



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

The Warriors girls hockey team and their coaches react to Brainerd/Little Falls beating Moorhead on Thursday in Fergus Falls during the Section 8-2A final.

GIRLS HOCKEY

WARRIORS TO FACE MIGHTY HUSKIES IN QUARTERFINALS

By Conrad Engstrom
Brainerd Dispatch

For the third time in five years, Brainerd/Little Falls is facing off with Andover in the state tournament.

After advancing to the Class 2A state tournament last Thursday with a 2-1 win over Moorhead in the Section 8-2A, the seeding of the state tournament announced Sunday pitted the top-seed Huskies against the Warriors 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Xcel Energy Center.

CLASS 2A STATE TOURNAMENT QUARTERFINALS

Matchup: No. 1 Andover (27-0) vs. Brainerd/Little Falls (17-11)
When: 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24
Where: Xcel Energy Center
Listen: 1380 AM/105.1 FM KVBR and on COOL 103.5 FM and will be streamed on www.cool1035.com and www.kvbr.com.

"I know our girls are excited and our coaching staff is excited," first-year Warriors head coach Tate Rusk said. "We know it will be a good test and our girls are anxious and want a piece of Andover."

Andover holds a 27-0

record which warrants the No. 1 seed in the tournament. The Huskies average 5.44 goals a game while surrendering just 0.93.

Ella Boerger is Andover's top point getter at 68 with 28 goals and 40 assists.

Madison Brown has tallied 33 assists and 25 goals for 56 points. A third Huskie player, Iasbel Goettl, also has eclipsed the 50-point mark with 23 goals and 26 assists.

"Our girls really move the puck unselfishly," Andover head coach Melissa Volk said. "We focus on executing, but I think it all stems from the puck movement and a lot of times our offense is set up by our defensemen as well."

BLF (17-11) averages 2.32 goals a contest while allowing just 1.86.

"I think it's up to our girls to just keep it simple and don't overthink things," Rusk said. "(Assistant coach) Jim Ernster had a message for the girls, you know, everyone is 3-0, everyone won their playoffs and everyone is coming into the tournament 3-0. (Goalie coach) Tony Couture had a good add-on saying 'there's a reason you're at the Xcel Energy Center and it's because you're a dang good hockey team and don't doubt yourself.'"

HOCKEY: Page B3

GIRLS HOCKEY

Couture back in state as goalie coach for Warriors

By Conrad Engstrom
Brainerd Dispatch

Tony Couture is going back to the state hockey tournament for the second consecutive year.

This time it's with girls hockey and it's as a Warrior not a Flyer.

Last year, Couture was the head coach for the Little Falls boys hockey team which reached the semifinals of the Class 1A state tournament.

Couture said prior to last year's state run that it would be his last season and he would retire. He also spent last season coaching the senior season of his son Dane who was the Flyers' goalie.

Retirement as head coach, sure, but Couture hasn't retired from coaching altogether.

First-year Brainerd/Little Falls girls hockey head coach Tate Rusk called Couture last summer after he ran some captains' practice to see if he wanted to join the girls' hockey

staff as goalie coach.

"We were trying to figure out who could be in that goalie coach role and I was after talking with Tony about running captains' practice. I got off the phone and was like 'man, that guy seemed really eager to help out,'" Rusk said. "I called him back after the practice and asked him to help out with the girls because he's been there and I'm sure I could use the help. He thought about it for a month and I would shoot him a text to butter him up and after I talked to him at the end of the month he was in."

Couture always saw himself coaching goalies even when he stepped down at Little Falls.

"It's what I do," he said. "I was a goalie myself. So coach Rusk reached out to me and asked me if I was interested in helping with the goalies. It took a little time to decide to jump right back into it. I was just kind of going to do goalies, but my

COUTURE: Page B3

COLLEGE SWIMMING

Bylander headed to nationals

BROWN DEER, Wis. — Former Brainerd Warrior and current University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire swimmer Michael Bylander is headed to the NCAA Division III Nationals.

Bylander enjoyed a record-breaking day at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference finals Feb. 17-19.

He set a school and conference record in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:59.98. He was also part of the record-breaking 200 medley relay with a 1:28.65.

Bylander won the 200 individual medley in 1:48.76 and was on the winning 200 freestyle (1:22.93) and 400 medley relay (3:17.95).

He finished second in the 100 backstroke to be named the WIAC Swimmer of the Meet. He was also presented the WIAC Max Spangler Scholar-Athlete Award, which is given to the meet's outstanding swimmer or diver with a grade-point average of at least 3.5.

Bylander sustains a 3.64-grade-point average and is majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and

pre-professional health sciences. He secured a spot on the College Swimming Coaches Association of America Individual Scholar All-America Team for the 2020-21 academic year. Bylander is a three-time member of the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll.

He was selected the Swimmer of the Meet at this year's WIAC Championship after winning five titles (two individual, three relay) and establishing three conference meet records. Overall, he is a nine-time conference champion and four-time All-American. During the 2020-21 season, he was the second-fastest 200-yard breaststroker in NCAA Division III and secured WIAC Swimmer of the Year recognition. A two-year team captain, Bylander owns the school record in the 200-yard breaststroke, 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard medley relay.

Bylander didn't compete in the 100 breaststroke for the conference standings but did swim a time trial at the event to qualify for the NCAA nationals. He swam a 54.09, which was faster than the winning WIAC time and qualified him for nationals.

BYLANDER: Page B3



Bylander

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BRAINERD DISPATCH

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Hands on for Earth Day activities

Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

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

Walz urges compromise in state address

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

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WALZ: Page 7

Batter up for the big leagues

Brainerd lakes area baseball players among greats

By Frank Lee
Brainerd Dispatch

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

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

"I wrote about them quite a bit," said Mike Bialka, former Brainerd Dispatch

sports editor. Bialka knows the sport well. He played baseball in high school in Brainerd and



Contributed / Crow Wing County Historical Society

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

later at St. Cloud State University.

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

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

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

BASEBALL: Page 7

Legislation would extend boat safety training to adults in Minnesota

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

By Bob Timmons
Star Tribune

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

Currently, young people ages 12 to 17 must



Star Tribune / TNS file photo

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

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

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

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

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

SAFETY: Page 8

'A safe, sober place to go'

Good News Recovery House provides aid to those in recovery

By Travis Grimler
Echo Journal

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

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

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

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

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

RECOVERY: Page 8

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Raiders split doubleheader



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Forest Service: Copper-nickel mining poses threat to BWCAW

By Jimmy Lovrien
Duluth News Tribune

DULUTH — Copper-nickel mining would pose an environmental risk the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness if conducted within the same watershed, the U.S. Forest Service said in a draft environmental assessment released Thursday.

The study will inform the federal government on whether it should follow through on a 20-year ban on that type of mining and mining activity within the Rainy River Watershed, which is shared with the BWCAW.

Last year, the Biden administration reinitiated an Obama-era mineral withdrawal that had been reversed by the Trump administration. The move bans new federal mineral leases within 225,500 acres of the Rainy River Watershed for two years, with the possibility of extending it to a 20-year withdrawal, or ban. Only Congress can pass a permanent withdrawal.

The 93-page environmental assessment outlines potential environmental impacts to the BWCAW if the full 20-year mineral withdrawal is not enacted and mining projects are allowed to proceed.

Water quality is particularly vulnerable, the study said.

“Development of these

mineral resources could ultimately result in the creation of permanently stored waste materials upstream of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness with the potential to generate and release water with elevated levels of acidity, metals, and other potential contaminants,” the Forest Service said in the study.

A 30-day comment period on the draft environmental assessment will begin June 28. Comments can be made at go.usa.gov/xtaCw.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, will consider the comments and finalize the study.

The study is being prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, which is part of the Department of Interior. The bureau will make a final recommendation on whether to accept the mineral withdrawal application and pass it on to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, who will then make a decision on the 20-year ban.

Echoing concerns by environmentalists opposed to mining there, the Forest Service said this type of mining is inherently risky, even with engineered safeguards in place.

“Existing literature suggests that hardrock minerals mining of sul-



Forum News Service file photo
Canoeists paddle the Kawishiwi River near Ely in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

fide-bearing rock, no matter how it is conducted, poses a risk of environmental contamination due to the potential failure over time of engineered mitigation technology,” the Forest Service said.

In a news release, Becky Rom, national chair for the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, celebrated the study’s release, and said it “provides a strong scientific foundation for a 20-year ban on copper mining near the Boundary Waters.”

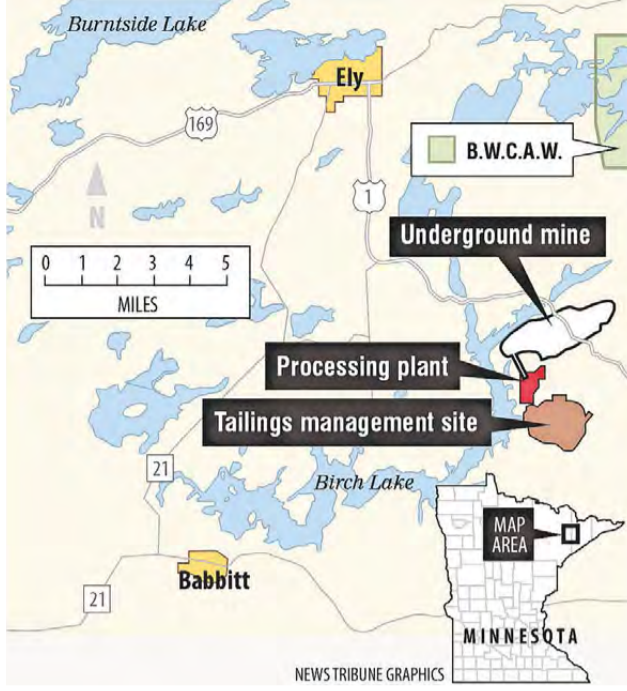
“It is deeply rooted in peer-reviewed science, law, and established federal public lands policy, and validates the concerns of local residents and the American people about the risk sulfide-ore copper mining poses to the Wilderness,” Rom said. “It is clear beyond

a shadow of a doubt that the watershed of the Boundary Waters is the wrong place for this risky type of mining.”

Mining advocates have long said the safety of specific projects should be studied rather than an overarching study examining hypothetical scenarios across the entire watershed.

Twin Metals, which wants to build a mine near the BWCAW, said it will still push for a specific environmental review of its project.

“Today’s action by the U.S. Forest Service is not informed by science and it attempts to inhibit the consideration of copper-nickel mining projects across a vast area of northeast Minnesota,” Kathy Graul, a spokesperson for Twin Metals, said in an emailed state-



NEWS TRIBUNE GRAPHICS
Gary Meader / Duluth News Tribune

ment. “It will affect the future domestic accessibility of clean energy minerals needed to combat climate change and strengthen U.S. supply chains. This action contradicts the goals of the Biden administration.”

Twin Metals’ plan would include an underground mine processing plant and dry-stacked tailings storage facility on the edge of Birch Lake, which flows into Kawishiwi River and then the BWCAW itself.

In addition to the proposed mineral withdrawal, the Biden administration earlier this year also canceled two of Twin

Metals’ mineral leases.

In a news release, U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber, R-Minn., blamed Biden for choosing “the wealthy, elite, keep-it-in-the-ground lobby over our workers.”

“Instead of reviewing the project-specific proposal offered by Twin Metals, the Biden Administration decided to rely on a political study to find the end result they want: to permanently ban mining in northern Minnesota,” Stauber said. “Rest assured, I will fight this on behalf of northern Minnesotans, who deserve high-quality mining jobs.”

Lightning is seen in a storm cloud lit by the sunset Thursday in Baxter, amid repeated severe thunderstorm warnings issued by the National Weather Service in Duluth. Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch



WEATHER

From Page 1

wind gust just before 7 p.m. was recorded at the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport, according to a preliminary report from the weather service.

Twitter user Egan Young, @avkid34, shared a video of a pile of hail collected near the side of the road, appearing like a snow pile in late June. He took the video near the intersection of County

Highway 45 and 100th Street, about 2.5 miles south of the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds.

The severe weather also caused a significant drop in temperature at the airport. After hitting a high of 92 degrees shortly before 5 p.m. and staying at 90 degrees an hour later, the temperature fell to 72 degrees by 6:53 p.m.

Lakes Jam saw a number of stops and starts as lightning and hail caused delays in the musical performances.

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



Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Enjoying pleasant weather Thursday campers are positioned lakeside at Brainerd International Raceway waiting for the first bands to begin at Lakes Jam. The music event will continue through Saturday night.

LAKES JAM

From Page 1

Attendees of the festival with a three-day pass also have the option to camp on location. People gather together to share the experience with each other, and there are a variety of campsite options. Everything is welcome from RVs and campers to tents.

“This is my second year coming,” said CJ Harden, who traveled from the St. Cloud area. “We liked last year so much, we bought tickets before we left.”

Harden was joined by friends who have attended for the past four or five years. The group previously saw Toby Keith, The Brothers Osborne and many other memorable artists during their previous Lakes Jam experiences. When asked about who they are most excited to see this year, they all agreed on Jon Pardi.

Jon Pardi’s album California Sunrise debuted at No. 1 on Billboard’s Top Country Albums chart, earning him the Country Music Awards’ New Artist of the Year and Academy of Country Music New Male Vocalist Of The Year. Pardi topped the country music charts with consecutive No. 1 hits including

songs “Dirt On My Boots,” “Head Over Boots” and “Heartache On The Dance Floor.”

This is the first year back for the festival with little to no restrictions from COVID-19. The event is back in full swing with a variety of different food and drink options.

“They canceled one year and that was a bummer,” said Cassie Beierman, another friend of Harden’s camping at Lakes Jam. “It does feel good to be back.”

In addition to the musical performances, there are a variety of other events to attend, including bean bag tournaments and drifting events for all attendees. Campers can check out lawn mower and watercross races.

The weekend is packed with fun activities and events, but the weather is looking like rain. According to the National Weather Service in Duluth, there is an 80% chance of rain and thunderstorms Friday night and throughout the day on Saturday.

Lakes Jam musical events will go through Saturday night with other activities scattered throughout the weekend. For more information about Lakes Jam, including tickets, activities and events, band lineup and concert dates, visit lakesjam.com.

SARA GUYMON, Brainerd Dispatch, staff writer, may be reached at 218-855-5851 or sara.guymon@brainerddispatch.com

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BRAINERD DISPATCH

NHRA



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Steve Torrence wins Top Fuel at the Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals on Sunday at Brainerd International Raceway.

TORRENCE WINS AT BIR FOR 2ND STRAIGHT YEAR, BREAKS 2022 DROUGHT

By Conrad Engstrom
Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd

It finally happened. After coming to Brainerd International Raceway without a win in 2022, the four-time world champion Steve Torrence took home the Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals title for the second straight year Sunday, Aug. 21.

Last year, Torrence checked BIR as the last racetrack he needed to win on the circuit. This year, it's his first win of the season and the 57th of his career.

"It's ironic that it took us so long to win here and then we do it back-to-back,"

he said. "I mean, we love this racetrack. I won here in alcohol in '05 and then we went on a dry spell, but to get the monkey off of our back for the year, I'm so relieved. I don't want to say we are back to our normal standard, but we are getting there."

Torrence edged out Tony Schumacher in the final to grab the trophy.

Schumacher was quicker off the starting line, but Torrence caught up as he ran an elapsed time of 3.886 with a top speed of 322.04 mph.

"Typically, Tony goes in fast," Torrence said. "But he made me sit there for a minute and I was a little

behind. But I could tell we were going OK and I saw him wheel out and I was like, 'Oh no, not again,' and then it slid back and I was thinking, 'OK, it might've turned our way.'"

Torrence reached the finals by knocking off current Top Fuel points leader and No. 1 qualifier Brittany Force.

Force had some trouble on the starting line, which left the door open for Torrence to win with a 5.400 ET.

Race day was challenging with a lot of drivers experiencing smoked tires, which made the track a mystery most of Sunday.

TORRENCE: Page 13



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

The Capco team reacts to Steve Torrence winning Top Fuel at Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals on Sunday at Brainerd International Raceway.

NHRA

Tasca continues late-season surge with 1st win at BIR

By Joe Lindholm
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — Make it three out of four for Funny Car driver Bob Tasca III.

Coming in, he'd never claimed a Wally or made a final round at Brainerd International Raceway. That changed at the 40th Annual Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals Sunday, Aug. 21, when he raced his way to the winner's circle.

Running at a speed of 329.42 mph, Tasca clocked an elapsed time of 3.945 seconds to defeat seven-time winner and defending NHRA world champion Ron Capps in the final round.

Capps, in the left lane, beat Tasca off the light tree by a margin of .052 to .092, but Tasca caught him at the 60-foot mark and led the rest of the way. Tasca's ET was 3.945 compared to 4.007 for Capps.

"We haven't backed into any win," Tasca said. "We have just gone out and performed at a very high level. It has been incredible execution by the team. Every single person. To go the number of rounds we have in the last six races, the team has to perform flawlessly. (Crew chiefs) Mike Neff and John Schaeffer have put a package together that has a breadth that is unlike anything I have ever had in my



Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Bob Tasca III roars off the starting line in his Funny Car on Sunday to win the Lucas Oil NHRA championship at Brainerd International Raceway.

driving career. As a driver I just have to do my job."

Tasca earned the No. 1 qualifying position the last two events in Kent, Washington, and Topeka and he appeared to be headed back to that spot on Saturday at BIR.

He grabbed the top spot in the final round of qualifying, only to have Matt Hagan take the spot back at the end of the day along with Hight, putting Tasca in the No. 3 spot heading into Sunday.

"That was quite an emotional swing for me. I got out of the car with a great run as the No. 1 qualifier and everyone was looking at Robert (Hight), who bumped me by a thousand (tenths of a sec-

ond) and then I looked over at the screen and I said, 'Look at Hagan,'" Tasca said. "That is just a testament as to how competitive this class was. We were at a little bit of a disadvantage because we actually slowed our car down so as not to smoke the tires. But it clearly gave us great confidence coming into today."

The track temperature for Sunday's elimination stood at 89 degrees at the start of the day. But as Tasca pointed out, it was a cloudless day, which changed the setup from the Saturday qualifying runs, resulting in a large number of drivers spinning the tires.

TASCA: Page 13

STOCK CAR RACING

Johnson sweeps Super Stock and Stock Car, Fletcher pulls even in points race

Joe Lindholm
Brainerd Dispatch

BARROWS — Bryon Britton and Josh Maleski each raced to their first career win and Tim Johnson dubbed up with trophies Saturday, Aug. 21, at North Central Speedway.

Britton drove his Hobby Stock car to the finish line in front of Brandon Bombardo and Craig Paul.

Maleski battled Nathan Kohl, who has been the best in the Sport Compact class this season and held Kohl off to get his first win.

Tim Johnson has earned the reputation through his career of being able to drive anything that has a steering wheel. Johnson drove in two different feature events Saturday and scored two feature wins, one in the Stock Car and the other in the Super Stock.

Jason Vejtruba was a winner for the Northern Sport Mods and Skyler Smith was a winner for the Mod 4's.

In the Mod 4's, feature points leader Aaron Johnson went out after the first lap. Shawn Fletcher seized the opportunity and nailed the win. With the win, he and Johnson pulled even in the points race with one week to go.

IMCA Expert Insulation Modifieds
Feature: 1-Shawn Fletcher, 2-Zackry Fletcher, 3-Devin Fouquette
Heat 1: 1-Devin Fouquette, 2-Zackry Fletcher, 3-Jeff Nelson
Heat 2: 1-Aaron Johnson, 2-Erick Thiesse, 3-Shawn Fletcher

WISSOTA Super Stock
Feature: 1-Tim Johnson, 2-Tommy Patton, 3-Jim Urseth

Heat 1: 1-Jordan Henkemeyer, 2-Tim Johnson, 3-Tommy Patton

Heat 2: 1-Erick Thiesse, 2-Fritz Myers, 3-David Dosh

IMCA Northern Sportmods

Feature: 1-Jason Vejtruba, 2-David Siercks, 3-Jake Hagemann

Heat 1: 1-Jason Vejtruba, 2-David Siercks, 3-Adam Bohlman

Heat 2: 1-Tim Siercks, 2-Chris Siercks, 3-Michael Nelson

WISSOTA Mod Four

Feature: 1-Skyler Smith, 2-Tommy Bawden, 3-Doyle Erickson

Heat 1: 1-Blake Erickson, 2-Josh Litzau, 3-Gerrald Nohner

Heat 2: 1-Nick McCann, 2-Bill Jones, 3-Tyler Borg

Heat 3: 1-Tommy Bawden, 2-Skyler Smith, 3-Doyle Erickson

IMCA Stock Car

Feature: 1-Tim Johnson, 2-Tim Gonska, 3-Troy Jordan

Heat 1: 1-Tim Johnson, 2-Troy Jordan, 3-Tim Gonska

IMCA Hobby Stocks

Feature: 1-Bryon Britton, 2-Brandon Bombardo, 3-Craig Paul

Heat 1: 1-Chad Visser, 2-Ryan Kleinschmidt, 3-Nate Hanson

Heat 2: 1-Tom Anderson, 2-Tyler Kunz, 3-Brandon Bombardo

Heat 3: 1-Tim Otterness, 2-Randy Randall, 3-William Herron

IMCA Sport Compacts

Feature: 1-Josh Maleski, 2-Nathan Kohl, 3-Dan Ranum

Heat 1: 1-Andrew Malinowski, 2-Korbin Sarazin, 3-Jennifer Johnson

Heat 2: 1-Dan Ranum, 2-Ellen Lange, 3-Keyonna Young

Heat 3: 1-Josh Maleski, 2-Nathan Kohl, 3-TJ Christianson

Results from Aug. 13

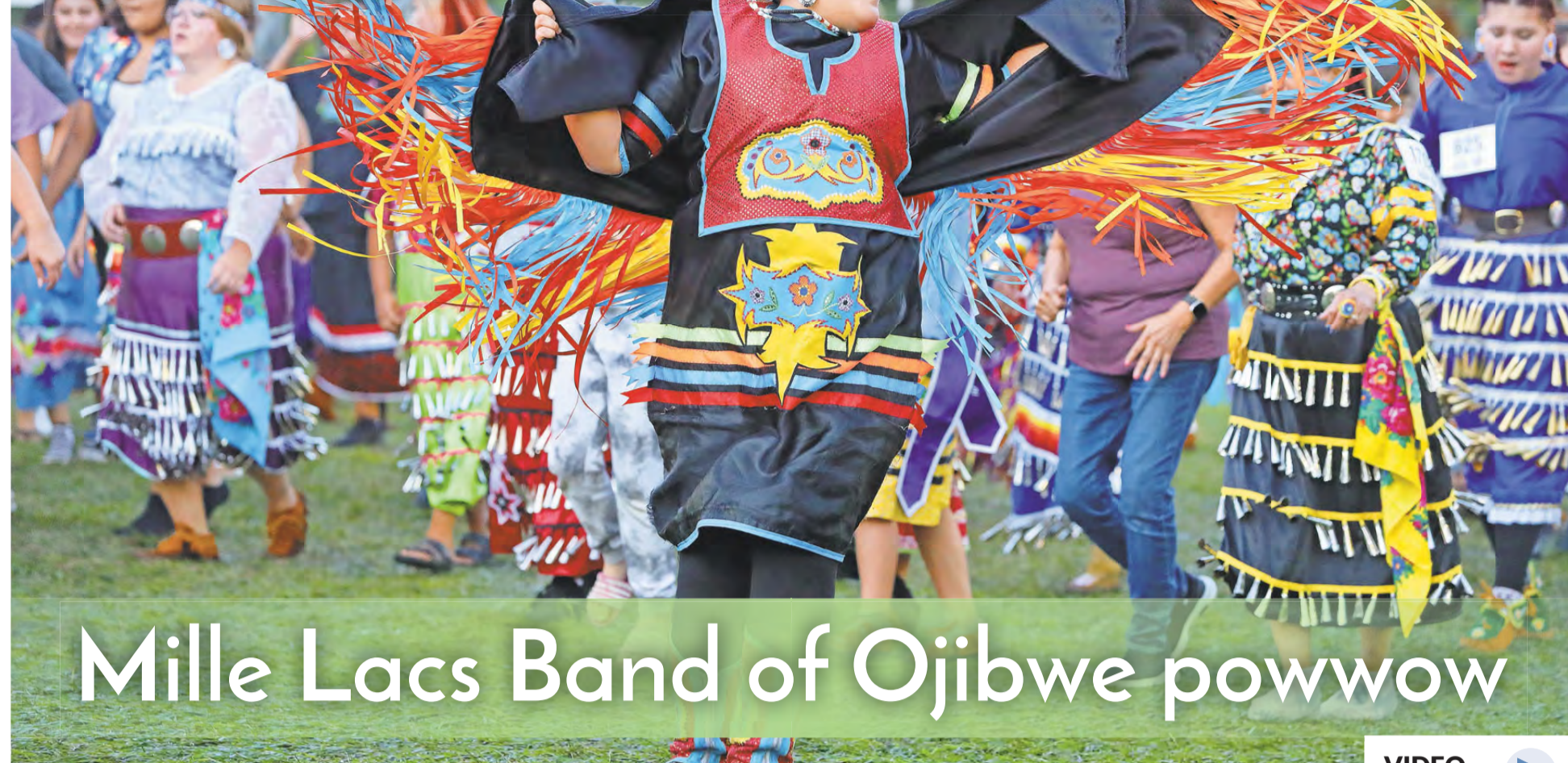
BARROWS — It was a night for the points leaders Saturday, Aug. 13, at North Central Speedway as of five the seven feature races were won by the points leader.

The evening started with Dylan Nelson winning his fifth race of the season for the Super Stock Class, which he leads by 53 points.

JOHNSON: Page 13

BRainerd DISPATCH

SERVING THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA SINCE 1881



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe powwow

Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

VIDEO

For video, see brainerddispatch.com

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe hosts their 56th annual Traditional Powwow at Iskigamizigan Powwow Grounds near Onamia.

'A churn and burn workforce'

Federal movement to reform H-2A visa program as many call for changes to seasonal labor regulations

By Bella Carpentier
Post Bulletin

ROCHESTER — With an estimated 47 million Americans quitting their jobs in 2021, legislators have called for an increased employment of foreign workers to remedy the shortage.

In turn, activists, Republican and Democratic politicians, and farmers alike see reforming the seasonal visa system as a necessary first step before bringing more international workers into the country.

"It's a churn and burn workforce," said Pomella Wegmann, the president of the AFL-CIO's Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council, which represents over 40,000 union members from construction workers to nurses.

The labor council, according to Wegmann, fights for good wages, benefits and workplace safety for all workers, including seasonal visa workers and immigrants.

Wegmann believes that

the business model for hiring foreign labor on H-2 seasonal visas creates unbalanced power dynamics between workers and employers where workers don't have the freedom to stand up for themselves.

Since 2021, two southern Minnesota farms and landscaping companies have been disbarred from hiring foreign labor on account of violating wage and hour regulations.

"The whole business model was to exploit workers and pay as little as possible, offer zero benefits, not provide any training, have dangerous working conditions," Wegmann said. "And in the next year, start all over again."

Make them pay

As of 2019, Minnesota has one of the tightest wage theft laws in the country. However, accounts of employers withholding seasonal worker's due pay continue to emerge.

LABOR: Page 9

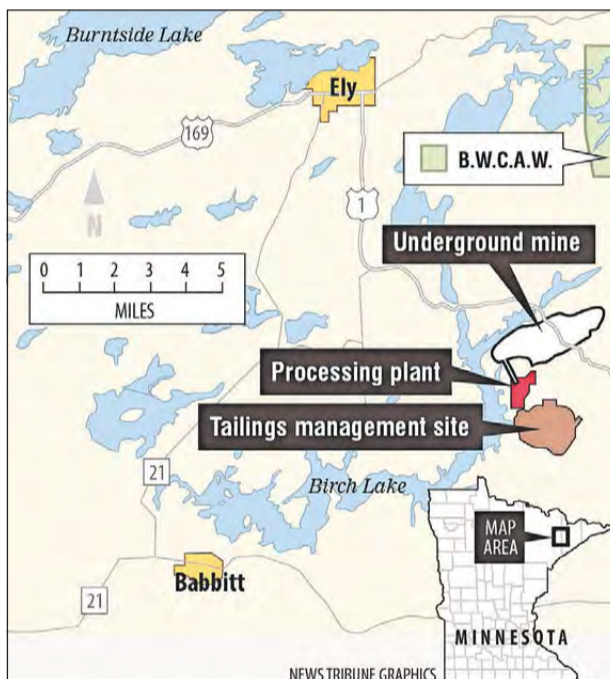
Twin Metals sues Biden administration

By Jimmy Lovrien
Duluth News Tribune

HERMANTOWN, Minn. — Twin Metals is taking the Biden administration to court over its decision to cancel the company's mineral leases for its planned mine near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness earlier this year.

In a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., on Monday afternoon, the company and its exploration subsidiary Franconia Minerals sued the U.S. Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management, arguing the federal agencies' decision to cancel their mineral leases in January was "arbitrary, capricious, and unlawful evisceration" of the company's mineral rights.

Since President Joe Biden took office, his administration has reinstated a number of Obama-era moves that



the Trump administration then reversed. The actions, including a mineral withdrawal across the entire Rainy River Watershed, were aimed at protecting the BWCAW from pollution by preventing Twin Metals and other companies from mining within the same water-

shed. A study released by the U.S. Forest Service in June found that hardrock mining in the Rainy River Watershed would pose an environmental risk to the BWCAW.

At a news conference held Monday afternoon at the Iron Workers Local 512 Training

Facility in Hermantown, Dean DeBeltz, Twin Metals' director of operations, said the company remained dedicated to opening the mine.

"Our goal is to continue to move this mine forward and reverse a series of actions aimed at shutting down Twin Metals' project," DeBeltz said.

DeBeltz and other speakers, which included labor and pro-mining and industry groups, all shared a similar message: They want the project itself to be reviewed, not a blanket ban or study on hypothetical projects within the watershed.

Although Twin Metals submitted its mine plan to federal and state regulators in late 2019, actions by the Biden administration have halted the lengthy permitting process at both the state and federal levels. The review was in its early stages.

BIDEN: Page 8

Everyone is talking about 'quiet quitting,' but is it a good idea?

By Jo Constantz
Bloomberg News

"Quiet quitting" has struck a nerve. It means more time for friends, family and personal pursuits, not to mention a side hustle. But the latest workplace trend has drawbacks.

TikTok and Twitter are awash in explainer videos and endless interpretations. Despite what the name suggests, quiet quitting doesn't mean turning in a resignation letter. Instead, it's a stealth retreat from the hustle culture that dominated the pre-pandemic era of giving up everything in pursuit of ambition. Quiet quitting is the newly minted moniker for doing the bare minimum of the job description.

Should you quietly quit, too? Here's why and why not:

Work-life balance: Zaid Khan, 24, who created a popular quiet quitting video on TikTok, said he started exploring "work reform" and the subreddit r/AntiWork during the COVID-19 lockdown when his job became all-consuming.

"I realized no matter how much work I put in I'm not going to see the payoff that I'm expecting," Khan, a software developer and musician, said in an interview. "Overworking only gets you so far in corporate America. And like a lot of us have experienced in the past few years, mental and physical health really takes a backseat to productivity in a lot of these structured corporate

environments."

According to a report released by the American Psychological Association in January, the kind of burnout and stress Khan encountered has hit all-time highs across industries during the pandemic.

Organizational psychologist Ben Granger, head of employee experience advisory services at survey firm Qualtrics, said that quiet quitting can be a way to protect mental and physical health in a toxic work environment. But staying in a miserable job and putting in the bare minimum means giving up the fulfillment that can come from a good one.

QUITTING: Page 8



Traci Westcott / Post Bulletin

H-2A temporary agricultural workers Andres Jimenez Sarabia, left, and Antonio Castelan Rosario prune branches on apple trees Thursday at Sunny Hill Orchard near Plainview, Minnesota.

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MLB

Twins bats sleep through another loss to Rangers

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Central Lakes College's Chase Dressel rushes Blue Jay quarterback Willard Carl Holm Saturday at the Paul C. Findorff Athletic Complex in Brainerd.

RAIDERS GET 1ST WIN OVER MINNESOTA WEST

By Joe Lindholm
Brainerd Dispatch

The word desperation was not uttered by player or coach, but the importance of getting the first win was noted as the Central Lakes College Raiders Saturday, Sept. 18.

The Raiders notched their first win of the season in a grinding 27-23 win over Minnesota West.

Andrew Kraemer secured one catch for 10 yards but it may have been the most important one of the day and his 54-yard kickoff return keyed a second-half touchdown.

Hunter Nissen, Joey Hoeschen, Aj Aguilo and Nick Korom led a Raiders defense that harassed Blue Jays Quarterback Willard Carl Holm all day, but Raiders fans had to cross their fingers for the last 1:53 of the game after CLC's go-ahead touchdown before they could celebrate the first Raiders win of the season.

Head coach Greg Medeck and Nissen both said it was a frustrated Raiders defense that showed up for the first practice of the week after a 35-12 loss at Rochester and they carried that through to the match-up against Minnesota West.

"We were pretty disappointed after the Rochester game and knew being 0-3 we needed to come

up big," Nissen said. "We worked really hard to prepare this week."

The final stats showed that the Blue Jay quarterback was sacked three times for a negative 30 yards. The Raider defense put him on the ground and hurried him all afternoon.

Nissen was the unknown player in the first half as No. 12 was in the Blue Jay backfield consistently but no one knew who he was due to a uniform change before the game. But the Blue Jays certainly knew who he was.

"My first jersey number 42 was a little too big and I asked the coach the other day if I could get a smaller one so I wouldn't get held so much," Nissen said. "It's better and I guess it's the winning jersey now."

Aguilo also made himself known with two quarterback sacks and Vito Richards who took an interception back for a touchdown.

"They were fired up and they were frustrated," Medeck said. "That frustration boiled over a bit this week and led to an angry group. We tried to leverage that and we schemed this week to put Hunter in the right position and it paid off. He is a tremendous player."

Trailing 23-20 late in the fourth quarter, Raiders quarterback Matt Torres led the Raiders on a final drive and Riley Niedzieski's 1-yard

plunge put the Raiders ahead. Kicker Vincent Torres came out for the crucial extra point and put the ball through the middle of the uprights for a four-point CLC lead.

The extra point was big because Minnesota West kicker Mike Peralta had connected for three field goals from 33, 22 and 39 yards.

On the second possession of the game Torres took the Raiders on a 10-play 66-yard drive, aided by an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and a 1-yard run from Bell Daryel gave the CLC a 7-0 lead.

After two field goals from Peralta, Richards stepped in front of a pass from Holm and returned it for a touchdown to give CLC a 14-6 lead. One more field goal from Peralta made it 14-9 at the half. Minnesota West went up 16-14 early in the third quarter on a touchdown pass from Holm, but on the ensuing kickoff the Raiders Andrew Kraemer returned the kickoff 63 yards to set the Raiders up for a 20-yard connection from Landon Jones to Paul Meyer to put CLC up 20-16.

"I am so thrilled for Andrew. He has had some injuries and missed some time," Medeck said. "It has been a challenge for him to get comfortable in his role and for him to have that impact today was rewarding

for him and for me."

The Raiders defense didn't break late in the third and early in the fourth quarter, but the Blue Jays finally came through with a touchdown to make it 23-20 with 13:33 left.

"This win was huge, you don't want to start the season 0-4 and now with this win it hopefully snowballs and we start going the right way," Nissen said.

Medeck added: "Our guys have worked so hard the last six weeks, all with the goal of having success and we have come up short and faced adversity along the way but they have continued to respond. We are thrilled to get over that hump."

Minnesota West 0 9 7 7 — 23
Central Lakes College 7 7 6 7 — 27
First quarter
CLC - Daryel Bell 1 run (Vincent Torres kick) 2:34
Second quarter
MWest - Mike Peralta 33 kick 14:46
MWest - Peralta 22 kick 9:38
CLC - Vito Richards 53 interception return (Torres kick) 5:42
MWest - Peralta 39 kick :22
Third quarter
MWest - Derrick Spencer 3 pass from Willard Carl Holm (Peralta kick) 8:46
CLC - Paul Meyer 20 pass from Landon Jones (kick failed) 5:38
Fourth quarter
MWest - Tommy Lais 27 pass from Holm (Peralta kick) 13:33
CLC - Riley Niedzieski 1 run (Torres kick) 1:53
Team statistics
Rushes-yards: CLC 33-0, MWest 16-16,
Pass comp-attempt-yds: CLC 14-26-3-145, MWest 20-44-1-209,
Total offense: CLC 145, MWest 225
Individual leaders
Rushing: CLC-Anthony Richmond 10-46, Daryel Bell 4-18, Riley Niedzieski 2-8, Noah Foster 2-3; MWest-Rashard Anderson 9-22
Passing: CLC-Matt Torres 10-17-2-117, Landon Jones 4-8-1-28; MWest-Willard Carl Holm 20-44-1-209
Receiving: CLC-Tucker Schultz 3-51, Paul Meyer 3-47, Noah Foster 5-29, Jake Moe 1-12, Andrew Kremer 1-10; MWest-Ian Stamer 4-76
Overall: CLC 1-3. Next: CLC at Mesabi Range 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Raiders go 1-3 in Wahpeton

WAHPETON — Haley Schleper tallied 44 kills and 40 digs as the Central Lakes College Raiders went 1-3 in a tournament in Wahpeton, North Dakota Sept. 17-18.



Schleper



Peabody

Grace Peabody recorded 138 set assists over the four games including 47 digs. Jaime Johnson registered 36 kills and 54 digs for the Raiders as well.

The Raiders lost both games to Iowa Central and Jamestown JV 3-0 Friday, Sept. 18, but followed it up with a 3-1 over Dakota County and a 3-2 loss to North Iowa Saturday, Sept. 19.

Iowa Central 3, Central Lakes 0 (25-18, 26-19, 25-16)
Jamestown JV 3, Central Lakes 0 (26-24, 25-16, 25-20)
North Iowa 3, Central Lakes 2 (25-20, 15-25, 21-25 25-15 16-14)
Central Lakes 3, DCTC 1 (25-19, 20-25, 25-19, 25-19)
Raider statistics
Elle Sutton 1 set assist, 1 serve ace, 6 digs
Haley Schleper 44 kills, 6 set assists, 4 ace serves, 40 digs, 4 blocks
Gabbie Enneking 6 ace serves, 23 digs
Sarah Bennett 4 set assists, 1 ace serve, 58 digs
Grace Peabody 4 kills, 138 set assists, 1 ace serve, 47 digs, 1 block
Megan Rinicker 39 kills, 1 ace serve, 11 digs, 12 blocks
Tori Plemel 12 kills, 16 digs, 5 blocks
Jacey Rydberg 24 kills, 4 set assists, 1 ace serve, 8 digs, 4 blocks
Jaime Johnson 36 kills, 6 ace serves, 54 digs, 2 blocks
Kaitlyn Hines 1 kill, 1 block
Overall: CLC 9-7. Next: Central Lakes at Mesabi Range 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24.

Jose Berríos beats Twins 5-3

By Betsy Helfand
St. Paul Pioneer Press

TORONTO — When the season began, the Twins expected José Berríos to be pitching important innings in the middle of a playoff hunt this September.

They just never would have expected that it would be against them, not for them, a practically unfathomable idea in March when the Twins broke camp in Fort Myers, Florida, ready to defend their consecutive division titles.

Instead, prospects Austin Martin and Simeon Woods Richardson, whom the Twins acquired when they traded Berríos ahead of the deadline in July, are expected to be part of the Twins' next contending teams. And Berríos, well he's an important part of the Blue Jays' present, trying to help pitch them to a Wild Card berth.

In his first start against his former team — Berríos is expected to make another start against the Twins later this week — the former Twins all-star threw 6 2/3 as the Blue Jays beat the Twins 5-3 on Sunday afternoon at the Rogers Centre.

"Things don't always go according to the plan that you lay out. You have to do what's best, even if that's not something you planned for," manager Rocco Baldelli said. "Obviously we had to make some very difficult decisions this year, this being one of the biggest ones. ... I never would have guessed that this season we would have been facing José on the other side of the field, but here we are."

Here they are, watching Berríos do to them what they've seen him do to so many other offenses over the course of his major league career.

BERRIOS: Page A16

Kyler Murray shines, Greg Joseph crumbles as Vikings fall to Cardinals

By Dane Mizutani
St. Paul Pioneer Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — All week long the Vikings talked about the things they had to do to stop Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray.

The most important thing? They had to keep him in the pocket as best they could. Though Vikings coach Mike Zimmer admitted it was impossible to do that for a whole game, he knew his team could be in trouble if they allowed Murray to run around.

On Sunday afternoon, the 5-foot-10, 205-pound quarterback proved Zimmer right, consistently using his legs to extend plays en route to a big game. He finished

with 400 passing yards, 31 rushing yards, and 4 total touchdowns as the Vikings suffered a 34-33 loss to the Cardinals.

As impressive as Murray was throughout the game, the Vikings still had a chance to win it with kicker Greg Joseph lining up for a 37-yard field goal in the waning seconds. He missed it wide right.

That spoiled a solid game from quarterback Kirk Cousins, who finished 22 for 32 passing for 244 yards and three touchdowns, and led a masterful drive down the stretch to set up a potential game-winning field goal.

In the end, though, Joseph crumbled under the pressure,

VIKINGS: Page A16



Billy Hardiman / USA Today Sports

Arizona Cardinals tight end Maxx Williams (87) runs the ball against the Minnesota Vikings in the first half Sunday at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

BRAINERD DISPATCH

SERVING THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA AND CENTRAL MINNESOTA SINCE 1881

Marvelous maples

Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

The maple trees show off bright red fall colors Thursday at the Arbor Glen Apartments in Baxter.

CITY OF BRAINERD

Vacancies on Brainerd committees

Applications available online, at city hall

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

Several seats are available on various city commissions in Brainerd.

Vacant seats include:

► Cable TV advisory committee — one term expiring 2021, two terms expiring 2022.

► Charter commission — one term expiring 2022.

► Housing and Redevelopment Authority — one term expiring 2022.

► Rental dwelling license board of appeals — three terms expiring 2022.

► Transportation advisory committee — one

term expiring 2022.

► Economic Development Authority — one term expiring 2027, one term expiring 2026.

► Water tower committee — two seats.

Those interested in any of the open seats can visit bit.ly/3B29tML for applications and more information on the positions or pick up an application at city hall.

In other business Monday, the city council:

Accepted third-quarter donations: \$10,000 from Brainerd Lions Club for an all-inclusive playground at Buffalo Hills Park;

VACANCIES: Page 10

Senior housing gets go-ahead

Gracewin Living Coop set for Baxter location

By Tim Speier
Brainerd Dispatch

BAXTER — Cooperative senior housing development received final approval from Baxter City Council during the regular meeting Tuesday.

Gracewin Living Cooperatives received its building approvals from the city council and can now submit the necessary plans to receive building permits for a three-story, 46-unit cooperative development on 5 acres north of Glory Road and west of Isle Drive.

Nate Anderson, president of Gracewin Living, was present at the meeting to answer questions from residents or the council.

“(Gracewin Living is) hoping to be able to receive a grading and grubbing permit where we can remove the trees and do some grading,” Anderson said. “Then subsequent to that, if



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

A sign marks the location of a future senior housing cooperative Thursday in Baxter.

the weather holds, they possibly will allow us to go ahead and dig in the footings and foundations as well.”

Also approved was a dedication of land owned by the city as a stormwater infiltration basin. Benefits in using the land for Gracewin Living Cooperatives include increasing the volume of

the stormwater pond’s capacity and the maintenance associated with the storage pond.

The residences will be open to residents age 55 and older and will offer one- and two-bedroom units that are handicap accessible with open concept floor plans, en suite master baths, walk-in closets, in-unit

washers and dryers, dishwashers, breakfast counters, balconies or patios, a community guest suite, options for upgraded finishes and walk-in tubs available. Investors can select cabinets, countertops and flooring options during construction.

HOUSING: Page 10

Police chiefs call for more tools, resources

Officials seek assist to combat crime surge

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — Law enforcement officials from around the state on Thursday, Oct. 21, told the joint Minnesota Senate committee that they were experiencing a surge in crime and asked for additional tools to address the uptick.

Police chiefs who addressed a joint state panel said they saw more instances of people in violation of probation or parole getting involved in other crimes. And they

asked for help limiting the “spillover” of such cases into communities around the state.

“This is a huge problem and so if the question is asked how you all can help or how we can help ourselves, that cannot continue,” St. Cloud Police Chief Wm. Blair Anderson said. “Our job is to find bad guys and arrest them. Imagine how frustrating it is that when you’re the arresting officer and before you’ve finished your report, that person’s

back out on the street.”

They also asked lawmakers for help rolling out co-responder models that allow mental health providers to respond to crisis calls with law enforcement officers. And the chiefs requested help in getting more resources to respond to car chases and in getting more applicants into the eligible pool to become officers and in reducing stigma around the profession.

POLICE: Page 9



Screenshot

St. Cloud Police Chief Wm. Blair Anderson on Thursday spoke to members of a joint Minnesota Senate committee about surging crime in his community, including from people in violation of probation or parole for a prior offense.

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SERVING THE BRAINERD AREA SINCE 1881

CHEERS FOR OKTOBERFEST

VIDEO

For video, see brainerddispatch.com

Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Lisa Gable, left, Gail Andreas and Gordy Gable enjoy their food and beverages while hanging out with friends Saturday during Oktoberfest at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort near Deerwood.

Feds approve clean water rule changes

Advocates worry new rule weakens water protection

By Kirsti Marohn
Minnesota Public Radio

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given a green light to changes to Minnesota's water quality rules that

advocates say will weaken protections for the state's lakes and rivers.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency proposed amending the **WATER:** Page 7



Matt Mikus / MPR News

The St. Louis River at Jay Cooke State Park on Sept. 10. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given a green light to changes to Minnesota's water quality rules that advocates say will weaken protections for the state's lakes and rivers.

Minnesota project helps to solve conundrum about kestrels' winter homes

By John Myers
Duluth News Tribune

Most American kestrels are winging their way south for winter now, heading from the fields and meadows of Minnesota and Canada down to warmer climes.

Exactly where the little falcons go, however, has remained a mystery.

"We know some go farther south and some only go as far as they have to go to find rodents and snakes all winter, maybe **KESTRELS:** Page 8

Shielding feral cats from the cold

Volunteers gather to build outdoor shelters

By Frank Lee
Brainerd Dispatch

Andrea Lambrecht answered the call of the wild — and that call was to build shelters for cats.

The former Brainerd Dispatch nature columnist from Backus co-hosted a two-day build starting Saturday to make shelters for feral or semi-feral cats to stay warm in the winter.

"It's primarily for cats that are left out in the winter. ... And they're all distributed locally to cats in need," Lambrecht said.

The environmental biologist invited people to volunteer their time or donate money



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Jessica Kirby, left, and her daughter Cora Walsh construct a cat shelter out of a plastic tote, duct tape, insulation and straw Saturday west of Baxter at a storage facility behind the Corner Store.

to construct homemade shelters from plastic totes and coolers, Styrofoam, straw, sand and

duct tape.

"There are several colonies of cats in Brainerd," said Lambrecht, **SHELTERS:** Page 8

VIDEO

For video, see brainerddispatch.com

who retired from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Lambrecht also called for electric heat pads, heated water bowls, cat food and more to be donated in addition to seeking volunteers to make the winter cat shelters and deliver them.

"I got a call two days ago for a cat that people have seen that is just a stray cat that's been around town all summer

City's 1st railroad bridge collapsed

In 1875, 5 died when train fell

By Frank Lee
Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd's early history and fortunes were tied to the railroad industry, which made the 1875 collapse of the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge over the Mississippi River a tragedy.

The train's weight on the bridge contributed to the accident on the morning of July 27. The engineer, a fireman and several passengers perished. The engine, near-

ly a dozen cars of merchandise and almost a dozen cars of steel rails went into the river.

The 650-foot Howe-Truss railroad bridge in Brainerd consisted of three spans of 134 feet each with the center span about 60 feet above the water, according to a marker dedicated last month during the city's sesquicentennial celebration and designed in part by Jeremy Jackson.

"We're coming up on the 150th anniversary in 2025 of that and we're trying to organize an event where we're bringing in family members, descendants of these individuals **BRIDGE:** Page 7



Contributed / Crow Wing County Historical Society Museum Built in 1871, the Northern Pacific Railroad bridge across the Mississippi River in Brainerd collapsed under the weight of a train on July 27, 1875.

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Photos by Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch
A giant spider named Shelob, created by Scott Harrison in homage to the "Lord of the Rings" saga, stands guard in front of the Harrison house on Halloween night Sunday on Memorywood Drive in Baxter. The garage-sized arachnid conversed with the throngs of trick-or-treaters and emitted fog from its mouth at intervals.

Spooktacular Shelob

Halloween in Baxter isn't just for children — adults get in on the fun with spectacularly spooky displays

By Tim Speier
Brainerd Dispatch

Giant talking spiders, 10-foot-tall animatronic werewolves, and a pumpkin spiced corgi welcomed Baxter Halloweeners Sunday night, Oct. 31, as the city came alive after dark.

For some, Halloween is a meticulously planned night and one that people look forward to. That statement rings true for both Scott Harrison and Bob Musielewicz, whose decorations could rival some pay-to-enter haunted houses.

Musielewicz, who displayed a 10-foot-tall werewolf in his front yard, has created his own mystical creatures for Halloween for more than 21 years after being drawn into the horror theme as a kid while watching all the "Frankenstein," "Dracula," "Invisible Man," and "Creature from the Black Lagoon" movies. "I build everything myself," Musielewicz said. "The bodies, I buy the rubber pieces from Hollywood-type people that build this stuff in the offseason. Then I (put together) the bodies and cranks. Everything moves, some of it runs on compressed air and



Trick-or-treaters admire a 10-foot tall animatronic werewolf in front of the Musielewicz house Sunday at the corner of Wedgewood and Parkwood in Baxter.

some of them run on electricity."

Expecting about 800 people to come through, Musielewicz said the number of people out for Halloween this year was down from years past as they had about 580 this year. He keeps a running count Halloween night.

Tantalizing the kids this year was Harrison's smoke-spewing talking spider.

"This year's theme was spiders," Harrison said. "So my big feature attraction spider is named Shelob."

Named Shelob after the massive spider in the "Lord of the Rings," the garage-sized arachnid was the centerpiece of his Halloween display. Bringing the children close enough to see

DISPLAYS: Page 7

Dissolving a commission

City aims to simplify police, fire hirings

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

The Brainerd City Council is moving toward dissolving the city's police and fire civil service commission.

The city established a police and fire civil service commission by ordinance in 1973. Under Minnesota Statute 419.05, cities with a police civil service commission grant the commission "absolute control and supervision over the employment, promotion, discharge, and suspension of all officers and employees of the police department."

The commission is composed of three resi-

dents who are appointed by the council to three-year terms and have meetings as needed.

Essentially, with the creation of the civil service commission, the council delegated part of its hiring and disciplinary authority to the commission.

Human Resources Director Kris Schubert told the council's personnel and finance committee Monday the idea to dissolve the commission came up a couple years ago and is an issue the commissioners themselves have been discussing since.

COUNCIL: Page 8

Application period opens for grants intended to expand child care options

By Chelsey Perkins
Brainerd Dispatch

Existing Crow Wing County day care providers and those considering opening a child care business may now apply for grants intended to help increase availability for parents.

Between now and 4 p.m. Dec. 6, Crow Wing County will accept applications from those interested in acquiring a piece of the \$500,000 pie county commissioners agreed last week to use in an effort to address a significant shortage in

slots revealed in a recent study. Tyler Glynn, executive director of the Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corp., told commissioners last month a recent study surveying employers, parents and day care providers in Crow Wing County revealed a need for at least 1,200 more slots for children to receive care. This shortage, Glynn said, is a contributing factor to the overall labor shortage plaguing many industries.

CHILD CARE: Page 7

Voters to decide police dept. future

Plan could change it to department of public safety

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — Minneapolis voters on Tuesday, Nov. 2, are set to decide whether the city should dismantle its police department after the 2020 murder of George Floyd at the hands of a former police officer there.

As part of the city's election, residents will decide if they want to replace the Minneapolis Police Department with the Department of Public Safety, which would include police and public health services as determined by the mayor and city council. The plan would also get rid of requirements dictating the minimum amount

of funding and staffing levels at the Minneapolis Police Department.

If 51% or more voters who vote on that question agree to the change, the language transitioning the police department to the Department of Public Safety would take effect in 30 days. City officials have said it would likely take longer than that to pass ordinances fleshing out the new department, and in the meantime, police officers would likely remain on duty as their contracts would remain in place past that date.

The campaign over the amendment and the upcoming vote have spurred national media attention. And support-



Evan Frost / MPR News

New police officers raise their hands to take an oath at a Minneapolis Police Academy graduation ceremony at the Minneapolis Convention Center on July 17, 2020.

ers — including businesses, faith groups, the American Civil Liberties Union and progressive Democratic-Farmer-La-

bor policymakers — said the proposal is necessary to improve public safety

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College Volleyball

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Schleper named North Division Player of the Year



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BRAINERD DISPATCH

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Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Friends and family gather to remember the life of Katrina Rose Lipp during a candlelight vigil Wednesday at Gregory Park in Brainerd. Lipp, 19, died in a car crash Thanksgiving Day in Brainerd.

'She was a light'

Crash victim Katrina Lipp remembered at candlelight vigil in Gregory Park

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

Friendly, loved, smart, funny and beautiful were the words written on a picture board commemorating the life of Katrina Rose Lipp.

To friends and family, the 19-year-old was a shining light, and they'll remember her as a joyful, caring goofball who loved her family fiercely. Funny stories of Katrina's life, memories of the last "I love you" and a multitude of laughs and tears were shared

LIGHT: Page A9

Comment sought on downtown Brainerd parking proposal

Public hearing set Dec. 6 before council



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Parking on Laurel Street Wednesday in downtown Brainerd.

The Brainerd City Council is seeking public input on the parking commission's recommendations regarding parking in and around the downtown area.

Those wishing to address the council on the following recommendations can do so at the next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6:

- Increase the rates for leased lots to a level commensurate with what the private sector may offer and increase

rates by 5% each year to adjust with inflation.

- Implement parking meters between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., with the first 15 minutes free, along Laurel Street between South Sixth and Eighth streets and along South Seventh Street between Front and Maple streets.

- Designate 90% of the net revenue generated by downtown parking meters and leased spaces

PARKING: Page A9

Justices signal willingness to gut abortion rights

Court hearing starts on Mississippi abortion law

By Lawrence Hurley and Andrew Chung
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Conservative U.S. Supreme Court justices on Wednesday, Dec. 1, signaled a willingness to dramatically curtail abortion rights in America and perhaps overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized the procedure nationwide as they indicated they would uphold a restrictive Republi-

can-backed Mississippi law.

The court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, heard about two hours of oral arguments in the Southern state's bid to revive its ban on abortion starting at 15 weeks of pregnancy, a law blocked by lower courts. The liberal justices warned against ditching important and longstanding legal precedents like Roe and abandoning a right American women have

come to rely upon.

Jackson Women's Health Organization, the only abortion clinic in Mississippi, challenged the law and has the support of Democratic President Joe Biden's administration. A ruling is expected by the end of next June.

Roe v. Wade recognized that the right to personal privacy under the U.S. Constitution protects a woman's ability to terminate her pregnan-

cy. The Supreme Court in a 1992 ruling called Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey reaffirmed abortion rights and prohibited laws imposing an "undue burden" on abortion access. Mississippi asked the justices to overturn the Roe and Casey rulings.

Conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh voiced a view often expressed by

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Jonathan Ernst / Reuters

Anti-abortion rights activists protest outside the Supreme Court building Wednesday, ahead of arguments in the Mississippi abortion rights case Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, in Washington, D.C.

Pequot Lakes man pleads guilty to federal firearms, meth charges

By Tim Speier
Brainerd Dispatch

A 35-year-old Pequot Lakes man has pleaded guilty to illegally possessing firearms, ammunition and over 400 grams of methamphetamine.

In one of the largest drug busts in Crow Wing

County history, Nicholas Ronald Wynn was arrested in May of 2019 when the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office and the Lakes Area Drug Investigative Division agents assisted the FBI in executing a search warrant at a residence located in Pequot Lakes.



Wynn

ed guilty to one count of possessing a firearm

as a felon, one count of possessing ammunition as a felon, and one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

According to court documents, in the spring of 2019, the FBI learned Wynn was purchasing large quanti-

ties of firearms parts and accessories, body armor and other tactical gear, and chemicals and lab equipment used to manufacture narcotics, explosives, and firearms.

The FBI informed sheriff's investigators, May 8, 2019, that agents

intended to take Wynn into custody at the Pequot Lakes Post Office when he arrived to pick up several packages.

On May 9, 2019, Wynn was taken into custody without incident at the post office.

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