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Sota Lake Properties opens new hub

Old Matz and Greiff Garage transformed

By Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

For many years, travelers down Perham's Main Street would pass by a familiar old white building that everyone knew as Matz and Greiff Garage, a car repair shop.

These days, following a months-long renovation project, the building looks almost unrecognizable.

Now painted black on the outside and completely renovated, the old garage — located at 318 West Main Street — is the home and hub for Sota Lake Properties, a property management and maintenance company.

"We've had a lot of people

wondering about what exactly we do," said Sota Lake Properties Business Development Director Kim Stafki.

Stafki sat down with the Perham Focus recently to explain just what Sota Lake Properties is all about. She said the company — owned by Perham's Darin Trites — offers multiple property management and rental services all under one roof, aiming to be a one-stop shop for lake property owners.

The company offers:

- Property maintenance: Snow/leaf removal, lawn care, repainting, general house repair and more.

SOTA LAKE: Page A4



Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus

The old Matz and Greiff Garage in Perham has been renovated and transformed into Sota Lake Properties, a lake home property management and maintenance company.

Fleeing driver gets 19 years for killing OTC couple

By April Baumgarten
Perham Focus

The man who killed an elderly couple after crashing into their vehicle last year during a law enforcement pursuit in Fergus Falls has been sentenced to almost 19 years in prison.



Freitag

Cody James Freitag, age 32, of Barrett, Minn., cried as family and friends of Steven Christianson, 72, and Diane Christianson, 71, spoke Nov. 1, in Otter Tail County District Court.

Freitag fled Otter Tail County sheriff's deputies on Oct. 2, 2020, in a vehicle before running a stop sign at Cavour and Union avenues in downtown Fergus Falls.

That's where he crashed into the Christiansons' vehicle. The couple died at the scene.

One of the deputies in the chase was Kelly Backman, who was found to have fentanyl in his system during the pursuit. The former officer, according to court documents, also had drug paraphernalia in his desk and locker, and investigators determined he failed to log some drug-related items into evidence, despite reporting that he found them during his work as a narcotics officer.

Backman was fired in April and later sentenced to 30 days of electronic home monitoring after pleading guilty to misconduct by a public official.

Freitag pleaded guilty in September to two felony counts of fleeing law enforcement during a vehicle chase that resulted in death, with each charge carrying a maximum punishment of 40 years behind bars. Because of a plea agreement, he was sentenced to 225 months in prison, which works out to 18 years and nine months.

Two counts of criminal vehicular homicide were dismissed.

If Freitag doesn't commit any disciplinary offenses in prison, he will be released after serving 150 months, or 12.5 years.



Submitted Photo / Kimberly Guck

Kimberly, Elliot, Wyatt and Jeremy Guck dressed up as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, left to right, while Lisa Nelson, center, went as the turtle's favorite food, pizza.



Submitted Photo / Jessica Newton

Davis Newton, age 9, dressed up as a boxer for Halloween. Her mom said, "She'll fight anyone for candy!"

CRAYONTASTIC!

COLORFUL, CREATIVE COSTUMES WERE ALL AROUND ON HALLOWEEN



More photos on page A10

Rebecca Mitchell / Perham Focus

This colorful family, loaded up for a Halloween hayride in Ottertail, thought outside-the-crayon-box to come up with their clever Crayola costumes. Many fun and creative costumes were seen around the Perham area during community Halloween events and trick-or-treating this year.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Veterans Day programs planned in Perham
See page A3

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far I've finished two bags of M&Ms and a chocolate cake. I feel better already."
-Dave Barry

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Improvements on the way for Perham parks

Community input will be sought

Elizabeth Vierkant
Perham Focus

Changes are in store for Perham's parks and other recreational centers.

City leaders have talked for the past few years about the possibility of making improvements at the various parks throughout town, and now they're honing in on a formal plan to do so.

At the city's Committee of the Whole meeting

on Oct. 27, City Manager Jonathan Smith said the Park Board recently conferred with six different consultants on the creation of a cumulative parks plan. Each of these consultants submitted ideas about how to conduct the planning process over the next six to eight months, such as by locating available spaces within the city and surveying the community to find out what Perham

"We hope to come up with a grand plan."

CITY MANAGER
JONATHAN SMITH

residents do and don't want from their parks.

"We're really excited to get community input," Smith said. "We hope to come up with a grand plan so that when we're approached by an organization that wants to do a (parks-related)

PARKS: Page A4

2 Main Street businesses hit by vehicles last week

News Staff
The Perham Police Department responded to two vehicles driving into two neighboring Perham businesses last week. Both drivers transitioned into the wrong

gear. There was no significant damage reported at either business, and both were able to remain open, according to Perham Administrative Assistant Fran Knutson. Knutson said a driv-

er hit the Main Street Express building on Oct. 28 at 6:40 p.m. The driver thought their car was in reverse and hit the accelerator when it was in drive. The second accident occurred

on Oct. 30 at 2:09 p.m. at the Re-Use-It Thrift Store behind the Main Street Express. The driver placed the vehicle in the wrong gear and hit the building.

Four Otter Tail County wetland areas undergo improvements

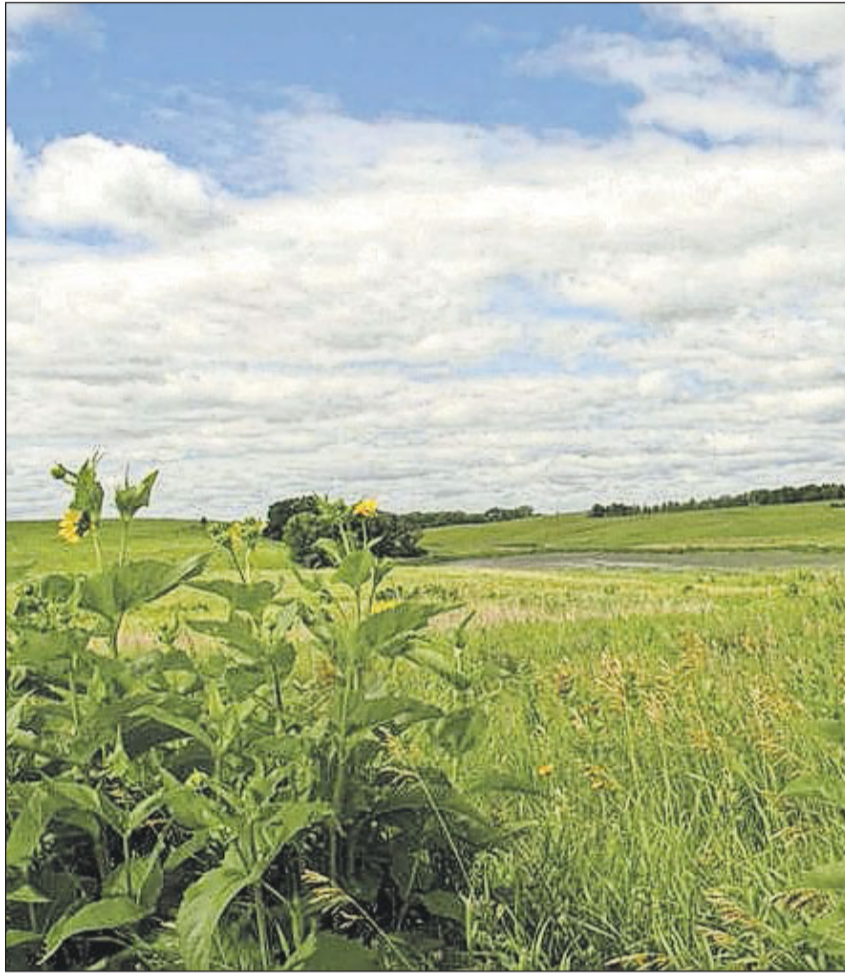
Staff Report
The Fergus Falls Wetland Management District, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with Minnesota Ducks Unlimited, Inc., restored or enhanced numerous wetlands on waterfowl production areas in Otter Tail County in October, for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Sediment and drain tile removal, construction of earthen embankments, and tree removal have been, or will soon be, completed on Knollwood, Mavis, Townsend and Wieggers Waterfowl Production Areas.

"These actions will make the habitat more attractive to breeding and migrating waterfowl as well as other wetland-dependent birds by improving the quality of wetlands on the landscape, allowing wetland areas to naturally function in support of breeding and migrating waterfowl and other birds," explained Doug McClain, regional biologist for Ducks Unlimited, in a press release.

"We will restore small temporary ponds back to the landscape for waterfowl pair bonding," he said. "In larger wetland areas, more open vegetation will provide increased areas for brood rearing and feeding. Fewer trees help restore grassland habitat for prairie-nesting birds."

As a result, Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expect to see improved habitat supporting a large number of migratory birds, which will benefit waterfowl hunters, birdwatchers and others viewing



Perham Focus / File Photo

Sediment and drain tile removal, construction of earthen embankments, and tree removal have been, or will soon be, completed on Knollwood, Mavis, Townsend and Wieggers Waterfowl Production Areas in Otter Tail County.

wildlife. Wetland restoration also enhances opportunities to retain water on the landscape, increasing floodwater storage along with improving water quality.

The whole project should be

completed by early November. Ducks Unlimited is funding the work through a Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant appropriated by the state legislature.

Weekly Update: COVID-19 numbers in and around Otter Tail County

News Staff
Total COVID-19 cases by county, Oct. 20 - Oct. 26

► Becker: 5,479, up 152 cases since Oct. 20, including 3 additional deaths (65 deaths).

► Clay (Moorhead): 10,394, up 214 cases since Oct. 20 (99 deaths).

► Otter Tail: 8,299, up 267 cases since Oct. 20, including 2 additional deaths (107 deaths).

► Hubbard: 2,974, up 80 cases since Oct. 20 (44 deaths).

► Wadena: 2,452, up 83 cases since Oct. 20 (29 deaths).

Otter Tail County reported 217 active cases

on Oct. 20, a decrease of 66 active cases over the previous week, said **Otter Tail County Public Health.**

More information and assistance

► Otter Tail County Public Health is available to answer general ques-

tions regarding COVID-19 at 218-998-8320 or 888-349-2581, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

► Otter Tail County COVID-19 Health Information can be found at ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/covid-19-situation-update/.

PERHAM POLICE

- Oct. 25
 - 11:20 a.m. **Welfare Check:** Caller requested welfare on adult male; all okay.
 - 1:55 p.m. **Fire - Officer Assist:** Complaint of party burning brush; fire extinguished.
 - 4:01 p.m. **Theft/Fraud:** Perham resident reported theft of personal property.
 - 7:03 p.m. **Traffic - Warning:** Issued verbal warning for no rear lights.
- Oct. 26
 - 12:32 p.m. **Domestic Abuse No Contact Order Violation:** Perham resident reported possible violation of DANCO.
 - 1:04 p.m. **Harassment/Stalking:** Perham resident requested assistance with unwanted party; gone prior to arrival.
- Oct. 28
 - 7:59 a.m. **Suicide - Attempt/Threat:** Responded to Perham residence for report of suicide attempt.
 - 6:40 p.m. **Accident - Property Damage:** Report of vehicle driving into Perham business; no injuries.
- Oct. 29
 - 4:48 p.m. **Attempt to Locate - Warrant:** Department of Corrections requested assisting locating party with warrant; unable to locate individual.
 - 9:11 p.m. **Suspicious Activity:** Caller reported suspicious activity; all okay.
- Oct. 30
 - 2:09 p.m. **Accident - Property Damage:** Report of vehicle driving into Perham business; no injuries.
 - 2:22 p.m. **Lost & Found:** Personal property left behind at shooting range; property returned to owner.
 - 2:31 p.m. **Terroristic Threats:** Perham resident reported threats to remove/destroy personal property; all okay.
 - 3:39 p.m. **Disturbance:** Responded to Perham residence for disturbance; all okay.
 - 3:53 p.m. **Mental Health:** Adult female transported for evaluation.
 - 4:15 p.m. **Repair Call:** Railroad crossing arms malfunction; notified BNSF.
 - 10:25 p.m. **Driving Complaint:** Report of silver truck driving erratically; gone prior to arrival.
- Oct. 31
 - 10:57 a.m. **Assist - Public:** Caller requested assistance with property exchange.
 - 5:10 p.m. **Driving Complaint:** Issued verbal warning for erratic driving in residential neighborhood.
 - 5:56 p.m. **Disturbance:** Responded to Perham address for disturbance; all okay.

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at www.WadenaCountyHistory.org
email 603wchs@arvig.net for invitation
A monthly literary event hosted by the Wadena County Historical Society, Travelin' Storyteller and the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center

NOTICE
On October 20th, 2021 Hendershot's Snowmobile is permanently closed.
All Machines must be picked up by December 10th, 2021
Call Judy at 218-731-4498 to make arrangements to pick up your machine

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Perham area Veterans Day programs

News Staff

Take a moment to thank and honor U.S. military veterans by attending one or more of the special Veterans Day events going on in the Perham area on Thursday, Nov. 11.

Perham Public Schools Veterans Day Program

Veterans are welcome to attend a breakfast at 8:15 a.m. in the Perham High School commons. Following that, a Veterans Day program, open to the public, will begin at 9:15 a.m. in the high school gymnasium. The program will feature a guest speaker, who had not yet been announced at press time, and the school concert choir will sing "God Bless America." The band will play "America the Beautiful."



ITOW Veterans Museum Lunch

Veterans and their families are invited to the In Their Own Words Veterans Museum in Perham for a free lunch

in honor of all those who have served and continue to serve. The lunch, sponsored by United Community Bank, will be going on from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Local veterans watched in silence as junior and high school students led a table presentation in honor of POWs (Prisoners of War) at a past Veterans Day program in Perham.

Perham Focus / File Photo

New York Mills Veterans Day Program and Lunch

A public program at the New York Mills School gym will begin at 10 a.m. Local student winners of the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay contests will share their essays and the school band and choir will perform. A light lunch for veterans and their families will follow the program, with the meal served at the New York Mills

VFW. Preceding those public events, at 9 a.m., the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3289 and Auxiliary will share a skit about the "Buddy Poppy Lady" with kindergarten through fifth grade students.

State of Minnesota virtual Veterans Day Program

The State of Minnesota will be holding a virtual Veterans Day Program. A 30-minute recorded program will be available starting at 8 a.m. on the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs website at MinnesotaVeteran.org/Veterans-Day2021. The MDVA invites all Minnesotans to celebrate and honor the veterans who have served the state and country.

County 'partners in prevention' thanked for their efforts against AIS

Staff Report

Otter Tail County business professionals and other 'partners in prevention' recently attended an appreciation event held in thanks of their concerted efforts to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the county's lakes.

"It has been a long two years for everyone," said Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County AIS specialist, at the Oct. 27 event. "We wanted to thank businesses and other partners for being mindful of prevention strategies while working

under the increased volume of new boat owners and visitors."

Meg Duhr, an outreach specialist with the Minnesota AIS Research Center, shared exciting developments and systems that help lake users do the right things to prevent the spread of aquatic invasives.

"This audience is an important group to reach," she said. "As researchers, we don't often have the opportunity to engage and hear from lake service providers."

Lake service professionals, watercraft

inspectors, and lake association members were among the guests present. The event was held at Thumper Pond in Ottertail.

The Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force develops programs and strategies for the protection of waters through public awareness, education, containment, and research. In partnership with the Coalition of Lake Associations and the county, the task force brings events, services, and personnel to support these prevention programs.

Local projects awarded funding by Lake Region Electric

Staff Report

Twelve organizations in the region, including the Perham Center for the Arts, recently received funding for special projects from Lake Region Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program. Lake Region awarded \$24,245 this October from its quarterly allocations, bringing the cooperative's total donation amount to \$435,195 since 2007.

Organizations receiving funds were:

- \$2,500 to A Place to Belong for Community Connections
- \$2,120 to Bio Girls Inc. for Bio Girls New York Mills
- \$800 to Bluffton Fire & Rescue for a generator
- \$5,000 to the City of Fergus Falls for Project Play: NP Park
- \$2,500 to Empowering Kids for Building Blocks for the Future
- \$1,525 to the Henning Landmark Center to purchase an AED and provide CPR training workshops
- \$800 to the Henning Military Park for concrete curbing around the landscape area
- \$2,500 to JAIL, Inc. for Hope for the Incarcerated

- \$1,000 to Otter Cover Children's Museum for a comfort room
- \$2,500 to the Perham Center for the Arts for Art Accessible for All
- \$500 to Someplace Safe for promotional items with the Someplace Safe contact information
- \$2,500 to Tri-State Manufacturers Association for Project Dream Team

To learn more about the organizations that received funding, follow @LakeRegionElectricCoop on Facebook. To request future funding for a community project, complete the online Operation Round Up Request for Funding form found on the cooperative's website and submit it with supporting documentation.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary charitable fundraising program through the cooperative. The trust fund is overseen by a volunteer, nine-member board of trustees who are selected to serve by the cooperative's board of directors. Members of the cooperative can participate in Operation Round Up by donating the extra change on their electric bills when rounding up to the next dollar. For more information, email billing@lrec.coop or call 800-552-7658.

Construction underway on Vergas pickleball courts

News Staff

Dirt is on the move for the new pickleball courts near the baseball diamonds in Vergas.

The first phase of the project — the ground and cement work — was very recently completed. Phases two and three will consist of surfacing and fencing and are scheduled for spring 2022.

"We are thrilled to be underway," said Jill Shipman, a project committee member. "This will bring yet another improvement to the city of Vergas and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. We invite anyone who loves this com-

munity to join us in this effort."

The total project cost is \$130,000. Half of the funds are already raised, coming from grants and donations by businesses and individuals.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the project, send a check payable to West Central Initiative to: City of Vergas, PO Box 32, Vergas MN, 56587. Or visit cityofvergas.com.

Updates on the project can be found online on Facebook, on the Vergas-MN-Pickleball page.

For more information or to get involved with the project, contact Jill Shipman at shipmanjill1@gmail.com.

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OBITUARY

Julie Malinkowski



Juliana "Julie" Veronica Malinkowski, 80 of Perham, MN passed away Thursday, October 28, 2021 at Perham Health surrounded by family. A lifelong Perham native, Julie was well-loved in her community.

Visitation will be from 1:00-4:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 3:00 on Tuesday, November 2, at Schoeneberger Funeral & Cremation Service.

One of thirteen children, Julie was born June 10, 1941 to Charles and Anne (Hofland) VanWatermulen in Perham. She grew up on the family farm near Perham and attended St. Joseph's Catholic school until 8th grade and graduated from Perham High School. On November 29, 1960 Julie was united in marriage to Eugene Malinkowski at St. Joseph's Catholic Church near Perham. Together they raised seven children and lived on the farm north of Perham.

Quality time with family and friends was a top priority for Julie. Conquering Aggravation boards and Bingo tables, hosting the annual "dumpling night" for grandkids, scavenging the local area for morel mushrooms, and serving as lead designer for Perham's most sought-after bean bags, her presence will be missed by all.

Her kitchen skills provided a favorite treat for each of her grandkids. From savory dishes like dumplings, spaghetti, and cabbage rolls to sweet treats like zucchini bread, holiday cookies, and famous jelly, Julie would send a care package with every departure.

As a friend, she was kind. As a mother, she was proud. As a grandma, she was perfect.

Preceding Julie in death were her parents Charles and Anne; siblings Dennis VanWatermulen, Tony VanWatermulen, and Gerald VanWatermulen; her ex-husband Eugene, and her grandson Carson Breitenfeldt.

Surviving Julie are her seven children: Paul (Annette) Malinkowski, Donna (Warren) Hendrickson, Susan Hanson, Steve (Staci) Malinkowski, Sandra (Kenneth) Weis, Gloria (DJ) Polman, and Lynn (Steve) Breitenfeldt; her 20 grandchildren: Ashley, Zachary, Greg, and Sarah Malinkowski, Shane, Ryan, and Marcus Hendrickson, Cassaundra, Kari, and Matthew Hanson, Mallory, Mason, and Alec Malinkowski, Maraya, Christian, and Travis Weis, Casie and Cyndie Polman and Carly and Connor Breitenfeldt; her 17 great-grandchildren; her nine siblings; and many nieces and nephews.

Schoeneberger Funeral & Cremation Service Perham, MN (218) 346-5175 www.schoenebergerfh.com

James "Jim" Peters

Nov. 12, 1946 - Oct. 31, 2021 WADENA, Minn. - James "Jim" Peters, 74, Wadena, Minn., died Sunday, Oct. 31, in Fair Oaks Lodge.

Visitation will be from 9:30-11 a.m., followed by a funeral Mass at 11 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, at St. John The Baptist Catholic Church in Bluffton, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Joanne Dean

Aug. 16, 1952 - Oct. 26, 2021 TRUMANN, Ariz. - Joanne Dean, 69, Trumann, Ark., died Tuesday, Oct. 26, in her home.

Visitation will be from noon to 1 p.m., followed by a funeral at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3, at Karvonen Funeral Home in Wadena, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Randy Hamilton

Aug. 24, 1954 - Oct. 30, 2021 FARGO, N.D. - Randy Hamilton, 67, Frazee, Minn., died Saturday, Oct. 30, in Essentia Health.

Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 5, at Karvonen Funeral Home in New York Mills, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Ada Kujala

Jan. 3, 1941 - Oct. 29, 2021 PERHAM, Minn. - Ada Kujala, 80, Perham, Minn., died Friday, Oct. 29, in Perham Health.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, at Apostolic Lutheran Church in New York Mills, Minn. Visitation will continue from 10-11 a.m., followed by a funeral at 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 5, at the church.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Ronald "Ron" James

Dec. 8, 1938 - Oct. 24, 2021 FERGUS FALLS, Minn. - Ronald "Ron" James, 82, Vining, Minn., died Sunday, Oct. 24, in Lake Region Hospital.

A gathering of family and friends will be from 10-11 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 6, at Vining Lutheran Church.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Steven Ross

Dec. 8, 1962 - Oct. 29, 2021 VERGAS, Minn. - Steven Ross, 58, Vergas, Minn., died Friday, Oct. 29, in his home.

A celebration of life will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, at Kimberly Nelson's home at 41366 County Highway 41 in Dent, Minn. A bonfire with cocktails will follow.

Arrangements by Larson Funeral Home.

Jerry Triebenbach

Sept. 23, 1940 - Oct. 31, 2021 WADENA, Minn. - Jerry Triebenbach, 81, Deer Creek, Minn., died Sunday, Oct. 31, in Fair Oaks Lodge.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 5, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Deer Creek. Visitation will continue from 10-11 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 6, at the church.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service in Wadena.

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Photos by Elizabeth Vierkant / Perham Focus Above: Sota Lake Properties is located at 318 West Main Street in Perham, in the former Matz and Greiff building. Left: Kim Stafki, Kristen McMartin and Lori Pazdernik, left to right, inside the new Sota Lake Properties location in Perham.



The meeting room in Sota Lake Properties is decorated in a sort of modern farmhouse style, with light wood tones, clean and crisp lines, and an uncluttered yet warm and inviting feel.



Old medicine and liquor bottles that were found in the walls of the former Matz & Greiff Garage during renovations are now part of a display in Sota Lake Properties' front desk area.

the original things from when (this building) used to be a garage," Stafki said.

Open hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., but Stafki emphasized that they're never really closed. They have a

24-hour call service and can be reached any time for maintenance emergencies. For more information, contact Sota Lake Properties at 218-325-0149, admin@sotalakehome rentals.com, or sotalakeproperties.com.



SOTA LAKE

From Page A1

▶ Property management: Management of rental properties; marketing and upkeep of vacation homes and rentals.

▶ Interior design: Interior and decorating design, furniture concierge services, window treatments and staging for real estate and vacation rentals.

▶ Rentals: Lake home rentals at various price points, as well as boat and water toy rentals.

"We've kept a lot of the original things from when (this building) used to be a garage."

KIM STAFKI, SOTA LAKE PROPERTIES, ON THE REMODELING PROJECT

▶ Unique cleaning services: Residential and commercial cleaning offered in partnership with Zerorez, a cleaning service that uses ionized water instead of chemicals to clean carpets, mattresses, vents, air ducts, dryer vents, showers and upholstery.

▶ Landscaping: This is the newest addition to the Sota list of services, and has just begun being offered.

Sota Lake Properties purchased the former Matz & Greiff building in March 2021. Renovations have been going on for the

past few months, and some are still being finished up inside. The company previously had a smaller office in Perham; this is the first location to house all of the company's offerings under a single roof.

"We really want to be the 'easy button' for the community - we want to be a one-stop shop for both residential and commercial property owners," Stafki said.

For example, the owner of a rental duplex can turn to Sota Lake Properties for help finding someone to clean, mow the lawn and spray for bugs, and a seasonal cabin owner can get help finding someone to look in on their property over the winter and do some occasional cleaning or odd jobs. Sota Lake Properties offers custom packages for people looking for a specific list of services.

While interior renovations on the new building aren't quite complete yet, the company invites members of the community to stop over any time and meet the team.

"This is such a cool building, and it's already been a staple of Perham for many years," Stafki said.

"For forever," added Kristen McMartin, hospitality manager. "We found old pharmaceutical bottles and liquor bottles between the walls. There's a story."

They said they're hoping to preserve that story in the way they're redesigning the space.

"We've kept a lot of

Almost 7,600 Minnesotans are reported as having COVID-19 reinfections

By Paul John Scott Perham Focus

MINNEAPOLIS — Following are the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 case rates, deaths, hospitalizations and vaccinations as of Monday, Nov. 1. Because all data is preliminary, some numbers and totals may change from one day to the next.

Statewide case rates

▶ NEW CASES: 2,857 (including a backlog of 7,597 reinfections since the start of the pandemic; Monday's new case number was 10,454).

▶ SEVEN-DAY, ROLLING AVERAGE OF NEW CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE: 39.5 (as of 10/22)

▶ TOTAL CASES, INCLUDING REINFECTIONS: 797,984

▶ TOTAL REINFECTIONS: 8,184

▶ SEVEN-DAY, ROLLING AVERAGE TEST POSITIVITY RATE: 7.3 (as of 10/22)

Beginning Nov. 1, the MDH has begun to report "reinfections." In keeping with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention terminology, this denotes cases in which a person tests positive more than 90 days after a previous positive test. As "total recovered" does not reflect known recovery but rather those no longer in isolation, with this updating we will remove that metric.

Hospitalizations, deaths

▶ ACTIVE HOSPITALIZATIONS: 908

▶ TOTAL HOSPITALIZATIONS: 41,392

▶ DEATHS, NEWLY REPORTED: 25

▶ TOTAL DEATHS: 8,694

Vaccinations

▶ FIRST DOSE ADMINISTERED: 3,468,379 and 74.8% of population

▶ COMPLETED SERIES (2 doses): 3,306,034 and 71.4% of population

PARKS

From Page A1

project, we can say, 'Yes, we're aware of this and have identified a funding source,' and be prepared with parks and recreation development."

At the Park Board meeting the day before, on Oct. 26, the board narrowed down the six plans submitted by the consultants to two finalists, which will be reviewed by the city council at its next meeting on Monday, Nov. 8. From there, the city will

begin honing a cumulative plan that supports community engagement in Perham parks.

Also discussed at the Oct. 27 meeting:

▶ Main Street is slated to be redone in 2024. The city is tossing around ideas and plans to complete surveys to see what people want and don't want with the construction. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

▶ Another 24-unit apartment building is being built by Grow Perham. The city hopes the project will ease housing and labor shortages.

GUEST COLUMN

Thank you for helping us give animals a new leash on life

By Kristi Lausch
Humane Society of
Otter Tail County Board
of Directors

There are many exciting things happening at the Humane Society of Otter Tail County, and we hope you'll share our enthusiasm.

For starters, we have successfully navigated the past year, remaining financially solid and committed to serving the animals and the 62 townships of Otter Tail County. In 2021, we had an intake of approximately 1,000 dogs and cats, an increase in adoptions, donations, and volunteer orientations. We assisted county law enforcement in neglect and abuse cases, showcased our new van in area parades, sponsored multiple Bark and Brews events, and continued to educate the public on our mission to care for the lost, abandoned, or surrendered animals of our area.

We would also like to boast for a brief moment about our new spay and neuter assistance program, offering financial help to a limited number of individuals who qualify for this program and have demonstrated the need and desire to get their pets spayed and neutered. We are presently in the process of hiring an executive director to help move these programs into the future, lead shelter staff and partner with an active board of directors as we consider

a possible shelter expansion. Watch for more news to come.

During National Shelter Appreciation Week, Nov. 7-13, we are grateful to partner with several area establishments that have agreed to donate a portion of their sales for a day, as scheduled below. All you need to do is take a break from cooking and enjoy dining out for the dogs and cats.

► **Sunday, Nov. 7:** Beach Bums, Otter Tail Lake

► **Monday, Nov. 8:** Perks Coffee, \$0.50 per vehicle at both Fergus Falls locations

► **Tuesday, Nov. 9:** Don Pablos, Fergus Falls

► **Wednesday, Nov. 10:** Taco John's, Fergus Falls

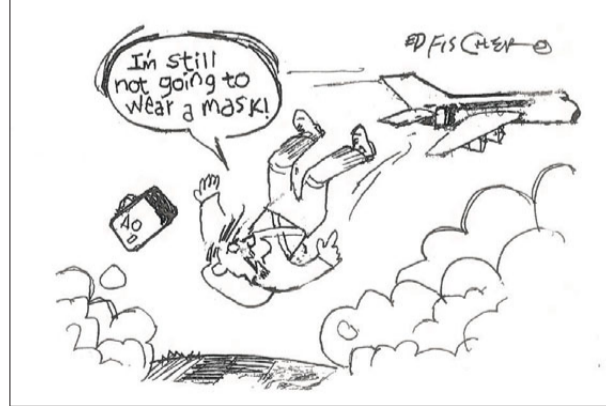
► **Friday, Nov. 12:** Socials Bar & Grill, Fergus Falls

The Humane Society of Otter Tail County is an independent 501c3, not affiliated with any government entity or national organization, and we couldn't do this important work without the support of businesses and people in our community, just like you.

We hope you will consider making a year-end donation to the shelter, but if you are unable to contribute, remember that being a volunteer or an advocate for responsible pet ownership helps, too. Every dollar, every act makes a difference in the lives of the fur babies.



Submitted Photo / Otter Tail County Humane Society, 2021 The Otter Tail County Humane Society showcased its new van at parades all over the region this past year.



My son's life ended because of a careless driver; please pay attention behind the wheel

By Sue Berg,
New York Mills, MN

To the editor:

Early in the morning on Friday, Sept. 17, our dear son, Erik Berg, was killed instantly while crossing a street at a crosswalk in Malibu, California. The light was green for him and other cars had stopped to obey the red light. One man in a van had been looking at his phone, set it down, looked up, realized he was going too fast and ran the red light.

My son was obeying the law. Since the other cars had stopped, he assumed that it was safe to cross. Unfortunately, a moment later our son, a proud and attentive father of two preschool sons and a dearly loved wife, was gone.

To say that this was a tragedy does not even begin to explain the profound, deep, and heart-wrenching loss this is to Erik's family and friends. Life will never, ever be the same again!

Today I talked to the investigator assigned to Erik's case. The accident is all on tape, so

there is no dispute over any part of it. The investigator was outraged at the senselessness of it all and told me that when he hands over his information to the prosecutor, he will be pushing hard for a felony charge of vehicular manslaughter. The man in the van can potentially receive a sentence of up to five years in prison. As of this date, it has not gone to court so we do not know the outcome.

The man in the van, according to the investigator, is not a criminal type of person; just an ordinary guy driving home from his shift wanting to "make good time." As Erik's mother, I don't really want him to have his life ruined. But there are consequences for crimes, even unintentional ones. The outcome of this crime was no different than if he had murdered Erik. At this time I have to just let it be what it ends up being. My heart is broken.

You may wonder why I have written this as a letter to the editor. The reason is simple: Too often, I have observed people trying to get through a yellow light before it turns red. I have observed people glancing at their phones while driving. I have seen many people weaving in

and out of traffic, trying to make up a couple of minutes here or there. I have observed many, many people tailgating the car in front of them. I don't care who you are, there is nothing in this world that is so important that it is okay to disregard common safety habits and endanger those around you.

I have heard people brag that they are "good drivers" and that everyone in their cars are safe when they are behind the wheel. This is a foolish thought. It only takes a split second to cause irreparable heartache to many people. Be aware! Take your time! Remember that all of life doesn't revolve around you and your schedule.

Erik was only 39 years old. He was in the prime of his life and looking forward to the wonderful life he had been given. Now, his family can only hold on to his memory. All because someone just didn't pay attention.

Many people have asked me if there are ways to help Erik's wife and sons. There is a GoFundMe page for which all the proceeds go directly to Erik's wife, Robin, and sons. It is: Erik Berg Family Fund, organized by Millworks By Design Inc.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Faint praise for the new (interim) editor

By Mike Wasche, Perham MN

To the editor:

As I drive through our progressive town with the wonderful projects going on for the benefit of its citizens and witness the fall colors of the changing seasons, I'm so looking forward to the warm embrace of the

upcoming holiday season. It is always a wonderful time of year and somewhat magical where we can in a small way relive our childhood with our children and grandchildren ...

This is my attempt of appealing the new (interim) editor who has strong views on how to protect the viewers from my (offensive) letters to the editor. I believe in the First Amend-

ment, freedom of speech, which is slowly being taken away. I don't want to push my luck; my last two letters ended up on the editing/censoring floor. The New York Mills Dispatch will publish my letter without having to change it to the way they feel it should be written.

Merry Christmas and God bless.

LOOKING BACK

Headlines from 50 and 25 years ago in Perham

News Staff

50 years ago

Tree Cutting Draws Criticism: Several large trees in front of St. Henry's Church were cut down after decades of growth on Nov. 7 and 8, causing quite the controversy in the Perham community. Many letters to the editor were sent to the paper on this topic, 13 of which were published. Those who wrote expressed that the church now looked bare. Some wished they could have saved them, and others criticized the decision, saying some of the pioneers might have planted the trees.

This Thanksgiving, Give Your Food Budget A Real Holiday: An advertisement for discounted Thanksgiving food was placed in the Nov. 18 edition of the newspaper. Lute-fisk was 39 cents per pound, frozen turkeys were 41 cents per pound and pork sausage was 43 cents per pound.

State Presidents Address Legion and Auxiliary Here: The Minnesota Department Auxiliary Presidents visited Perham to honor



From the Thursday, Nov. 14, 1996, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin Perham students sit with Russian exchange students in 1996.

50-year members of the Perham-area American Legion Post at the Annual Legion Dinner on Nov. 10.

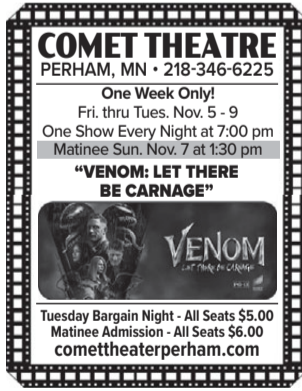
From the Thursday, Nov. 18, 1971, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin

25 years ago

Russians fit right into Perham: Starting from Oct. 21 through Nov. 11, 15 Russian students visited Perham schools through a government program, giving Perham youth a chance to learn more about Russian culture. The visiting students loved experiencing Halloween. While staying in Perham, they also got to experience a Vikings football game, a trip to the Mall of

America, a lock-in at the PACC, volleyball games and more. As a part of the exchange program, several Perham students planned to stay in Russia for three weeks in June.

Get your seats for performance of musical "Anything Goes":



A performance of the musical "Anything Goes" was slated for Nov. 21-24 at the PACC after many nights of rehearsals and practice. Advance tickets to this performance were \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

Breck goes down, Perham state-bound: The Perham Yellow-jacket volleyball team defeated Breckenridge, earning the section title for the second year in a row. Following this victory, they advanced to the state tournament, where they'd be competing against the best teams in Minnesota.

From the Thursday, Nov. 14, 1996, Perham Enterprise-Bulletin

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U.S. SENATE
Tina Smith
202-224-5641

LETTERS POLICY

The Perham Focus encourages letters to the editor.

Letters to the editor must be received by 4 p.m. Monday for consideration of publication in the coming week's newspaper. Generally, letters should be 250 words or less. Include your name, address and telephone number. Only your name and city will be printed. All letters are subject to editing. For questions or comments, call (218) 346-5900.

Drop off or mail your letter to the Perham Focus, P.O. Box 288, Perham, MN 56573. Perham, MN 56573. Or, email your letter to editor@perhamfocus.com.



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FOOTBALL



Jared Rubado / Perham Focus

Noah Thompson carries the ball near the goal line in Perham's 28-0 win over Park Rapids on Oct. 26. Perham advanced in the Section 8AAA tournament with a first-round win on Tuesday.

YELLOWJACKETS SHUT OUT PANTHERS; STYMIED BY OTTERS

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

It took a little bit longer to get the offense going than the Perham football team hoped, but any points were enough to send Park Rapids packing in the opening round of the Section 8AAA tournament.

On Tuesday night, the Yellowjackets shut out the Panthers 28-0 in the section quarterfinals at Ted Meinhover field. The Perham defense collected four turnovers and didn't allow a single Park Rapids scoring drive in their final home game of the season.

"I love goose eggs," Perham senior defensive lineman Grody Enyart-Martinez said. "These are my favorite kinds of games, and I couldn't ask for a better team to do it with. Everyone had a part in it, and we got the job done. It feels good to know that we beat

them physically."

The turning point came late in the third quarter after Perham had taken a 13-0 lead on a Hudson Hackel one-yard touchdown run. On the ensuing kickoff, the Panthers' return man fumbled the ball, which ended up in the hands of Enyart-Martinez.

H. Hackel TD
"At halftime, the coaches told us to keep pounding," sophomore Braylon Rach said. "Good things will come from that. Even when it was 7-0 at (halftime), we were never worried. We knew they were going to come out firing tonight. That fumble they gave up on their kick return really gave us a spark. After that, we just wanted to get the ball to our offense and let them go to work."

The Yellowjackets would capitalize on the short-field position with a seven-yard touchdown run from senior

Colton Hackel. It was his second time in the end zone on the night. With 4:12 left in the first half, Colton Hackel broke the scoreless tie with a six-yard scamper.

Colton Hackel TD
All of Perham's touchdowns came in the run game. The offensive line was able to get a push on a talented Park Rapids front.

"Those are some big boys, and they move people," Rach said of his offensive line. "Without the o-line, there is no team. Perham football doesn't go without those guys. They worked their butts off tonight."

After the yellowjackets forced a punt, Rach got in on the action with a 13-yard touchdown run. He broke several tackles on his way to the end zone to put the

FOOTBALL: Page 8

CROSS COUNTRY



Contributed / Jeff Morris

Perham boys and girls cross country teams.

Back to the big dance

By Jared Rubado
Perham Focus

The Perham cross country teams left no doubt as to if they would get a chance to win their fourth straight state championships at the Section 8A meet in Bagley on Friday.

The Yellowjacket boys took first place as a team with a score of 34. Jakob McCleary was the fastest runner in the field with a time of 16:05. But McCleary leading the pack wasn't the big surprise of the day. Sophomore Caden Doll took third overall with a time of 16:59.

"Caden has made huge improvements in every meet," Perham head coach Jeff Morris said. "His confidence is at a place where he knows he can compete at the front of the pack in every race now."

Bjorn Anderson (17:17), Micah Thompson (17:36) and Carter Flatau (17:45) rounded out the top five Perham boys.

"Another huge breakout race was Carter Flatau, who made up his mind today to close the gap to Micah and Bjorn," Morris said. "This was definitely Carter's strongest race of the season. He has looked so strong in workouts, so we knew if he could just stay in touch with our top four, he would break through. Today was the day."

"Brayden Glorvigen also had a big race today, going under 18 minutes again as our sixth runner. Blake Swenson rounded out the top seven but suffered a side stitch with a mile to go. Blake did amazing toughing it out, but it was definitely a bummer because, at two miles, he was on pace for his best race. He will definitely rebound awesome next week at State."

Perham beat out Park Rapids by 38 points for first place. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton (126) finished in third.

The Yellowjackets had four runners in the top 11 overall places.

Perham girls also will go for four

The Perham girls team is also the three-time defending Class A state champions, much like the boys squad. They took first place at sections with a team score of 35.

Gracie Morris was the fastest Yellowjacket in the race with a time of 19:43. She took second overall behind the State's top Class A runner Jade Rypkema from Nevis. Gracie Morris was just 25 seconds behind.

Perham went into sections expecting a neck and neck race with Hawley, the State's fourth-ranked Class A team. Second-ranked Perham rode its depth to a section championship by seven points.

"They had strength in their pack running today," Morris said. "Leelou Novotny, Quinicy Anderson, and Liz Birkeland ran great races finishing sixth, seventh and eighth. Our top four girls are really tough and have been working out so well. It is just so fun to see them realize that they can run faster, and you can tell the best is yet to come. First-year varsity runner Avalee Brown also posted a top-15 finish in 12th and Kaia Starlz was 17th. Mia Lung rounded out the top seven and finished 35th overall."

Novotny (20:05), Anderson (20:09.8) and Birkeland (20:09.9) all finished within four seconds of each other. Brown clocked in at 20:48.

Both the boys and girls teams were outstanding academically. The team GPA for the girls was 4.0, while the boys posted a 3.954. Doll, Thompson, Anderson and Birkeland earned academic all-state honors.

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

GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

Yellowjackets take home numerous Mid-State honors

By Jared Rubado
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The Perham-New York Mills girls swimming and diving team brought home four all-conference honors at the Mid-State meet last Thursday in Park Rapids.

Sophomore Brittney Lorentz broke the school record in the 11-dive events with a score of 421.45. She took first place in beating her personal record by 44 points.

Irene Mursu took first in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:28.73, while Ziemke was named all-conference in two

events.

PERHAM-NEW YORK MILLS MEET HIGHLIGHTS

DIVING- Sophomore Brittney Lorentz wins all-conference, earning 44 points more than her previous person record, set a new high school 11-dive record of 421.45—the former record of 416.5 was set by Dena Fischer in 2019; Sophomore Avery McAllister took second, earning all-conference honorable mention and senior Madison Ruther took fifth; 200Y MEDLEY RELAY- Relay team of freshman Elle McDon-



Vance Carlson / Forum News Service

Perham senior Irene Mursu wins all-conference honors in the 200-yard IM with a first-place finish on Oct. 28, at the Mid State Conference championships in Park Rapids.

aid, senior Irene Mursu, junior Lucy Schultz and eighth-grader Taylor Ziemke cut two seconds to move up into second place, earning all-conference honorable mention; 200Y FREE- Junior Josi Mindermann cut 3.5 seconds; Seventh-grader Jaelyn Rodewald dropped six seconds; 200Y IM- I. Mursu set

a season personal record by 1.5 seconds to win all-conference; Seventh-grader Megan Galbrecht cut four seconds; 50Y FREE- Ziemke cut almost half a second to win All-Conference, breaking her own middle school record; Freshman Molly Meyer dropped

SWIMMING: Page 8

VOLLEYBALL

Yellowjackets win five-set thriller in 8AA opening round

By Aaron Young
Perham Focus

The Perham volleyball team hosted Fergus Falls in the first round of the Section 8AA playoffs. In the fifth set, the Yellowjackets finished off the Otters 15-6 to advance to the next round.

"We look to see who our opponent is, and then we prepare to adjust our defense or our offense to what the other has," Perham head coach Nikki Bruns said.

The fifth-seeded Otters were 5-22 coming into the playoffs but came ready to play.

Perham sophomore Willo Thiel recorded two kills in the first set before the Yellowjackets put together a four-point

run. After a Fergus Falls timeout, sophomore Jaden Hackel put home the set-clinching point for Perham in a 25-22 first-set victory.

Thiel kicked off the second set with a kill from the left side of the net. However, fortunes turned in favor of the Otters. Fergus Falls held a brief lead until junior Morgan Burkman tied the game for the Yellowjackets at 13-13 with a laser across the net.

Fergus Falls went on a 4-1 run to take a 17-14 lead, forcing the Yellowjackets to call a timeout. After the break, the Otters continued their momentum to even the match with a 25-19 set-two victory.

Perham jumped out to a 9-3

lead before the Otters called another timeout. It didn't matter as the Yellow Jackets went on a 15-7 en route to a 25-14 third-set win.

The Yellowjackets went on a 15-7 run in the fourth set, which gave them a 23-18 lead. Fergus Falls called a timeout in a final attempt to save its season. It proved to be the lifeline the Otters needed as they rattled off seven-straight points to square the match 2-2.

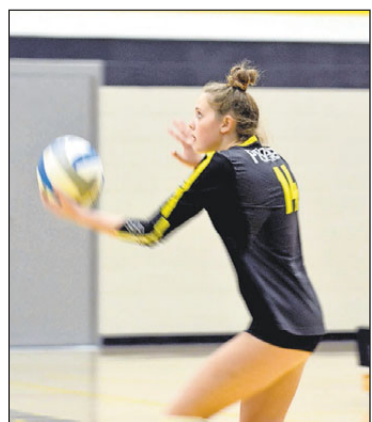
"We have to control our side and not add more pressure because we tend to add pressure to ourselves," Bruns said on blowing a five-point lead in the fourth set. "We just have to make sure we relax,

do what we can do and control what we can control."

Perham got out to an early 8-4 lead in the fifth set after an illegal pass by Fergus Falls. Up 13-6, Hackel spiked the ball to put the finishing touches on a 15-6 fifth-set win.

Jackets fall at Barnesville

Perham's playoff run came to an end three days later at Barnesville (23-5) as the Trojans swept the Yellowjackets in straight sets. The Trojans took the first set 25-12 before going up 2-0 with a 25-21 second-set victory. Barnesville cruised in the third set 25-13 to end Perham's season.



Aaron Young / Perham Focus

Perham junior Olivia Pilgrim serves the ball in the Yellowjackets' 3-2 win over Fergus Falls in the first round of the Section 8AA tournament on Oct. 27.

THE BEST THING I SAW LAST WEEK



Jared Rubado / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Perham sophomore Jaxson Vetsch shows off his mullet after the Yellowjackets' 28-0 win over Park Rapids on Oct. 26.

FOOTBALL

From Page 7

finishing touches on a first-round win.

"That one definitely felt good," Rach said. "There have been some times this year where I was tackled right there. You want to get in so bad when you get that close. This time, it felt good to actually break in. Nothing was stopping me on that run."

Perham beat Park Rapids for the second time this season despite a slow start offensively. Enyart-Martinez believed he saw a better Panthers team than the one he played against on Sept. 3 in a 28-6 victory to open the season.

"I would say (Park Rapids) has a better passing game than when we first played them," Enyart-Martinez said. "When we first played them, their offense really wasn't there, especially their pass game. I don't think it was bad, but it wasn't there yet. They came out here and wanted to show us what they were made of, and they got a couple of those passes on us this time."

Despite the first-team offense finding a rhythm in the second half, the first half was a different story. The Yellowjackets committed two of its four turnovers, turned the ball over on downs once and punted three times. Perham also fumbled twice in the second half, with one of them coming after the starting offense was pulled late in the game.

Playoff football is do or die, and the Yellowjackets understand that the end of the road could be near if they continue to sleepwalk instead

of focusing on the task at hand.

"It's always a little nerve-racking coming into games like this," Enyart-Martinez said. "We're at the point where we have to fight for everything we get. If you don't, there isn't another next time. We bought ourselves another chance to play."

"If we bring our focus, then we can also have fun," Enyart-Martinez said. "Having fun is what really brings this team together and makes us work as one. We have good communication and good fun, which is a good time. At the end of the day, this is football. And we have fun playing football."

Otters' big second quarter eliminates Perham

Perham walked away from Ted Meinhover Field on Oct. 1, licking its wounds after a hard-fought 13-7 loss on homecoming against Fergus Falls. Five weeks later, the Otters left no doubt in the rematch.

Perham (6-4) fell 35-14, on the road at Fergus Falls (8-2) in the semifinal round of the 8AAA playoffs. The second-seeded Otters scored three second-quarter touchdowns before punching in two late scores to clinch a playoff win.

Cole Zierden caught his first of two touchdowns from Carter Thielke just over a minute into the second quarter. Perham fumbled on early in its next offensive drive. Griffin Babolian ran in a 19-yard touchdown one play later to put the Otters up 14-0.

Perham's Colton Hackel got the Yellowjackets on the board with a one-yard touchdown run before Fergus Falls' Landon Thacker scored

from four yards out.

Leading 21-6 in the fourth quarter, Zierden caught another touchdown pass from Thielke from 13-yards out. Colton Hackel scored his second touchdown four minutes later, followed by a successful two-point conversion from Hudson Hackel.

Thielke put the finishing touches on a semifinal victory with a nine-yard touchdown run. Fergus Fall is set to play Dilworth-Glyndon Felton (8-1) in the 8AAA championship game on Thursday at the Fargodome.

Fergus Falls outgained Perham 352-235. The Otters had a big day through the air with 181 passing yards. Thielke was 9-for-14 passing with two touchdowns.

Colton Hackel had 105 yards on the ground with two touchdowns. Hudson Hackel had 36 yards on 11 carries, while Chas Melvin gained 30 yards on nine carries. Colton Hackel was 9-for-26 passing. Josh Peterson was the leading receiver with two catches for 29 yards.

Levi Richter and Ben Schumansky led the Yellowjackets in tackles with six. Both players forced fumbles as well.

PARK RAPIDS 0 0 0 0 - 0
 PERHAM 0 6 7 15 - 28
 SCORING- SECOND QUARTER- Colton Hackel 6-yard TD run, C. Hackel PAT good, 7-0, 4:12; THIRD QUARTER- Hudson Hackel 1-yard TD run, two-point conversion no good, 13-0, 1:57; FOURTH QUARTER- C. Hackel 7-yard TD run, C. Hackel PAT good, 20-0, 11:10; Braylon Rach 13-yard TD run, C. Hackel; two-point conversion good, 28-0, 8:00
 PERHAM 0 6 0 8 - 14
 FERUGS FALLS 0 21 0 14 - 35
 SCORING- SECOND QUARTER- FERUGS FALLS- Carter Thielke 25-yard TD pass to Cole Zierden, Jayden Manteufel PAT good, 7-0, 10:48; FERUGS FALLS- Griffin Babolian 19-yard TD run, Manteufel PAT good, 14-0, 9:16; PERHAM- Colton Hackel 1-yard TD run, PAT no good, 14-6, 5:36; FERUGS FALLS- Landon Thacker 4-yard TD run, Manteufel PAT good, 21-6, 4:00; FOURTH QUARTER- FERUGS FALLS- Thielke 13-yard TD pass to Zierden, Manteufel PAT good, 28-6, 10:43; PERHAM- C. Hackel 1-yard TD run, Hudson Hackel two-point conversion run good, 28-14, 6:21; FERUGS FALLS- Thielke 9-yard TD run, Manteufel PAT good, 35-14, 4:14

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

Look at that hair!

I go through the same routine for getting quotes from players and coaches for every football game.

Win or lose, the team I'm covering always has a meeting in the end zone before the players are dismissed. I typically stand behind the coaches and try finding the player I want to talk to before I lose him in the crowd.

On Tuesday night, I covered the Perham-Park Rapids football game. While the Yellowjackets were celebrating, I was looking over the questions I had written down to ask Gordy Enyart-Martinez, a defensive end who had a monster game. I picked up my head for a split second and saw an abnormal amount of mullets.

I'm 25-years old, and I'm still clinging to my last years of recognizing trends. Mullets, for men and women, are definitely back. If you think it's a gross look, you were likely born before the year 2000. I don't mean that offensively at all. But kids are kids, and they do things like bring back mullets and jnco jeans.

I immediately pulled out my camera and snapped a shot of Jaxson Vetsch, a sophomore who wasn't shy about letting his hair fly. There were more. Either the Perham football team has a lot of kids who unironically like mullets, or it's playoff season.

I love a good team haircut

style. You'll see it a lot in hockey, where kids will bleach their hair or get a wacky kind of cut. And unless you have a good reason not to, I think it should be encouraged.

Every year I watch the state high school hockey tournament regardless of who's playing. I love high school hockey and the spectacle about it. Annual viewers know the tradition of every kid skating out to the blue line as their name is called on camera.

A YouTube account called "Game On! Minnesota" has produced yearly videos selecting the All Hockey Hair Team. What started as a fun bit on the internet has turned into a national sensation over the last decade, and it wouldn't be possible without the kids doing fun things with their hair.

If you're 16-18, that's the perfect time to do something fun with your hair because you'll never get to do it again. Believe it or not, my hair used to go down past my shoulders before the powers to be decided 22 was a good age for my hairline to stop trying. Now I'm bald and committed to a beard forever.

The best thing I saw last week was a bunch of kids having fun in the spirit of being a team. Something as simple as a haircut could be more significant than sports. It's a sign of camaraderie and taking things easy. In high school, you should never take yourself way too seriously. Go get that haircut. Take a risk. Do something fun.

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

SWIMMING

From Page 7

over half a second, breaking the 30-second mark for the first time; L. Meyer cut almost half a second; 100Y FLY-Schultz dropped almost two seconds; Eighth-grader Maggie Vickmark cut five seconds; McDonald cut one second; 100Y FREE- Ziemke dropped over two seconds to win all-conference, breaking her

own middle-school record; L. Meyer cut a quarter second; Rodewald and freshman Katelyn Kratzke each dropped three seconds; 500Y FREE- M. Meyer cut four seconds; 100Y BACK- Mursu came in second, earning all-conference honorable mention; Mindermann dropped four seconds; Senior Jasmyn Olson cut one second; Eighth-grader Madison Lohse dropped eight seconds; 100Y BREAST- Kratzke cut one second; Vickmark and Galbrecht each dropped 2.5

seconds; 400Y FREE RELAY- Relay team of I. Mursu, junior Kaydi Mursu, Schultz, and Ziemke came in third, earning all-conference honorable mention

PERHAM TOP THREE FINISHES (First-place finishes were named conference champions. Second and third-place finishes were named honorable mentions)
 200Y MEDLEY RELAY- 2nd- Elle McDonald, Irene Mursu, Lucy Schultz, Taylor Ziemke 2:03.72; 200Y IM- 1st- Irene Mursu 2:28.73; 50Y FREE- 1st- Ziemke 25.73; 1st- Brittney Lorentz 421.45; 2nd- Avery McAllister 353.00; 100Y- 1st- Ziemke 56.50; 2nd- 100Y BACK- 2nd- 1:08.84; 400Y FREE RELAY- 3rd- I. Mursu, Kaydi Mursu, Lucy Schultz, Ziemke 4:13.96

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE	EVENTS	HELP WANTED - GENERAL	HELP WANTED - GENERAL	HELP WANTED - GENERAL	HELP WANTED - MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION
<p>CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR 10th ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR SAT., NOV., 13, 9AM-2PM Wolf Lake Lions Hall Hot Soup & Bake Sale Kissing Balls, Swags & Wreaths. FOR MORE INFORMATION 218-538-6724</p>	<p>St Lawrence Church Turkey Bingo Sunday, Nov 7, 1:00 PM Lunch Provided \$3.00 a card for 21 games St Lawrence Church 46404 County Hwy 14, Perham, MN</p>	<p>WAREHOUSE/BACK-UP ROUTE DRIVER EVCO Petroleum Products Full time hourly position in our warehouse unloading and loading trucks, packaging oil products while maintaining a clean warehouse. Secondary duties of this position will include backup route driver, CDL preferred with a good driving record and the ability to lift 50lbs. EVCO Offers competitive wages, weekends off, paid PTO, paid holidays, health insurance, 401k and more. Send resume to: Evco Petroleum, PO Box 1726 Detroit Lakes MN 56502 chris@evcop.com</p>	<p>MICKELSON FARMS, INC. Mickelson Farms, located midway between Frazee and Menahga seeking full & part time turkey egg production employees.</p> <p>Mickelson Farms, ubicado entre Frazee y Menahga contratando empleados de producción de huevos de pavo. Tiempo parcial y tiempo completo.</p> <p>Call 218-346-3876</p>		<p>jobsHQ Don't wait. Search today. jobshq.com</p>
<p>apartmentsHQ www.apartmentsHQ.com</p>	<p>HELP WANTED - GENERAL</p>	<p>HELP WANTED - GENERAL</p>	<p><i>Check Out Classifieds</i></p>		<p>HELP WANTED - MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION</p>
<p>Great getaways at www.mndestinations.com</p>	<p>HELP WANTED - GENERAL</p>	<p>apartmentsHQ www.apartmentsHQ.com</p>	<p>HELP WANTED - MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION</p>	<p>HELP WANTED - MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION</p>	<p>HELP WANTED - MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION</p>

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PRAIRIE Lakes
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Now accepting applications for a **Assistant Boiler Operator**

Applications due Friday, November 12th

The Perham Resource Recovery Facility, a waste-to-energy facility located in Perham, MN currently has an opening for a full time WTE Assistant Boiler Operator. Essential duties include monitoring refuse boiler equipment by operating refuse crane, taking hourly readings, performing preventative maintenance, testing boiler water and reporting problems.

Salary range for the position is \$17.28/hr with advancement up to \$26.31/hr depending on qualifications. Includes a competitive benefit package including health, dental, vision, and more in addition to holiday, vacation, and sick pay.

This position is full time with a rotating work schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays. A pre-employment physical, drug and alcohol screening, and a criminal background check are required after preliminary job offer and prior to employment.

For a full job description and application visit
ottertailcountymn.us/prairielakes/

Applications should be submitted to the Perham Resource Recovery Facility located at 201 6th Ave. NE, Perham, Minnesota 56573.

Applications must be received by Friday, November 12th at 4:00 p.m.

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FURNITURE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

AERATION SYSTEM NOTIFICATION

AN AERATION SYSTEM will be in operation during Ice-Cover along approximately 600' of N.W. Shoreline of Marion Lake-Dead Lake Twp-Range 40-Sect.1 11/4, 11/11 2907077

For sale by sealed bid

The City of Dent has a 1999 International Snow Plow Truck with Wing for sale. Truck is being sold as is, for information or inspection contact Perry Coleman at 218-346-9774.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The East Otter Tail County Agricultural Society (East Otter Tail Fair Board) will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:00pm at The Perham Sportsman Club. 10/28, 11/4 2908374

East Silent Lake -- 1st Notice

This is a water safety notice for 2021-2022. An aeration system will be in operation during ice cover on the East end of East Silent Lake in Otter Tail County. Persons should stay away from the aeration system which will create open water and thin ice.

WARNING AERATION SYSTEMS

Aeration systems creating open water and thin ice will begin operating on or after November 12, 2021 at the following locations in Otter Tail Co. Little Pine Lake township 137, range 39, section 25, 44832 thru 44852 N Little Pine Rd. Big Pine Lake Range 38, Section 32, 46976 Toad River Ln, Perham. Weather conditions may cause the areas of thin ice and open water to fluctuate greatly.

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD NOTICE

This will affect your 2022 property taxes and eligibility for Property Tax Refund. Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year? Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2021.

Digital Media Youth Hockey Reporter

Forum Communications Company is looking for a Digital Media Youth Hockey Reporter to produce content for The Rink Live website with a focus on all levels of youth hockey.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Produce multimedia content covering youth hockey, primarily in Minnesota and the Dakotas, through the use of live and produced video on social channels and the website
Create engaging, audience-friendly digital content through video, text and photos for the website.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's degree in mass communication, marketing or a related field.
Two or more years of media or digital experience is ideal.

For more details and to apply go to: www.forumcomm.com/careers

EOE



Digital Media Prospects Reporter

Join Forum Communications Company and produce content for The Rink Live website with a focus on hockey prospects at all levels of the game.

This position also plays an active role in optimizing content and digital presentation for the website, as well as analyzing data around site traffic, SEO, user trends and social engagement.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Produce multimedia and digital storytelling covering hockey prospects at all levels.
Manage and curate digital content, including video, for publication on YouTube and archived on The Rink Live.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's degree in mass communication, marketing or a related field.
Two or more years of media or digital experience is ideal.

For more details and to apply go to: forumcomm.com/careers

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CROSSWORD

Crossword grid with numbers 1-67 indicating starting positions for clues.

ACROSS

- 1. Nuclear undersea weapon
5. President of Syria
10. Partner to flows
14. 'Snow' in Welsh
15. Famed Mexican painter

DOWN

- 1. One point east of southeast
2. Italian monetary unit
3. Warship prison

ACROSS

- 28. Capital of Vietnam
29. Fungal disease
32. Shelter
33. Finished
34. Excrete

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Solved crossword grid with letters filled in.

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!

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

Level: Intermediate

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.

TODAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

Solved 9x9 Sudoku grid.



From left: (1) The Hoefs family smiles in their costumes at Perham's 2021 Trunk-or-Treat. (2) The Markus family smiles for the camera in their Lilo and Stitch and Pokemon costumes. (3) William Davis, left, and Quincy Davis, right, dig into their frosted and sprinkled cookies after decorating them as part of Ottertail's community Halloween festivities.

HALLOWEEN SCENE

Photos from Perham, Ottertail Halloween events

Staff Report

Costumed kids and families were all dressed up with everywhere to go this Halloween, visiting Perham area homes to trick-or-treat at neighbors' doors and lining up for local trunk-or-treat and pumpkin decorating events.

Hundreds of people visited the trunk-or-treat event at United Community Bank in Perham on Oct. 31, flexing their creative muscles with fun costumes that ranged from scary clowns to cartoon characters. They walked past rows of parked, spookily-decorated vehicles, where smiling participants handed out treats. Hot cider was also served.

In Ottertail, kids dressed up as firefighters, soldiers, ninjas, unicorns and more made quick trips around the Ottertail Community Center parking lot before braving the cold weather to take a hayride to the eerie 'Halloween House,' owned and adorned by Bob and Stephanie Jensen. Inside the community center, they decorated pumpkins and Halloween cookies.



Veronika Hanson, dressed up as a friendly unicorn, shows off her newly decorated pumpkin at the Ottertail Community Center on Oct. 31.



Above: Andy Hochstein, dressed as a vampire, front, and Jackson Hochstein, dressed as a ninja, make their way through the candy-filled cars at the Ottertail Community Center's Trunk-or-Treat event on Halloween.

Right: Benjamin Lambert searches for his perfect pumpkin at the Ottertail Community Center on Halloween. Photos by Rebecca Mitchell / Perham Focus



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