

Pirates take 3-game win streak into playoffs, **SPORTS PAGE 8**



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'ALICE IN WONDERLAND'

Perham kids take to the stage for musical theater performance

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

Five days of practice for two performances of a single theater production: this sounds like quite the feat. For the kids of Perham, however, it was all for fun, with a successful end.

Prairie Fire Children's Theatre, a professional theater company that tours year-round across over 200 communities throughout the upper Midwest to give children a theatrical experience right at their homes, brought this experience directly to the community.

Prairie Fire directors, Kaia Minter and Julia Cicero, came to the Perham auditorium located in the old high school on Monday, July 25 to cast and direct area children in Prairie Fire's original musical rendition of "Alice in Wonderland." After auditions on Monday, kids came in to practice the play every day, until their two public performances that very same week on Friday and Saturday, July 29-30.

"(Theater and education) are both really close to my heart," Minter said. "We just go town-to-town, do the show once (or twice) a week, and then we pack up and go to the next town and do it again."

Even though it's complicated and busy, both Minter and Cicero enjoy it, and they also believe programs such as Prairie Fire and participation in theater are important for children.

"Honestly, I think it's a great way to build confidence," Cicero said. "(It's also great for) getting used to being in front of other people because no matter



Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus

Kaia Minter and Julia Cicero, directors with Prairie Fire Children's Theatre, dance across the Perham auditorium floor during the performance of "Alice in Wonderland."

what you do, you're going to have to do that. And it's a great way to make friends. I mean, I met some of my best friends doing theater."

Perham kids seemed to love having Cicero and Minter around too — gathering around them, asking them to come back next year, and giving suggestions for future plays.

Theater isn't all about making friends, however. It's also about the joy of

performing for family and friends. On Friday and Saturday, Perham kids showed off their acting, singing, and dancing skills as they performed "Alice in Wonderland" at the old high school's auditorium. Cicero and Minter joined them on stage themselves, the former as the Queen of Hearts and the latter as the Mad Hatter.

Perham's McKenna Wirth led the show, playing Alice as she fell asleep, ending up

in Wonderland about three inches tall. As she chases the ever-late White Rabbit throughout the land, she meets a series of quirky characters including a group of birds, a field of talking flowers, and even sentient cards led by the Queen of Hearts.

After songs, dances, and a tea party, Alice and the entire group of quirky characters end up at the queen's birthday party, where

someone is put on trial for stealing her tarts. But no worries! No heads were lost in this production.

After a few more songs and a game of croquet, Alice reawakens, back where she was at the start of the play. At this moment, the entire cast emerged from behind the curtains to take bows and pose for photos to the sounds of clapping and cheers. From

ALICE: Page 7

Summer Feeding Program saved

Perham community works together to ensure local kids in need don't go hungry

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

When the Perham area faces a problem, the community gathers together with a solution. Before summer 2022 started, the Perham Pub-

lic Schools announced they wouldn't have the funding for the Summer Feeding Program, where community kids in need eat for free throughout the season without school.

The program was no longer available — that is, at least, before a group of locals came together to change its status.

When the closing of the program was first



Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus

Boys and Girls Club Perham Unit Director Cori Brown and Calvary Lutheran Church Pastor Erin Bovendam were two of many area residents who worked together to keep the Summer Feeding Program running in town.

announced, Boys and Girls Club Perham Unit Director Cori Brown was terrified, as she put it,

because the kids at the Boys and Girls Club also

PROGRAM: Page 11

Intoxicated man taken to wrong home

By Barbie Porter
Detroit Lakes Tribune

A Perham police officer drove an intoxicated man about 10 miles outside of city limits, down a long gravel driveway and allowed him to enter a farmhouse. The problem was, he didn't live there.

The homeowner, Kristen Brown, said around 1 a.m. Monday, July 25, her husband woke to noise coming from the main level of their house. He sprung from his bed, which was upstairs. The

sheer force of his swift-ness woke his wife from her slumber.

Fast feet thumped down the stairs and her husband's terse voice followed. He was demanding to know who the man on their couch was, and why he was there.

"My childrens bedrooms are also upstairs," Brown said. "My son is 6 and my daughter is 1 1/2 . I went to check on them."

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Two GOP candidates vying for MN Senate Dist. 9 seat
[See page 7](#)

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"When summer opens, I see how fast it matures and fears it will be short; but after the heats of July and August, I am reconciled, like one who has had his swing, to the cool of autumn."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Perham street project to start Aug. 8

By Elizabeth Vierkant
evierkant@perhamfocus.com

As of this week, a tentative starting date for Perham's 2022-23 street improvement plan has been set, as discussed at the Perham Committee of the Whole meeting on the evening of Wednesday, July 27.

City Engineer Jade Berube said that on Monday, Aug. 8, signage will be set up in preparation for construction, and removals and replacements of utilities will begin. This includes removing pavement, curb and gutter,



Contributed / Apex Engineering

This map shows the areas that will be worked on in the upcoming street and utility rehabilitation project.

driveways, and sidewalks. Some trees will be removed to install water and sewer.

According to Berube, construction will begin

PROJECT: Page 7

Elbow Lake man dead after motorcycle crash near Vergas

News Staff
Detroit Lakes Tribune

An Elbow Lake man was pronounced dead at a local hospital following a motorcycle crash near Vergas on Friday. George Hough, 70, was riding his motorcycle eastbound on County Highway 4, southwest of

Vergas, when he drifted over the center line and entered a ditch on the north side of the roadway, according to an Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office news release. The motorcycle continued through the ditch and ended up crashing into Lawrence Lake. A bystander who wit-

nessed the crash immediately helped pull Hough from the water before calling 911. Members of the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office, Vergas Rescue and Pelican Ambulance responded to the call and provided life-saving efforts at the scene before Hough was

transported to a nearby hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. He may have suffered a medical emergency before the crash, according to the news release. The accident is under investigation by the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office.

Quick action saves 2-year-old found face-down in water in Otter Tail County

News Staff

A 2-year-old boy had a close call on Sunday after his family found him face-down in water on the shore of Sand Lake, north of Pelican Rapids. According to the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office, the near-drowning was reported just before 11 a.m. at a lake home where several families had gathered

for the weekend. In the late morning, family members realized the boy, whose name was not released, was nowhere to be found. They searched for him inside and outside the residence, and the boy's father found him in the water near shore. Fortunately, at the family gathering was a 42-year-old firefighter

from South Dakota, who immediately started CPR life-saving efforts, while his 16-year-old daughter called 911. "The firefighter's training and experience proved essential in the life-saving efforts," according to the news release. "It's estimated life-saving efforts were performed for roughly one minute before the

child began to breathe again, prior to the arrival of first-responders." The boy was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment, where he was listed in stable condition Monday morning. Otter Tail County deputies, Ringdahl Ambulance and Pelican Rapids police responded to the scene.

Escaped cows rounded up on I-35 in Chisago County

By Mary Divine
St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — They're calling it a "public mooosance" in Chisago County. Two cows escaped Tuesday morning from a farm just north of Stacy, Minnesota, made a stop at the Kwik Trip in Stacy and ended up in the parking lot of the Sunrise Estates Mobile Home

Park. Deputies tried to corral them, but they started walking southbound, parallel to the interstate, strayed into some nearby woods and eventually onto Interstate 35 near the city's border with Wyoming, Minnesota, said Capt. Derek Anklan. With assistance from the Minnesota State Patrol and Wyoming Police Department, dep-

uties wrangled the cows between the cable barriers on the interstate's median. Drone footage shows several law enforcement officers on foot and a cowboy on a horse working to contain the cows in a cattle trailer. "You may have seen us trying to do our best 'Yellowstone' imperson-

ation," Chisago County officials said in a post shared on Facebook and Twitter. "Thank goodness we live in an era where being a cop means driving a squad (car) and not riding a horse. All joking aside, this could have been a bad situation if a car struck one of them at 70 mph. You are only going 70, right?"

PERHAM POLICE REPORT JULY 25-31

Monday, July 25

- 5:52 a.m., Responded to a Perham address because an adult male was reportedly outside yelling. The man was gone prior to the officer's arrival.
- 10:24 a.m., Lost wallet was turned in to the police department. Department made contact with the owner.
- 3:38 p.m., Unlock services were unavailable so officers assisted unlocking a door.
- 7:08 p.m., Unlock services were unavailable so officers assisted unlocking a door.

Tuesday, July 26

- 9:25 a.m., Trespassing warning was issued on private property.
- 10:09 a.m., Vandalism was reported on private property.
- 11:43 a.m., Traffic warning was issued for speeding.
- 3:46 p.m., Terroristic threats were reportedly made by telephone to a business.
- 7:49 p.m., Suspicious vehicle was reported; all was OK.

Wednesday, July 27

- 8:38 a.m., Child custody issues were documented regarding an exchange issue.
- 4:35 p.m., Scam was reported.

Thursday, July 28

- 10:21a.m., Traffic warning was issued for speeding.
- 4:30 p.m., Traffic warning was issued for speeding.

Friday, July 29

- 1:13 p.m., Vandalism was reported on private property.

Saturday, July 30

- 12:34 a.m., Welfare

check was requested on a Perham resident; all was OK.

- 2:24 a.m., Assistance provided for Minnesota State Patrol regarding a wrong-way driver.
- 12:06 p.m., Assistance provided for the Minnesota Department of Corrections with a house arrest alert; all was OK.
- 3:31 p.m., Unlock services were unavailable so officers assisted unlocking a door.
- 3:55 p.m., Traffic warning was issued for a stop sign violation.
- 4:01 p.m., Two-vehicle crash was reported in a private parking lot; no injuries.

Sunday, July 31

- 12:35 a.m., Suspicious activity was reported suspicious activity; all was OK.
- 11:26 p.m., Observed a vehicle that was partially in a driving lane with its hazard lights on. All was OK.

News Staff

Have You HEARD?

Presented by **Brian Hillesland, BC-HIS**



HORMONAL CONFUSION


Women between the ages of 20 and 69 are half as likely to develop hearing loss as men, and while the reason for this is unknown, speculation suggests that it involves the female hormone estrogen. The reasoning is that estrogen has been known to affect blood vessels that are vital to inner ear health. In addition, women tend to be more likely to develop hearing loss after menopause when estrogen levels have dropped dramatically. This has led many scientists to recommend that prolonged hormone replacement therapy may help lower the risk of hearing loss in post-menopausal women. However, one study indicates that the opposite is true and prolonged hormone therapy is actually linked to a higher hearing loss risk. We bring you this column on hearing healthcare and its impact on the entire body in order to better educate our readers on the importance and benefits of taking care of their hearing, thus enhancing their quality of life. If you are having trouble hearing, or if a family member seems to be experiencing hearing difficulties, we welcome your call at 1-800-631-4946. Located at 223 North Jefferson, Wadena, we offer comprehensive services by skilled and specially trained Board-certified hearing instrument specialist, including free hearing tests, comprehensive evaluations, individualized hearing instrument fittings, and follow-up care. JEFFERSON 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. Some scientists have determined that estrogen plays a key role in how the brain communicates sound by carrying brain signals.

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Otter Tail-based organization awarded \$5,000 from state to combat noxious weeds

News Staff
The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has awarded counties across Minnesota a total of \$120,000 to combat noxious weeds. Twenty-seven projects

are being funded through the 2022 Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant, including one in Otter Tail County. The money, awarded to cities, counties, townships, conservation dis-

tricts and tribal nations, will be used to purchase equipment and supplies, conduct mapping and outreach activities, and hire private applicators to manage noxious weeds. The Otter Tail Coun-

ty-based organization, West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District, was awarded \$5,000 for their project: road right-of-way noxious weed control.

Human Society of Otter Tail County at "catpacity" - 72 cats under one roof, adults on sale

News Staff
As of Monday, Aug. 1, the Humane Society of Otter Tail County (HSOTC) has 72 cats under their roof, and they don't have the room to care for them all. Cat caretakers have reported feeling overwhelmed.

In order to open space for more cats and give proper care to animals who need it, the HSOTC is currently running an adoption sale; all adult cats are \$30 plus tax. This includes spay-neuter services, immunizations, and a microchip.

HSOTC urges the public to take the following steps to care for all cats to help with the issue of feline overpopulation in rural areas:

► **Have all cats spayed or neutered.** Cats can begin reproducing as early as five months of age and can have more than one litter each year. Each litter adds to the millions of cats across the country competing for homes. HSOTC's P.A.L. program, (Prevent-A-Litter), provides assistance with spay-neuter for those that financially qualify. Contact them or stop by for more information.

► **Whenever possible, keep cats safe indoors.** Indoor cats live longer, tend to be healthier, and can avoid some of the predators, injuries, parasites, and communicable diseases to which outdoor cats may be exposed. An outdoor enclosure or walk on a harness and leash can provide a cat with safe outdoor access, if desired, although cats do not require outdoor access to live full and happy lives.

► **Put visible identification on your cats at all times.** About two percent of lost cats who enter animal shelters are claimed by their families. A collar with visible identification attached and a microchip can help them get identified and returned home.

► **Provide regular veterinary care.** All cats should be examined at least



Contributed / Human Society of Otter Tail County
HSOTC has 72 cats under their roof, and all adult cats are on sale.

once a year and receive vaccinations against rabies and other diseases. To learn more go to humanesocietyotc.org or visit HSOTC at 1933

West Fir Avenue in Fergus Falls. They can also be contacted at 218-739-3494 or shelter@humanesocietyotc.org.

PERHAM SENIOR CENTER MENU FOR AUGUST

The August 2022 menu for the Perham Senior Center is as follows. The menu is subject to change.

Monday, Aug. 1: Sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, caramel carrots, angel food cake, bread, butter, and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 2: Pork loin, pesto bake, California blend, fruit salad, bread, butter, and milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 3: Shredded turkey and bun, seasoned wedges, pickled beets, strawberries, and milk.

Thursday, Aug. 4: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, bistro bars, bread, butter, and milk.

Monday, Aug. 8: Tater tot casserole, coleslaw, two toasted bun halves, angel food cake, and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 9: Polish sausage and bun, fried potatoes, baked beans, three mini creme puffs, and milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 10: Spaghetti and meat sauce, lettuce salad, garlic bread sticks, apple pie, bread, butter, and milk.

Thursday, Aug. 11: Sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, caramel carrots, butterscotch pudding with topping, bread, butter, and milk.

Monday, Aug. 15: Baked chicken, sweet potatoes, cream style corn, bistro bars, bread, butter, and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 16: Three BBQ meatballs, baby bakers, green beans, angel food cake, bread, butter, and milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 17: Sliced turkey, mashed potatoes at gravy, dressing with peas and carrots, cheese cake with topping, bread, butter, and milk.

Thursday, Aug. 18: Pot roast, whole potatoes, baby carrots, tropical fruit blend, bread, butter, and milk.

Monday, Aug. 22: Pizza casserole, garlic bread, lettuce salad, brownies, and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 23: Sweet and sour pork, buttered rice, two mini egg rolls, chocolate pudding with topping, bread, butter, and milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 24: Pot roast, mashed potatoes with gravy, asparagus, banana bar, bread, butter, and milk.

Thursday, Aug. 25: Sliced ham, au gratin potatoes, whole kernel corn, strawberry rhubarb pie, bread, butter, and milk.

Monday, Aug. 29: BBQ ribs, whole potatoes, whole kernel corn, tropical fruit, bread, butter, and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 30: Three drummies, mac 'n cheese, green beans, three mini creme puffs, bread, butter, and milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 31: Turkey bake, peas, cranberry sauce, Boston creme pie, bread, butter, and milk.

News Staff

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OBITUARIES

Floyd A. Heidorn

Floyd A. Heidorn, age 85 of Perham, MN passed away on July 24, 2022 at Sanford Health in Fargo, ND.

He was born on September 12, 1936 to Arthur and Amanda (Bahls) Heidorn in Perham.

Floyd loved his animals and being on the farm. When not farming, he also enjoyed fishing and hunting. He especially loved deer hunting and made several memorable hunting trips to Montana.

Floyd started as a produce manager at the Red Owl store in Perham. He then started his own mobile grain mill service, Floyd's Mobile Mills that served the local farmers in the area. He also spent many years as a bus driver, driving three generations of students to the Perham schools, worked for the City of Perham and a welding shop. The Perham community was important to Floyd. He spent many years serving on various boards and committees including the Perham Jaycees, Perham Township Board, and Pioneer Days. He also spent time as a volunteer for the fire department and ambulance crew.

Floyd is survived by his children, Susan Heidorn (Rick Anderson) and Greg (Diane) Heidorn; sisters, Hazel Hatfield and Carol (Marlin) Swick; brothers, Norman (Elaine) Heidorn and Roger Heidorn; grandchildren, Amanda Wreede, Courtney (Donald) Petrosky, and Garrett Heidorn-Anderson; great grandchildren, Aspen, River, Tristan and Ian; many stepchildren, nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

A Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 29, 2022 at Schoeneberger Funeral and Cremation Service of Perham. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at Bauck Cemetery in Perham.

Schoeneberger Funeral & Cremation Service
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www.schoenebergerfh.com



Kenneth "Ken" Landin

Nov. 1, 1961 -
June 10, 2022

NEW YORK MILLS, Minn. - Kenneth "Ken" Landin, 60, New York Mills, Minn., died Friday, June 10, in his home.

A celebration of life will be from 1-3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, at Karvonen Funeral Home in New York Mills. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery in New York Mills.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

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Lake Region Electric receives national recognition for solar power initiatives

News Staff

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board of Directors unanimously selected Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) to receive the prestigious 2022 Electric Cooperative Purpose Award on Friday, July 26.

Headquartered in Arlington, Va., NRECA represents more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts, and public utility districts.

The Electric Cooperative Purpose Award recognizes electric cooperatives that work with their membership to make outstanding

contributions, which result in visible, lasting improvements to the quality of life and the purpose of the cooperative in the community.

In its letter giving notice to LREC of the award, NRECA recognized LREC's great advancement of its solar-wind hybrid facilities, as well as its GoWest Solar program, offering renewable energy solutions to meet the needs of LREC members.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association board of directors, consisting of representatives from other Minnesota electric cooperatives, nominated LREC for the award.

"The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) board was pleased to nominate LREC as a shining example of the dedicated and innovative work Minnesota's cooperatives are doing to improve the lives of those within their communities," said MREA CEO Darrick Moe.

Current NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, who is also a former Utah congress member, dialed into LREC headquarters last week to virtually announce that LREC was the recipient of the award. The board and employees of LREC were honored to receive this award on behalf of LREC's membership.

LREC will be recognized at the NRECA Regional meeting in Minneapolis in September and will be officially presented the award at the 2023 NRECA PowerXchange conference in Nashville, Tenn., where industry leaders from across the country share ideas, strategies, and best practices.

LREC CEO Tim Thompson said the award is a testament to the LREC members, board of directors, and employees. "We're member-focused, and our board and employees all want LREC to be our members' local, trusted energy services provider," Thompson said.

Business coaching program available to Otter Tail organizations

News Staff

Businesses and nonprofits in Otter Tail County can apply to the Business Resilience Coaching Program from Aug. 1-19. The program will provide free coaching and training to make organizations more resilient and overcome future challenges. The program will also offer compet-

itive matching grants for selected organizations.

All businesses and nonprofits that apply will work one-on-one with local advisors or in small group training to assess their organizations' current plans and operations. Coaching can cover technology, finances, social media marketing, business

planning, succession planning, and more.

Selected organizations will also have access to matching grant funds of up to \$2,000 per organization. Grant funds received will be used to continue work with a local advisor and implement ideas identified in the sessions.

Information about

the Business Resilience Coaching Program can be found at ottertailcountymn.us/biz-coaching. Applications opened Monday, Aug. 1 and will close Friday, Aug. 19 at 4 p.m. Reach out to Sarah Schake at cda@co.ottertail.mn.us or 218-998-8722 for questions about the program.

STUDENT NEWS

Several Perham area students were recently honored by their universities, including the following:

University of Minnesota Twin Cities Spring Dean's List

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

Local honorees include:

New York Mills

▶ Madalyn G. Erp, Junior, College of Liberal Arts

Ottertail

▶ Anthony H. Reese, Senior, Carlson School of Management Perham

▶ Jace F. Kovash, Senior, Carlson School of Management

▶ Maddux A. Kovash, Junior, Carlson School of Management

▶ Lacy M. Richter, Senior, College of Educ/Human Development

▶ Eli P. Roe, Junior, Carlson School of Management

▶ Noah M. Rooney, Freshman, College of Educ/Human Development

▶ Aurora N. Sauer, Sopho-

more, College of Biological Sciences

Bethel University Dean's List

The dean's list at Bethel University honors students who achieve an outstanding scholastic record during a semester with a grade point average of 3.6 or greater.

Elayna Kawlewski has been named to the university dean's list for academic excellence for the spring 2022 semester. She is the daughter of Mike and Naomi Kawlewski, Perham.

News Staff

Protesters maintain they had a right to be in the pathway of Line 3

By Michael Johnson
Wadena Pioneer Journal

WADENA, Minn. — A group of Line 3 protesters calling themselves the "Shell River 7" joined together once more Wednesday, July 20, almost one year to date from the day they were arrested and held at the Wadena County Jail, charged with trespassing and obstruction of the legal process.

On that day in 2021, a group of six women sat in lawn chairs, chained to one another on a heavy equipment boardwalk between the Shell River and the oncoming Enbridge oil pipeline. They were asked by law enforcement to unchain and leave, according to court records, but said they could not because they did not have a key for the locks. Law enforcement said in a search of the persons, no key was found.

The Enbridge Line 3 oil pipeline replacement was under construction starting in December 2020 and became operational in October 2021.

In the present case before the Wadena County District Court, six of those arrested were facing these charges in a joint omnibus evidentiary hearing. They sought a single contested omnibus hearing, as their cases present substantially similar facts and they are raising similar defenses.

The women include Cheryl Barnds (Maryland), Barbara With (Wisconsin), Kelly

Maracle (New York), Trish Weber (Oregon), Mary Klein (California) and Winona Laduke, Ponsford, Minn. Photojournalist K. Flo Rozowsky was also arrested while documenting the event. Laduke, executive director of Honor the Earth, was not a part of this hearing as she is facing a separate trial, for the same incident, to be held in August. She has her own trial because she litigated her right to have her criminal case transferred to Tribal Court as a tribal member. Laduke will continue to assert her tribal rights including her right to invite guests to join her in the ceremony despite a Wadena County judge's denial of her motion to transfer the case to White Earth Tribal Court.

She was present Wednesday as witness No. 1 to be questioned by the defense.

Laduke said she plays a central role as a tribal member of the group that has rights to be on the property as it lies within the ceded territory. Laduke claims that as a member of the Anishinaabe tribe she has a right and responsibility to invite guests to the territory for ceremonial purposes such as that day, where the group claims they were praying for the river.

Representing the state, Assistant Wadena County Attorney Adam Licari argued that the women did not have a right to be trespassing on posted private property.



Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal

On July 19, a bus of people against Enbridge's Line 3 oil pipeline stopped outside the Wadena County Courthouse.

The group call themselves water protectors, as they say their goal is to protect the river from the then planned, and now completed, horizontal directional drilling that took place deep under the Shell River for the now active Line 3 oil pipeline. About 10 days prior to their arrest, Laduke said she was named Guardian ad litem of the Shell River by the 1855 Treaty Commission and by the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. She said it is her responsibility to take action steps to protect the river.

In the hearing, Laduke and the defense attorneys maintained those arrested were lawfully there, standing or seated in the public Hunterville State Forest, all of which is also within the Anishinaabe-ceded

territory. This is also what Laduke asserted in her hearing in April.

The reasons members of the Northern Lights Task Force arrested the group that day was for trespassing on an Enbridge Line 3 easement, a right of way where the Line 3 pipeline now actively transports oil. The probable cause statement says that signage along the easement indicated there was to be no trespassing on the site. This task force was composed of 16 northern Minnesota counties and state agencies such as the State Patrol, the DNR and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Among those involved were Wadena County Sheriff's deputies.

Who has rights to be on the property is one side of the issue brought up by the defense.

Another was that law enforcement were told to disperse or remove those trespassing that day, apparently listening to requests from Enbridge. But when the protesters told law enforcement that they had a right to be on that property, law enforcement instead listened to the assertion that Enbridge had rights to operate on the easement, the defense reasoned. The defense argued that law enforcement that day showed bias against the water protectors because Enbridge was providing payments to law enforcement, through an escrow account, for dealing with protests along the easement. They argued that law enforcement listened to Enbridge but not the protesters, without

having sufficient evidence of whether the protesters were, in fact, trespassing.

Wadena County Sheriff's officers brought to the witness stand confirmed that they were "indirectly" paid through the escrow account for their work at the Line 3 site, though it was not known how much money they received.

The defense continued to argue that law enforcement did not know if the protesters were trespassing or not.

"It does not appear any officers reviewed legal paperwork to determine if it was lawful trespass or not," defense attorney Claire Glenn stated.

Wadena County District Court Judge Doug Clark argued against the defense's questioning, which he said was attempting to show bias. He said that either the women had a right to be there or they did not. Either it was an Enbridge easement or it was not. That was the determining factor of trespass.

"Somebody saying they did have a right to be there or not doesn't change that. It's not relevant," Clark said.

Clark will now take the matter under advisement and gave attorneys three weeks to file any briefs with the court, as well as a month for the state to respond to the briefs.

Laduke's next trial date is Aug. 12 at the Wadena County Courthouse.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Would term limits for SCOTUS make things better or worse?

Minot, N.D.
For decades the American left has relied on the courts reading new "rights" into the constitution, and not voters and legislatures making law, to deliver the policy outcomes they desire.



ROB PORT
 Say Anything

Then the Supreme Court threw a monkey wrench into the works. They struck down the Roe v. Wade precedent, noting, correctly, that the Constitution is neutral on the question of abortion, and that if Americans want certain rights to be in the law, then they ought to write the law in a way that recognizes them.

The left has not handled well this new edict to use democracy, and not judicial fiat, to make policy. They're out for retribution on the Supreme Court, and one of the avenues they're proceeding down is term limits.

The Supreme Court Tenure Establishment and Retirement Act, sponsored by Rep. Hank Johnson, a Georgia Democrat who once had to be reassured

that Guam, the Pacific island, wouldn't capsize from overpopulation (I'm not joking), would see each new president appointing two new justices to the Supreme Court during a four-year term.

One appointment would happen in the first year of a term; a second in the third year. Upon each new appointment, the justice with the longest tenure on the court would be moved to senior status, where they would still have some official duties, including filling in should a vacancy occur on the court.

Johnson argues his bill is needed to address a "legitimacy crisis." The "legitimacy" being called in question because the lawfully appointed justices have issued some landmark opinions our progressive friends don't like

so much. But to the extent there is a problem with the Supreme Court becoming too polarized along ideological lines, would Johnson's legislation fix the problem?

I'm not so sure. Would making appointments to the court an automatically granted prize to be won in each new presidential election make the court less partisan? Or more partisan? Currently, those appointments are only a potential prize, hinging on whether a vacancy on the court occurs with a given president's term, but most presidents end up appointing a couple of justices.

Only four presidents in history — Jimmy Carter, Andrew Johnson, Zachary Taylor, and William Henry Harrison — served in that office without making an appointment (though Harrison was in office for just 31 days, and Taylor just a little more than a year).

Frank Roosevelt appointed nine justices, though he was elected

to four terms. Donald Trump appointed three justices, but his four predecessors appointed two each.

Not counting President Joe Biden's not-yet-completed term, in which he's appointed one justice so far, we've had 45 presidents in American history who have appointed a total of 121 justices for an average of almost 2.7 appointments per president.

Remember, 21 of those presidents served two terms, too.

Johnson's bill would guarantee four appointments to a two-term president.

I'm not against some form of term limits for the court, but Johnson's legislation would make the court even more of a "spoil of war" for the politicians than it already is.

Rob Port is a columnist, news reporter and podcast host for Forum News Service. Reach him at rport@forumcomm.com.

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 asks that you join them in remembering the families of the following individuals who died one year ago. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their journey from grief to healing.

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Shirley Nelson	August 18, 2021
David Wodrich	August 19, 2021
Barbara Meinert	August 22, 2021
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Clinton Erickson	August 25, 2021
Juan Izarraraz	August 25, 2021
Ronald Rodr	August 25, 2021
Christopher Koplin	August 31, 2021

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The fight for reproductive rights

It's been nearly one month since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, and I've had some time to reflect on what this decision means for our country.

When I was just 15 years old, Roe v. Wade established that women have a constitutional right to autonomy over our bodies.

During my time at Planned Parenthood, I saw firsthand how controlling your own health care allows you to make the best decisions about the course of your life — your education, your work and your family.

Now, I have watched the extremist Supreme Court take away these rights, stripping away 50 years of precedent, freedom and personal choice.

At its core, this decision is about control. Right-wing government officials believe they should decide what women can and cannot do with their bodies — women whose lives and stories they will never know.

Since Roe was overturned, at least nine states have banned abortion. Republican senators have blocked life-saving legislation that would protect women who travel for abortion, and the Indiana Attorney General wants to criminally charge the doctor who performed an abortion on a 10-year-old victim of sexual assault.

Texas is suing the Biden Administration for requiring that women be provided with life-saving health care, including abortion, in cases of medical emergency. In other words, they are suing for the power to kill women.

The public is overwhelmingly outraged by these actions. Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe that abortion should be available to women, and more Americans describe themselves as proponents of abortion rights today than at any other point in the last 25 years.

We have to keep fighting. In an op-ed for The New York Times that I wrote with Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), we talk about what elected officials and everyday Americans can do to help others access reproductive care.

In Congress, I support putting the protections of Roe v. Wade into law, upholding the right of women to travel across state lines to receive an abortion and I have introduced legislation to protect access to medication abortion in places where it is still legal.

I'm encouraged by the Biden Administration's steps to defend abortion access. But let me be clear: the only way to restore reproductive rights across the nation is through Congress.

I will continue to push tirelessly to defend women's right to make decisions about their own lives and bodies, and I will not stop organizing and fighting until women's freedoms can be exercised equally in all parts of this country.

Tina Smith is a U.S. Senator representing Minnesota. She previously was lieutenant governor and was the first chairwoman of Rochester's Destination Medical Center Board.



LETTERS

Irresponsible gunfire on Little Mantrap Lake

By Lee Thompson Spicer

I was visiting a relative on Little Mantrap Lake on Saturday, July 23 when rapid-fire, high-power gunfire erupted in the early afternoon.

Although the noise from hundreds (not exaggerating) rounds from semi-automatic firearms was irritating, I didn't think much of it.

After about two hours of continuous firing, the direction of gunfire changed and we came under direct fire, with rounds whistling through trees and the occasional ping of bullets hitting metal objects.

Children were rounded up and moved out of the line of fire. People working nearby were pinned down and called 911.

When a member of the sheriff's office arrived, they witnessed the stray rounds still flying overhead and located the source of the problem.

From what I can tell, nothing of any consequence has happened to the persons that caused this extremely dangerous situation other than a stern lecture on gun safety.

Rule No. 3 of gun safety: Be sure of your target and what is beyond. You're responsible for knowing what's in front of your target, near your target and beyond your target. If you aren't certain about any of the three, don't shoot.

Fortunately, there were no injuries nor the loss of life.

As a gun owner and gun safety instructor, I feel there should be more consequences than a stern lecture for such irresponsible conduct. Not only is the reckless discharge of firearms dangerous to the public, it puts all conscientious gun owners in the same negligent category.

HAPPENINGS

The Perham Focus accepts community calendar items for publication online and in our Thursday print edition, space permitting. Submissions must be made at least a week in advance of the event date, in writing, to either editor@perhamfocus.com or vgerdes@dlnewspapers.com.

Each submission must include the date, time and location of event, whether it is recurring or a one-time happening, and where to go for more information (phone, email and/or website). Also include whether the event is free or paid admission, and how much it costs when applicable.

Thursday, August 4

Movies at the Library: The New York Mills Public Library will host a free screening of "A Goofy Movie" at 1 p.m. Open to the public.

Cruise Night: Bring your favorite set of classic wheels to The Cactus in Perham and enjoy the kickoff to the city's annual Crazy Daze celebration, with burger and drink specials in the parking lot from 5 to 8 p.m. so you can enjoy looking at all the vehicles and visiting with other automobile enthusiasts.

Friday, August 5

Live Music: Perham's Big Pine Lodge will host live music from Jim White on the patio, starting at 6 p.m. Open to the public.

Saturday, August 6

Breakfast on the Farm: Hosted by RDO Farms of Perham, the annual East Otter Tail County Breakfast on the Farm event will take place at RDO's Perham shop, 42670 450th St., from 7 a.m. to noon. A pancake, eggs and sausage breakfast will be served for a free will offering, and there will be educational booths, farm animals and machinery on display along with plenty of family fun. Visit eotbreakfastonthefarm.com for more information.

EOT Wranglers Open Fun Show: The East Otter Tail Wranglers 4-H Club will host an open, fun horse show starting at 9 a.m. at the EOT County Fairgrounds at 455 4th St. SE, Perham. A 2022 negative Coggins test is required for any horse brought to the show and no dogs are allowed. Registration for each event closes one event prior to the next event's start.

Sunday, August 7

St. Lawrence Parish Festival: The congregation of St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 46404 Co. Hwy. 14, Perham, will host its 35th annual outdoor polka mass and parish festival from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Cathy Erickson Band will provide the music for the 10:30 a.m. mass, followed by a picnic-style lunch, kids' games, bingo, silent auction, raffle, cake walk, ice cream and refreshments. All are welcome.

St. Paul's School Principal Installation: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Perham will host an installation worship service and meet and greet for the new St. Paul's School Principal, Candice Bicondoa, from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 10

Sand Volleyball: The St. Henry's Sand Volleyball League plays games at 7 and 8 p.m. on the sand courts at Arvig Park.

NARFE Meeting: National Active and Retired Federal employees (NARFE) Chapter 1842 will meet in the Ice Cutter Room of the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes. Lunch at noon, business meeting starts at 1 p.m. This month's speaker is Detroit Lakes Mayor Matt Brenk, who will talk about current and future plans for the city. All active and retired federal employees are invited to attend. Membership in the organization is encouraged but is not mandatory. For more info, contact chapter president Virginia Weston,

via email at aldercy@arvig.net or by phone at 218-847-6483.

Thursday, August 11

Looney Days Opening Night: Otter Coffee and Ice Cream in Vergas will host an evening of live music from 5 to 7 p.m. to kick off the community's annual Looney Days celebration. Open to the public.

Bob Riepe Book Signing: Author Bob Riepe will be signing copies of his latest book, "Absolution," 6 p.m. at the History Museum of East Otter Tail County, 230 1st Ave. North, Perham. Signed copies of Riepe's book will be available for purchase.

Friday, August 12

Vergas Looney Days: The Friday schedule for Vergas Looney Days includes local rummage sales throughout the day; sidewalk chalk art, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Natalie's Serendipity; pickleball demonstrations, 10-11 a.m. at the pickleball courts; brats and beans lunch, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at United Methodist; Voices of the Past Cemetery Tour, 2-3 p.m. at City Cemetery; kids' fishing, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; food trucks, 4-9 p.m.; water ski show, 5 p.m.; Church of Cash live music, 6:30-9 p.m. All events take place at Loon Park unless otherwise specified.

Saturday, August 13

Otterfest: The Ottertail Chamber of Commerce is hosting the community's annual Otterfest celebration, with a pancake breakfast, 8-11 a.m.; all-day vendor show; Nick the Strolling Magician, 9:30 a.m.-noon; inflatable games, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; classic car show, 10 a.m.; Otterfest Parade, 11 a.m.; Imaginick Magic Show, 12-1 p.m.; family games in the City Park, 1 p.m.; face painting, 12-2 p.m.; bingo, 1-3:30 p.m.; Chicken Poop Bingo, 2 p.m.; Otterwalk, 3:30 p.m.; pork and corn feed, 4:30 p.m., live music by the Red Letter Band, 4-7:30 p.m.; street dance at The Woodshed featuring the 57 Chevy Band, 9 p.m.-midnight; and fireworks at dusk.

Vergas Looney Days: The Saturday schedule for Vergas Looney Days includes a 5K run/walk, 8 a.m.; Lions Breakfast at the Event Center (dine in or drive through), 8-11 a.m.; pickleball demonstrations at the pickleball courts; street fair, Main Street, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. winer dog races, 9 a.m., baseball field; family games, 9:30-11:30 a.m., baseball field; inflatable games, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., baseball field; Vergas Fire and Rescue open house, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., fire hall; Trowbridge Petting Zoo, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Summers Construction; ice cream stroll, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Vergas Assisted Living; brats and beans lunch, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at United Methodist; beer garden, 12 p.m.-midnight, Railway Avenue; Road Rally, 12 p.m.; Little Miss and Mister Vergas Pageant, 12 p.m.; Loon Calling Contest, 1 p.m.; Puppy Plunge, 3:30 p.m.; Bean Bag tournament, 3 p.m. (registration starts 2 p.m.), Railway Avenue; water ski show, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; and street dance featuring music from Mall Rats, 8 p.m.-midnight, Railway Avenue. All events take place at Loon Park unless otherwise specified.

Sunday, August 14

Vergas Looney Days: The final day of Vergas Looney Days includes a classic car show on Main Street, 9 a.m.-noon; Yoga Among the Blooms, True Blue Flower Company, 9:30 a.m.; community church service, baseball field, 10 a.m.; Looney Days Grand Parade through Vergas, 2 p.m.; and water fights following the parade on Main Street. There will also be TIP Bingo at Billy's Bar following the parade, with a raffle drawing at 8 p.m.; and live music at Skål, 4-10 p.m., featuring Damien Anderson, Seth Moore, and Shelly and Dave.

Multi-Day and Recurring Events

Crazy Daze: Perham-area businesses will be offering some of their best sales and special deals of the year at the community's annual Crazy Daze celebration, Aug. 5-6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Plus inflatable games and face painting for the kids, sidewalk sales, axe throwing, food and drink specials, and so much more.

Perham Health 120-Year Celebration: The 120th anniversary of Perham Health will be celebrated on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 11-12 at the East Otter Tail County Fairgrounds in Perham. Thursday events include bounce houses, Clueless the Balloon Twister, kid-friendly DJ music and

kids' tattoos, touchable emergency vehicle displays, food and beer gardens all opening at 4:30 p.m. and a performance by comedy magician Jeffrey Salvesson at 7 p.m. Friday's festivities include live music, 5-10 p.m., along with concessions and a beer garden.

Kalevala Puppet Workshops: A series of workshops are planned for participants in this year's Kalevala Puppet Pageant in New York Mills. Daily morning workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 8-12 and again on Aug. 15-18 at the Barn/ Sculpture Park in New York Mills. Puppets and props will be transported to the VFW in New York Mills starting at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 17; parent and volunteer

assistance needed. Evening rehearsals are planned from 6 to 8 p.m. on both Aug. 17-18, with the final call for performers starting at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 19 and 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 20. Performances are set for 7 p.m. Aug. 19 at the VFW and noon on Aug. 20 at Finn Creek. Additional workshops for puppet and props building are set for Aug. 8-10, 15 and 16, starting at 6 p.m., while stilters-only workshops are set for Aug. 9, 11, 16 and 18, starting at 1 p.m. Cost to participate is \$50 per child, with a \$100 per family maximum. Adults and teens are invited to participate free of charge. Visit kulcher.org or call 218-385-3339 for more information, or to sign up.

International Turtle Races: Perham offers turtle

racing every Wednesday, June through August, at Turtle Race Park (next to the Perham Chamber of Commerce), starting at 10:30 a.m. (registration starts at 10 a.m.). Turtles are provided, or bring your own. Suggested donations of \$2 per racer help care for the turtles over the summer months. All ages welcome to participate.

Mah Jongg at Calvary Lutheran: Men and women are welcome and play Mah Jongg at Perham's Calvary Lutheran Church on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the library. No prior experience necessary, as experienced players will teach the game to newcomers.

Compiled by Vicki Gerdes / Perham Focus

CHURCH SERVICES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of the response to the coronavirus pandemic, some scheduled meetings or services may have changed or been canceled. Call ahead to confirm that events are taking place as scheduled.

Apostolic Lutheran Church
New York Mills

Rev. Pastor Nicholas Kandoll
360-241-8450
Echoes of Mercy on KWAD
Sunday: 8:05 a.m., 9 a.m. Finnish
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Assembly Of God

103 N. Hayes Ave., New York Mills
Pastor Larry Bessler, 385-2033 (church) or 385-3270 (home)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Wed. 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Basswood Baptist Church

Intersection Co. Rd. 14/32, Richville
Pastor Bert Holmquist, 495-3800
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Prayer/Bible Study/Kids Club

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

210 Maple Ave. E, Frazee
Pastor Ed Borchardt
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Adults
9-10:30 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship
Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays
Services 10:41 Sundays at 8 a.m.

Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA

619 3rd Ave SW, Perham
346-4780
Lead Pastor Erin Bovendam
Associate Pastor Dennis Preston
9 a.m. Tues. TV Brcdst (Ch. 14)
www.calvaryperham.com
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Communion every Sunday

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Holy Cross Church

Butler | Fr. George Michael -
Canonical Administrator,
Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 5:15 p.m. Wednesday
Weekend Mass: 8 p.m. Saturday

Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMS

Dent Pastor Dan Abrahams
Sunday 9 a.m. Worship/SS

Lakes Area Word Fellowship

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218-847-8499 or 218-342-2620
Sunday 10 a.m. Worship
Wednesday 7 p.m. Worship

Maine Presbyterian Church

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Pastor: Bob Kersten
Summer (June thru Aug.): 9:30 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee Fellowship Every Week
Winter (Sept. thru May): 10 a.m. Worship Service, Coffee Fellowship
2nd Sunday of the Month
Handicap Accessible

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gardens@newcreationperham.org
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Coffee fellowship after worship
Mondays 9 am-5 pm
Tuesdays 9 am-3 pm
Wednesdays 10 am-6 pm
Thursdays 9 am-12 pm
Friday Closed

Northwoods LIFE Church

945 West Main St. Perham
Pastor Jason Erickson
Assistant Pastor Stew Burns
6:15 Wed. LIFE Groups & Kids LIFE programming
10 a.m. Sun. Service
218-346-LIFE (5433)
www.northwoodslife.com

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Dent | Fr. George Michael -
Canonical Administrator,
Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 7 p.m. Tuesday;
8:30 a.m. Thursday
Weekend Mass: 4 p.m. Saturday;
8:30 a.m. Sunday

St. Henry's Catholic Church

234 2nd Ave. SW, Perham
Fr. George Michael -
Canonical Administrator,
Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Weekend Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;
8 and 10 a.m. Sunday
Second Sunday of the Month: 1 p.m. Spanish Mass

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Rush Lake | Fr. George Michael -
Canonical Administrator,
Fr. Tom Skaja - Parochial Vicar
Weekday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and Friday
Weekend Mass: 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday

St. John's Lutheran Church

49658 Co. Hwy. 53, Rural Perham
Pastor Justin Whitmore,
218-346-4302
stjohnperham.org
8:30 a.m. Bible Study
9 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Divine Worship
10 a.m. Friday TV Broadcast, Channel 14
Vacation Bible School August 7-11
5:30-8

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMS

4 miles west of Dent, Hwy. 108 18-758-2440
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
10 a.m. Sunday School (Sept.-May)

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMS

Ottertail | Rev. Dr. Karl Weber
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
11 a.m. Sunday Schl Communion

St. John's Lutheran Church LCMS

410 E Scharf Ave, Vergas 56587
stjohnvergas@arvig.net, 342-2791
Rev. Jacob Wagner, Pastor
Worship Services:
Sunday 9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship after Advent & Lent-Wednesday 6pm potluck after
Summer-Wednesday 7 pm
Sunday Bible Study 10:30 am (Sept-May)
Sunday School 10:15 am (Sept-May)
Confirmation Class 5 pm (Sept-May)
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Handicap accessible

St. John the Baptist Catholic

Bluffton | Fr. Aaron Kuhn, Pastor
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Mass: 8 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS

13130 Co. Hwy. 39, Frazee
Pastor Thomas Batchelder
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
Communion every 1st and 3rd Sunday/Mo.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS

Richville | Rev. Dr. Karl Weber
8 a.m. Sunday Worship
9 a.m. Sunday School

St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS

31385 Co. Hwy 4, Vergas
Pastor Delton Stohs
Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays
Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:15 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran's Church (LCMS)

500 6th Ave SW
Perham, MN 56573
218.346.7725 Church Office
stpaulschurch@arvig.net
Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe
pastorratcliffe@gmail.com
Sundays 9:00 am Worship, 10:15 Education hour

Church schedules subject to change - please contact your church to confirm information.

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Two Republican candidates for Senate District 9 seat to face off at primary

PROJECT

From Page 1

News Staff
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Questionnaires were emailed to the registered addresses of each of the 2022 state legislative candidates for Senate District 9. Each candidate was given word limits for each response and nearly two weeks to return the questionnaire with a profile photo. Responses may have been edited for style and grammar.

Senate District 9 primary candidates

Nathan R. Miller (GOP):
Name: Nathan R. Miller
Age: 35
Hometown: Battle Lake
Education: BAS Energy Management

Family members (name/age): Wife, Anna; son, Malachi, 6; daughters, Liberty, 4 and Rosalina, 3.

Past offices held, if any: Election judge and Republican State/CD delegate

Most recent employment: Boiler operator, rental property owner/manager.

What makes you the best candidate to represent the MNGOP in the upcoming November election?

I am a hard working, blue collar man. I love the Lord with all my heart, my family, our country and the constitutional republic that we have been blessed with as a nation. I am not a career politician nor do I strive to be. I am a man of strong conviction who knows there is truth, justice and honor in this world. I have been an operations manager in the private sector as well as an entry level employee. I know how to work with a variety of individuals and not compromise my convictions.

What are the main issues you will focus on when you are elected to the Minnesota Legislature?

► Single bill, single topic legislation (as our constitutions clearly state)

► Term limits
► Judicial accountability
► Ending deep state bureaucracy, that has become a 4th branch of government

► Parental choice in education. We do not co-parent with the government.

► Stopping any more infringement upon our Bill of Rights, especially 1st and 2nd amendment.

► Energy independence. Repealing the Next Generation Energy Act.

► Limiting governors' powers, mandates and edicts. To never again shut down our economy.

How would you describe your position on:

► **Abortion?**
Abortion is a sugar coat word for murder. I will never vote for

any legislation that promotes the death of the innocent in our land. We must stop the dehumanization of the preborn children in this state and country.

► *Spending the \$9 billion state surplus revenue?*

In reality this money belongs to those who continued to work during the COVID shutdowns. This is the front line workers' money. The people who were not taking government assistance for their rent, extra unemployment benefits or other handouts. This state received over \$70 billion from the federal government of the \$5.7 trillion that was added to the national debt to "stimulate" the economy. If you do some simple math, you will find that all who continued to work didn't get their share. Now the governor wants to spend that portion on everyone to buy votes and support big government agendas. I say give it back to whom it belongs, the front line workers.

► *Was the 2020 election stolen? Why do you believe that? What, if any, changes would you recommend for how elections are conducted in Minnesota?*

Yes. The evidence continues to build daily. The confirmation of 100%-plus voting of registered voters in areas inside the battle ground states. The midnight drops, the mail in ballots and face coverings to promote ballot harvesting. The state laws that were broken to change how the election would be handled. Not putting cameras on every drop box as was required. The instantaneous attempt by the current regime to make elections federally run after the 2020 election.

We need to drop the ERIC system in our state. It artificially keeps our voter rolls inflated and does not purge the system as it claims.

► **Make polling places internet free zones.** No machines connected to the internet. No iPads.

► **Paper ballots only.**
► **Provisional ballots for same day registration.**

► **No more mail in ballots.**
► **Voting on one single day.**

Absentee allowed at the courthouse for 2 weeks before the election only.

What changes, if any, would you make to how local government aid is distributed to Greater Minnesota?

We need to vote on these government aid projects individually. No more pork added onto the bills. Vote on each for their merit instead of large massive bills.

Jordan Ramusson (GOP):
Name: Jordan Ramusson
Age: 29
Hometown: Fergus Falls
Education: Fergus Falls High School graduate, Harvard University graduate

Family members (name/age): Wife, Emma

Past offices held, if any: State representative, 2021-present
Most recent employment: Small business owner

What makes you the best candidate to represent the MNGOP in the upcoming November election?

I understand and live our community values — my family has lived in Otter Tail County for six generations — and I have a proven conservative record of fighting and upholding our values at the State Capitol.

During my time in the Minnesota House, I was one of only six legislators out of 201 to oppose all omnibus spending bills in 2021. Last year, the Minnesota Legislature enacted a 12% increase in state government spending — and I voted no, because Minnesotans cannot afford it. I will continue to oppose wasteful government spending in the Minnesota Senate.

I am the proven conservative leader in this race. My track record in the Legislature has earned me the endorsements of Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, Rep. Bud Nornes, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, the Minnesota Police & Peace Officers Association, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, and the National Rifle Association.

I am also honored to be the Republican Party's endorsed candidate, having earned the support of grassroots activists across Senate District 9.

What are the main issues you will focus on when you are elected to the Minnesota Legislature?

Minnesotans are overtaxed, and I support returning the state budget surplus to taxpayers. I authored the bill to eliminate the state tax on Social Security income (House File 3752) and also authored a bill that would reduce the income tax on all Minnesotans (House File 4777). My top priority is to deliver permanent tax relief to you.

We need government to live within its means and stop adding costly regulations onto Minnesota businesses and consumers. I was awarded the "Guardian of Small Business Award" by the NFIB and am endorsed by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce for working to reduce costly mandates that drive inflation.

Public safety is a key role of government, and I will continue to back law enforcement and first responders. I am honored to be endorsed by the Minnesota Police & Peace Officers Association for my work on public safety.

I will also always fight for our constitutional rights, including the 2nd Amendment. I am the only candidate in this race endorsed by the National Rifle

Association.
How would you describe your position on:

► **Abortion?**
I am honored to be the only candidate in this race endorsed by the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life because of my pro-life work. I authored legislation (House File 1934) to end taxpayer funding of abortions. I have a 100% pro-life voting record in the Minnesota Legislature and have worked to provide women with support when they choose life.

► *Spending the \$9 billion state surplus revenue?*

Minnesota has some of the highest taxes in the nation. With our record surplus, I support returning the state budget surplus to taxpayers in permanent tax relief. I authored the largest tax cut in Minnesota's history, including eliminating taxes on Social Security (House File 3752) and reducing income taxes for all Minnesotans (House File 4777). My top priority is tax relief.

Government spending at the state and federal level is out of control. Last year, I was one of only six legislators out of 201 to vote against all omnibus spending bills. These bills increased state government spending by 12%, which is unsustainable for Minnesota taxpayers. My business background puts me at the forefront of budget debates, and I will always look out for taxpayers and fight against wasteful spending.

► *Was the 2020 election stolen? Why do you believe that? What, if any, changes would you recommend for how elections are conducted in Minnesota?*

It should be easy to vote and hard to cheat in Minnesota's elections. That's why I authored the Minnesota Elections Integrity Act (House File 2732) to make sure we have secure and fair elections in Minnesota. I support requiring Voter ID, banning ballot harvesting, and increasing criminal penalties for voter fraud.

In 2020, Minnesota's Secretary of State willfully ignored Minnesota election law on absentee ballots. We need election officials who will enforce election laws, not undermine them.

► *What changes, if any, would you make to how local government aid is distributed to Greater Minnesota?*

I will work to ensure that Greater Minnesota communities get their fair share of state resources, including local government aid. Local government aid should be prioritized toward property tax relief and maintaining local infrastructure. In addition, I oppose local government aid going to cities that are defunding their police departments or otherwise not enforcing laws that keep communities safe.

with the First Avenue North (County Highway Eight) portion of the project, from Third Street to the north side of the cemetery on Eighth Street (Mosquito Heights Road).

A detour will be ready to go as of the first day of set-up. Berube said people who enter Perham on the county road should be aware of a detour that will shift them a block to the east, onto Second Avenue Northeast. Signage will point drivers in the right direction.

Several deliveries will be arriving throughout the next few weeks, before construction progresses, Berube reported. If work and deliveries are completed quickly, then the Pinewood Lane portion will be the second section of the project worked on in 2022.

Berube will compile construction updates via email for community members. If you have any questions or want to be added to the email list, contact Berube at jade.berube@apexenggroup.com or Perham City Engineer Jonathan Smith at jsmith@cityofperham.com.

At the meeting, councilors also discussed:

► The city's contribution of funds toward public parking to be constructed at JP Place, the combination retail and apartment complex to be located on East Main Street, where the old Bongards retail store once stood.

► The PACC's use of its the back entrance, starting on Aug. 8, to allow for construction.

► Otter Tail County Community Development Director Amy Baldwin's request for the city to consider formally electing to participate in the EDA in the future, with a goal of creating additional housing in support of workforce needs. The committee said they will discuss this prior to making any official decisions.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 8 at 5:15 p.m., and the next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 31 at 5:15 p.m.

ALICE

From Page 1

the kids' wide smiles, their enjoyment was clear. Even though Minter and Cicero have been all over the upper Midwest with many different kids, those of the Perham community stand out to them.

"These are the funniest kids we've ever had," Minter said of the Perham children she directed throughout the week. "They're so funny, and they're so kind to each other. I just think the community is really solid — a community where they all feel safe."

Cicero agrees that the kids they directed are absolutely hilarious. "Like, it was honestly

a really good group," she said. "We had a lot of fun."

Minter thanked the Perham community for getting their kids involved in the production. She hopes they continue to act in the theater world if they'd like, because, in her opinion, they're wonderful performers.

To learn more about Prairie Fire Children's Theatre, go to prairiefirechildrenstheatre.com.

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August 13, 2022 11:30 a.m.

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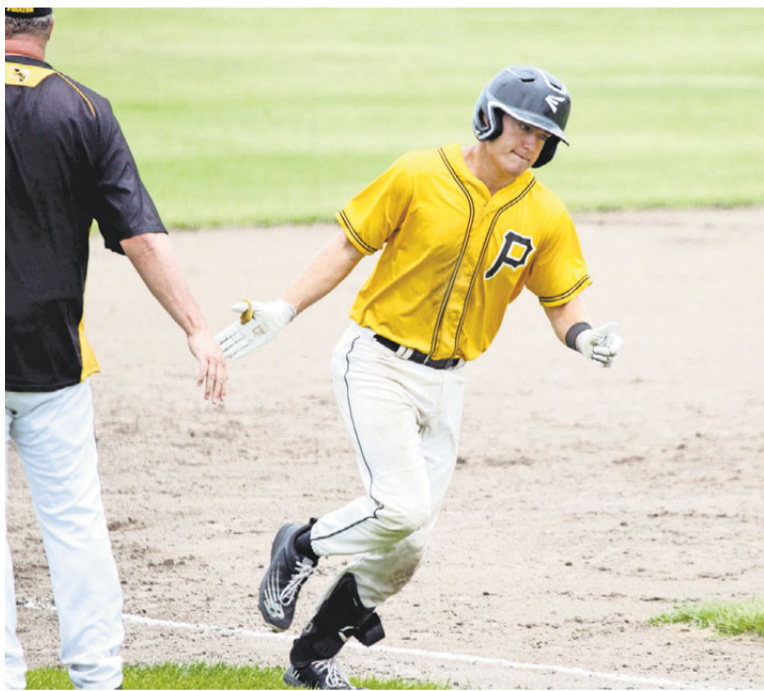


Photos by Jared Rubado / Perham Focus

The Perham Pirates celebrate Maddux Kovash's first-inning home run in the Pirates' 7-1 win over Vergas on Sunday at Krueger Field.

STREAKING INTO PLAYOFFS

Pirates close out regular season with wins over Wolf Lake and Vergas



Perham's Carter Mulcahy, right, gives a low-five to manager Jason Groth as he rounds third base following his sixth-inning home run in the Pirates' 7-1 win over Vergas on Sunday at Krueger Field.

By Jared Rubado
Perham Focus

Perham
When Minnesota amateur baseball fans turn their calendars to August, it can only mean one thing: It's playoff time.

The Region 14C tournament begins next weekend in Perham and Deer Creek, and the Perham Pirates are riding a three-game winning streak into their first-round matchup. They ended their regular season with a 7-1 win over Vergas on Sunday at Krueger Field.

"Our bats have really come alive in the last week," Perham manager Jason Groth said. "We put up 18 runs in the last two games, so that was nice to see. What I really like is we're getting out to quick starts. I think that's going to be a big key for us

going through the regions."

The first three Perham hitters came around to score in the bottom of the first inning on Maddux Kovash's three-run home run. He followed it up with six more innings on the mound, allowing one run on five hits with eight strikeouts before leaving the game with an injury in the seventh inning.

"Getting those kinds of starts gives our pitchers confidence," Groth said. "I think we have a good pitching staff, and they'll be a key for us. You saw Maddux today—hopefully, he'll be good to go for the playoffs. He's been one of our go-to guys. Then we have Chas (Melvin) coming off of a good Legion season and Chris Ruther. We have guys that we know can throw."

The Pirates tacked on three more runs in the fifth inning. Carter Mulcahy launched a two-run home run after

Austin Paul reached to start the inning. Jace Kovash later scored from first on a throwing error when he attempted to steal second base.

Vergas got a run back in the top of the sixth before Melvin got it back with an RBI single in the bottom of the seventh. Melvin closed out the final two innings on the mound with four strikeouts.

Perham started its weekend with an 11-0 win over Wolf Lake on Saturday at home. Mulcahy was 1-for-2 with a two-run home run and four runs scored. Jace Kovash, Maddux Kovash, Chance Bye and Austin Aanenson all recorded hits. The Pirates drew 12 walks.

Ruther threw five shutout innings, allowing three hits with two strikeouts. Mulcahy pitched the final two innings, recording a pair of strikeouts.

PLAYOFFS: Page 9

LEGION SOFTBALL

Making history

By Jared Rubado
Wadena Pioneer Journal

WADENA – 27 teams signed up for the inaugural Minnesota American Legion softball season this summer, and only eight of them earned a trip to Mankato for the first-ever state tournament.

Despite going 0-3, Wadena was one of those eight teams that made history last weekend. The Post 171 softball became the first to ever qualify for a Legion softball state tournament and helped break ground for girls' sports in Minnesota.

"Right from the get-go, we had a goal to

make it down to the state tournament," Wadena head coach Brooke Umland said. "We knew it was going to be a huge deal because it was the first Legion state softball tournament, so all summer long, that's what we worked toward. Our girls put in a lot of work because they wanted to make it down there. It was all on the girls. They did all the extra stuff to make it."

The staff in Mankato rolled out the red carpet for the eight teams competing.

"They wanted to make it historical, and it was," Umland said. "Before

HISTORY: Page 9



The Wadena Legion softball team competed at the first ever Minnesota American Legion state softball tournament in Mankato July 30-31. Wadena finished in eighth place after being the first team to qualify out of 27 teams around the state.

Contributed / Facebook / WDC Public Schools

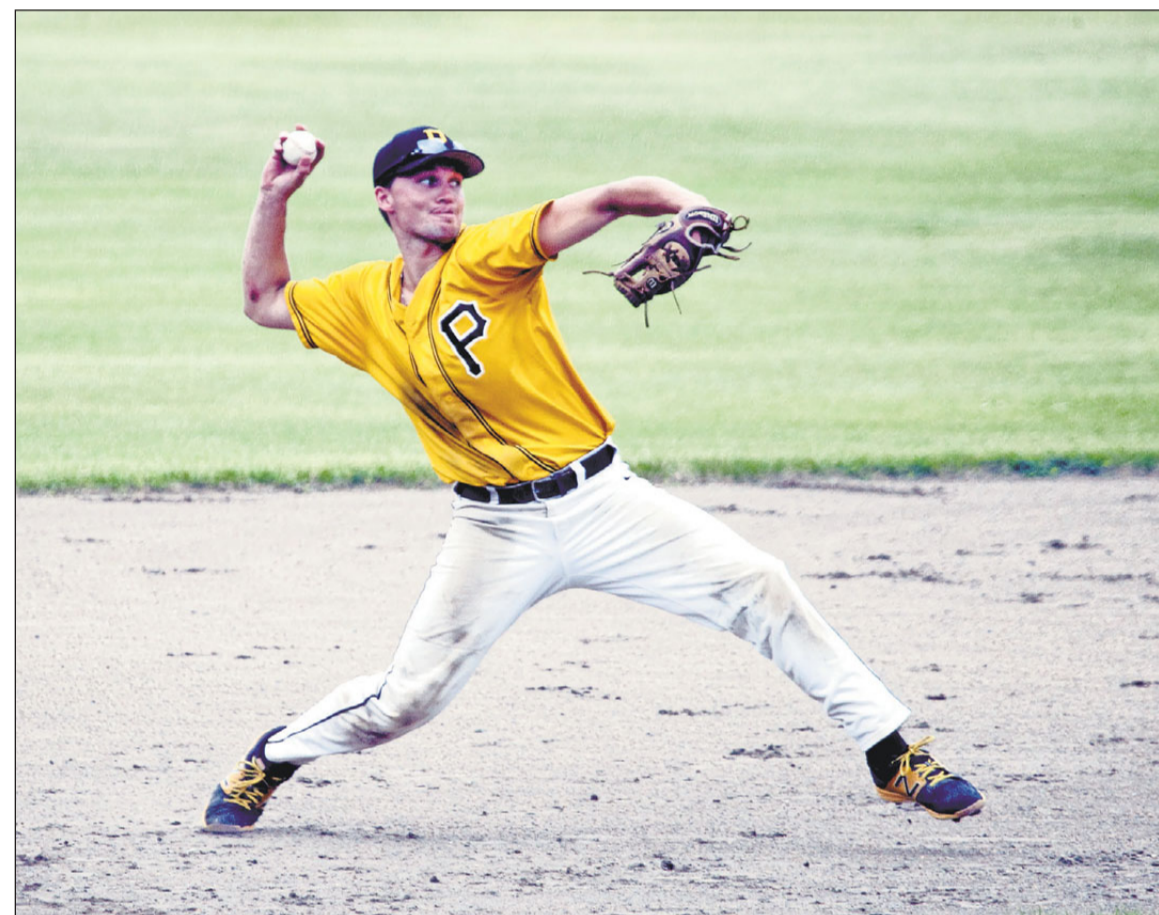


Photos by Jared Rubado / Perham Focus

Perham's Maddux Kovash pitches in the Pirates' 7-1 win over Vergas on Sunday at Krueger Field.



Perham's Maddux Kovash smiles as he trots around the bases following his first-inning home run in the Pirates' 7-1 win over Vergas on Sunday at Krueger Field.



Perham's Jace Kovash throws a runner out from third base in the Pirates' 7-1 win over Vergas on Sunday at Krueger Field.

PLAYOFFS

From Page 8

The Pirates are the third seed in the Region 14C tournament and will take on Staples in one of four play-in games on Friday. The winner gets Nimrod on Saturday at 1 p.m. in Perham.

"It'll come down to pitching and defense," Groth said. "You need it to last three or four games. Getting through these games while being economical with your pitching, along with putting together good at-bats, is what it takes. You need to put pressure on the opposition."

Perham also has Bluffton on its side of the bracket, who will take on the winner of Park Rapids and Verndale on Saturday at 4 p.m. in Perham.

"It's a lot of fun," Groth said. "The rivalries around here are exciting, especially on HWY 10. You throw in Bluffton and New York Mills in there with us, and it's always a good game with a good crowd when those two teams are here. Then you look at the

other side with Nimrod and Midway, and they always have good followings. It's always an entertaining tournament and a good time. The intensity steps up a couple of notches."

In amateur baseball, rivalries are built over many years.

"It's because they play each other all the way through," Groth said about the intensity of the rivalries. "They saw each other in Little League, Babe Ruth, Junior Legion, Legion, high school—all of it. They see each other out there four or five times a year."

For Perham, Groth looks to lean on his team's experience in big moments.

"We have some resilient guys," Groth said. "Maddux has kind of been the bulldog. Last year, he threw 15, maybe 16 innings in a row for us on Saturday after getting the save for us on Friday night. He's no stranger to the big games. Same with Chas. They've been in those big games and know what it's like."

VERGAS 000 001 000 — 1
PERHAM 300 030 10X — 7
WP: Maddux Kovash (7IP, 1R, 5H, 2BB, 1HBP, 8K)
WOLF LAKE 000 000 0 — 0
PERHAM 230 240 X — 11
WP: Chris Ruther (5IP, 0R, 3H, 2K)

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

HISTORY

From Page 8

the first game, they had a fly-over when the National Anthem was sung. It was an all-around cool experience that I know our girls are going to take with them."

Wadena played Hayfield in its first game on Saturday, falling 6-4 to the eventual state champions.

"We played Hayfield the first game, and they ended up winning the entire tournament," Umland said. "We had been working at laying off certain pitches, and our girls did an incredible job the entire game of working on the little softball things. Unfortu-

nately, we lost by two, but we carried a lot of the positives with us in the next games."

Later that day, Wadena played Parkers Prairie for a third time this summer, losing 15-14 in an epic shootout. Bemidji got the better of Wadena in the seventh-place game by a score of 9-6.

"It's hard to beat a team three times in the summer," Umland said. "They had our number in that one. They hit the ball really well. In our last game against Bemidji, we gave up a grand slam in the first inning, which was kind of a bummer. We started battling back, but it was too little too late. We had some errors that bit us in the butt."

Even though the Wadena girls believed they could make

a run on the winner's side of the bracket, getting to the state tournament was the goal. Post 171 beat Swanville twice in the regional tournament to qualify for the big dance.

"Every time we played Swanville, they just got better and better," Umland said.

"They could hit the ball like no other team we played, even at the state tournament. Fortunately for us, we were able to come away with a state berth."

"We played from behind for most of that game. We call it putting cushions on the couch or putting insurance on the cars. When we finally did that in the seventh, we just had to hold them. We ended the game with a pop-up, and the girls erupted. As a coach, it

was fun to see the girls have their hard work pay off."

Area teams competed in a summer softball league before this year. When they got word of a Legion softball league, it was a collective agreement to make the leap.

"Mike Arvidson from Parkers Prairie kind of spear-headed the whole Legion softball start," Umland said. "We played in the same summer league in previous seasons, so we kind of all agreed to join Legion softball. It was a new experience for us, but I think we were well represented in our area. I think it showed this is something worth being part of."

Minnesota has a prominent summer baseball resume when it comes to Legion and

amateur leagues. Umland is excited for softball to become part of that.

"It's pretty special," Umland said. "It's not only the first Legion softball experience the girls in this state had, but it's also the 50th anniversary of Title IX. They made a big deal about that as well because it truly is. That paved the way for a lot of good things to come. Minnesota has the highest amount of Legion baseball teams in the entire country. There were 27 softball teams this year, and you hope there's even more next year, and it just keeps growing. We want to keep the foot on the gas and keep teams involved."

Contact Jared Rubado: jrubado@dlnewspapers.com; Twitter: @DLtribSports

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Close 5pm Tuesday, August 16, 2022
Offices to be elected:
Mayor, two year term
2 Council Members, four year terms
Contact Dent City Clerk, Karen Johnson (218-758-2233/218-731-5487) or Mayor Perry Colman (758-2100/758-2218) for filing forms.
8/4

To the Electors of Gorman Township:
Notice is Hereby Given, That a Primary Election will be held at the Gorman Township Hall, on Tuesday, the Ninth (9th) day of August, 2022. Polls will be open for voting from 7a.m. until 8 p.m.
7/28

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
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52	53	54					55			56	57	58	59
60							61			62		63	
64							65					66	
67							68					69	

- ACROSS**
- Female parent
 - NY city
 - Israeli diplomat Abba
 - Surrounded by
 - Car part
 - Simple aquatic plant
 - Tough skin of fruit
 - Finnish lake
 - Composition
 - Very willing
 - One and only
 - Cluster cups
 - Famed Hollywood director
 - Score perfectly
 - Important lawyers
 - Undivided
 - Part of the foot
 - Spun by spiders
 - Married woman
 - Reagan's Secretary of State
 - Instruments
 - The A-Team drove one
 - Short-tailed marten
 - Oil organization
 - Predecessor to the EU
 - "Hotel California" rockers
 - Color at the end of the spectrum
 - Actress Ryan
 - Digital audiotape
 - Expression of creative skill
 - Scientific instrument
 - Dog - marked for later
 - Israeli city
 - Fencing sword
 - Turkish title
 - Wise individuals
 - Cold wind
 - Popular type of shoe
 - The territory occupied by a nation
 - Tattle
 - Chop up
 - Actress Zellweger
 - Romanian city
- DOWN**
- Female of a horse
 - Bowfin
 - Chinese dynasty
 - Small venomous snake
 - Global news agency
 - Common fractions
 - American state
 - Tired
 - Boxing's GOAT
 - Made less severe
 - A group of countries in special alliance
 - God of fire (Hindu)
 - Northeast Indian ethnic group
 - Anchor ropes
 - They
 - Apprehend
 - Autonomic nervous system
 - A theatrical performer
 - 2-door car
 - Partner to flogged
 - Pair of small hand drums
 - Former Houston footballer
 - Discharge
 - Former women's branch of the military
 - Partner to cheese
 - Live in a dull way
 - Satisfies
 - Snakelike fish
 - Consume
 - Type of student
 - Erase
 - Instruct
 - Girl's given name
 - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - Every one of two or more things
 - Indian city
 - Greek letters
 - Weapon
 - Geological times
 - Type in physics
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Witness

PUZZLE SOLUTION

I	S	V	I	E	O	N	E	M	H	S	V	H
W	V	T	B	E	L	V	L	S	O	H	C	
M	O	B	E	O	E	V	S	V	H	D	V	
H	E	B	V	S	T	E	L	Q	E	R	V	E
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V	I	O	V	E	H	L	I	D	E	O	V	E
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V	G	T	V	T	V	D	E	F	D	I	W	V
N	V	B	E	V	C	I	L	U	V	W	V	M

SUDOKU

Fun by the Numbers. Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

	6							9
				5				8
		3	7		9			5
7			6			1		8
	1					7		
	2	4			7			
	9		8					2
					2	4		
				3			8	1

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

TODAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

9	1	8	5	6	3	2	7	4
5	7	6	4	2	1	8	3	9
2	4	3	9	7	8	5	6	1
3	9	5	7	1	6	4	2	8
4	9	7	8	5	2	6	1	3
8	2	1	3	4	9	6	5	7
1	5	4	6	9	7	3	8	2
7	8	9	2	3	5	1	4	6
9	3	2	1	8	4	7	9	5

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HOME

From Page 1

officer then brought the man to his patrol car and her husband followed them outside.

"Then the officer ran my husband's license plate number to make sure he lived here," Brown said. "Then, he left."

Some details differed between the Browns' version and what Gritz was told. Gritz said the license plate of the vehicle parked at the residence was run while the intoxicated man was making his way inside the house. He said that after the officer saw the plate owner's name didn't match the intoxicated man's name, the officer walked to the door, knocked and announced himself. From the door, the officer observed a man come down the stairs and confront the stranger on his couch.

Gritz filled in missing details of how the evening began. A Perham establishment contacted the police department and notified them there was an intoxicated customer that needed a safe ride home.

"We don't do it terribly often," Gritz said. "There was no taxi service running that night."

Gritz said the intoxicated man had lost his phone and Officer Reyes agreed to provide a public service.

Gritz said after Reyes made contact with the man, Reyes checked the man's driver's license, as well the license plate on the vehicle he drove to the establishment. The problem was, the man had not updated his license information from a previous address.

Gritz said the man was brought to an old

address, at which time the man informed the officer that he no longer lived there. Instead, the man led the officer to Brown's farmstead.

"He was adamant that he was at his mother's place," Gritz was told.

Brown noted the doors at their home are normally locked at their residence.

"I don't know if we forgot or if the door didn't fully close," she said. "But, this could've been a very different situation."

After all, what if the dogs had attacked the intoxicated man or the police officer? What if a gun had been drawn? What if the officer had left and the man found his way upstairs to one of their children's rooms? Their son has also been troubled by what he heard and saw, she said, noting sleep doesn't come easy for him lately.

Brown emphasized the family supports police and recognizes they are vital to the community and do many great things. Brown said her hope is that the incident provides awareness that more training is needed in such situations, and perhaps a better policy.

Gritz said the Perham Police Department does not have a policy in place for safe rides home.

Gritz said "there will be training from here on," adding that another good lesson learned from this experience was the importance of updating a license and plate license information promptly after moving to a new residence.

The department has seven full-time officers, including the chief, and one civilian assistant.

PROGRAM

From Page 1

eat at the Summer Feeding Program throughout the summer. While Brown was working on a solution for the Boys and Girls Club, Calvary Lutheran Church Pastor Erin Bovendam also had the community kids in mind.

"Even though we didn't qualify for funding, the need is here," Bovendam explained why she finds the program so important. "One of the things that I think is so nice is that children can be together with other children and other adults... The social aspect of it is so important too."

She reached out to Brown, Perham Public Schools Food Service Director Krystal Boyd, and Business Manager Kristi Werner. Together, they figured out how much food they'd need, how much it would cost, and more. They decided to get a group together to keep the Summer Feeding Program alive: Besides Boyd, Brown and Bovendam, the group also included John Leikness, Susan Huebsch, Mary Nordbeck, Kristi Werner, Liz Swanson, Jenny Johnson and Mattea Steeke.

Since staffing would already be available in June due to summer school, this group's first mission was to gather funds for general community food in June.

While the group was able to gather volunteers, this one member was right; there wasn't anyone who was able to come in and volunteer every single day. Luckily, John Leikness with the Bridge Community Pantry thought of someone immediately who'd make a great employee, given that she's a wonderful volunteer. She was hired to work for the summer program, and she'll be reimbursed for her work through the funding the group members were able to gather for July and August.

Fundraising in and of itself was another large task: Calvary Lutheran

Church raised some funds. The Lions made a donation. The group applied for a grant and received it.

Through plenty of work and dedication, community kids in need were fed at Prairie Wind Middle School all throughout June and July, and they will continue to be fed through mid-August.

"(Seeing the Perham community come together) has been a total joy," Bovendam said. "I mean, it's just so energizing and exciting, and we're just super grateful. This is how it's gone. I mean, who can argue with making sure children have food?"

Brown with the Boys and Girls Club added, "Every piece is in place because every person took a piece of it. It wasn't one person's job to do all this... I mean, it's just amazing how it all comes together."

Thanks to the efforts of this group and the general Perham community, the Summer Feeding Program will continue through mid-August. Kids 18 and younger eat for free, and meals are \$5 for adults with exact change only. Food is served at Prairie Wind Middle School.

"There's just a lot of good people in Perham that are willing to give, whether it's their time or their money or even just sitting down at the table," Bovendam said. "Just start with it and try to figure out a solution instead of just saying, 'Well, it's not going to happen.' It seems so overwhelming, and at first I was like, 'I don't think there's any way we can do this every day' when we first started. But now it's all falling together. So that's good."

Brown and Bovendam are both incredibly grateful to the group of people who helped organize the program, those who donated, those who volunteered, and the school for allowing them to use their building. The middle school is familiar and comforting to children, Bovendam said. On top of that, it's within walking distance of the Boys and Girls Club, Brown added, so kids are able to easily play and have their food there.

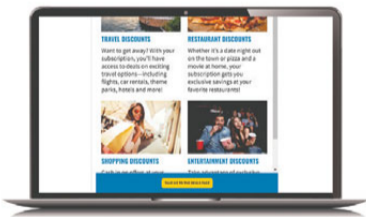
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