check-up Outreach Contract - Pillager Family Center
- 8.m Approve Ryan Schrupp Reclassification Request
- 8.n Approve Young-Wing Reclassification Request
- 8.o Approve 2021 Emergency Operations Plan and MNWLK Review
- 8.p Approve 2022 Tax Forfeit Land Sale
- 8.q Approve Pay Equity Report Submission
- 8.r Accept Probation Office Donation
- 8.s Award Plumbing Fixtures Upgrade Contract
- 8.t Receive and File December 2021 Interest Report
- 8.u Receive & File Letter of Support for the Veterans Memorial Building in Leech Lake

PLANNING COMMISSION

City of Brainerd
Meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19
City Hall
501 Laurel St., Council chambers
The public is invited to attend this meeting in person

Attend by phone: 1-844-992-4726; Meeting Access Code: 2497 976 2835

Meeting is also streamed live on YouTube: www.youtube.com/CityOfBrainerdMN

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge Of Allegiance
4. Election Of Officers
5. Approval/Amendment Of Agenda
6. Approval Of Minutes
1. Regular Meeting Held on December 15, 2021
7. Old Business
- 7.a Zoning Code Update - Draft Zoning Map And Table Of Uses
8. New Business
- 8.a Supportive Housing Village - PUD Conceptual Review
9. Public Forum
- Time allocated for citizens to bring matters not on the agenda to the attention of the Planning Commission - time limits may be imposed
10. Community Development Director's Report
11. Commissioner Questions/Comments
12. Adjourn

BAXTER CITY COUNCIL

Meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18

Baxter City Hall
13190 Memorywood Drive, Baxter

The Baxter City Council will meet in a work session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, to Review Plans and

Specification for the 2022 Full Depth Reclamation and Reconstruction Improvements Project, Municipal Project No. 4422; Review Plans and Specifications for Design Road and Dellwood Drive Stormwater Improvements Project, Municipal Project No. 4135; Deer Management Discussion with MN DNR; and T21 Tobacco Ordinance Discussion.

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Additions or Changes to the Agenda
5. Public Comments
- Comments received from the public may be placed on a future meeting agenda for consideration.
6. Consent Agenda
- The following items are considered non-controversial by staff and are recommended to be read and passed in one motion. Any council person, staff, citizen, or meeting attendee can request one or more items be pulled from the Consent Agenda and the item will be pulled and addressed immediately after the passage of the Consent Agenda; otherwise, the following items will be passed in one motion:
- A. Approve City Council Work Session Minutes from January 4, 2022
- B. Approve City Council Minutes from January 4, 2022
- C. Approve City Council Special Minutes from January 6, 2022
- D. Approve the Payment of Bills and Finance Report (Addendum A & A-1)
- E. Approve the Issuance of a Tobacco License to LAAR Tobacco Vapor, d/b/a Lakeshore Tobacco Vapor, for the period of January 19, 2022 through June 30, 2022
- F. Adopt Resolution 2022-006, Approving a Lawful Gambling Permit for the Confidence Learning Center to Conduct Lawful Gambling at Grizzly's Wood Fired Grill
- G. Authorize Execution of Annual Advertising Contract with the Brainerd Dispatch
- H. Appoint Ms. Ramona Kolas to the Finance Specialist Position at Grade 8, Step 2 of the AFS-CME Pay Grade and Step Schedule
- I. Accept the Utilities Commission Minutes from January 5, 2022.
- J. Approve the AE2S Agreement for the 2022 System Platform SCADA Improvements
- K. Approve the Northern Plains Contracting Inc. Partial Pay Estimate No. 4 in the amount of \$137,928.19 for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project.
- L. Adopt Resolution No. 2022-004 Approving Plans and Specification and Ordering
- Advertisement for Bids for the 2022 Full Depth Reclamation and Reconstruction Improvements Project, Municipal Project No. 4422.
- M. Adopt Resolution No. 2022-005 Ordering Improvement for the 2022 Full Depth Reclamation and Reconstruction Improvements Project, Municipal Project No. 4422.
- N. Approve the WIDSETH Agreement to Prepare a Feasibility Report for the Cypress Drive and Douglas Fir Extension Project, in the Not To Exceed Amount of \$14,750.00.
- O. Adopt Resolution 2022-003 Approving the Preliminary and Final Plat of "First Addition To Baxter Town Center" for property located in the NW corner of Excelsior Rd. & Cypress Dr. (City File 22-01)
- Requested by: City of Baxter 13190 Memorywood Dr. Baxter, MN 56425
- P. Accept Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2022
7. Pulled Agenda Items
8. Other Business
9. Council Comments
- A. Connie Lyscio
- B. Zach Tabatt
- C. John Ward
- D. Mark Cross
- E. Darrel Olson
10. City Administrator's Report
11. City Attorney's Report
- A. Legal Opinion on Regulating Vulgarities/Obscenities Displayed on Signs/Flags
12. Adjourn

BRAINERD SCHOOL BOARD

Meets 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19
Washington Educational Services Building
804 Oak St., Brainerd

1. Call the meeting to order and roll call:
2. Announcement by Chairperson:
- This meeting of the Brainerd School Board is being conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.02. Persons may monitor this meeting from a remote location by watching on YouTube live. This meeting is being recorded. Access to the recording will be made available on the school district's website as soon as is reasonably possible.
- The maximum seating capacity for the public seating section, with three feet of social distance being observed, in the School Board meeting room is calculated to 23. This number of seats will be maintained. Face coverings are required for all individuals in attendance and we ask all to ensure compliance of this district policy.
3. Approval of the agenda as presented:
4. New Business:
- For Action
1. Approval of the ExecConnect Superintendent Search Contract and timeline as presented: Ruth Nelson, Charles Black Lance, and Angie Bennett
2. Approval of the second reading of MSBA Model Policy #491 - Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination or Testing and Face Covering as presented: Angie Bennett
5. Future Meetings:
- Jan. 21, 2022, End of the First Semester
- Jan. 24, 2022, First day of Semester II
- Regular School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 31, BHS CTE Open House, 4 p.m.
- Feb. 5, BPSF Big Event "Turn It Up" - BPSF Rocks, Gather on 3 - There may be a quorum of the board in attendance
- Feb. 14, Regular School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
6. Adjourn:

CROW WING COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18
County Board Room, 3rd Floor, Historic Courthouse, Brainerd

The agenda has been published as shown below but is subject to change to include such business as may come before the Board. PUBLIC MAY ATTEND IN PERSON. MEETING WILL BE

LIVE-STREAMED AT WWW.CROWWING.US AND ON THE CROW WING COUNTY YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

TO JOIN BY MICROSOFT TEAMS, CALL 218-302-1725, CONFERENCE ID: 867 091 726#

1. 9 a.m. Countywide Transit Update - Andy Stone
2. 9:15 a.m. Land Services - Gary Griffin
- A. Land Use Ordinance Revisions Update - Jacob Frie
- B. Recreational Use Plan Update - Ryan Simonson
- For more information, call 218-824-1067
- Crow Wing County Committee of the Whole meeting agendas are available online at www.crowwing.us

CROW WING COUNTY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The following list includes Crow Wing County meetings that may be attended by one or more members of the Crow Wing County Board:

Monday, Jan. 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, County Offices closed

Meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, Committee of the Whole, Historic Courthouse, County Board Room / Teams (218-302-1725, 867091726#)

5 p.m. Thursday, Planning Commission/ Board of Adjustment, Historic Courthouse, County Board Room/ Teams (call 218-824-1010 for link)

Meets 1 p.m. Thursday, Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) Annual Legislative Forum, Southwest Country Club, West St. Paul

MORRISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meets 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18
County Board Room
Government Center, Little Falls

1. Call to order by chairman
2. Pledge of allegiance
3. Approval of county board minutes
4. Additions/deletions to the agenda
5. New employee introduction
6. Public works report
7. Sheriff's report
8. Extension report
9. Health and human services report
10. Auditor's report
11. County board warrants
12. Administrator's report
13. Committee reports/upcoming schedule
14. Adjournment

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Minnesota OSHA urges businesses to take COVID precautions in light of SCOTUS ruling

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday, Jan. 13, reversed a federal policy requiring workers at large employers to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine or undergo regular testing for the illness.

And in Minnesota, that meant that state workplace safety regulators would suspend enforcement of the vaccine or testing rules “pending future developments.” The rule would have affected almost 4,500 large employers in the state.

The 6-3 Supreme Court decision declared that the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration had overstepped its authority in issuing the guidance that employers of 100 people or more require the vaccination or testing.

Minnesota OSHA said that, in spite of the court’s ruling, it still recommended that businesses continue to use requirements that keep “employees from a hazard that too often causes death or serious physical harm.”

Business owners can still set guidelines for their workplaces that require vaccination if they choose. And some employers signaled that they would take that tack.

The high court’s ruling sparked an almost immediate reaction in Minnesota, with business groups and GOP lawmakers celebrating the decision while health care organizations and Democratic-Farmer-Labor leaders said it could fuel the additional spread of the omicron variant.

“We are pleased with the court’s restraint. We continue to believe that employers know best how to manage their workplaces, and keep employees and customers safe,” Minnesota Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Doug Loon said in a news release. “Government mandates — whether federal, state, or

local — are unnecessary, burdensome and often counterproductive.”

Health officials this week reported the highest COVID-19 positivity rates since the pandemic took hold in Minnesota, in large part due to the highly contagious omicron variant. And they urged Minnesotans to continue taking precautions to prevent the spread of the illness.

Gov. Tim Walz on Thursday told reporters at an unrelated news conference that he disagreed with the court’s ruling. The Walz administration last year set in place a vaccination or testing rule for state employees working in-person.

“I think they made the wrong decision, but that’s not for me to decide,” the first-term DFL governor said.

A day after Minneapolis and St. Paul mayors announced that they would impose a vaccination or testing requirement to frequent bars or restaurants in the Twin Cities, they clarified that employees wouldn’t be subject to the same standard due to the court’s ruling. That rule is set to take effect next week.

The U.S. Supreme Court in a separate 5-4 ruling on Thursday upheld a rule requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for employees working in health care settings.

The state’s largest health systems reported that they’d dismissed about 1% of their staff after they refused to comply with the COVID-19 vaccination requirements. And since laying off those employees due to the mandate, some had agreed to get vaccinated and return.

CentraCare President and CEO Dr. Kenneth Holmen said that 40 of 120 employees that initially refused to be vaccinated later agreed and came back to work. Most of those who didn’t want to get the shot worked outside of direct support roles, he said.

BRIEF

Gift from farm credit groups supports rural entrepreneurship programs in Minnesota and Wisconsin

ST. PAUL — Rural entrepreneurship in Wisconsin and Minnesota will get a boost from a newly created program in the Extension programs at the states’ land grant universities.

The rural entrepreneurship program was announced in a news release this week by University of Wisconsin Extension Dean Karl Martin and University of Minnesota Extension Dean Beverly Durgan. Two farm credit associations — Compeer Financial and AgCountry Farm Credit Services — contributed \$400,000 across four years to make the joint program possible.

The new program will build upon research and outreach capabilities of Extension. The program will create and build linkages in entrepreneurial networks, improve the availability and use of resources to entrepreneurs, create opportunities for entrepreneurs and develop the skills necessary for success in the modern rural economy.

“There’s great energy around starting new businesses in our states, but in rural locations there are unique challenges, too, ranging from

financing to broadband and child care,” said Durgan in a news release.

“Communities succeed when ideas for businesses can grow into thriving realities. This funding will help the land-grant universities bring our strengths to the table to help,” Martin said. “This new outreach is only the beginning and we plan to expand offerings and service.”

“As a cooperative serving and supporting rural communities, we see the value entrepreneurs bring to rural economies,” said John Monson, chief mission and marketing officer at Compeer Financial. “This program will champion those individuals who are bringing innovative ideas to rural America.”

“We know there is a lot of potential for additional rural entrepreneurs to step up when the right resources are available,” said Troy Andreassen, chief marketplace officer at AgCountry. “This is an investment in the future vitality of rural communities across our great states.”

The joint program will include hiring of new staff, as well as formation of an advisory group to help guide its efforts. The program builds upon the capacity of the Center for Community Vitality at University of Minnesota Extension and the Community Economic Development program at UW-Madison Extension.

Mayo Clinic: Omicron cases likely to double

By Paul John Scott
Brainerd Dispatch

ROCHESTER — Strap in: Things are about to get worse before they get better.

That’s the short answer for what lies ahead for Minnesota in the coming weeks, given an expected peak for an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 omicron case numbers as forecast by Mayo Clinic predictive modeling.

If previous COVID-19 peaks have resembled the foothills of a mountain range, the coming surge is expected to resemble a rocket ship headed straight up.

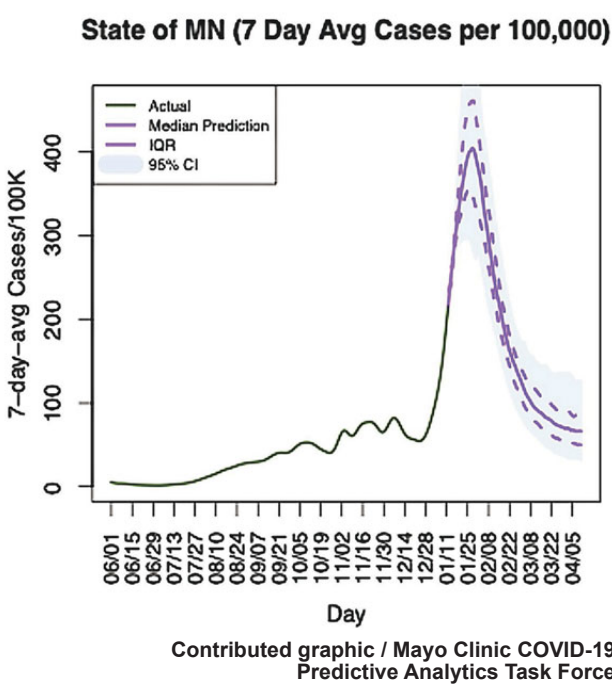
“This is going to be a really quick rise, and a really quick fall,” said Mayo Clinic data scientist Dr. Curtis Storlie. “We’re not talking about months of wearing masks. But for the next few weeks, man it’s going to become important in order to keep this peak down.”

The Mayo Clinic’s modeling project is its digital crystal ball for identifying emerging high-transmission hot spots across the country. The project has forecast the rise and fall of case numbers down to the county level.

“We’re probably half way,” Storlie said. “From what we’re seeing ... the peak in cases could be anywhere from next week to the first week of February, with an estimate of Jan. 24 as our case peak for the state.”

As of early January, Minnesota was recording a seven-day average of 138 infections daily per 100,000 residents, a figure representing the highest rate of the pandemic thus far.

Storlie says Minnesota is now on track to double its highest case numbers. Mayo’s middle-of-the-road estimate predicts omicron cases could peak at more than 300 cases



Mayo Clinic predictive modeling suggests a coming omicron wave could double the previous COVID-19 high water mark for new cases in Minnesota, then fall off a cliff by February. In the graph, IQR is interquartile range, and CI is confidence interval.

per 100,000 residents. The low end of this range predicts at least 250 cases per 100,000 residents, while the high end depicts over 400 cases per 100,000 residents.

“We know that omicron is much more rapidly transmitted than delta, and that’s why it’s leading to this very rapid rise,” said Dr. Shannon Dunlay of the Mayo Clinic COVID-19 predictive modeling initiative. “Fortunately it does tend to produce a somewhat milder disease, but the sheer case volume is problematic.”

“Even if the risk is half as much,” Dunlay said, “if you have four times as many cases, that will still lead to a total increase in hospitalization.”

The Mayo Clinic cautions that predictions are fluid and are updated as new data come in. But for added perspective, Minnesota regards just 10 cases per 100,000 residents as the threshold for “high risk” rate of spread.

Dropping like a stone

The good news: Storlie sees case numbers plummeting after the coming peak, simply as a function of the virus exhausting its supply of bodily homes with naive immune systems. It is a U-turn pattern that has already played out in countries that have faced the omicron variant earlier than the U.S.

“You run into a situation where, in order for us to hover there, people would have to get reinfected with omicron, like, two weeks after they had an infection,” Storlie said. “Which on the whole, is just not biologically feasible.”

“We’ll come way back down to the 50, 40, 30, or 20 cases per 100,000 residents and, after that, we’ll probably have a little bit of a quiet period.”

A strong defense

Clinicians stress that if it is an inescapable fate, the coming omicron storm should be used as a window for Minne-

SENIOR CALENDAR

The Center 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd 218-829-9345 TheBrainerdCenter.com and on Facebook Monday 7 a.m.-4 p.m. - Exercise Rooms 8 a.m.-noon - Card Recyclers 8 a.m.-4 p.m. - Prayer Quilters 9-11 a.m. - Advice from Ann 9:30 a.m. - Mahjong Lessons 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Gift Shop (Open to the public) 10:30 a.m. - Reminisce 11 a.m. - Bone Builders 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. LSS Dining: Orange chicken, brown rice, Oriental vegetables, mandarin oranges, cookie, milk. 12:30 p.m. - Party Bridge 1 p.m. - Cribbage Tuesday 7 a.m.-4 p.m. - Exercise	Rooms 8 a.m. - Toymakers 8 a.m. - Open Crafts 9 a.m. - Zumba 9:30-10:30 a.m. - Lifestyle Change Class 10 a.m. - Pool 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - The Gift Shop (Open to the public) 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Line Dancing 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. LSS Dining: Goulash, peas, tropical fruit, garlic bread stick, milk. Noon - Model railroad group 12:30 p.m. - Dominoes 1 p.m. - Mahjong 1 p.m. - Acrylics/Oils 1 p.m. - Progressive 500 Wednesday 7 a.m.-4 p.m. - Exercise Room 9 a.m. - CWCVC 9 a.m. - Hand 'n Foot 9:30 a.m. - Folk Art Painting/Rosemaling 9:30 a.m. - The Center's	Morning Club 9:30 a.m. - Mahjong 10 a.m. - Knitting/Crocheting/Needlework 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - The Gift Shop (Open to the public) 11 a.m. - Bone Builders 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. - LSS Dining: Beef and bean burrito bake, lettuce, tomato, sour cream, pears, chocolate chip bar, milk 12:30 p.m. - Bingo 1 p.m. - Pinochle Thursday 7-10 a.m. - Doughnut Day, in-house or curbside pickup 7 a.m.-4 p.m. - Exercise Room 8 a.m.-4 p.m. - Prayer Quilters 8 a.m. - Wood Carvers 10 a.m. - Pool 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Gift Shop (Open to the public) 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. - LSS Dining: Chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, bread/margarine,	pumpkin bar, milk. 11:30 a.m. - Music/dancing Noon - Board meeting. 1 p.m. - Scrabble 1 p.m. - Rummikub Friday 7 a.m.- 4 p.m. - Exercise Rooms 8 a.m.-noon - Card Recycling 9 a.m. - Zumba 10 a.m.-noon - Whist 10 a.m.-noon - Creative Coloring 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - The Gift Shop (Open to the public) 11 a.m. - Bone Builders 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. - LSS Dining: Fish patty with tartar sauce, bun, cheesy hashbrowns, baked beans, peaches, milk 12:30 p.m. - Mahjong 1 p.m. - Movie matinee - "Something's Gotta Give" 1 p.m. - Duplicate bridge 1 p.m. - Snowshoeing
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Vote postponed on repeat offender policy change

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission on Thursday, Jan. 13, voted to hold off on considering a policy that could reduce criminal sentences for those who commit a crime while in custody, on probation or supervised release.

Minnesota judges use a point system to decide a person’s criminal history score and that score, along with their conviction, determines the guideline for a sentence. Under current law, a person gets an additional half-point added to that

criminal history score if they commit an offense while they’re in jail or on supervision.

And that extra half-point could bump up their score and lengthen their sentence.

After receiving extensive public feedback, the commission voted unanimously to continue its study of the custody half-point. And supporters on the panel said they were hopeful that they could raise awareness about the issue and again weigh the change at a later date.

Roughly 95% of the 3,562 people who wrote to the commission voiced opposition, while the

remaining 5% said they supported the change.

Defense attorneys, clergy and those who’ve experienced the criminal justice system supported its passage, saying the half-point most often affected those facing low-level drug and property crimes.

Ahead of the vote on Thursday, Republican state lawmakers urged the commission to reject the change.

“This is all done with the backdrop of a time when we have record-setting violent crime in the metropolitan area. It’s hitting our suburbs as well and the last thing we need to

do right now is to have lighter punishments for criminals,” Sen. Warren Limmer, R-Maple Grove, said.

Commission Chair Kelly Lyn Mitchell, along with several other members, said they were frustrated by the political rhetoric that developed around the commission’s decision-making process. And they said they hoped that conversations around criminal sentencing could be centered on facts rather than political talking points.

Follow Dana Ferguson on Twitter @bydanaferguson, call 651-290-0707 or email dferguson@forumcomm.com.

Irma Cragun

Irma Mary Kathleen Cragun, Age 87, of East Gull Lake.

Irma passed away peacefully in her home with Dutch by her side on Monday, January 10, 2022.

Irma was born September 1, 1934, in Powell River, British Columbia, Canada. She was the daughter of Angelo and Elena Culos who both immigrated from Italy. She was her high school's student body President and after graduation went on to attend nursing school on a scholarship at St. Paul Hospital in Vancouver.

She then worked as a Registered Nurse in Powell River before venturing out to see more of the World. She visited San Francisco and moved there and worked at three different hospitals over five years. Which is when she met Dutch Cragun at a dance. Irma continued to travel the world in addition to working and dating Dutch Cragun. The couple married in 1965. Irma worked at St. Joseph Medical Center before devoting herself fulltime to Cragun's - a family resort owned by Dutch's parents at the time.

She was named Secretary/Treasurer of Cragun's long before she and Dutch owned the property outright. Irma was instrumental in the expansion of the resort- What began as a 12 cabin, ten room resort has grown to encompass nearly a mile of Gull Lake Shoreline with over 200 hotel rooms, 69 cabins on Gull Lake with a 54-Hole Course just down the road with a beautiful club house. The resort is now the largest, all-season resort in Minnesota, and she oversaw everything for many years- From the grounds, the food and beverage, the books, etc... When she retired it took four people to replace her.

She also designed and built their new home in 2016 and she liked to tease Dutch – that he could live there, as long as his rent was on time. The home is across the lake from the resort and Irma and Dutch often looked out with pride at what they built, the family they created with guest and employees over the years, and the memories they have helped thousands of families create.

Irma's Schedule was demanding but she also made sure to have fun. Irma and Dutch were members of the 52somes, a dance cub in the Brainerd Area. She also established the Heartland Symphony Orchestra Ladies Auxiliary. She arranged the first outdoor art show at Cragun's, which evolved into the "Arts in the park." She enjoyed gardening, rock collecting and geography.

She never lost her passion for travel and continued to do so worldwide. She especially enjoyed sailing. She and Dutch, along with friends would take trips to waters all over the world. In their travels they visited many places including; Tonga, Australia, Fiji, Sicily, Turkey, Italy, Greece, Caribbean, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands, Norwegian Islands, Puerto Rico, Panama, Nicaragua Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Grenada, Barbados, St Lucia, Dominica, Sea of Cortez, Belize, The Bahamas, Honduras, Ecuador, Brazil, Venezuela, South America, Mexico, India, Thailand, Egypt, France, Norway, Korea, China.

Along with Dutch, she was on the Board of Directors for Ski Gull for years and credited for helping keep it operating. Due to her organized and giving nature she contributed to over 35 charities on a regular basis. She was recognized for her accomplishments when she appeared on the original cover of Her Voice magazine and also later received the 2019 Award in Philanthropy from the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation.

She is survived by her husband Merrill (Dutch) Cragun, her brothers, Kenneth Culos and Wayne Culos of Powell River; and her many nieces and nephews. She was proceeded in death by her parents, sister Lucy and brother Anthony.

Service will be 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 17, at Cragun's Resort, 11000 Craguns Drive, East Gull Lake MN. Visitation will start two hours before at 12:00 p.m. at Cragun's with a Social following at 3:00 p.m.

Rooms are available at Cragun's Resort for overnight guest and the service will be live streamed.

In Lieu of flowers donations are preferred to Minnesota Teen Challenge or the Lakes Prostate Cancer Fund.

Link to Live Stream for Irma Cragun Memorial Service on Monday, January 17, 2022
https://youtu.be/ZbbhFBHIV_M

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Baxter.



Jane Alice Bikkie

Jane A. (Stevens) Bikkie, Born May 18, 1932, passed away with dignity and grace on December 12, 2021. Jane is reunited in Heaven with her Husband Donald T. Bikkie; Sons, Steven T. Bikkie and Elmer A. "Andy" Bikkie. She is survived by her daughters, Ruth A. Hines, Susan L. (Joseph) Lachelt, Karen M. Crawford, 15 Grandchildren; 11 Great-grandchildren and 2 Nieces. A joint Memorial Service for Jane and Andy will be held April 9, 2022. Arrangements will be entrusted to Kline Funeral Home.



Kevin Bocklund

On Saturday, January 8, 2022, Kevin Bocklund of Nisswa succumbed after a courageous battle against Covid.

Kevin was born in Cambridge, MN on May 19, 1967, to Kenneth and Karen Bocklund.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Becky; his sons: Joe and Jon (Noel); stepdaughters: Kari (Aaron) Veicht and Shae Johnson; brother, Kyle (Julie); sister, Patty (Kevin) Olson-Rogalla; along with many other beloved family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Brandi.

A private family service will be held. A celebration of life will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred and may be sent to the family in care of Kline Funeral Home. (PO Box 511 Pine River, MN 56474).



Carolyn Campbell

Carolyn Ruth (Davis) Campbell, age 76, passed away on January 11, 2022, at her home in Brainerd. Carolyn was born in Plato Center, IL to A.B. & Olive Ellen (Moore) Davis. She graduated from Auburn Senior High School in Rockford, IL. Carolyn attended North Central Bible College where she met the love of her life, Larry Joseph Campbell. They served the Lord together for 55 years. For the last many years they were missionaries to people with disabilities. She hoped to be remembered for her love for people with disabilities. She loved volunteering at both her church and MN Adult & Teen Challenge.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Larry; children: Lori (Sam) Anderson, Curtis (Alyssa) Campbell and Marcus Campbell; grandsons: A.B., Jonas and Deacon; brother, John Davis; sister, Debra Chivers.

Carolyn is preceded in death by her parents, brothers George and Kenneth and brother-in-law, Charles Chivers.

We will celebrate Carolyn's life on Sunday, January 23rd at Heritage Assembly of God in Baxter, MN Visitation will be from 2 PM until the start of the service at 4PM.

Memorials are preferred to the Brainerd Adult & Teen Challenge. www.mntc.org/give

For more about her life click here: www.halvorsontaylor.com



Edward Keith Heikkenen

Edward Keith Heikkenen, 85, life-long Brainerd resident, passed away Friday, January 14, 2022, at Good Samaritan Village – Woodland.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 21, 2022, at St. Francis Catholic Church in Brainerd. Family and friends are invited to gather one hour prior to Mass. Interment with Military Honors will be held at Evergreen Cemetery.

Ed was born May 21, 1936, the son of Edward and Susan (Koepl) Heikkenen. After graduating from high school, he furthered his education at Brainerd Junior College (CLC) until he was drafted. He served in the US Army for two years. Upon his return home, Ed began his career at Crow Wing County. He enjoyed his job designing bridges and roads.

He was a true outdoorsman and loved to hunt, fish and snowmobile with his boys. He was a life-long member of St. Francis Catholic Church, and Ed's faith was paramount in his life. Although he could be stubborn as a mule, Ed's big heart caved quickly if children or animals were involved. Above all, Ed loved his family, and their time together was always cherished. He truly was just a nice guy.

He will be missed by his wife of 63 years, Colleen; sons, Tom and Jon; daughter, Amy; grandson, Jake; sister, Carol Norris; and niece, Beth. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Jonathon and his parents.

Memorials are preferred to H.A.R.T. in Brainerd. Nelson – Doran Funeral Home www.nelson-doran.com 218.829.4755



William Holbrook

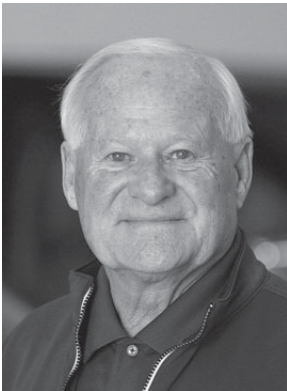
William (Bill) Holbrook, Brainerd, MN, went to be with Jesus on January 7, 2022 at Essentia St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd. A Celebration of Life will be held on January 22, 2022 at 2pm at Heritage Church in Baxter, and will also be live-streamed.

Bill was born on July 11, 1941, in Brainerd, MN to Orvie W. and Alice M. (Rardin) Holbrook. He went to school in Brainerd where he graduated in 1959 and attended Northwest College in Kirkland, WA, where he met the love of his life, Toni A. (Gibson). They were married six months later and raised three children together.

Preceding Bill in death were his parents; two sisters, Delores (Roy) Starkey and Evelyn (Bob) Steinbrook; and one brother, Robert (Shirley) Holbrook.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife and sweetheart of 60 years; two sons, Brian Holbrook (Kim) of Andover and Brad Holbrook (Jodi) of St. Stephen; one daughter, Traci Holbrook of Anoka; eight grandchildren - Mikaela (Jason) Kuehl, Katrina (Eric) Kelzenberg, Kristiana Holbrook, Kendra (Andy) Lauck, Michael Holbrook, Brianna Enget, Tyler (Robert) Taylor and Jenna Specht; and 7 great grandchildren, Jayda, Madilynn, Riley, Collin, Zachary, RaeLynn and Logan; one sister, Sharon Chaney; and two brothers, Gene (Gaylene) Holbrook and Jack (Sherry) Holbrook.

www.halvorsontaylor.com



Richard R. Monson

Richard R. Monson, 68, formerly of Brainerd, MN, unexpectedly went home to be with his Heavenly Father, Monday, January 4th, 2022, on the Grand Mesa of Colorado. He was a beloved son, brother, father, and grandfather. Richard is preceded in death by his father and mother, Reuben B. and Roberta Mae (Davis) and brother, Harlen. Richard is survived by his former wife of 48 years, Donna (Walters), his sister Karen (Dale) Mahlow of Spicer, MN; daughters: Noelle Solinsky of Plymouth, MN; Mindi (Matt) Smith of Dayton, MN; and Charity (John) Langer of Rochester, MN; and seven grandchildren: Jacob Solinsky (24), Isabelle Solinsky (22), Daphne Langer (21), Gabriel Langer (20), Emelia Smith (18) Cosette Solinsky (17), and Leila Langer (16).

Richard was born September 2, 1953, in Fosston, MN. He lived most of his life in Brainerd, Minnesota. It was there where he began his life-long career at North Star Plating (Keystone/LKQ) at the age of 16. He eventually worked his way up to become the VP of Manufacturing. He was a beloved boss to many who worked with him. Shortly after graduating high school, he was married and began his family. He was an active member of the Brainerd Assembly of God. After retirement, he would spend much of his time on the Grand Mesa near Cedaredge, Colorado, where he built his home in the mountains. He had many adventures and was always planning for the next one! Motorcycle trips to National Parks, ATVing on the Mesa, hiking many beautiful nature trails, dirt biking with his buddies, jet skiing with his grandkids on Perch Lake, snowmobiling and guiding in the mountains, and weekly pickleball tournaments are just a few of the many things he loved. First and foremost, he was a true man of God, known for his giving spirit, smiling face, willingness to help others, an ability to make all feel welcome, never saying an unkind word or complaint about others, and making it a priority to stay close to his family.

We are at peace knowing his last day on earth was spent doing what he loved. That morning he rode his favorite snowmobile trail with a friend where he would stop several times to take pictures to send to his family, followed by a good meal, and later returning to his cabin to plan for another adventure. It was there where he would take his last breath. His final day was spent reflected in one of the many Bible verses that were found on his bathroom mirror: Job 5:26 "You will come to the grave in full vigor!" And he truly did. We will miss him greatly and know he is now having the ultimate adventure in Heaven.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, 2/05/2022, from 12-3pm at Heritage Assembly of God, in Baxter, MN.



Mitchell Peterson

April 15, 1986 - Jan. 11, 2022 STAPLES, Minn. - Mitchell Peterson, 35, Staples, Minn., died Tuesday, Jan. 11, in his home.

Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m., followed by a service at 2 pm., Tuesday, Jan. 18, at Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples.

Arrangements by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel.

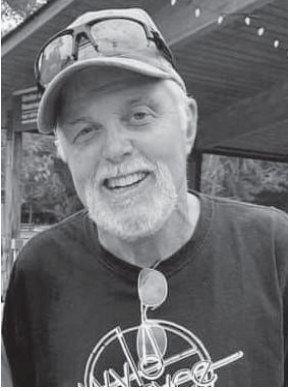
Janis Goff

Feb. 16, 1934 - Dec. 25, 2021 STAPLES, Minn. - Janis Goff, 87, Staples, Minn., died Saturday, Dec. 25, in Lakewood Care Center.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., followed by services at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 22, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples.

Frank G Hoag

Frank Gordon Hoag, age 65, of Crosslake passed away Wednesday, January 5th, 2022. Frank was born January 18th, 1956, to Freeman and Kathaleen (Anderson) Hoag. Frank loved his family, friends, and fishing. He is survived by his wife Lisa; children Ryan (Sarah), Laura (Matthew); grandchildren Erik, Selene, Stella, Virgil; and his siblings JoAnn, Sharon (Charles), Martin, Sadie; and many nieces and nephews. Frank is proceeded in death by his parents, and brothers Corky and Pat. A Celebration of Life will be held in the summer. In lieu of flowers, memorials will be donated to organizations that were near to Frank's heart.



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OBITUARIES

Wahlstrom, Jerry David

Jerry David Wahlstrom, 85, of Baxter, MN passed away peacefully January 8, 2022 surrounded by family. Jerry was born May 18, 1936 on a family farm in Comfort Township to Oscar and Lillian Wahlstrom.



He moved to the Twin Cities where he raised three children. He proudly worked at many places, but Robbinsdale Area Schools District 281 was where he spent 36 years as a custodian, bus driver and then the Interschool Mailman. He was a hard worker with a love for life. He was always ready with a positive thought for those he met each day.

Farm life never left his heart. He enjoyed yardwork, golfing, jigsaw puzzles and feeding the birds. Jerry loved singing, dancing and spending time with his large family and friends. Jerry was a wonderful hugger and sweet winks were his gift to many.

Jerry is survived by Dianne Pearson his loving life partner for 27 years; children Michele Niezgocki, Chris (Chuck) Johnson, Tom (Fran) Wahlstrom, Shawn Pearson, Nicole (Jerry) Blasing; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brothers Duane (Georgia) Wahlstrom, Marlyn (Muriel) Wahlstrom, Carl (Diana) Wahlstrom, sister Jean (Marvin Kananen) Wahlstrom.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Shirley Stilwell, Marion Korpi; brothers Maynard Wahlstrom and Vernon Wahlstrom.

A celebration of Jerry's life will be held at a later date.

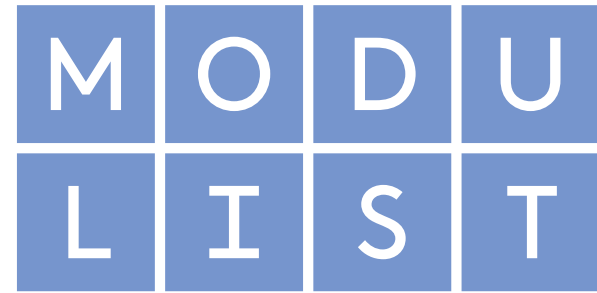
Joseph Herker

Sept. 2, 1964 - Jan. 7, 2022
NISSWA, Minn. - Joseph Herker, 57, Nisswa, Minn., died Friday, Jan. 7, in his home from natural causes. Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel.

Juel Stenberg

Jan. 13, 1940 - Jan. 11, 2022
MOTLEY, Minn. - Juel Stenberg, 81, Motley, Minn., died Tuesday, Jan. 11, in his home. Services were previously held. Arrangements by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel.

▶ More obituaries on Page A5 & A9



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BRIEF

Child dies in pedestrian crash on Hwy 169

ONAMIA — A 6-year-old Onamia girl died Thursday, Jan. 13, after she was struck by a vehicle on Highway 169 in Mille Lacs County. Unique Sincere Beaulieu was pronounced dead at the scene. Authorities responded to the fatal incident reported at 10:45 p.m. in Kathio Township, north of Onamia. According to the Minnesota State Patrol crash report, a 2013 GMC Acadia SUV was southbound on the highway when the SUV hit Beaulieu, who was reportedly in the path of the vehicle when she was hit. The SUV involved was driven by 48-year-old

Anne Marie Reynolds of Garrison, the state patrol reported. The Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office responded to the fatal incident reported at 10:45 p.m. Mille Lacs County deputies along with Mille Lacs Tribal police officers arrived on the scene approximately four minutes after the initial 911 call was placed. The parent of the child as well as the driver of the vehicle have been fully cooperative with the ongoing investigation, the Mille Lacs County sheriff reported. The state patrol reported the road was dry at the time. Assisting at the scene were the Onamia Fire Department and the Mille Lacs Health Systems EMS.

SEDLACHEK

From Page A1

South Long Lake farm

The late Sedlachek passed away at home surrounded by family. In 1939, when the farmer was 9 months old, he relocated from Jasper with his parents, two sisters “and everything they owned in the back of a pickup truck” to the Crosby–Deerwood area, according to his obituary. “In his younger years, he loved going to dances at the local bars, restaurants — you know, they’d have dances on Friday and Saturday nights. They don’t ever do that anymore,” Brian Sedlachek said of his late father. “He worked very hard and he played very hard.” The late Sedlachek and his parents lived in the Crosby–Deerwood area until 1952 when they moved to the South Long Lake farm that was originally owned by Bud’s wife Gail’s grandparents; Bud and Gail were married in 1959 and they adopted Brian in 1972. Sedlachek’s obituary states: “There were many memorable shed parties filled with polka music through the years! He farmed his entire life and could never imagine himself doing anything else. Nobody loved those John Deere tractors more than him!”

John Deere diehard

Brian Sedlachek said of the John Deere-themed funeral, “I loved that idea. And dad would have loved it if he could have been here. He was all about his tractors and farming ... and couldn’t imagine doing anything else with his life.” The 49-year-old financial adviser from Brainerd said his late father was on hospice for the last couple of months and passed away peacefully at home, where the farmer wanted to be. “He had everything set up for me to take over and continue farming with Freddy. Freddy was his partner on the farm here, and now he’ll be my partner and we’ll just continue doing what my dad and Freddy did,” Brian Sedlachek said of Freddy Mogensen. Mogensen was one of the pallbearers at the funeral. He worked for “Bud” Sedlachek since the early 1990s, and drove his former employer’s John Deere tractor in the funeral procession. “Very good person — he’d help anybody out that he could. He would never leave anybody hanging,” said Mogensen, a 42-year-old Brainerd resident. He was all about his tractors and farming ... and couldn’t imagine doing anything else with his life. The John Deere tractor-led funeral procession made its way east on



Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Pallbearer and according to Sedlachek “his right hand man” Freddy Mogensen drives Sedlachek’s newest and biggest John Deere tractor ahead of the hearse Wednesday, on Crow Wing County Highway 23 near his farm. Sedlachek’s neighbors organized the area residents to place their tractors at the end of the driveways and field approaches as the procession passed on the way to Bethel Lutheran Church.

“He was all about his tractors and farming ... and couldn’t imagine doing anything else with his life.”

BRIAN SEDLACHEK

Highway 18 from the funeral home and south on County Highway 23 before the interment at Bethel Cemetery. “Our neighbor had lined up for us — there’s a tractor just about every road approach from (Highway) 18,” Mogensen said of the show of respect for the deceased. “I’m glad that he’s not suffering anymore, you know?” Mogensen said of the late Sedlachek. “He lived a very good life — very good — well-loved by a lot of people.”

Sedlachek was born in 1938, and it was a period of hardship for farmers. From 1926 to 1932, 1,442 farms totaling 258,587 acres were lost to foreclosure, according to the Minnesota Historical Society, and from 1922 to 1932, 2,866 Minnesota farmers declared bankruptcy.

Green and yellow to the end

Wednesday’s funeral procession included 70 to 100 vehicles, according to Mogensen, who operated the John Deere 9100 four-wheel drive tractor that belonged to Sedlachek. “That’s the last one that he had bought,” Mogensen said of the John Deere tractor. “And it was one that he really didn’t need but always wanted. ... That was a big tractor to have ... and he never felt he could justify buying one with the amount of acreage he farmed.” Sedlachek’s love of John Deere equipment extended to the custom-made casket he picked out and ordered before his death. “He always had good relationships with the John Deere dealer that he dealt with and always had good luck with the equipment,” Mogensen recalled. The casket had the iconic John Deere green on the top and the bottom, and yellow-colored walls with the farm equipment provider’s name and logo, which also adorned the casket lid. “The head end —



Contributed

Bud Sedlachek and his son Brian on Father’s Day a few years ago.



Contributed / Freddy Mogensen

Flowers adorn the custom-made John Deere casket that Charles “Bud” Sedlachek, an 83-year-old Brainerd farmer, had specially ordered for his funeral before his death on Jan. 3.



Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Friends and family gather Wednesday as Charles “Bud” Sedlachek is interred at Bethel Cemetery in rural Brainerd.

when it was opened up, on the inside — had a nice John Deere emblem in the fabric,” Mogensen said. Brian Sedlachek added, “My dad just did some searching online on Google and found ‘John Deere casket’ and that was all his idea. ... And it actually showed up shortly just a couple days after he passed away and so he didn’t get to see the actual casket, but he saw pictures of it online.” John Deere’s reputation among those

in agriculture preceded the octogenarian farmer’s passing and will likely last after the Brainerd resident’s recent death. “They’re very high quality, as far as equipment goes. And if you’re gonna run a good operation, you need good equipment. And that’s what he was all about,” Brian Sedlachek said of his late father. FRANK LEE may be reached at 218-855-5863 or at frank.lee@brainerddispatch.com. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/DispatchFL.

Time for New Wheels?

MOTORS

motors.inforum.com

CLC

From Page A1

A large mural painted by CLC alumna Kira Moses spans the length of one wall in the center, featuring portraits of prominent diverse figures from around the area and around the globe, including Chief Hole-in-the-Day, Winona LaDuke, Jim Clark, Martin Luther King Jr., Angela Davis, John Lewis, Malala Yousafzai, Megan Rapinoe, Marsha P. Johnson, George Takei and Cesar Chavez. The black and white faces of the figures symbolize unity, Moses said, while the bright background

colors of red, orange, green, blue and purple stand out in stark contrast.

We needed this to be a place where every single student belongs and to be truly inclusive. A committee of students came together to choose the people featured and the quotes printed next to them.

“I only represent a small part of the community, of course, and the whole point of this is to have a place for everybody, so we really made sure to ask everybody,” Moses said.

An array of tables and chairs invite students to sit, chat, work or just

hangout. One of the more unique features of the Nest is the corner set up with a barber chair and haircutting tools. That’s where CLC graduate and professional barber Keywon Jackson-Rossina plans to set up shop and offer haircuts for students. His services are fitting a need of some of CLC’s Black students, who have expressed frustration at not being able to find salons in the area to work with their unique hair.

Jackson-Rossina had that problem when he was at CLC and turned to cutting his own hair, which resulted in a pretty patchy job at first.

“Everybody’s really thankful that we’ve finally got this opportunity presented to us,” he said. “So now it’s just my turn to make sure it stays on the train and keeps rolling.”

Beyond haircuts and paintings, the Nest is a place for all students to feel like they belong. That’s especially important for athletes, CLC graduate Vincent Reed said during the ceremony Wednesday.

“We bring students from all over the country here to play sports. We need to provide something for them. They need to feel included in this community,” he said. “...

There’s a gap that needs to be closed in this community as far as equity, diversity and inclusion.”

While most students feel comfortable at CLC, Reed said, stepping off campus into the community at large is another story. But the Nest is the place for them — for everyone.

“Sometimes the right thing to do isn’t necessarily an easy thing to do, but it’s the right thing to do, and it needs to be done,” Reed said, challenging everyone to make a difference in their community however they can.

“Just because it doesn’t affect you doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist,” he said.

And by being a space that’s welcoming to all, the Nest can help those from different backgrounds get to know each other better, an important point made by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Elder Joe Nayquonabe.

“If we don’t know each other, there’s a lot of suspicions, a lot of fears, a lot of unknowns, so you’ve got to get to know one another,” Nayquonabe said.

The Nest is on the second floor of the Brainerd CLC campus.

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CRAGUN

From Page A1

“I was overjoyed to be included in their friendship,” McFarland said. “... It was a hoot.”

Close friend Jeff Anhalt remembers trips on the Craguns’ boat, too, and recalls Irma always wearing her admiral hat and wanting to captain the boat.



Contributed
Irma Cragun, center, poses with husband Dutch, right, and friend Joe Brenny at a Minnesota Gophers game in fall 2021.

on the food side of things, running the kitchen and dining room. After the couple married in 1965, Irma took on more and more responsibility, tasked with managing the resort’s finances and day-to-day operations. In a 2020 interview, Dutch credited much of the resort’s success over the decades to Irma’s flexibility and adaptability. His big ideas paired with her unstoppable ambition got the job done.

Irma’s strong work ethic is one of the first things that comes to mind when Joe Brenny remembers his friend. Former owner of Brenny Family

Funeral Home in Baxter, Brenny met the Craguns in 1995 and began a close friendship.

When night fell on the resort, and the staff went to bed, Irma did not. She set to work writing out payroll checks by hand, often staying up until the early morning hours.

Irma’s influence on the resort was evident, Brenny said, and her acute business sense set her apart from the crowd.

Brenny recalls a memory when he was on his way home from a fishing trip in Canada with Dutch. They stopped at a supper club for dinner before finishing the jour-

ney. Back in the car, they each thanked the other for dinner, then coming to the realization that neither had paid for the meal. They quickly turned around to make it right.

“I said, ‘Dutch, the state patrol is probably in hot pursuit right now. And can you imagine what Irma’s gonna say when she reads on the front page of the Brainerd Dispatch that Dutch Cragun and Joe Brenny ran out of a supper club without paying?’” Brenny recalled.

Back at the restaurant, Dutch went in to pay the bill, but to his surprise the staff hadn’t even realized the two had left.

Brenny’s first thought? It was obvious Irma wasn’t running the place.

The Craguns had no children of their own, but Brenny thought of them as foster parents of sorts. And Irma had a way of making everyone she encountered feel like family, the lakes area at large included.

Those who knew Irma speak of her generous nature and how much she and Dutch gave back to their community. They were staunch supporters of music, usually

found in the front row of Lakes Area Music Festival concerts. They donated a brand new concert piano to the Brainerd School District when the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts opened last year and always supported high school and college music programs.

Even though close friends agree the Craguns were not a couple to seek out the spotlight with their charitable donations, they still drew attention and were honored in 2019 with the Award in Philanthropy from the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation. Foundation Director Karl Samp said he’s very grateful for all the Craguns have done for the community, and Irma will be greatly missed.

But her legacy will always live on, in the contributions she made, the lives she touched, and in name through Irma’s Kitchen, a popular restaurant at Cragun’s Resort.

And just across the bay from the resort stands the Craguns’ house, which Irma designed herself and oversaw the construction of in 2016. She always called it her

house, friends recall, and teased Dutch that he could live there as long as he paid rent on time.

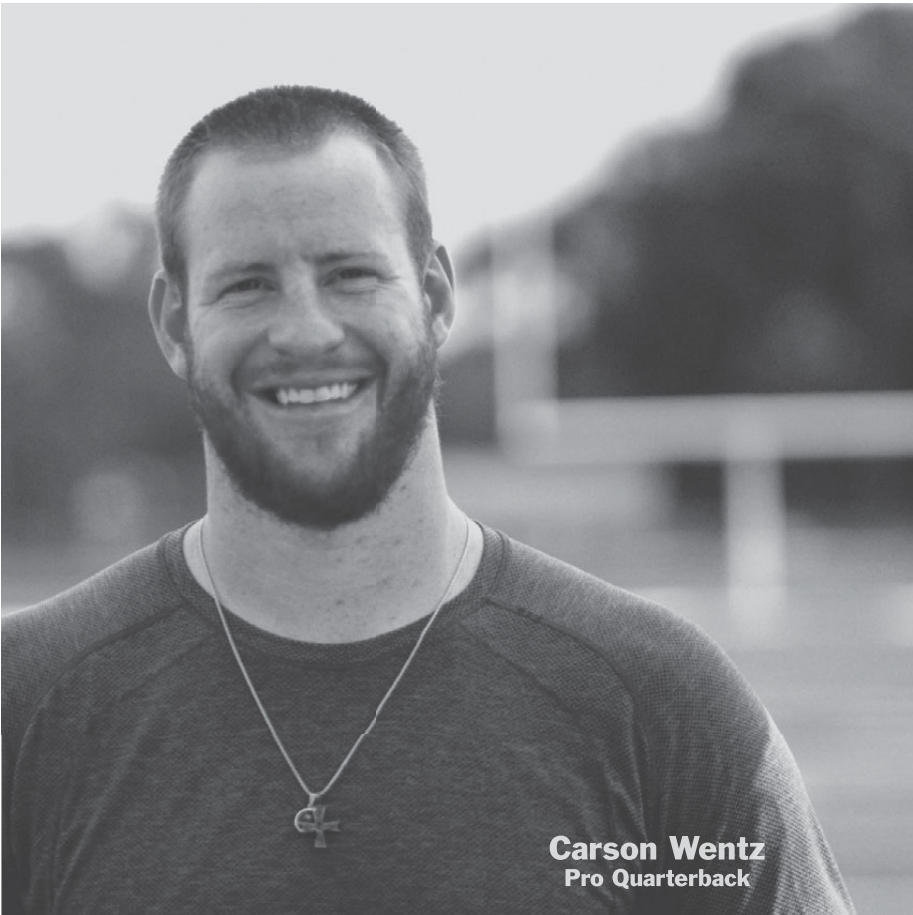
Kindness, generosity and strength are words that come to mind among those who knew Irma, and there was one other thing agreed on as well — Dutch’s fierce love for his wife, the emotion clearly etched on his face.

But after recent talks with Irma, Brenny believes she was ready to meet her savior, and he hopes those who loved her find solace in knowing that she’s now at peace.

According to Irma’s obituary, a memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, at Cragun’s Resort. Visitation starts at noon, with a social following the service at 3 p.m. Rooms are available at the resort for overnight guests, and the service will be livestreamed as well.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge or the Lakes Prostate Cancer Fund are preferred.

THERESA BOURKE may be reached at theresa.bourke@brainerddispatch.com or 218-855-5860. Follow her on Twitter at www.twitter.com/DispatchTheresa.



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From Page A1

on — who noted
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Despite repeated claims of alleged irregularities revealed through a door-



Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Simon said one of the strengths of the election system in the United

City, township and school district officials within counties set pre-

A number of security

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WRESTLING

Warriors wrestle to 1-3 start

BEMIDJI — Easton Dircks and Dalton Barrett both went 4-0, each with three pins, as the Brainerd Warriors went 1-3 at the Rick Lee Invitational Friday, Jan. 14.

Isaiah Jillson and Gabe Wagner both finished 3-1 for Brainerd as the Warriors lost to 3A's six-ranked Bemidji Lumberjacks 57-18, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-Westbrook-Walnut-Grove 41-34, Class 1A's fifth-ranked LPGE-Browerville Wolves 48-17, before defeating Grand Forks Central 52-18.

The Warriors continue tomorrow in Day 2 two of the Rick Lee



Dircks



Barrett

Invitational.

Bemidji 57, Brainerd 18
TMBWWG 41, Brainerd 34
LPGE-Browerville 46, Brainerd 17
Brainerd 52, Grand Forks Central 18
106: Open
113: Easton Dircks 4-0
120: Cade Ostrowski 0-1, Lukas Lind 1-2
126: Isaiah Germann 1-0, Cade Ostowski 2-1
132: Isaiah Germann 1-2
138: Hunter Bergin 0-4
145: Isaiah Jillson 3-1
152: Gabe Wagner 3-1
160: Damien Benth 2-2
170: Open
182: Shane Carlson 0-4195: Ethan Kosloski 1-3
220: Carson Faehnrich 0-4
285: Dalton Barrett 4-0
Overall: B 4-7. Next: Brainerd in Day Two of Bemidji Dual Tournament 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 15.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Warriors rally to outscore the St. Cloud Crush

ST. CLOUD — Myah Nelson led the Brainerd Warriors in scoring with 13 points in a 52-47 Central Lakes Conference victory over the St. Cloud Crush Friday, Jan. 14.

Olivia Tautges recorded 10 points and eight rebounds for the Warriors as they improved to 4-0 in the conference and 8-2 overall.

Emma Tautges hauled in nine rebounds for Brainerd,



Nelson

which outscored St. Cloud 36-34 and overcame a 2-point deficit at the half.

St. Cloud 24 23 - 47
Brainerd 22 30 - 52
ST. CLOUD
Sarah Harris 3, Elise Hausmann 5, Jayna Benson 24, Keilara Anderson 15, FG 16-43 (37.2%), FT 13-19 (68.4%), 3-point 2-9 (22.2%).
BRAINERD
Kate Stadium 7, Myah Nelson 13, Mya Tautges 4, Olivia Tautges 10, Emma Tautges 6, AJ Johnson 5, Kylie Johnson 7, FG 17-55 (30.9%), FT 14-23 (60.9%), 3-point 4-20 (20%).
Conference: 4-0. Overall: 8-2. Next: at Willmar 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15.

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Tori Oehrlein shoots for Crosby-Ironton girls basketball during their game against Aitkin Friday in the Wook Gym.

OEHRLEIN'S 33 LEADS RANGERS PAST AITKIN IN THROWBACK GAME

By Conrad Engstrom
Brainerd Dispatch

Crosby

It was throwback night at Crosby-Ironton High School Friday, Jan. 14.

In the Wook Gym, with throwback uniforms and even the referees in stripes, the Crosby-Ironton Rangers knocked off the Aitkin Gobblers 68-30.

"It's a lot of fun being a hometown Ranger," C-I head coach Peter Vukelich said about playing in the Wook Gym. "I watched a lot of games here growing up and saw a lot of old faces here tonight."

Eighth grader Tori Oehrlein led all scorers with 33 points, including five 3-pointers. She scored 17 in the first half and 16 in the second half.

The Rangers jumped to a 32-14 first-half lead thanks to their full-court press. Despite having 16 first-half points, Oehrlein did receive three personal fouls in the first nine minutes of the contest.

Aitkin wanted to keep the ball out of Oehrlein's hands as much as possible and issued a box-in-one defense to start.

"You just try to contain her,"

Aitkin head coach Mike Reem said. "You try to not let her beat the first person so they get layup after layup because she's a good passer. You try to make her beat you from the outside."

After back-to-back Ella Janzen 3-pointers, Aitkin narrowed the deficit to 32-20. Oehrlein sank two free throws toward the end of the half and C-I went into the intermission up 34-21.

Even with a healthy lead, Vukelich wasn't happy with the first-half performance.

"(Aitkin) scored 19 the other night against Braham and I just told them that they scored more in this first half than they did in their last game," Vukelich said. "We needed to come out with more intensity. I'm happy they came out and did exactly what I asked."

With the Rangers leading 41-25, Oehrlein scored seven straight to stretch the lead to 23. After a Mya DeCent layup, C-I doubled up Aitkin 50-25.

Margaret Silgen finished with 13 points for C-I off the bench with 10 coming in the second half. Silgen poured in three 3-pointers as her and Oehrlein accounted for

CROSBY-IRONTON 68, AITKIN 30

► Key: Oehrlein's 33 points pace Rangers to first Mid-State win.

► Conference: Ait 0-1, C-I 1-1

► Overall: Ait 6-8, C-I 10-4

► Next: Aitkin at Park Rapids 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20; Crosby-Ironton at Pierz 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17.

all of the Rangers' 3s.

"First half we were a little cold, but we got it going in the second half," Vukelich said. "We knew they were going to fall. That's the thing, when Tori is getting box-in-oned, the other girls have to shoot. The key is those offensive rebounds. Tori does a great job positioning herself and getting away from the defender."

Aitkin was led by Janzen and Raelene Nyberg who each scored 11 points. The Gobblers could only muster nine second-half points.

"It seems like it's been a challenging season," Reem said. "We have to learn from every possession that we have. It's a

BASKETBALL: Page B4

Justin Jefferson named second-team all-pro

Misses first team by one vote

By Chris Tomasson
St. Paul Pioneer Press

EAGAN, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson fell one vote shy Friday of reaching his goal of first-team all-pro.

Jefferson was selected to the 2021 second team, an honor he also received last season as a rookie. This season, he was trying to become just the fourth receiver in team history to earn first-team honors.

In voting by 50 national media members for the Associated Press, which handles the NFL's official all-pro team, Jefferson received 20 votes to finish fourth among receivers, and the top three made the first team. Cooper Kupp of the Los Angeles Rams and Davante Adams of Green Bay both were unani-

mous choices with 50 votes. Edging out Jefferson for the third spot was San Francisco's Deebo Samuel with 21 votes.

The only other receiver to get a vote was Cincinnati's Ja'Marr Chase, who received nine votes and joined Jefferson on the second team.

Vikings receivers to make first team all-pro have been Gene Washington (1969), Cris Carter (1995, 1999) and Randy Moss (1998, 2000, 2003). Jefferson hoped to become the next to make the first team.

"That's definitely what I want to do," he said late in the regular season. "That's one of the things I wanted to accomplish this season."

No other Vikings player made first- or second-team all-pro. Rookie Kene Nwangwu was third at kickoff returner with seven votes,



Jeffrey Becker / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson (18) before the Nov. 21, 2021, game against the Green Bay Packers at U.S. Bank Stadium.

and Brian O'Neill was third at right tackle with three votes. Harrison Smith received one vote at safety.

Former University of Minnesota star De'Vondre Campbell was named first-team all-pro at linebacker for Green Bay. That came after Campbell was snubbed last month in voting for the Pro Bowl.

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AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sadlovsky, Pierz prevail over Flyers

PIERZ — Alyssa Sadlovsky led all scorers with 20 points to lead the Pierz Pioneers over the Little Falls Flyers 63–28 in a Granite Ridge Conference game Friday, Jan. 14.

Kenna Otte added 13 points for the Pioneers as they got their fourth straight win.

Claire VanRisseghem led the Flyers in scoring with 12 points.

Pierz 35-30 – 63
Little Falls 16 12 – 28
PIERZ
Katie Leidenfrost 7, Britney Schommer 4, Kiara Olesch 6, Ashley Kimman 6, Kenna Otte 13, Lily Riley 7, Alyssa Sadlovsky 20. FG 23-52 (44%), FT 6-19 (31%). 3-point 11-22 (50%). Conference: 5-0. Overall: 10-3. Next: hosts Crosby-Ironton 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17.
LITTLE FALLS
Kendal Swantek 5, Abby Larsen 3, Korrin Gwost 2, Ellie Smejja 2, Claire VanRisseghem 12, Ana Steadman 2, Shelby Pint 1. FG 11-38 (28%), FT 1-6 (16%). 3-point 4-9 (44%). Conference: 0-4. Overall: 3-9. Next: hosts Albany 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Pequot Lakes 78, Detroit Lakes 46

PEQUOT LAKES — Pequot Lakes’ Maci Martini registered 25 points for the Patriots as they beat the Detroit Lakes Lakers 78–46 Friday, Jan. 14.

Isabel Larson added 15 points followed by Kelsi Martini’s 10 points for the Patriots in the Mid-State Conference game.

Detroit Lakes 25 21 – 46
Pequot Lakes 32 46 – 78
DETROIT LAKES
Abigail Larson 10, Helena Daggett 4, Ella Okeson 13, Grace Gunderson 6, Ellie Lunde 8, Jacee Hauser 6. FT 4-8 (50%).
PEQUOT LAKES
Carly Chaney 3, Isabel Larson 15, Kelsi Martini 10, Maci Martini 25, Emma Flaws 2, Sydnie Wgeishofski 4, Morgan Eckes 4, Aubrey Larsen 2, Lauren Schultz 6, Ella Kratochvil 7. FT 18-29 (62%). Conference: 3-0. Overall: 12-1. Next: hosts Moose Lake-Willow River 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.

BASKETBALL

Date of free throw competition changed

CROSBY — The Knights of Columbus Free Throw competition originally scheduled for Jan. 23 at Crosby-Ironton High School has been moved to Sunday, Jan. 30.

Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. with

the competition to start at 1 p.m.

The International free throw competition is sponsored annually by the Knights of Columbus with winners progressing through local, district, region and state-level

competitions.

International championships will be announced based on scores from state-level competitions. All boys and girls 9–14 as of Jan. 1, 2022, are eligible to participate and will compete in respective age divisions.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Australia cancels visa, Novak Djokovic facing deportation

Novak Djokovic faces deportation following the cancellation of his visa in Australia, the latest twist in the pre-tournament saga of the No. 1 seed in the men’s draw for next week’s Australian Open.

The Serbian and World No. 1, Djokovic is appealing Friday’s ruling from immigration minister Alex Hawke. It’s the second time Australia has canceled the visa and the same judge, Anthony Kelly in the Federal Circuit Court, is expected to hear Djokovic’s latest appeal.

Kelly ruled in Djokovic’s favor earlier this week, setting the 34-year-old free from a quarantine hotel and clearing a path for him to play in the Grand Slam event set to begin Monday.

The Australian Open draw was delayed just before it began on Thursday, but after behind-the-scenes discussion, resumed not long after with Djokovic in the field and taking the top seed. The top half of the men’s draw is scheduled to open play Monday.

Whether Djokovic’s appeal is heard in that short of a window is uncertain.

Djokovic is expected to be returned to immigration detention and meet the Australian Border Patrol that flagged his initial entry into the country on Jan. 5. Djokovic previously spent four nights at the quarantine hotel.

Nets’ Kevin Durant fined \$15K by NBA

The NBA fined Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant \$15,000 on Friday for using profane language during a media interview and failing to comply with a league security interview as part of the review process.

Durant used the objectionable language following the Nets’ 114–108 loss to the Trail Blazers on Monday in Portland.

The 11-time All-Star also was disciplined by the NBA and fined \$25,000 last month after directing obscene language toward a fan in Atlanta.

Durant, 33, leads the league in scoring with 29.7 points per game this season. He also is averaging 7.5 rebounds and 5.9 assists a game through 35 starts.

Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz receives extension through 2029

Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz received a four-year extension through the 2029 season, the school announced Friday.

Ferentz, who had four seasons remaining on his current deal, will receive \$56 million — \$7 million annually — over the next eight seasons. He was slated to make \$5.1 million next season before the extension.

The university said the 66-year-old Ferentz will receive \$500,000 in base salary, \$5.5 million in supplemental compensation and a \$1 million longevity bonus each year until the deal expires on Jan. 31, 2030.

Ferentz will be 74 when the deal concludes. He just completed his 23rd season as coach of the Hawkeyes and is the nation’s longest-tenured coach.

“Kirk’s consistent leadership and

—Field Level Media

SCOREBOARD

AREA EVENTS

Saturday, Jan. 15

BOYS BASKETBALL
Minnetonka at Brainerd 3 p.m.
Crosby-Ironton at Two Harbors 2:30 p.m.
Wadena-Deer Creek vs. Hancock at Perham 11 a.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Brainerd at Willmar 2:45 p.m.
BOYS HOCKEY
Brainerd at Roseau 2 p.m.
Little Falls at Fergus Falls 3 p.m.
Kittson Central at Wadena-Deer Creek 2 p.m.
GIRLS HOCKEY
Brainerd/Little Falls at Warroad 3 p.m.
Northern Lakes at Crookston 2 p.m.
WRESTLING
Brainerd at Bemidji Tournament 9 a.m.
Crosby-Ironton at Stewartville 8 a.m.
GYMNASTICS
Little Falls at Maple Lake Invite
BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING
Brainerd in Section 8-2A True Team at Elk River
DANCE TEAM
Attkin at Byron Invite 10 a.m.
Little Falls, Pequot Lakes/Pine River-Backus, Pierz at Foley Invite 10 a.m.
CHEER TEAM
Brainerd at Edina
ALPINE SKIING
Brainerd in MLK Invite at Giants Ridge 9 a.m.
MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Central Lakes at Rainy River 3 p.m.

TV AND RADIO

Saturday, Jan. 15

BASKETBALL:
College men: Creighton at Xavier, 11 a.m., FOX
College men: Texas Tech at Kansas State, 11 a.m., ESPN2
College men: Seton Hall at Marquette, 11 a.m., FS1
College men: Northwestern at Michigan State, 11 a.m., BTN
College men: Tennessee at Kentucky, noon, ESPN
College men: North Carolina State at Duke, 1 p.m., ABC
College men: Connecticut at Providence, 1 p.m., FS1
College men: Rutgers at Maryland, 1 p.m., BTN
College men: Fordham at St. Louis, 1:30 p.m., USA
College men: Florida State at Syracuse, 2 p.m., ESPN
College men: Furman at Chattanooga, 2 p.m., CBSSN
College men: Oklahoma at TCU, 3 p.m., ESPN2
College men: Rhode Island at Massachusetts, 3:30 p.m., USA
College men: Oklahoma State at Baylor, 4 p.m., ESPN

College men: Nevada at Air Force, 4 p.m., CBSSN
College men: Vanderbilt at Georgia, 5 p.m., ESPN2
College men: Loyola Chicago at Indiana State, 6 p.m., CBSSN
College men: New York at Boston, 6:30 p.m., NBATV
College men: Houston at Tulsa, 7 p.m., ESPN2
College men: San Diego State at New Mexico, 8 p.m., CBSSN
College men: Colorado at Arizona State, 9 p.m., ESPN2
College men: Oregon at Southern California, 10 p.m., FS1
College men: BYU at San Francisco, 10 p.m., CBSSN
FOOTBALL:
College football: Hula Bowl, 11 a.m., CBSSN
NFL Playoffs: Las Vegas at Cincinnati, 3:30 p.m., NBC
NFL Playoffs: New England at Buffalo, 7:15 p.m., CBS
GOLF:
PGA Tour: Sony Open in Hawaii, 6 p.m., GOLF
HOCKEY:
NHL: Notre Dame at Ohio State, 7 p.m., BTN
SOCCER:
Premier League: Newcastle United vs. Watford, 9 a.m., USA
Premier League: Aston Villa vs. Manchester United, 11:30 a.m., NBC
Premier League: Dayton at Duquesne, 11:30 a.m., USA

TRACK AND FIELD:

College: Big Ten Invitational, 3:30 p.m., BTN

Sunday, Jan. 16

BASKETBALL:
College men: Butler at Villanova, 11 a.m., FS1
College women: Saint Louis at Dayton, 11 a.m., CBSSN
College men: noon, ESPN
College men: Villanova at Marquette, 1 p.m., CBSSN
College women: Kentucky at Tennessee, 2 p.m., ESPN
College women: 2 p.m., ESPN2
College women: American at Bucknell, 3 p.m., CBSSN
College women: Michigan at Maryland, 4 p.m., ESPN
High school: Gill St. Bernards (N.J.) vs. Westtown (Pa.), 6 p.m., ESPN2
NBA: Golden State at Minnesota, 7 p.m., BSN, KKKIN-FM (84.3), KFGI-FM (101.5), WCCO-AM (830)
High school: La Lumiere (Ind.) vs. Compass Prep (Ariz.), 8 p.m., ESPN2
NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Denver, 8 p.m., NBATV
FOOTBALL:
NFL Playoffs: Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, noon, FOX
NFL Playoffs: San Francisco at Dallas, 3:30 p.m., CBS
NFL Playoffs: Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 7 p.m., NBC
GYMNASTICS
College women: Alabama at Florida, 2 p.m., ABC
SOCCER:
Premier League: Liverpool vs. Brentford, 8 a.m., USA
TENNIS:
Australian Open first round, 6 p.m., ESPN

BASKETBALL

Professional				
NBA				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	26	15	.634	—
Philadelphia	24	17	.585	2.0
Toronto	20	19	.513	5.0
New York	21	21	.500	5.5
Boston	21	22	.488	6.0
Central				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	27	13	.675	—
Milwaukee	27	17	.614	2.0
Cleveland	24	18	.571	4.0
Indiana	15	28	.349	13.5
Detroit	10	31	.244	17.5
Southeast				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	26	15	.634	—
Charlotte	23	20	.535	4.0
Washington	22	20	.524	4.5
Atlanta	17	23	.425	8.5
Orlando	8	35	.186	19.0
Western Conference				
Northwest				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	28	14	.667	—
Denver	21	19	.525	6.0
Minnesota	20	22	.476	8.0
Portland	16	25	.390	11.5
Oklahoma City	14	27	.341	13.5
Pacific				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	32	9	.780	—
Golden State	31	11	.738	1.5
L.A. Lakers	21	21	.500	11.5
L.A. Clippers	21	22	.488	12.0
Sacramento	17	27	.386	16.5
Southwest				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	30	14	.682	—
Dallas	22	19	.537	6.5
New Orleans	16	26	.381	13.0
San Antonio	15	26	.366	13.5
Houston	12	31	.279	17.5

Friday's Games				
Orlando	116	Charlotte	109	
Detroit	113	Toronto	87	
Phoenix	112	Indiana	94	
Philadelphia	111	Boston	99	
Golden State	138	Chicago	96	
Atlanta	at Miami	7 p.m.		
Cleveland	at San Antonio	7:30 p.m.		
Houston	at Sacramento	9 p.m.		
Dallas	at Memphis	9 p.m.		
Saturday's Games				
Toronto	at Milwaukee	5:30 p.m.		
Portland	at Washington	6 p.m.		
New York	at Atlanta	6:30 p.m.		
New Orleans	at Brooklyn	6:30 p.m.		
Philadelphia	at Miami	7 p.m.		
Cleveland	at Oklahoma City	7 p.m.		
Chicago	at Boston	7:30 p.m.		
L.A. Clippers	at San Antonio	7:30 p.m.		
L.A. Lakers	at Denver	8 p.m.		
Orlando	at Dallas	8:30 p.m.		
Sunday's Games				
Phoenix	at Detroit	12 p.m.		
Houston	at Sacramento	5 p.m.		
Golden State	at Minnesota	7 p.m.		
Utah	at Denver	7 p.m.		

College Men				
Big Ten Conference				
	W	L	Pct	Games
Michigan St	5	0	1.000	14 2.875
Illinois	5	0	1.000	12 3.800
Wisconsin	5	1	.833	14 2.875
Ohio St	4	2	.667	10 4.714
Purdue	3	2	.600	14 2.875
Rutgers	3	2	.600	9 6.600
Indiana	3	3	.500	12 4.750
Penn St	3	3	.500	8 6.571
Iowa	2	3	.400	12 4.750
Michigan	1	2	.333	7 6.538
Minnesota	1	4	.200	10 4.714
Northwestern	1	4	.200	8 6.571
Maryland	1	4	.200	9 7.562
Nebraska	0	7	.000	612.333
Thursday's Games				
Wisconsin	78	Ohio St	68	
Iowa	83	Indiana	74	
Friday's Games				
Purdue	92	Nebraska	65	
Michigan	at Illinois	8 p.m.		
Saturday's Games				
Northwestern	at Michigan St	11 a.m.		
Rutgers	at Maryland	1 p.m.		
Sunday's Games				
Penn St	at Ohio St.	11 a.m.		
Iowa	at Minnesota	1 p.m.		

College Women				
Big Ten Conference				
	W	L	Pct	Games
Indiana	5	0	1.000	13 2.867
Michigan	5	1	.833	14 2.875
Maryland	4	1	.800	12 4.750
Northwestern	3	1	.750	11 4.733
Iowa	3	1	.750	9 4.692
Ohio St	4	2	.667	12 3.800
Nebraska	2	3	.400	13 3.812
Purdue	2	3	.400	11 5.688
Minnesota	2	3	.400	9 5.529
Michigan St	2	3	.400	8 5.500
Illinois	1	2	.333	6 8.429
Penn St	1	3	.250	7 7.500
Wisconsin	0	5	.000	312.200
Rutgers	0	6	.000	711.389
Thursday's Games				
Indiana	72	Nebraska	65	
Iowa	79	Purdue	66	
Michigan	74	Penn St	57	
Northwestern	68	Rutgers	63	
Friday's Games				
Saturday's Games				
Ohio St. at Minnesota	5 p.m.			
Sunday's Games				
Illinois	at Penn St.	1 p.m.		
Wisconsin	at Rutgers	1 p.m.		
Northwestern	at Michigan St	1 p.m.		
Indiana	at Purdue	1 p.m.		
Michigan	at Maryland	4 p.m.		
Nebraska	at Iowa	5 p.m.		

FOOTBALL

Professional NFL Playoffs				
Wildcard				
Saturday, January 15				
Las Vegas	at Cincinnati	3:30 p.m.		
New England	at Buffalo	7:15 p.m.		
Sunday, January 16				
Philadelphia	at Tampa Bay	Noon		

San Francisco at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 7:15 p.m.
Monday, January 17
Arizona at Los Angeles Rams, 7:15 p.m.

HOCKEY

Professional							
Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	LOTSOPts	GF	GA		
Florida	37	25	7	23	55	149	109
Tampa Bay	39	25	9	23	55	132	112
Toronto	35	23	9	21	49	117	88
Boston	34	21	11	1	44	107	87
Detroit	38	16	17	4	37	101	128
Buffalo	36	11	19	5	1	28	96
Ottawa	30	10	18	2	0	22	83
Montreal	36	7	24	5	0	19	76
Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	LOTSOPts	GF	GA		
NY Rangers	38	24	10	3	1	52	110
Carolina	34	24	8	2	0	50	115
Washington	37	20	8	7	2	49	125
Pittsburgh	36	21	10	1	4	47	118
Columbus	35	17	17	0	1	35	114
Philadelphia	36	13	16	4	3	33	92
New Jersey	37	14	18	1	4	33	107
NY Islanders	29	11	12	3	3	28	67
Western Conference							
Central Division							
	GP	W	LOTSOPts	GF	GA		
Nashville	38	24	12	1	1	50	118
St. Louis	37	22	10	3	2	49	128
Colorado	33	22	8	3	0	47	143
Minnesota	33	21	10	0	2	44	122
Winnipeg	34	17	12	2	3	39	102
Dallas	34	18	14	1	1	38	98
Chicago	37	14	18	5	0	33	92
Arizona	34	8	23	0	3	19	74
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	LOTSOPts	GF	GA		
Vegas	39	23	14	1	1	48	138
Anaheim	39	19	13	4	3	45	117
Los Angeles	37	19	13	4	1	43	106
San Jose	38	20	17	0	1	41	105
Calgary	34	17	11	6	0	40	105
Edmonton	34	18	14	2	0	38	113
Vancouver	36	16	17	1	2	35	93
Seattle	36	10	22	3	1	24	98
Friday's Games							
Florida 7, Dallas 1							
Anaheim at Minnesota, 7 p.m.							
Arizona at Colorado, 8 p.m.							
Vegas at Edmonton, PPD							
Saturday's Games							
Nashville at Boston, 12 p.m.							
Vancouver at Carolina, 12 p.m.							
New Jersey at Montreal, PPD							
Washington at NY Islanders, 1 p.m.							
Toronto at Florida, 5 p.m.							
Columbus at St. Louis, 6 p.m.							
Buffalo at Detroit, 6 p.m.							
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 6 p.m.							
NY Rangers at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.							
Ottawa at Winnipeg, PPD							
Anaheim at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.							
Colorado at Arizona, 8 p.m.							
Ottawa at Edmonton, 9 p.m.							
Los Angeles at Seattle, 9 p.m.							
Vegas at Calgary, PPD							
Pittsburgh at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.							

MALE AREA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Schultz leading Cardinals offense

By Conrad Engstrom
Brainerd Dispatch


Isaiah Schultz could not be stopped last week. The Staples-Motley junior scored 28 points against Long Prairie-Grey Eagle in the Cardinals win and 21 points against Osakis in a loss. “Shots were just falling in those games,” Schultz said. “The guys are moving the ball around and we were getting good looks all-around.” Schultz leads the team in scoring at 18.6 points a game. He’s averaging 6.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists a game. “His role this year has changed a little bit to needing to be a scorer,” Staples-Motley head coach Cy Bestland said. “We kind of always felt like he was going to and last year he kind of did and this year he’s kind of embraced that. He’s got a lot of natural athleticism and the way we run our offense is kind of different for him this year with more high post and short corner stuff this year. Which took him a few weeks to get comfortable with. Now that he’s comfortable, we can run

him in multiple spots and a lot of stuff through him.” Bestland likes to use Schultz as a forward. “We don’t have any true bigs, so I use him in the high post a lot,” he said. “The versatility is huge and I think it creates a lot of matchup problems with other teams with how they are going to guard him.” Schultz is shooting 43% from the field and 35% from the 3-point line. “I haven’t usually played forward, I’m usually a guard, but it’s definitely developed my game a lot more,” Schultz said. “It is very helpful to be more developed on those inside moves.” Last season, Schultz was second on the team in scoring with 12 points a game while shooting 38% from 3-point and 42% from the field. He snatched 3.8 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.7 steals last year. “I’m able to create more this year,” Schultz said. “I’m able to dribble better. When I was younger, I was a lot more of a catch-and-shoot player. This year, being inside and getting the ball a lot more,

I’ve been able to create a lot more opportunities.” As a freshman, Schultz scored 7.0 points, grabbed 1.6 rebounds and averaged one steal and assist a game on 36% shooting. “He played and started half-way through his freshman year,” Bestland said. “So he kind of has that role as a team leader. He was the quarterback of the football team, so it kind of comes to him.” As quarterback, he threw for 950 yards and five touchdowns while rushing for 206 yards and two touchdowns. He also compiled 71 tackles and two interceptions on the defensive side. “Being a quarterback has helped me step in as a leader,” Schultz said. “It gives me that mindset.” The biggest improvement Bestland has seen in Schultz is his composure. “He cares a ton and shows some emotion,” Bestland said. “He’s matured and plays within himself a whole lot better. He’s been playing quite a bit on varsity. He’s quiet and that’s just the way he is. You can

make eye contact with him and you know he’s listening and taking it in and he respects his coaches, but he’s not a loud, vocal leader.” **Other notable performances:** **Basketball:** Carsen Turk, Crosby-Ironton, scored 20 points including his 1,000th point against Pillager. Jordan Oehrlein, Crosby-Ironton, scored 23 points and grabbed 15 rebounds against Hinckley-Finlayson. Brady Bristow, Pine River-Backus, scored 30 points against Laporte. Hunter Miller, Staples-Motley, scored 22 points against Wadena-Deer Creek. Payton Rondestvedt, Wadena-Deer Creek, scored 20 points against Staples-Motley. **Hockey:** Tyler Seeling, Northern Lakes, scored five goals against Pine City. **Wrestling:** John Paul Fitzpatrick, Crosby-Ironton, earned first place at the BHVPP Invite. Marshall Larson, Aitkin, earned first place at the Mora Invite. Jack Grell, Aitkin, earned first place at the Mora Invite. Chance Abraham, Road

ISAAH SCHULTZ
▶ **Year:** Junior
▶ **School:** Staples-Motley
▶ **Sport:** Basketball
▶ **Highlights:** He scored 28 points against Long Prairie-Grey Eagle and 21 points against Osakis


Schultz

Crew, earned first place at the Minnewaska Tournament. Connor Tulenchik, Road Crew, earned first place at the Minnewaska Tournament. Corbin Knapp, Road Crew, earned first place at the Minnewaska Tournament. Austin Staricha, Road Crew, earned first place at the Minnewaska Tournament. Riley Peters, Road Crew, earned first place at the Minnewaska Tournament. Colbe Tappe, Staples-Motley, earned first place at the Gerry Bakke Memorial Invite. **CONRAD ENGSTROM may be reached at 218-855-5861 or conrad.engstrom@brainerddispatch.com. Follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/the_rad34.**

AREA BOYS BASKETBALL

The Flyers hang on to top the Pioneers

PIERZ —Jaxon Janski finished with 23 points and Beau Thoma added 19 points, 14 rebounds and six assists as the Little Falls Flyers snapped a five-game losing streak with a 79-73 Granite Ridge Conference victory over the Pierz Pioneers Friday, Jan. 14. Austin Neu tallied 15 points for the Flyers, who secured their first conference win. Pierz’s Noah Oberfeld dropped 30 points on the Flyers. Ben Virnig and Ian Oberfeld each added 10 for the Pioneers.

Little Falls 45 34 – 79
Pierz 30 43 – 73
LITTLE FALLS
Jaxon Janski 23, Beau Thoma 19, Riley Czech 3, Austin Neu 15, Ethan Poser 3, Carter Gwost 8, Zach Gwost 8. FG 24-53 (45.3 %), FT 23-35 (65.7%). 3-point 8-23 (34.8%). Conference: 1-2. Overall: 3-7. Next: at Albany 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Pequot Lakes 50, Thief River Falls 40
THIEF RIVER FALLS —Pequot Lakes’ Eli Laposky totaled 14 points for the Patriots as they beat Thief River Falls 50-40 in a non-conference game Friday, Jan. 14. Sam Rysavy finished with 10 points for the Patriots as they extended their winning streak to seven games.

Thief River Falls 22 18 – 40
Pequot Lakes 20 30 – 50
THIEF RIVER FALLS
Dylan Hahn 2, Jack Onkka 3, Jack Rosendahl 3, Caleb Rosendahl 3, Jake Friedrich 2, Brady Olson 1, Jack Manning 2. FG 15-29 (51.7%). FT 12-18 (66.7%). 3-point 4-12 (33.3%). Conference: 0-3. Overall: 4-8. Next: at Zimmerman 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Pine River-Backus 62, Blackduck 55
PINE RIVER — Rian Struss led the Pine River-Backus Tigers with 19 points as they picked up their third straight win after beating the Blackduck Drakes 62-55 in a Northland Conference game Friday, Jan. 14. Brady Bistrow tallied 18 points for the Tigers while Andrew Bueckers finished with 13.

Blackduck 23 32 – 55
Pine River-Backus 34 28 – 62
BLACKDUCK
Brennan Kortuem 3, Dante Frank 20, Ridge Flatness 2, Leo Kingbird 23, Owen Wilson 5, Kainen Arp 2.
PINE RIVER-BACKUS
Irvin Tulenchik 4, Brady Bristow 18, Jared Hamilton 4, Andrew Bueckers 13, Robert Bueckers 4, Rian Struss 19. Conference: 4-2. Overall: 6-7. Next: hosts Bertha-Hewitt 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Wadena-Deer Creek 62, Sebeka 22
WADENA — Sixteen different Wadena-Deer Creek Wolverines found the scoring column in a 62-22 Park Region Conference victory over Sebeka Friday, Jan. 14. Payton Rondestvedt led the way with nine points, which was what W-DC’s defense held the Trojans to in the first half.

Sebeka 9 13 – 22
Wadena-Deer Creek 46 16 – 62
SEBEKA
Zackaryas Thornton 2, Casey Blixt 2, Christian Berg 3, Teagen Lee 2, Isaac Kylonen 13. FG 6-31 (19%), FT 7-9 (78%). 3-point 3-19 (16%).
WADENA-DEER CREEK
Teshie Loer 2, Josh Dykhoff 1, Lyrik Haug 5, Noah Johnson 4, Isaac Christianson 7, Charlie Bushinger 5, D’Andre Hammond 2, Isaac Haman 1, Payton Rondestvedt 9, Josiah Kallevig 2, Peyton Church 5, Simon Kreklau 1, Phillip Ross 6, Jaxson Brown 3, Dylan Wirth 2, Nate Peterson 6. FG 24-62 (39%), FT 10-16 (63%). 3-point 4-17 (24%). Conference: 3-3. Overall: 4-6. Next: vs. Hancock at Perham 11 a.m. Saturday.

NYM 74, Verndale 57
VERNDALE — Brandon Greenwaldt scored 16 points for the Verndale Pirates as they lost 74-57 to the New York Mills Eagles in a Park Region Conference game Friday, Jan. 14. Ben Brownlow finished with 12 points for the Pirates while Josh Johnson tallied 11.

New York Mills 37 37 – 74
Verndale 21 36 – 57
NEW YORK MILLS
Noah Noffsinger 9, Tate Olson 24, Jonah Johnson 14, Bryan Bohn 2, Jack Peeters 14, Breydon Holtt 2, Braden Partlow 2, Will Oakes 2, Sam Kopveiler 5.
VERNDALE
Jaden Schulke 2, Ben Brownlow 12, Dilan Orlando 5, Tyce Russell 1, Josh Johnson 11, Brandon Greenwaldt 16, Torii Hagen 2, Hunter Umland 1, Corby Kern 1, Austin Ludovissie 6. Conference: 2-4. Overall: 3-7. Next: at Wadena-Deer Creek 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20.

Menahga 63, Pillager 52
PILLAGER — Pillager’s Tytan Skeesick tallied 12 points for the Huskies as they were beaten 63-52 by the Menahga Braves in a Park Region Conference game Friday, Jan. 14. Grayson Beard added 11 points for the Huskies.

Edwards well on his way to Ja Morant trajectory

By Jace Frederick
St. Paul Pioneer Press

In a game that featured Karl-Anthony Towns and Ja Morant, a rising MVP candidate at just 22 years of age, Anthony Edwards was standing head and shoulders above the rest. Two nights after erupting for 20 points in the fourth quarter of Minnesota’s loss to New Orleans, Edwards exploded for 25 first-half points in Memphis on Thursday. The production wasn’t sustained, as Edwards faded in the second half in Minnesota’s 116-108 loss to the Grizzlies. But the first two quarters provided yet another flash of how dominant the 20-year-old wing can be. What exactly does that look like when it’s sustained? Morant is a good barometer for that. At 22, Morant is already the best player for what currently is one of the best teams in the NBA. Which begs the question: What’s to stop Edwards from reaching a similar point over the next two years? He’s equally as dynamic. They’re both elite athletes. Certainly, Morant and Edwards are different players — Morant is shiftier, a better finisher around the rim and a better playmaker, while Edwards is more powerful and a bigger threat from 3-point range. “I’m my own person. I’m my own player. I don’t see myself as anybody else. I see myself as Ant Man. That’s it,” Edwards said after the game. “But he cold. He’s his own player, he does it his own way. He’s unstoppable. I see myself as Ant-Man. However I do it, I do it.” That’s fine. No one is draw-

ing direct comparisons, calling Edwards “the next Morant” or anything to that effect. They don’t even play the same position. But their impacts on a team, and winning, could potentially be similar. There are countless instances where Edwards does what Morant is so often known for — taking over the game and inspiring his teammates with spectacular play. Edwards has the personality to command a locker room in the way Morant does in Memphis. And the way Morant didn’t back down from spats with Timberwolves guard Patrick Beverley on Thursday was highly reminiscent of the way Edwards treated Jimmy Butler earlier this season at Target Center. Minnesota’s clearest path to making legitimate playoff runs is for Edwards to reach the heights Morant has soared. It’s not a crazy thought given the way Edwards has developed early in his career. The number comparisons between the two guards over their first two seasons are comparable, and Edwards was a full year younger than Morant when he was drafted. It’s not far-fetched to assume another giant leap is coming from Edwards in the near future. The fact that he has become one of the League’s best high-volume 3-point shooters in just his second season is a sign of how quickly he can take parts of his game to the next level. Should that continue, perhaps Edwards will be the next young star to lift a franchise to heights it hasn’t reached in a long time. “If they were on the same growth path, I’d be happy about that,” Timberwolves coach



Photos by Petre Thomas / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (1) shoots as Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) defends during the first half Thursday at FedExForum in Memphis.

Chris Finch said. “It’s part of Ant’s maturation as a player where as you see different things, then you become more of a player that is game-planned for, whether it be in part or exclusively. Now you have to have answers to those things. That’s part of your growth, and everything that goes into that as far as preparation, approach, work ethic, consistency. “That’s one thing we talked about (Thursday) morning is young players playing more consistent as they grow into that third year, the fourth year, and that’s really where they start to stack these types of performances on top of each other.”



Memphis Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) shoots as Minnesota Timberwolves guard Anthony Edwards (1) defends during the first half Thursday at FedExForum in Memphis.

FEMALE AREA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Tulenchik’s big games get her to 1,000 points

By Conrad Engstrom
Brainerd Dispatch

Ramsey Tulenchik enjoyed a dominating last week.

The Pine River–Backus junior scored 26 points in the Tigers win over Laporte and then added 31 points against Cass Lake–Bena in a loss.

She needed nine points against CL–B to cross 1,000 points in her career. She did it with ease in the first half when she got fouled on a shot and hit the free throw to reach 1,000.

“It really showed that when I put in all the work I can achieve the things I’ve always wanted,” Tulenchik said. “I didn’t really think about it at all going into the game. I just wanted to beat Cass Lake.”

PRB head coach Tucker Sheley was proud to see Tulenchik get the milestone.

“She’s worked very hard and put in a lot of time to get to this point and has had a lot of good teammates around her this year and in years prior to get her to that point,” Sheley said.

For the season, Tulenchik is the ‘Tigers’ leading scorer at 24.8 points per game. She’s

averaging 9.8 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game.

“Her footwork has proved dramatically and is able to step up and hit that mid-range shot,” Sheley said. “That makes her a little more of a dynamic offensive player.

“If she can continue to extend her range she is going to be a little more of a dynamic offensive player. She’s also improved her free throw shooting quite a bit which has helped her have another weapon in the arsenal.”

This season, Tulenchik is garnering the opposing team’s attention for most of the games

Handling that extra attention and defensive pressure is something she’s improved at as the year has progressed.

“She would get frustrated when she saw double teams and she’s gotten to the point now where she’s comfortable kicking it back out and she’s handled herself quite well on the floor,” Sheley said. “She’s a force inside, so we try to get her inside-out. When the double team comes, she’s quick to get the ball and get her teammates

drill we are using in practice and then that carries over into the game.”

Tulenchik added: “I just have to oversee it and do what I know how to do. I feel like I’ve handled it quite well. I know sometimes I can get quite frustrated, but my teammates are there to help me out and that relieves the stress.”

Last season, Tulenchik scored 19.1 points a game on 52% shooting. She snatched 8.6 rebounds and dished 2.0 assists a game and was named to the Dispatch All–Area first team.

As a freshman, Tulenchik averaged 12.4 points a game to go with 9.1 rebounds a game.


“I feel like I’ve improved a lot since my freshman year and even last year,” Tulenchik said. “My shot has been improving and I’ve realized I’ve needed to attack more instead of being so scared. My driving and ball-handling skills have improved a lot.”

Sheley said Tulenchik is aggressive and has an edge to her.

“She has a constant motor which is really fun to coach,” he said. “She’s always bringing the intensity up in whatever

RAMSEY TULENCHIK

- **Year:** Junior
- **School:** Pine River–Backus
- **Sport:** Basketball
- **Highlights:** She scored 26 points against Laporte and 31 points including her 1,000th point against Cass Lake–Bena



Tulenchik

Tori Oehrlein, Crosby–Iron-ton, scored 39 points and grabbed 10 rebounds against Deer River and scored 33 points against Cloquet.

Olivia Peterson, Pillager, scored 20 points against Wade–na–Deer Creek.

Raelene Nyberg, Aitkin, scored 21 points against Two Harbor.

Hockey: Rose Aldridge, Northern Lakes, scored a hat trick and tallied four assists against Detroit Lakes.

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AREA WRESTLING

Flyers fall to ranked Foley

LITTLE FALLS — Austin Litke won his match by pin at 138 as the Little Falls Flyers lost to Class 2A’s 12th–ranked Foley Falcons 47–20 in a Granite Ridge Conference match Friday, Jan. 14.

Kobi Cameron picked up a win by technical fall at 120 and Noah Cameron, Joey Wilczek and Ivan Petrich each picked up wins for the 7–9 Flyers.

Foley 47, Little Falls 20
106: Hunter Wilhelmi (Fol) pinned Cassidy Okerman 1:26

113: Wyatt Wall (Fol) dec. Jack Schmidt 7-0
120: Kobi Cameron (LF) tech fall Tyler Wilhelmi 3:32
126: Noah Cameron (LF) dec. Levi Jacobson 10-6
132: Joey Wilczek (LF) dec. Cayden Hansmeier 7-2
138: Austin Litke (LF) pinned Kyler Benson 1:01
145: Alex Jennissen (Fol) tech fall Wyatt Baum 5:14
152: Cole Rudnitski (Fol) pinned Dominic Scapurek 3:49
160: Joseph Thorsten (Fol) dec. Ryan Kloockl 5-4
170: Zach Jennissen (Fol) pinned Hank LeClair 3:40
182: Ivan Petrich (LF) dec. Josiah Peterson 9-5
195: Colton Rothfork (Fol) pinned Alexander Schmitz 3:46
220: Andy Boettcher (Fol) forfeit
285: Elijah Novak (Fol) pinned Eli VanRisseghem 3:38
Overall: LF 7-9. Next: Little Falls at Sartell Triangular 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.



John Autey / St. Paul Pioneer Press

Minnesota Gophers head coach Lindsay Whalen during a timeout in the third quarter of a college women’s basketball game against American at Williams Arena in Minneapolis on Nov. 17, 2021. Minnesota beat American, 73-56.

Whalen likes what Gophers have done in the New Year

By John Shipley
St. Paul Pioneer Press

It’s been a rough start to the New Year for Lindsay Whalen, who had an emergency appendectomy on Jan. 5 and had to watch her basketball team play on television for the next two games.

At least her team is playing well.

“I like where we’ve been since the New Year,” the Gophers coach said.

The Gophers (9–8) have won 2 of 3 games in 2022 and are 2–3 in Big Ten play heading into Saturday’s 5 p.m. tipoff against Ohio State (12–3, 4–2) at Williams Arena. Whalen watched the Gophers win at Rutgers on Jan. 6 and lose at No. 8 Maryland on Jan. 9 before returning to coach the team in a convincing, 82–66 victory at Wisconsin on Wednesday.

Watching her team from afar, she said, allowed her to take a step back and see the big picture on the Gophers.

“I really like where we’re at,” she said. “Taking a step away for a week, you have a chance to think.”

Whalen made it clear in the fall that she expected her team to contend for an NCAA tournament berth in her fourth season, and a victory over the Buckeyes — who received 31 votes in this week’s Associated Press poll — would be a nice feather in the Gophers’ cap.

So would Iowa, which is up next, Jan. 20 at the

Barn. The Hawkeyes (9–4, 3–1) received 38 votes in this week’s AP poll and feature the sophomore guard Caitlin Clark, who leads the Big Ten in scoring and is tied for best in the nation with a 25.2-point average.

“One game at a time, but you’re talking about some things when you move toward postseason,” Whalen said.

The Buckeyes rank sixth nationally in scoring (83.7 points a game) and beat the Gophers, 83–59, in Columbus last season, their only meeting.

“They shoot it great, they press you the whole game, so it’s going to be a big challenge for us,” Whalen said.

But the Gophers are a deeper team than last season, with four scorers averaging double figures — led by junior guard Sara Scalia’s 15.2 points a game — and a good young post player in freshman Rose Michaeux, averaging 8.3 points and 5.1 rebounds in her past 10 games.

“I’m just excited. I haven’t been here to coach a game, in the Barn, for it feels like half a season,” Whalen said after a practice at Williams Arena on Friday.

Because of her illness and a COVID postponement against Northwestern on Dec. 31, the last home game Whalen coached was Dec. 15, a 99–93 victory over Ohio University.



Trevor Ruszkowski / USA Today Sports

Minnesota Golden Gophers forward Eric Curry (1) dribbles the ball while Indiana Hoosiers forward Jordan Geronimo (22) defends in the first half Jan. 9 at Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall in Bloomington, Indiana.

Gophers’ Curry could be ready for Hawkeyes

By John Shipley
St. Paul Pioneer Press

It didn’t look good for Eric Curry when he went down with what appeared to be a left ankle injury with a minute left in Wednesday’s 71–69 loss at No. 10 Michigan State. But Minnesota Golden Gophers coach Ben Johnson said Friday the team’s starting center could play Sunday against Iowa.

Johnson said Curry’s status is day-to-day, adding, “If he can go, he can go, and we’ll kind of take it from there.”

Curry was injured when teammate Jamison Battle, falling after an attempted defensive rebound, landed on his left foot. The 6-foot–9, 245-pound center was carried off the court by trainers.

It was a big blow in a tight loss. Curry, a sixth-year senior who has started all 14 of the Gophers’ games this season, scored a team-high 19 points and added seven rebounds in 29 minutes against the Spartans, who won on a last-second lay-in.

Curry has had two entire seasons erased by knee injuries, and another cut short by a foot injury, but this one doesn’t appear serious.

“I’m pretty sure he knows it’s not too crazy, like his last few injuries,” said teammate and longtime friend Peyton Willis. “He’s still in high spirits.”

“Normally, it’s one to three weeks. If it’s not a sprain and it’s something else, well, then that’s kind of up to Eric in terms of the comfort level and the pain. My biggest thing is I’m never going to put a guy out there where you can increase the injury or make it worse.”

BEN JOHNSON, HEAD COACH

Minnesota (10–4, 1–4 Big Ten) beat Michigan in Ann Arbor on Dec. 11 but has lost three straight conference games since, falling to Illinois, Indiana and the Spartans. If the Gophers are going to make their goal of an NCAA tournament berth, they need to start winning some of these close games. They were blown out by Illinois, 76–53, but their other three Big Ten losses have been by eight points or fewer.

Iowa (12–4, 2–3 Big Ten) has won five of its past six games and behind forward Keegan Murray leads the conference in scoring, averaging 86.5 points a game. Murray, the son of former Iowa forward Kenyon Murray, leads the nation in scoring, averaging 24.7 points a game.

Johnson has been using a seven-man rotation during conference play. If Curry can’t go, 6–9

forward Charlie Daniels, a rotation mainstay, will likely start at center and be backed up by 6–7 Danny Ogele. Both are seniors, but on paper it’s a considerable drop off. Curry averages 8.7 points and a team-high 6.8 rebounds a game. Daniels, a senior transfer from Stephen F. Austin, averages 1.7 points and 1.7 rebounds, and Ogele has played in only five games.

“(Daniels) is strong, physical, he can defend in the post. He knows our offense and knows how we want to play,” Johnson said. “He’s different from Eric, but If Eric can’t go, there’s going to be an opportunity to step up and play an additional, probably, 5 or 10 minutes.”

As for Ogele, the coach said, “If Eric’s down, it’s next guy up, and he’s that next guy. So, these next two days will be important for the whole team.”

Certainly for Curry.

“If it’s a sprain, it’s a sprain and there’s protocol,” Johnson said. “Normally, it’s one to three weeks. If it’s not a sprain and it’s something else, well, then that’s kind of up to Eric in terms of the comfort level and the pain. My biggest thing is I’m never going to put a guy out there where you can increase the injury or make it worse.

“If he’s out there, he’s out there because he feels good about it.”

BASKETBALL

From Page B1

long process.”

Crosby–Ironton will be back in action Monday against Pierz, followed by a date with Pequot Lakes Thursday

which C–UI lost 63–41 earlier in the season.

“It’s a rival,” Vukelich said of Pequot Lakes. “Now we get them on our home floor and we kind of want to return the favor of getting them back.”

Aitkin 21 9 — 30

Crosby–Ironton 34 34 — 68
AITKIN
Jillian Cline , Emma Jacobson , Abigail Palm , Sara Thompson , Raelene Nyberg , Teagan Piecek , Allie Kulheim , Emma Skaj , Ella Janzen , Camille Parentwau , Sophia Snyder . FG 10-35 (28.6%), FT 7-19 (36.8%). 3-point 3-15 (20%).
CROSBY-IRONTON
Kalli Papenfuss , Josie Schaefer , Mya DeCent , Jada Mitchell , Anna Vignieri , Korinna Nixon , Bri Miller , Bryn Hollenhorst , Margaret Silgen , Ellen Silgen , Keina Stirewalt , Tori Oehrlein 33, Hannah Pakarinen . FG 25-69 (36.2%), FT 10-14 (71.4%).

3-point 8-31 (25.8%).
Crosby–Ironton 68, Aitkin 30
Key: Oehrlein’s 33 points pace Rangers to first Mid-State win.
Conference: Ait 0-1, C-I 1-1
Overall: Ait 6-8, C-I 10-4
Next: Aitkin at Park Rapids 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20; Crosby–Ironton at Pierz 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17.
CONRAD ENGSTROM may be reached at 218-855-5861 or conrad.engstrom@brainerddispatch.com. Follow on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/the_rad34](https://twitter.com/the_rad34).

Minnesota’s Island lake gets first cisco stocking

Fatty little forage fish hoped to boost size of lake’s puny walleyes

By John Myers
Duluth News Tribune

DULUTH — Island Lake has received its first-ever stocking of cisco, a fatty little fish hoped to beef up the size of walleyes in the popular reservoir.

Biologists for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources netted 250 adult cisco from Hanging Horn Lake near Barnum in early December, just before the fish spawned and just before the lake iced over, and moved them to Island Lake, north of Duluth, where they are expected to provide a high-calorie food for walleye.

It’s the first installment of what should be several cisco stockings, said Dan Wilfond, Duluth-area fisheries specialist for the DNR. The agency intends to stock about 4,000 cisco each year for the next five years.

It’s hoped the cisco will then become self-sustaining, reproducing and filling a niche in Island Lake’s food chain.

Hanging Horn Lake was picked as the source because the cisco there were confirmed as disease-free and because it was the closest to Duluth with a sizable cisco population. But the little fish proved maddeningly hard to capture and keep alive, so Wilfond said other donor lakes in Itasca and Cook counties will also be eyed in future years, both to increase supply and add



Contributed / Dan Wilfond, Minnesota DNR

Fred Schmitz, a Minnesota DNR fisheries technician, hauls in a net holding cisco from Hanging Horn Lake near Barnum on Nov. 30, 2021. Some 250 cisco from the lake were transplanted into Island Lake Reservoir north of Duluth, the first of several stocking installments that are hoped to provide a new food source for Island Lake’s walleyes.

genetic diversity.

“No one should expect that throwing 250 cisco into Island Lake is going to create a big year class of cisco in 2022 and somehow turn the lake around quickly,” Wilfond told the News Tribune. “It’s going to be a years-long process ... but we’re on the board. There are a few of them in the lake now. We’ve got the process rolling.”

Island Lake has excellent walleye reproduction almost every year, one of the best lakes in the Northland. But those walleyes then grow extremely slowly, among the slowest of any lake in the Northland. Anglers have complained about the small size of walleyes they catch on Island lake for decades, dubbing the common, 12-inch fish “Island lake Specials.” And DNR surveys found the same thing for the sprawling, 10,800-acre lake: an average size of about 12 inches, down from about 17 inches 40 years ago.

Biologists say an inadequate food supply, too many small walleyes competing for too few minnows, may be part of the problem. So they moved ahead with a two-pronged effort to fix it.

The first change, which began with the 2021 open water fishing season last May, included a new bag limit of 10 walleye daily for Island Lake — up from six fish daily — with anglers encouraged to catch and keep more small fish. All walleyes kept must be under 15 inches. All walleyes 15-20 inches must be immediately released, and anglers can keep one walleye daily over 20 inches.

It’s the first time ever in Minnesota that the DNR has used a higher bag limit to reduce overall walleye numbers and improve average size. Island Lake now has the highest bag limit for walleye in the state. The increased limit compares to the general limit of six walleyes daily in Min-

ABOUT CISCO

Cisco, also called lake herring (especially in Lake Superior) and inland tullibee. The word “cisco” comes from a French name. Cisco are members of the Salmonidae family, which includes trout, salmon, lake whitefish and char.

Where do they live?

Cisco (often called “lake herring”) are common in Lake Superior, but they also occur in many inland lakes of the central and northeast regions of Minnesota. The cisco is a cold-water fish that needs well-oxygenated water deep in the lake in summer, so they usually do best in deep, clearwater lakes.

How big are they?

Their size is highly variable depending on the lake. In Cass Lake, for example, adults get as large as 12-14 inches long. In Lake Itasca, they sometimes reach up to 24 inches and 4 pounds. In Ten Mile Lake, they rarely go beyond 3.2 inches. Cisco in Lake Superior average about a foot long, but some have been caught up to 24 inches. The Hanging Horn Lake cisco moved to Island Lake averaged about 6 inches long, with one up to

14 inches.

What do they eat?

They begin eating copepods and small water fleas and later add bigger water fleas, midge and ghost midge larvae. Sometimes they feast on mayflies and caddisflies as the bugs hatch at the water’s surface.

What eats them?

Young and smaller cisco fall prey to many kinds of bigger fish, including northern pike, lake trout, burbot, yellow perch, rainbow trout, musky and walleyes. Some people net and eat cisco from some northern inland lakes and they are netted in Lake Superior where the so-called lake herring are considered prime table fare.

How do they reproduce?

They spawn in late fall, usually late November. The spawning sites are commonly in shallow water over bottoms of clean rock, gravel or sand. A single female may lay 3,000-15,000 eggs depending on her size. The embryos develop over the winter and hatch the following spring.

Source: University of Minnesota

nesota, although many lakes have four-walleye limits and there’s a push at the state Legislature to lower the statewide limit to four walleyes daily for lakes that don’t have special regulations.

The cisco stocking forms the other half of the DNR’s Island Lake walleye effort.

“We’ll be monitoring the lake as we continue to stock them , conducting assessments to see whether they take hold or not,” Wilfond noted, adding that he’s “cautiously optimistic” the DNR efforts will help boost the size of Island Lake walleyes.

In addition to lack of food, Wilfond has said Island Lake walleyes may be impacted by spiny water fleas. In 1990, Island Lake became the first inland lake in Minnesota confirmed with the invasive species, a Eurasian native that likely arrived in the Twin Ports in the ballast of ships. It appears walleye

growth has slowed even more since they arrived. It’s possible the spiny water fleas are causing a reduction in some small fish species in the lake that walleye could eat.

Data shows cisco should thrive in Island Lake, especially in the deeper, coolwater zones of the reservoir, but also that cisco eat spiny water fleas and may help reduce spiny water flea numbers in the lake.

It’s unclear if the cisco were so hard to catch because of the unusually warm autumn, that kept water temperatures above the prime spawning level, or some other reasons. Efforts to use traps in shallow waters near where cisco were supposed to be spawning produced zero fish, Wilfond noted. He said it took two weeks of trying before crews finally collected 250 cisco using gill nets that were quickly retrieved to keep the fish alive, far from their 4,000-cisco goal.

“Hopefully, we’ll have better luck next year and in following years. We’re going to have some other source lakes to fall back on,” he said, noting it may be many years until anglers start seeing more big walleyes in Island lake as a result of the effort.

Island Lake is a man-made reservoir created in the early 20th century by damming the Cloquet River. It’s used by Minnesota Power as a water storage reservoir for its hydroelectric dam system on the St. Louis River near Carlton.

The DNR has conducted previous cisco introductions into Lake Elmo in the eastern Twin Cities, into several Cuyuna Range mine pits near Brainerd and into Long Lake near Walker. In each case, the cisco population became self-sustaining.

John Myers reports on the outdoors, natural resources and environment for the Duluth News Tribune. He can be reached at jmyers@duluthnews.com.

Making sausage a tasty post-deer season tradition

By Brad Dokken
Grand Forks Herald

GRAND FORKS — It’s a snowy December afternoon, and the kitchen of Jason Laumb’s Grand Forks home once again has been transformed into a portable meat processing shop, of sorts.

The task at hand: Make 50 pounds of venison sausage – 15 pounds of summer sausage, 10 pounds of snack sticks and 25 pounds of Polish sausage – over the next day and a half.

Deer season was especially successful this past fall for Laumb, director of Advanced Energy System Initiatives at the University of North Dakota Energy and Environmental Research Center in Grand Forks. He filled both of his Minnesota deer tags, along with a doe tag in western North Dakota and a hard-to-draw North Dakota muzzleloader buck tag he filled less than an hour into the opening day of the black-powder season on Friday, Nov. 26.

Sausage is a favorite way of getting that bounty from field to fork, and I was there to help.

We’ve done this numer-

ous times over the years, grinding and mixing and stuffing and smoking and – of course – sampling the final product to make sure it’s up to snuff.

It always is, and this year would be no exception.

Growing up in Berthold, North Dakota, Laumb, 46, says sausage-making has been a family tradition since he was 10 years old. Plus, it’s a most enjoyable way to spend a snowy winter weekend.

With that DIY experience as a backdrop, Laumb says making his own sausage is a lot cheaper than bringing it to a processor – especially after seasons when he shoots four deer.

“That, in a lot of cases, would be a \$1,000 processing bill,” he told me in a 2012 Grand Forks Herald story. “You can buy a lot of processing equipment for \$1,000.”

Laumb received a high-speed grinder as a gift several years ago and more recently bought his own stuffer, a slick, stainless-steel unit that cleans up a lot easier than the old cast iron stuffer he used to borrow from his grandparents.

Laumb used kits from

Hi Mountain Seasonings for this year’s sausage recipes. In addition to the Polish sausage kit, he used Jalapeno Blend for the snack sticks and Cracked Pepper ‘N Garlic for the summer sausage.

The kits include all of the curing salt, seasonings and casings; collagen casings for the summer sausage and snack sticks and natural hog intestine casings for the Polish.

From there, it was simply a matter of mixing the right amount of ground meat with the cures and seasonings. Laumb added a mixture of 10% suet, purchased at a local meat shop, to the summer sausage.

In addition, pork will comprise one-fourth to one-third of the meat in a typical sausage recipe, Laumb says. He also added high-temperature pepper jack cheese to the summer sausage and high-temp cheddar to the jalapeno sticks.

Laumb approaches the sausage-making process with the meticulous touch of an engineer. A digital scale is crucial to ensure a proper mixture of meat, curing salt and spices, he says.

“You can’t guess, on the



Brad Dokken / Grand Forks Herald

Jason Laumb of Grand Forks loads the stuffer while making a batch of Polish venison sausage Dec. 19, 2021.

amount of meat you’re putting in,” he said.

Laumb in recent years has added a new twist to his sausage recipes by grinding up three or four white onions and mixing them with the meat and spices. A friend of Polish descent who is well-versed in the art of making sausage suggested giving it a try, Laumb says, and it’s been a keeper ever since.

Besides adding flavor and a tish of added zing, the onions add moisture.

Once the ingredients are mixed, it’s time to stuff. I turned the crank

on the stuffer, while Laumb managed the casings.

Smoking completes the process for most of Laumb’s recipes, and he keeps the smoker at a temperature of no more than 165 degrees and smokes the sausage until it reaches an internal temperature of 150 to 155 degrees. That can take up to 6 hours, although Laumb moves the summer sausage to the oven after a couple of hours, cooking it at a low temperature to finish cooking.

Before adding the Pol-

ish to the smoker, Laumb puts it on a makeshift rack – in this case a hockey stick set between two chairs – to dry for an hour or two. The sausage absorbs the smoke a lot better when the casings are dry, he says.

Over the years, Laumb has used a variety of different meats in his sausage recipes in addition to venison, including geese and sandhill cranes. In 2019, we made moose sausage in Laumb’s kitchen after I filled my once-in-a-lifetime North Dakota cow moose tag.

In 2020, Laumb filled his once-in-a-lifetime cow elk tag on the last day of season, and so elk was a key ingredient in last winter’s sausage-making process.

Last winter’s sausage-making venture wasn’t the social occasion it normally is, though, because COVID-19 vaccines weren’t yet widely available and getting together as we normally do didn’t feel safe.

Different story this year, though. Getting back into the kitchen to help make sausage was not only fun – it also was tasty.

WOLVES

From Page B6

world, higher than Alaska or Canada, because wolves thrive more on easy-to-kill deer than they do on larger prey.

“And having those deer keeping the wolf population... higher is also a huge problem for moose calves. Because in May, when the moose calves come out, they are the easiest things in the woods for a wolf to kill. Even easier than a deer,” Moore said.

“That’s why we’re seeing zero calf recruitment.”

That means almost no moose calves survive to become adults.

The Grand Portage Band and University researchers have for years been studying moose in an effort to understand and reverse Minnesota’s long-term moose population decline. Between 2007 and 2019 they trapped and collared more than 200 deer, moose and wolves on the Grand Portage Reservation at the tip of Minneso-

ta’s Arrowhead region, in Cook County. In the latest research, the scientists were looking at seasonal migratory patterns of deer and moose, and how the risk posed by wolves to those animals might affect those patterns and influence the transmission of brainworm.

Moore said the study shows the complex relationship between the three species and noted that any effort to save Minnesota’s dwindling moose population may require intensive deer management and,

at least to start, targeted wolf management.

“I think if we can agree on an area in the core moose range where we are going to work to benefit moose, and we include deer management and maybe some wolf management to start, along with targeted habitat work, we might succeed,” Moore said. “We might be able to keep moose in Minnesota.”

John Myers reports on the outdoors, environment and natural resources for the Duluth News Tribune. He can be reached at jmyers@duluthnews.com.

MINNESOTA

From Page B6

Dialing for dollars

By the second half of 2022, DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said she will pitch a new “actionable funding framework” to broaden the agency’s revenue streams beyond hunting and fishing license sales and excise taxes on hunting, fishing and archery gear.

Those traditional user fees and current general fund

allocations can’t meet the growing demand for quality outdoor experiences, she has said. She’s been tapping the general public for ideas and researching similar efforts in other states.

Might there be trail-user fees and other new pricing to spread DNR’s operational costs across diverse outdoors lovers? Or, like Texas, could Minnesota propose an excise tax on outdoors equipment? Watch for Strommen’s report.

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NORTH LAND OUTDOORS



Dreamstime / TNS

A gray wolf crosses a river in northern Minnesota.

5 outdoor issues in Minnesota worth watching in 2022

By **Tony Kennedy**
Star Tribune

Whether you live on a dirt road, a suburban lane or in a downtown condominium, chances are good in Minnesota that you care about fish, water, wildlife and wilderness. For 2022, here are five news stories to follow about the great outdoors:

Less is more

Minnesota’s walleye bag limit could drop from six to four this year if more legislators buy the argument that it’s time to protect the state fish from mounting stressors.

Sen. Carrie Ruud, R-Breezy Point, who last year carried the bill for a reduced bag limit, said the idea is gaining momentum.

“More and more it’s looking like something we need to do,” said Ruud, who chairs the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee.

Anglers who support the downsizing see it as a countermeasure to increased, technology-aided fishing pressure. In addition, walleyes throughout the upper Midwest and into Canada are fighting losses of forage and prime habitat due to climate change and invasive species.

On a lake-by-lake basis, the Department of Natural Resources already departs from the state’s six-walleye bag limit to protect populations on special lakes such as Upper Red, Mille Lacs, Vermilion and Kabetogama.

State Fisheries Chief Brad Parsons has said the agency doesn’t have scientific justification to support a statewide reduction to four walleyes per bag, but he says the idea has social merit to underscore the scarcity of the resource. A downsizing would spread harvest out during “hot bite” periods, he has said, and it would simplify a set of fishing regulations that is bloated with exceptions to the rule.

Rain and solitude

U.S. Forest Service fire management officials in northern Minnesota are loving the deepening snow this winter and

need at least average snow and rain this spring to discourage fires from returning to the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA).

Drought conditions spawned fires in the bush last summer that caused sporadic, limited campsite and lake closures. Wildfires also prompted an all-out shutdown of the BWCA in late August and early September, canceling a profusion of overnight and day trips.

Those safety precautions came at a time of increased usage that began with the outdoor recreation boom of 2020. The surge in visitor traffic on easily accessible lakes has prompted the forest service to cut back on permit availability in certain locations. The agency hasn’t provided details on how deeply it will trim access, but many longtime visitors say the cuts are needed to combat crowding that has led to campsite shortages, partying, natural resource damage and congestion on portage trails.

On a recent Facebook post, canoe country veteran Eric Thum said he misses the solitude that “made the wilderness seem even bigger.”

Wolfpack 2.0

A revision of Minnesota’s wolf plan that began in the fall of 2019 is on the brink of publication for mainstream review and debate.

Dan Stark, the state’s large carnivore specialist, said the paper, with updated data, should be released for comment in February or March. The document will then return to a pair of working groups for revisions. If the timetable is accurate, a finalized species management plan for the state’s thriving population of gray wolves will be published in the spring to replace guidelines last updated in 2001.

“It always generates a lot of interest,” Stark said. “It’s a topic that a lot of people have pretty strong opinions about.”

Livestock producers and deer hunting groups will look closely at the plan to see what it offers in the way of depredation controls and management

tools for keeping wildlife populations in balance. Tribal authorities, environmentalists and wildlife conservation groups also will scrutinize the plan.

While the revisions will emerge at a time when gray wolves are without federal wildlife protection, it won’t dictate whether Minnesota resumes hunting and trapping of the animals as the state did during highly regulated fall and winter seasons in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

DNR wildlife biologists have plainly stated that northern Minnesota’s wolves are resilient even with a moderate level of hunting and trapping. But some politicians in St. Paul still want to ban the activity. Gov. Tim Walz, who stands for re-election this year, said in 2019 he would support such a ban.

Fighting CWD

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association called out deer farmers last year, publicly blaming them for spreading chronic wasting disease (CWD) to whitetails in the wild.

The hunters want the Legislature to ban farm-to-farm transport of captive deer, a stance taken after a Beltrami County herd owner created an unprecedented CWD biohazard. His infected farm illegally dumped its dead deer on public land.

If there’s a reckoning in store for the industry in 2022, it could stem from DNR’s new authority from the Legislature to share oversight of deer farms with the farmer-dominated Board of Animal Health. The reform measure was ordered by lawmakers in 2021. A report on the arrangement is due Feb. 1, possibly spelling out enforcement and rulemaking.

Meanwhile, DNR wildlife health officials still are busy with late-season hunts to test as many deer as possible for the fatal, neurological disease. In addition, federal sharpshooters are lined up to thin deer populations in two persistent focal areas: the south metro and endemic hotspots in southeastern Minnesota.

MINNESOTA: Page B5



Contributed / Seth Moore

Tiffany Wolf, a wildlife veterinarian with the University of Minnesota’s Department of Veterinary Population Medicine, works on a wolf that’s part of ongoing research on the Grand Portage Reservation into the links between, wolves, deer, moose and habitat — all aimed at recovering the regions’ beleaguered moose population.

Wolves may help keep deer – and brainworm – away from moose

Brainworm just one of several problems that deer bring into moose range

By **John Myers**

Duluth News Tribune

Could having wolves in the area help keep deer and moose apart, and thus spare moose from a deadly parasite that’s spread by deer?

That’s the finding of a new study by University of Minnesota and Grand Portage Band scientists who found that having wolves around caused deer and moose to split up more, decreasing the likelihood that deer will spread parasitic brainworm to moose.

The study found that higher wolf pressure was linked to less overlap between deer and moose and a lower risk of parasite transmission, the study noted.

While moose have coexisted for centuries with wolves around, they didn’t have to deal with white-tailed deer much until the last century. Especially in the last 50 years, deer have moved farther north into moose territory, and the deer have brought along a parasite called *P. tenuis*. The parasitic brainworm is harmless to the deer but nearly always fatal to moose, and it’s considered a critical factor in why northern Minnesota moose have declined dramatically.

The study, published last week in the journal *Science Advances*, was headed by Tiffany Wolf of the University of Minnesota and Seth Moore, director of biology and environment for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Researchers found that, with typical wolf pressure, deer and moose used the landscape differently. During the winter deer favored lowland areas while moose favored highland areas. But the researchers also wanted to know how the animal’s behavior might change if

there were fewer wolves on the landscape.

During periods when fewer wolves were around, deer and moose were more likely to overlap, increasing the risk that moose would pick up brainworm from the deer.

“We often think of wolves as bad news for moose because they kill a lot of calves,” Wolf said in a statement. “But this (study) suggests that wolves may provide a protective benefit to adult moose from a parasite-transmission perspective. Because brainworm is such an important cause of adult moose mortality in Minnesota, we can now see that the impact of wolves on moose is a bit more nuanced.”

The results could have broad implications. Some 23% of radio-collared moose that died in Northeastern Minnesota in the past 15 years were infected with *P. tenuis*. In the Grand Portage study area, the brainworm kills as many as 35% of the adult moose, Moore said. Over those 15 years Northeastern Minnesota’s moose population plummeted from about 10,000 to about 5,000. Brainworm was also a culprit in the complete collapse and elimination of the northwestern Minnesota moose herd in the 1990s.

Meanwhile, more deer are making their way into moose range throughout the northern U.S., which leads to increased concerns of spillover of *P. tenuis* and other problems, including liver flukes and chronic wasting disease, both carried by deer.

And having a lot of deer in the area also encourages more wolves. Northeastern Minnesota has among the highest wolf densities anywhere in the

WOLVES: Page B5

BIZ BUZZ

Concept for small cottages in housing development

SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING WEDNESDAY

The view from Northwest Third Street in Brainerd.
Renee Richardson / Brainerd Dispatch

By Renee Richardson
Managing Editor

A housing proposal for small cottages in a supportive housing development is before the city of Brainerd. In December, applicant Vicky Kinney of Lake Shore had a land use application for a planned unit development for 22 lots between Northwest Fourth and Northwest Second streets, north of Jackson Street. The land, owned by Gustafson Properties of Brainerd, is between Northwest Fourth Street and the Tyrol Hill residential area and behind Walgreens on wooded, undeveloped land.

What is before the city, and the subject of a public hearing 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, Planning Commission meeting, is a request for a concept review of the PUD. In addition to small cottages, the proposal includes a clubhouse and one or two small buildings to be done in two phases with a third phase including 17 small homes for home ownership and a park area. The cottages depicted in the application as an example of what they'd like to build included small, tidy homes with front porches. The applicant noted stairs and loft areas would be

optional. The studio design is 288 square feet and the one bedroom is 384 square feet. The cottage design listed a 15 foot by 11 foot living room/kitchen and a 9.5 foot by 9 foot bedroom, bath and option for a loft, and the porch. As an example, housing communities at Flat Rock, North Carolina, were listed. According to the application, the first phase would include two lots north of Jackson Street. "Our plan is to construct approximately 10 to 15 homes along with an additional structure to be used as an arts/hobby

room (though depending on financing, may be temporarily used as a community center). The area would be gated with parking for residents and guests," the application states. Phase two then could develop lots north of James Street between Second Street Northwest and Third Street Northwest. "This section would contain the community center, gardens, park, and playground, along with approximately 20 homes. Again, the neighborhood would be fenced and gated with parking in front of the community

center and throughout the development. A one-way road would likely be built closer to the outer edge of the property, with screenings of trees and plants surrounding the property edges (opposite of the hand drawn, sample site plan)." The third phase, the application stated, "depending on need and funding, we may either expand supportive housing units, or build a neighborhood consisting of small homes for sale. The style and park like theme would continue through this development."

BIZ BUZZ: Page C2

Lackluster stock market forecast for 2022

By Erin Arvedlund
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Vanguard CEO Mortimer "Tim" Buckley and two top strategists at the firm said investors should expect the stock market to post far more modest returns over the coming decade compared with recent years while offering a guarded but positive outlook for the global economic recovery. Over the next decade, investors should expect 2% to 4% U.S. equity market returns annually, the Vanguard panel said. That's far below last year, when "we had a return in the S&P 500 of close to 28%," said chief investment officer Greg Davis, who joined Buckley. "Those are not sustainable returns," Davis added. "We were fortunate in terms of what the equity markets produced for the last decade. It is unlikely that we will see the same type of returns going forward." Sara Devereux, global head of fixed income, completed the trio, who appeared to take online



Tyger Williams / The Philadelphia Inquirer / TNS

Tim Buckley, CEO of Vanguard, speaks to fellow Vanguard workers during the ribbon cutting ceremony at its new campus in Malvern, Pennsylvania on Nov. 1, 2019.

questions from audience participants. Vanguard's forecast for stock market gains is well below Wall Street consensus: a Reuters poll of strategists believe the S&P 500 would gain 7.5% in 2022 to finish at 4,910. With the pandemic remaining a threat, policymakers will affect the recovery by how they go about removing support and stimulus packages enacted to combat the

pandemic-driven downturn, the Vanguard executives said in their one-hour webinar broadcast Monday evening. The tremendous amount of fiscal and monetary policy support in the marketplace has helped get the U.S. economy running again. But the firm sees "more moderate economic growth both in the U.S. and Europe," Davis said. "We are expecting about

4% or so in terms of economic growth. Even places like China that have historically had gangbusters-type economic growth, we are expecting growth to slow down to around 5% or so." Vanguard's forecast is higher than others: Goldman Sachs economists lowered their forecasts for 2022 U.S. gross domestic product growth to 2% in the first quarter from 3% previously, citing the failure to pass the federal Build Back Better bill. Vanguard expects inflation to moderate over the "next couple of years. We are not expecting the type of inflationary environment we saw in the 1970s where inflation was rising in double-digit rates." Vanguard's muted expectations for investors extended to bonds. The Federal Reserve has signaled it will start increasing interest rates, and as a result "our return expectations for fixed income ratcheted up a small amount but we

are expecting 1.5%-2.5% over the next decade for the broad-based fixed income category." Vanguard is modifying and will phase out a popular retiree medical benefit after backing away from cutting it entirely. Devereux said she expected that bond returns outside the U.S. "will be a little lower than [in] the U.S. That said, we do find value in buying hedged global bonds because there is a diversification benefit. It helps insulate against results and risks specific to the U.S." She expects interest rates "to be going higher, and for a muni investor, this gives them potential for tax-exempt income. I would summarize it by saying, yes, returns are expected to be low in fixed-income markets, but if we learned one thing during the COVID-19 crisis, it is that power of bonds as insulation when the equity market is selling off."

Inflation also expected to ebb While the latest inflation growth totaled roughly 7% year-over-year, "we will go back to an environment where inflation will be in the 1.5%-2.5% range," Davis said. "The market is pricing in 2.5% inflation for the next decade. That is in our wheelhouse of what we expect." One strategist agrees that above-average inflation won't persist. "Supply chain disruptions will likely spill over into the new year, but their impact should eventually subside," said Jason Pride, chief investment officer for Private Wealth at Glenmede Trust in Philadelphia. Ongoing supply chain disruptions "remain a key culprit behind hotter-than-normal inflation. Clearing the backlog of shipments may be key to wrestling inflation under control and boosting inventories," Pride added.

MARKET: Page C2

Why your boss wants you back in the office

By Roger Vincent
Los Angeles Times

Bosses are recommitting to their company offices even as Omicron is extending the remote working trend that has kept many of their workers laboring at home since COVID-19 erupted in early 2020. In a sign that leaders still put a priority on togetherness, office leasing in Los Angeles County finished the year in positive territory after falling during most of the pandemic. The shift suggests that executives are bullish on the future of their businesses and have decided that offices are important to have even if their employees keep working remotely some of the time in the years ahead. The number of people working in them has been low since the start of the pandemic and then dropped substantially when the omicron variant surged. Average office popu-



Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times / TNS

A worker cleans the floor inside West End, an office complex on Pico Boulevard in Los Angeles, Jan. 7. Office leasing in Los Angeles County rose last quarter even though most buildings are sparsely occupied because of COVID-19.

lation in the country's largest metro areas fell from nearly 40% in mid-December to 28% the week of Jan. 5, according to Kastle Systems, which pro-

vides key-card entry systems used by many companies and tracks patterns of workers' card swipes. How many workers will be

expected in the office on a given day has yet to be determined by many companies as they strive to manage shifting desires from employees, many of whom have taken a liking to working on their own. Nearly three-quarters of respondents to a recent survey by international workforce consulting firm Korn Ferry said they would return to the office now if mandated to do so, but 27% said they would refuse to go back in, even part-time, or simply quit. While 64% said it would make them "happy" to socialize with their co-workers again and nearly half said a return to the office would be good for their mental health, 51% said coming back to the office would have a negative impact on their mental health. The split on how people feel the office would affect their psychological well-being reflects today's uncertain

times, including the waxing and waning pandemic, said Dan Kaplan, a senior partner at Los Angeles-based Korn Ferry. "Our expectations will remain fluid," Kaplan said. Working in the office with your peers is a boon for your state of mind, asserts Elizabeth Brink, a regional managing principal in the workplace consulting practice at architecture firm Gensler. "I firmly believe the overall mental health of employees is improved by coming in some of the time," said Brink, who began to return to her Los Angeles office last summer. "Interaction is really critical to mental health." Leaders at top-performing companies value in-person interaction and see the physical workplace as a means to drive performance and innovation, Gensler found.

OFFICE: Page C2

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Minnesota Credit Union Network Honors Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union President and CEO as Professional of the Year

SAINT PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Credit Union Network presented the Outstanding Credit Union Professional of the Year to Chuck Albrecht at a ceremony held during the MnCUN Accelerate 21 Conference on November 19 at the Radisson Blu MOA in Bloomington.

The Outstanding Professional of the Year is given to a remarkable person who truly stands behind the “people helping people” credit union philosophy.

This year, the honoree is Chuck Albrecht, President and CEO of Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union serving central Minnesota. When Albrecht joined Mid Minnesota in 2003, the credit union served a handful of counties with 4 branches and now has grown to serve 11 counties to 10 full-service branches. Credit union assets went from \$110 million to nearing \$600 million and membership grew from 28,000 to 50,000 currently.

“The Minnesota Credit Union Network is pleased to honor Chuck Albrecht for his tremendous contributions to both the credit union movement and for the members Mid Minnesota serves,” said Mark Cummins, President & CEO of the Minnesota Credit Union Network, the state’s trade association for credit unions. “Chuck is a deserving recipient of this award, and we are thankful for his leadership in the credit union movement.”

In addition to his role as President and CEO, Albrecht is involved with local organizations including the Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation and the Boy Scouts, where he earned the Silver Beaver Award, the highest volunteer award.

A video tribute to Chuck Albrecht is available on the Minnesota Credit Union Network’s website (<https://www.mncun.org/professional-and-director-of-the-year.html>).

The Minnesota Credit Union Network is the statewide trade association that works to ensure the success, growth, and vitality of Minnesota credit unions. With nearly \$34 billion in assets, Minnesota credit unions are local, trusted financial cooperatives that serve over 1.9 million members at around 400 branch locations around the state. As not-for-profit institutions, credit unions give back to the communities they serve. For more information, visit mncun.org.



Delta posts 4Q loss, but airline employees to get bonus checks

By Kelly Yamanouchi
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Delta Air Lines said it plans to give employees \$1,250 bonuses after a tumultuous year and challenging holiday period.

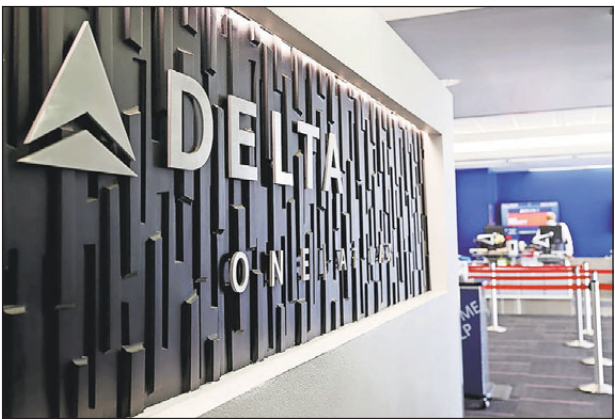
The Atlanta-based airline reported Thursday a \$408 million net loss in the fourth quarter. For the full year it eked out \$280 million in net income, thanks to \$4.5 billion in federal relief funding.

Delta announced a “special profit-sharing payment” to be paid on Valentine’s Day to its employees, who had for years benefited from bigger profit-sharing bonuses before the pandemic hit.

Delta predicted the omicron variant of COVID-19 will delay its financial recovery by about 60 days and result in a first-quarter loss. But it forecast profits in the last three quarters of this year and still expects a “meaningful profit” for 2022.

“We’re seeing Presidents Day forward being very healthy,” Delta CEO Ed Bastian said in an interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, adding he expects omicron to affect the airline “pretty heavily” until mid-February.

Delta said about 8,000 of its more than 75,000 employees tested positive for COVID-19 in the last four weeks. The



Mario Tama / Getty Images / TNS

A Delta Air Lines sign is displayed on the departures level at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Aug. 25, 2021 in Los Angeles, California.

resulting staff shortages, combined with winter storms and surging holiday traffic, triggered thousands of flight cancellations between Christmas and New Year’s.

“We’re already probably well past the peak as affecting our own staff,” Bastian said. “Things are moving in a good direction for us. The doctors have told us it will decline as rapidly as it appeared and they seem to be right.”

The airline will pay out \$1,250 to each employee who was with the company through its profitable second half of 2021, “in recognition of the fact that everyone has worked very hard through this very, very difficult year,” Bastian told the AJC.

Many employers — including airlines — have struggled to retain staff or fill job openings

during the pandemic amid worker shortages. Many are boosting pay and some are offering bonuses.

Delta’s revenue at the end of December was still down more than 20% from 2019 levels. The company nonetheless has improved its financial standing after a \$12 billion net loss in 2020, when air travel plummeted in the first year of the pandemic.

There are pockets of strength and weakness in the airline’s business. While domestic passenger revenue was 78% recovered in the fourth quarter compared with 2019 levels, international passenger revenue and domestic business travel were only 50% and 60% recovered, respectively.

“We’re seeing some near-term hesitation in booking behavior, given the prominence

of COVID in our daily lives,” Bastian said.

Delta had operating revenue of \$29.9 billion in 2021, up from \$17.1 billion in 2020 but still well below 2019 revenue of \$47.01 billion.

2021 was a tumultuous year for Delta. The airline lost more than \$1 billion in the first quarter. It posted a \$652 million profit in the June quarter, helped by \$1.5 billion in federal relief funding. It booked a \$1.2 billion profit in the third quarter, fueled largely by relief money.

The \$1,250 year-end payments to employees are being recorded as a \$108 million expense, and pale in comparison with pre-pandemic payouts.

The last time the airline posted an annual profit was in 2019, when it had \$4.8 billion in net income in a year that Bastian called the best in the company’s history, benefiting from rapid growth and low fuel costs. That led the airline to pay out \$1.6 billion in profit sharing bonuses to employees in February 2020, amounting to about two months of pay.

Employees struggled through pay cuts and unpaid leaves of absence in 2020, and there was no profit sharing payout in February 2021.

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US initial jobless claims rose to highest since mid-November

By Olivia Rockeman
Bloomberg News

Applications for U.S. state unemployment insurance rose unexpectedly for a second consecutive week to the highest in two months, suggesting that the recent surge in Covid-19 cases could be leading to dismissals.

Initial unemployment

claims totaled 230,000 in the week ended Jan. 8, up 23,000 from the prior period, Labor Department data showed Thursday. The median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of economists called for 200,000 applications.

Continuing claims for state benefits dropped to 1.6 million in the week ended Jan. 1.

The increase in unemployment

claims could suggest that businesses are laying off employees as a result of the most recent surge in coronavirus infections. That said, the uptick should be short-lived as the latest Covid-19 wave ebbs and as employers continue to push to retain staff amid an ongoing labor shortage.

“The spike in the number of

Covid cases is forcing temporary business closures, which likely pushed some affected workers to apply for jobless benefits,” Bloomberg economist Eliza Winger said in a note before the data were released. “Most businesses are open, albeit operating at limited capacity.”

The jump may also reflect difficulties adjusting for sea-

sonal effects over the holidays, which have made claims figures in recent weeks hard to interpret.

On an unadjusted basis, claims rose to 419,446 last week, the highest since May. California, New York and Texas led states with the biggest increases in unadjusted claims.

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BIZ BUZZ

From Page C1

In the planning commission agenda for this coming week, the city included potential concerns expressed by local residents regarding the supportive housing community with people who have formerly experienced homelessness.

The answers included: “With our plan, residents must abide by the regulations set up for the community, which will include that no drunkenness or drugs will be allowed on the property. Some residents may struggle with addictions but by choosing to live in community, will understand that a big part of that is being a good neighbor. It won’t appeal to everyone.”

Other notables included the housing community will



Contributed / City of Brainerd

Examples of the cottages the applicant would like to include show a small home with porch. The application notes a loft would be optional and there would be studio or one bedroom designs.

be gated and fenced. Visitors will need to sign in and will be the responsibility of the residents.

“All rentals are on a month-to-month basis and will be owned by a non-profit organization based on and motivated by Christian values and principles,” as listed in the Q&A answers. “We want everyone who lives in the community to be successful and will do all we can to

support that. However, we do realize that this lifestyle isn’t going to be suitable for everyone, and those who decide that it is not what they want, based by their behavior or words, will need to find other housing (which hopefully we will be able to help with— our desire isn’t to kick anyone to the curb).”

For the residents, the applicants “anticipate people who are employed but are

having trouble finding housing, people who have experienced homelessness and need support getting back on their feet, parents with children who also are having trouble finding safe and affordable housing, people with disabilities who want to live in a supportive community, and we may open up a small percentage of homes for ‘missional’ people who just want to live there

and help out.”

Neighbors were invited to a couple of informational sessions last week.

One question on the list included what will happen to the existing trees and vegetation on the wooded property, which has rolling terrain, deer and wildlife.

“There’s no easy answer for this one,” the applicants stated. “We will do our absolute best to save as many trees as possible. We value nature and also, it’s expensive to replace trees! Because of the varied terrain, there will need to be leveling done to put in homes. On the outer edges of the property, we intend to put in tree and vegetation screening, and because it is our plan to create a neighborhood that is park like and filled with gardens and permaculture areas, we will replace trees and green the area up as much as possible.”

OFFICE

From Page C1

“People are realizing how important relationships are for doing great work, not just being productive,” Brink said.

While these companies will be flexible about where people work as they return from pandemic isolation, they also want to have people who work as teams to come to the office at the same time.

Some companies say they will need more space in the future to create a collaborative, engaging environment and inspire people to work in the office instead of elsewhere.

Landlords natural-

ly hope that tenants will expand their offices in the years ahead, but many companies are looking for ways to reduce their rented space as their employees choose to work off-site at least some of the time.

Healthcare firm Med-Point Management, for instance, shed half of its office space last year while keeping its staff of about 800 workers intact. Half of them work mostly at home and the rest toil at home some days and in their Sherman Oaks office on others.

Office leasing in the fourth quarter demonstrated the staying power of offices even as some companies such as Med-Point find ways to pare back their space.

Google has agreed to

lease most of the former Westside Pavilion indoor shopping center, which is being converted to offices by two different developers, one of which is Hudson Pacific Properties Inc. The former mid-century Macy’s building there is being turned into an office complex called West End and owner GPI Cos. is seeking tenants.

Office landlords have remained determined to keep their rental rates up throughout the pandemic. Asking rates in Los Angeles County increased to \$3.92 per square foot per month in the fourth quarter, up from \$3.88 in the previous quarter and \$3.74 in the same period a year ago.

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MARKET

From Page C1

Others such as Matt Topley, chief investment officer at Lansing Street Advisors in Ambler, said Vanguard’s inflation forecast is too low: “Inflation will be a lot higher in the next two to three years than Vanguard’s 1.5%-2.5%, closer to 4%. I can’t say long-term, but what’s going up like rents and wages are hard to reverse, even when supply chain resolves.”

Disdain for meme stocks and crypto Asked about meme culture’s effect on Wall Street and individual investors, Buckley urged ignoring the hype. “You will probably run out of money before you can cash out on these trends. What do you do? You ignore them,” he said.

Buckley also took audience questions about cryptocurrencies and whether Vanguard would offer any sort of crypto-invested fund.

“A company has underlying earn-

ings, so you know how much you are paying,” he said. “Crypto doesn’t have that. It is simply a supply-demand marketplace. As long as demand increasingly exceeds supply, you will get a nice return. But you are depending on that.”

Crypto is “hugely popular, highly volatile, but we don’t see why it would be in a typical Vanguard portfolio. If you are going to invest in it, do it outside of the money you have dedicated to your long-term goals.”

Environmental, social and governance

Regarding portfolios based on environmental, social, and governance [ESG] factors, Davis called it a popular segment of the marketplace. “There are some investors that prefer not to have exposure to tobacco, alcohol, firearms, things of that nature. ESG products allow you to express those views, and Vanguard has funds that exclude those sectors.”

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Tech Savvy

your local media minute

Innovative tech at heart of CES



Hey there, Tech Savvy fans!



RENEE RICHARDSON
Managing editor

The CES show wrapped up earlier this month in Las Vegas after two years of interruption during the pandemic. The event can be a preview of what it will be like living in the future, or a glimpse into what will be likely to change everyday living right now as thousands of products are debuted. CES described it as “a week filled with thousands of product debuts unveiling innovation that will better the world and solve global challenges. More than 2300 exhibiting companies from around the world, including more than 800 startups, launched products featuring innovation across artificial

intelligence, automotive technology, digital health, smart home and more.”

The show, which focuses on consumer technology, drew more than 45,000 people to 11 indoor and outdoor venues.

“Innovation came to life this week at CES 2022 — with technologies that will reshape industries and provide solutions to pressing worldwide issues from healthcare to agriculture, sustainability and beyond,” said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO, Consumer Technology Association (CTA)TM, owner and producer of CES. “The CES show floor buzzed with the joy of human interaction and a five-sense innovation experience with products that will redefine our future and change our world for the better.”

The event was a hybrid with an ability to attend in person and virtually and found a little bit of a mixed bag in attendance with some companies pulling out after COVID-19 surged yet again with omicron. CNET writers noted a “slew of interesting products” including Dell laptops and Samsung’s TVs.

The TVs, getting clearer and larger, were noted with high definition and high performance, topped by TCL’s 98-inch TV powered by Roku. We’ve become familiar with LED TVs and now Organic Light Emitting Diode, or OLED TVs, are all the rage.

“Watching an OLED TV for the first time will give you that rare feeling of having just witnessed something really very special,” TechRadar reported.

CNET reported Samsung finally unveiled its OLED TV to compete with LG’s best-in-class picture. “And Samsung’s The Freestyle TV projector — with its 100-inch picture, 360-degree sound and a \$900 price tag — was a fun surprise,” CNET reported. Samsung reports the small, round projector is easy to set up and optimizes screen size, auto-focuses, and levels the image even when pointed on an angle.” It is also portable and works with a battery bank for outdoor shows. The screen can go from 30 to 100 inches. It comes with a battery base and a case. The projector with the stand is less than 2 pounds and 6.8 inches in height. Samsung’s website notes pre-orders are temporarily on hold but people can sign up to get an



Contributed / Consumer Technology Association

People gather at the CES show in Las Vegas for consumer technology across industries

alert when pre-orders are taken again.

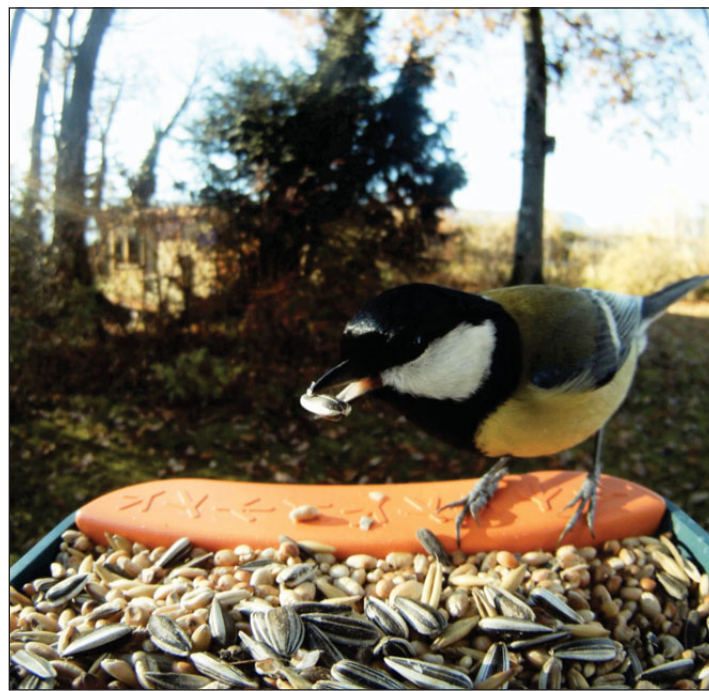
Other items stretching the imagination included a BMW that can change its exterior color using E Ink, a fitness display in a contact lens, continued looks at flying drones that can carry people and augmented reality glasses — with expectations for Apple to launch an augmented reality/virtual reality headset this year, CNET reported.

CES listed key trends in:

► Automotive technology — More than 190 automotive companies exhibited at the event. CNET noted the electric vehicle “tsunami is about to come ashore.”

► Digital health — with information on telemedicine, wearable health devices aimed at giving consumers more information and greater ability to make choices on behalf of their health.

► Artificial intelligence — It was, of course, a major highlight during the weeklong show, including John Deere, which featured what CES described as the first fully autonomous tractor; and Beyond Honeycomb, an artificial intelligence-enabled robot to prep and cook customizable meals. “Prevalent throughout the show was artificial intelligence, making products and technologies smarter, more efficient and customizable, advancing nearly every major industry from agriculture to healthcare,



Contributed / Bird Buddy

A great tit bird, common in Eurasia, is in the chickadee family, picks up a seed at the Bird Buddy feeder, which is equipped with a camera and one of the technological innovations that was recently part of the CES show in Las Vegas.

automotive, manufacturing and entertainment,” CES reported.

At Beyond Honeycomb, the South Korean company reports the AI-driven kitchen robot learns to reproduce dishes one would experience from famous chefs.

“Everyone deserves to experience good food anywhere, anytime at a low price. Technology makes it happen,” Beyond Honeycomb reported. “We are reshaping commercial kitchens to create a digital platform. With a digitized set of chef skills and taste data, the platform serves casual, but chef-quality daily meals like sandwich, burger, BBQ Grill, and

salad, at a low price.”

On its website, Beyond Honeycomb reported, “Today, many commercial kitchens face labor shortage and various human risks. Highly skilled chefs are limited to serving at a single location at a time.

“Whereas, Beyond Honeycomb’s AI Chef enables greater kitchen productivity and menu options while minimizing labor cost and human error. Original chefs, as ‘creators’ can now serve their masterpieces to a bigger group of eaters on the platform.”

► Startups — With more than 800 startups from 19 countries featured. CES listed the SkyDrive air taxi

and Orbisk, an AI-powered fully automated food waste monitoring system. SkyDrive looks like a plane met a helicopter and a drone on a date. It has the look of a single occupant plane cockpit minus the wings, the landing gear of a helicopter and the flying apparatus of four sets of rotating blades of a drone.

Orbisk reports it helps professional kitchens get a grip on food waste, helping to save tens of thousands of dollars annually.

Other highlights

Maybe put this one in the camp of the thing you didn’t know you needed.

The Bird Buddy smart bird feeder could be a draw for any number of birdwatchers. Have a feeder away from the house and windows? No problem. It’s as if there is a Ring doorbell camera on the bird feeder.

You’ll even get updates on your phone with a lovely closeup of the bird and an ability to grab a photo and a way to identify the bird. The feeder will also update you on when it needs to be refilled. The Bird Buddy has a high resolution camera, AI bird recognition and a built-in microphone. It comes in yellow or blue and has an upgrade option of a solar panel. It can be mounted on a fence or a wall and a suet ball holder can be added to the mix.

Bird Buddy reports people also contribute to the database of bird migration and population with their feeder. It requires a Wi-Fi connection and then streams to a mobile device. Bird Buddy reports its battery can last between 10 and 30 days.

The photos displayed on the Bird Buddy website are sharp. Bird Buddy says the camera gets people closer to the birds and provides a “goofy, selfie-like perspective.” Bird Buddy is crowdfunded. A single feeder costs about \$200 with a current 15% discount on the website indicated. Three feeders were \$529. People can pre-order with an expectation for delivery in June of 2022.

And that’s CES, showing amazing different ways technology can change everyday life.

Through Jan. 31, registered in-person and digital-only CES 2022 attendees can review on-demand sessions.

Renee Richardson, managing editor, may be reached at 218-855-5852 or renee.richardson@brainerddispatch.com. Follow on Twitter at www.twitter.com/DispatchBizBuzz.

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ASK THE MASTER GARDENER



When African violets have a bright spot, are well-fed and carefully watered they will outgrow their pots and need to be repotted.
Contributed / Jennifer Knutson

As African violets grow, repotting them requires special care

By Jackie Burkey and Jennifer Knutson
U of M Extension Master Gardeners

Dear Master Gardener: My African violet is flowering, but keeps getting taller and taller and leans to one side. Do I dare repot it?

Answer: Yes! African violets (Saintpaulia ionantha) are a long-time favorite houseplant because they need minimal care and less light than many plants. Violets come in many colors, different leaf shapes and foliage colors, and range in size from miniature to large. However, when they have a bright spot, are well-fed and carefully watered they will outgrow their pots and need to be repotted. It's important to know that African violets prefer to be root bound and usually won't flower until they are, so don't just do the typical move into a larger pot. If your plant is starting to look like a fuzzy version of a palm tree with a bare stem and all the leaves at the top, it's time to do some surgery. If you spot any baby plants, carefully cut them away and root them in small pots. Save a few healthy bottom leaves to root in water or damp vermiculite — it takes several weeks, but it's always nice to have extras to enjoy or trade. For the main plant, cut the stem a little below the first set of leaves you want to keep. Lightly scrape the stem with your knife — the slight irritation will help it start root production. A dusting with rooting hormone will help, too. Then set the whole plant into fresh African violet potting mix and water thoroughly, making sure excess water drains out. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Plastic or ceramic pots with good drainage are recommended — clay pots

dry out too quickly and salts collect along the top rim. When your plant starts putting out new leaves again, begin to fertilize at a very low concentration every time you water. Keep water off the leaves and periodically brush them with a soft brush to remove dust. Remove faded flowers. Water carefully from the top or from the bottom making sure there is no standing water in order to avoid root rot. Rotate the pot a bit every time you water so the plant won't lean toward the light.

Dear Master Gardener: You're always talking about Zone 3. What does that mean?

Answer: It's a secret code only known by expert gardeners! Actually, Zone 3 is a guide to help gardeners judge what should survive our winter temperatures. Officially called the USDA Hardiness Zone Map (<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>), zones are plotted in 5-degree increments, hence 3a and 3b, using the average lowest temperature of the winter. Not the average low temperatures, the average of the lowest temperature. Since Brainerd hit 33 degrees below zero last week, praying that that is the lowest we go this winter, that number will be averaged in with previous winters. Even if the rest of the winter is easy on us, that's our data point for the winter of 2021-22. The good news is our thick blanket of snow gives us a lot of additional protection against exposed plants freezing. Just remember that hardiness zone numbers are guides not hard, fast rules. With climate change, Minnesota no longer shows any Zone 2 (40 to 50 degrees below zero) and southern parts of the state have become Zone 5a (15 to 20 degrees below

zero) and Brainerd is almost considered Zone 4a (25 to 30 degrees below zero), but as we proved last week, we are probably only safe buying Zone 3b plants (30 to 35 degrees below zero). Keep in mind, your yard might have protected areas that don't get quite as cold, or you may be a gambler and want to risk growing that Zone 4 or 5 plant. I have several Zone 5 roses that have survived for years with a little extra TLC. Keeping the roots well-watered until the ground freezes and providing extra mulch can help. Be especially aware when ordering perennials from seed catalogs — we often have to grow things up here as annuals that the rest of the country calls perennial.

Dear Master Gardener: The hospital and some businesses use so much salt to melt their sidewalks. Aren't we supposed to cut back because the runoff into the lakes and river is bad?

Answer: Excellent question. High levels of chloride in our waterways are practically permanent — there is no current easy way to remove it. One teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes 5 gallons of water. Fish and other aquatic creatures are negatively impacted, and most of us have seen what happens in our yards from the salt the snow plow rolls up on the edges near the road or when the grass doesn't grow well in the spring next to our sidewalks. Use sand, clay cat litter, or chicken grit to provide some traction if needed on icy walkways. Use less salt — a coffee mug amount can be plenty for 10 sidewalk sections! Sweep up any salt sitting on dry pavement — don't let it run into the gutter or grass later. If sidewalks are shoveled, the sun and wind will

keep them clear, and no salt is needed most of the time.

Dear Master Gardener: Are there any unusual flowering houseplants I can try other than the typical ones?

Answer: Availability could be an issue, but following are three atypical flowering houseplants. Bird of Paradise is a relative of the banana and one of the most exotic, easy to grow potted plants. It not only has showy fans of blue-green leaves that are attractive all the time, but mature plants send up stalks topped with fascinating birdlike flowers that combine colors of golden orange and peacock blue during the warm seasons. Clivia, a member of the lily family, is easier to grow than an orchid and more unusual than an amaryllis. It has dark, evergreen, leathery leaves that provide a perfect backdrop for the dense clusters of orange flowers that appear. There are some yellow cultivars; however, they are quite rare and consequently expensive. A zebra plant is another option. Not only does it have dark leaves with striking, light-colored veins, making it a beautiful houseplant when it is not in bloom, it also sends up spikes of waxy bright yellow-bracted flowers that are long-lasting. Zebra plants do have a reputation for being somewhat difficult to grow because they require high humidity and consistent moisture.

You may get your garden questions answered by calling the new Master Gardener Help Line at 218-824-1068 and leaving a message. A master gardener will return your call. Or, emailing me at umnmastergardener@gmail.com and I will answer you in the column if space allows. University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners are trained and certified volunteers for the University of Minnesota Extension. Information given in this column is based on university research.

WHAT'S DOING

Washington High School class of 1954 to meet Tuesday
The Washington High School class of 1954 will meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, at Grizzly's in Baxter.

Washington High School class of 1967 to meet
The Washington High School class of 1967 will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at The Local 218, 723 Mill Ave., Brainerd.

CJ Chapter of PEO meeting set
CJ Chapter of PEO will meet 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18.

The program will focus on Founders Day.

For more information, email ramblinrosez@yahoo.com.

Nisswa Women's Club to return to Zoom meetings
NISSWA — The Nisswa Women's Club is returning to Zoom meetings to start the new year.

The topic for January is "Let Me In: A Japanese American Woman Crashes the Corporate Club — Past, Present, Future."

Elaine Koyama will share her life experience of growing up on a farm in eastern Montana, graduating from Stanford University and becoming a Cargill executive, moving on to become an independent entrepreneur and now in her third career as an author, speaker and facilitator.

The Zoom program will be 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 20.

President Ann Swanson will lead a short business meeting after the program. Guests are welcome.

For information, email info@nisswawomensclub.org.

Sons of Norway meeting postponed
The Sons of Norway Sagatun Lodge of Brainerd meeting has been postponed until March 19 due to COVID concerns.

Brainerd VFW breakfast planned
The public is welcome to Sunday breakfast at the Brainerd VFW, 309 S. Sixth St., Brainerd, from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, Jan. 16.

Seven menu choices for \$9.

Find out more at:

<http://www.brainerdvfw.org>.

The Center, Brainerd, duplicate bridge scores
Dort Lofstrom and Bob Bollum, 31.5; Lois Volkmuth and Phyllis DeRosier, 26.0.

Class of 1965 to meet Monday
The class of 1965 grad-

uates will meet at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 17, at the Airport Cafe.

Disabled American Veterans to meet Jan. 20
The monthly meeting for the Disabled American Veterans Crow Wing County Chapter No. 22 will be 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, at the Brainerd VFW club.

Chapter 22 officers meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

Area bridge scores
Ideal Town Hall: Duplicate bridge, Jan. 11: Chris Brown and Diana Brown, 29.50; Joyce Roemer and Sue Caquelin, 29; Bruce Peck and Joe Heal, 25.50.

Engagements and wedding announcements start at \$30. All other announcements start at \$25. Deadline is 9 a.m. Thursday.
Pre-payment is required.

View all announcements online at www.brainerddispatch.com/celebrations

HOMES



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Chad Schwendeman 218-851-8550



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MLS 6123037 \$274,900
Chad Schwendeman 218-851-8550



BRAINERD
2242 Spruce Drive, Brainerd
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Chad Schwendeman 218-851-8550



OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 10-12
IRONTON
21983 Arvilla Avenue, Ironton
MLS 6140956 \$149,900
Hosted by: Savannah O'Hare



OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 10-12
PINE RIVER
2286 28th Avenue SW #102, Pine River
MLS 6141063 \$119,900
Hosted by: Sam Klinger



OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 10-12
BRAINERD
1101 6th Avenue NE, Brainerd
MLS 6139239 \$164,900
Hosted by: Kody Ruedisili



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132 Dakota Avenue SE, Staples
MLS 6130218 \$139,900
Chad Schwendeman 218-851-8550



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Stop in & fill out application at 7611 College Road, Baxter or email: deb@servicemasterretka.com

HELP WANTED
GENERAL

JOB COUNSELOR
Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. & Brainerd CareerForce
This position provides a variety of counseling services for the purpose of assisting agency clients to become self-supporting by planning for, securing, and maintaining employment.
Required Qualifications:
Bachelor's degree in psychology, counseling, social and human services, or a combination of related education and related experience. Requires a valid driver's license, vehicle insurance, and a reliable vehicle.
Submit an application, (found on www.rmcep.com)
resume, and cover letter
by 4:30 pm on January 23, 2022
via mail or email to
Melissa Kain,
melissak@rmcep.com
Human Resources Manager
Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc.,
803 Roosevelt Ave.,
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
For additional information see www.minnesotaworks.net
EE0/ Program Provider

HELP WANTED
GENERAL

EXTENSION
The University of Minnesota Extension is hiring Extension Educators, 4-H Youth Development. The positions are professional and academic appointments.
Openings in each of the following Minnesota counties: **Aitkin, Becker, Carlton, Chippewa, Chisago, Dodge, Freeborn, Hennepin, Nobles, Pine, Traverse and Washington.** Positions range from half-time to full-time.
Local Extension educators work in partnership with communities to build engaged youth who are able to learn and lead in a global society. Primary responsibilities are program development and delivery; volunteer systems support and management; program operations; and communications & reporting.
To access complete job descriptions and apply online, go to: <https://z.umn.edu/EE4HYDPositions>
Priority deadline is **February 1.** Positions will remain open until filled.
The U of M is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Full-Time Library Assistant - Public Services
Starting salary \$18.87/hr. with benefits.
Apply by Jan. 29, 2022 to: Manager Brainerd Public Library, 416 S 5th St., Brainerd, MN 56401. See www.krls.org for full description & downloadable application.

HELP WANTED
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Full-Time Library Assistant - Youth Services
Starting salary \$18.87/hr. with benefits.
Apply by Jan. 29, 2022 to: Manager Brainerd Public Library, 416 S 5th St., Brainerd, MN 56401. See www.krls.org for full description & downloadable application.

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DOGS

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COURT OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA – NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties, MN
The Ninth Judicial District seeks one (1) Court Operations Supervisor for Crow Wing/Aitkin Counties. This is highly responsible supervisory and technical work in District Court of the Minnesota State Court System. Under the supervision of the multi-county Court Administrator, work involves the direct supervision of subordinate staff; development of standards, controls, and policies necessary to administer the various programs and services of the court; maintenance of standards within the framework of established Court and Court Administration policies; and coordination of work towards the department's objectives.
Qualifications: Graduation from high school or vocational school with considerable experience in court administration or a related field is required. Prior supervisory experience and a Bachelor's Degree in Business, Public Administration, Criminal Justice, or a related field is preferred, but not required. Salary range is \$28.62 to \$44.30.
For a further description of the position please go to <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mncourts/>. If you have questions, please email Deb Williams at deborah.williams@courts.state.mn.us or call 218-759-4370
To apply, please go to <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mncourts/>. The deadline to apply ends at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday January 20, 2022.
Successful candidates will be required to pass a criminal background check prior to appointment.

SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUSINESS MANAGER

Lake Park Audubon Public Schools is currently searching for a School District Business Manager
This individual will be responsible for accounting and financial matters of the district and will assist the Superintendent in managing revenue and expenditures, preparing and overseeing the budget, and managing financial matters related to personnel.
This position requires a four year degree in accountin and finance or a related field. Prior school business/financial experience is preferred.
Salary DOE, benefits include health insurance and paid time off. This is a 12 month position.
Deadline for applications is **January 28th.**
Interested individuals please mail or email letter of interest, resume, and minimum of three references (to include current employer) to:

Dr. Tim Godfrey
tgodfrey@lpa.k12.mn.us
P.O. Box 479
Lake Park, MN 56554

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Send letter of application & resume to:
Patty Buell
Food Service Director
Pequot Lakes Schools
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Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
Email: pbuell@isd186.org
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ROOMMATE WANTED

Looking for elderly woman that would like to live with a gentleman and share expenses. Do not want to go to nursing home. Please call 320-492-5111

HOMES FOR SALE

Palisade, MN Beautiful home for sale just outside of Palisade, MN.1800 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 3 acres & 3 outbuildings. \$275,000. (239) 272-7814

MN LEGALS FORECLOSURES

(Published in the Brainerd Dispatch, January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2022, 6t.)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 25, 2012

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$938,250.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Douglas C. Steele and Arleen J. Steele, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 1003195-3306379708-2

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: One Reverse Mortgage, LLC

SERVICER: Compu-Link Corporation d/b/a Celink DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 11, 2012, Crow Wing County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number 0216700, Thereafter reformed by Order recorded on January 29, 2020 as Document Number 254319

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Live Well Financial, Inc.; thereafter assigned to Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot One (1) of Block Thirty-Eight (38) in Manhattan Beach Second Addition And Cedar Beach in Manhattan Beach Second Addition, which is a strip of Land 20 feet in width extending from Manhattan Boulevard to Trout Lake and lying between Lot 1, Block 38, and Lot 14, Block 37, both in Manhattan Beach Second Addition, as described in Document No. T39442, per Court Order Doc. No. 254319

REGISTERED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 11486 Manhattan Point Blvd, Crosslake, MN 56442

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14010559 COT# 53079.0 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Crow Wing

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE

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MN LEGALS FORECLOSURES

DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$694,247.97

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 10, 2022, 10:00AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, 304 Laurel St., Brainerd, MN 56401

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 12 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on March 10, 2023, or the next business day if March 10, 2023 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 6, 2022 Reverse Mortgage Funding LLC Assignee of Mortgagee LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP F/K/A SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP BY

Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778 Gary J. Evers - 0134764 Joseph M. Rossman - 0397070 Attorneys for Mortgagee LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro & Zielke, LLP

12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 831-4060 THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

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MN LEGALS MEETINGS/MINUTES

(Published in the Brainerd Dispatch, January 16, 2022, 1t.)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following will be subject to a public hearing at East Gull Lake City Hall on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Hearing: Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 2021-95 Applicant: Larry Grimstad Property Address: 1490 Floan Pt Rd Purpose: Construct a 12' wide x 44' long x 14' high mounted solar array

Property Owners Please Note: Notice relative to the above listed requests is sent to all property owners within 350' of the applicant's property. Please share this information with your neighbors in the event that any property owner has been overlooked or is not contained in our records.

Robert Mason City Administrator / Planning and Zoning Administrator City of East Gull Lake

MN LEGALS PROBATE

(Published in the Brainerd Dispatch, January 9, 16, 2022, 2t.)

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF CROW WING DISTRICT COURT NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No.: 18-PR-21-4663 In Re: Estate of Jerry C. Schuller, Decedent.

Notice is given that an Application for Informal Probate of Will and Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar, along with a Will dated August 23, 2006. The Registrar accepted the application and informally appointed Jeffrey A. Schuller, whose address is 870 Neal Ave. N., Stillwater, MN 55082, to serve as the personal representative of the Decedent's estate.

Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters testamentary, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the Decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: December 23, 2021 /s/ Erik Askegaard Judge of District Court /s/ Dana R. Anderson Court Administrator ANDERSON LEGAL SERVICES, PLLC

Jeanne M. Anderson MN# 0166170 105 New England Place Suite 145 Stillwater, MN 55082 Telephone: 651-439-1389 Facsimile: 651-344-0701 e-mail: jeannemanderson@stillwater-attorney.com

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

homesHQ

MN LEGALS

(Published in the Brainerd Dispatch, January 16, 2022, 1t.)

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SUMMARY CROW WING TOWNSHIP

On January 11, 2022, Crow Wing Township adopted Ordinance Numbers 01-22 and 02-22. Ordinance Amendment 01-22 modifies "Section 10.3 Land Use Tables" and "Section 46.2 Definitions" of the Crow Wing Township Land Use Ordinance to define "Agri-Business" and allow the use with a conditional use permit in the "Agricultural Forestry" zone.

Ordinance Amendment 02-22 modifies the Crow Wing Township Land Use Ordinance by adding "Article 24 Solar Energy Systems", amending "Section 10.3 Land Use Tables" current allowable energy system uses, and amending "Section 46.2 Definitions" to define "Solar Energy System" and "Solar Energy System, Accessory."

Residential energy systems will be permitted in all zones, and commercial energy systems will be allowed with a conditional use permit in limited zones.

MN LEGALS

This notice is a summary of the ordinance amendments that were adopted by the Township. A full copy the amendment and the Land Use Ordinance are available upon request. This amendment goes into effect upon publication. Crow Wing Township Amanda Peterson Community Development Administrator

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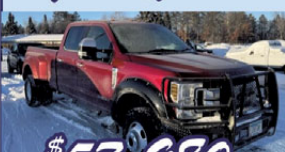
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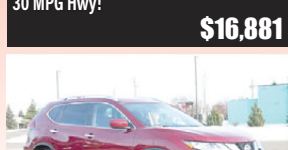
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 2017 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI 4X4 CREW Local Trade, Sunroof, Nav, Heated/Vented Leather, 38K Miles, Heated Wheel \$45,990	 2017 HONDA PILOT EX-L AWD Sunroof, Heated Leather, Back Up Camera, Remote Start, 7 Passenger \$29,990
	 2013 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SPORT Local Trade, Heated Seats, Bluetooth Hands Free, Power Seat/Windows/Locks/Mirrors \$12,990

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 16604 STATE HIGHWAY 371, BRAINERD, MN 56401
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