

BRainerd DISPATCH

SERVING THE BRAINERD AREA AND CENTRAL MINNESOTA SINCE 1881



Pasque flowers emerge

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

Pasque flowers in bloom on Wednesday at the Northland Arboretum. Usually the flowers appear during Holy Week, but this year cold temperatures pushed the emergence of the crocuses back.

Liquor license limits loosened

Brainerd council allows more than one license

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — Brainerd restaurant owners and other liquor license holders can now operate more than one establishment in the city that sells liquor.

The Brainerd City Council approved an amendment Monday, May 2, to its intoxicating liquor ordinance, allowing a person to have more than one Class 2 or 3 liquor licenses. A Class 2 license is an on-sale license for restaurants, while Class 3 is for establishments that sell on-sale liquor but are not bars or restaurants, like clubs, bowling alleys and hotels.

State statute limits the number of off-sale liquor licenses a person can have but not on-sale licenses. City Finance

Director Connie Hillman brought the measure before the council in April after she said city officials received questions about the ordinance.

No one spoke during a public hearing for the ordinance amendment Monday, and council members passed the measure unanimously.

In other business Monday, the council:

Hired temporary summer employees: Ava Strong, downtown maintenance, \$14 per hour; Jack Antolak, parks weekend maintenance, \$16 per hour; and Jeremy Werhan, Mary Waytashek, Larry Eckel, Matthew Zinda, Donovan Jensen and Timothy Boeder, adult softball umpires, \$30 per game.

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Making a splash in swimming community

BHS aquatic center welcome addition to area

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — The sound of trickling water appropriately echoed as the backdrop when Brainerd High School's new aquatic center was dedicated Wednesday, May 4.

After a successful bonding referendum and three years of construction that interrupted students' routes to class, the new eight-lane pool and associated aquatic center is open for athletes in Brainerd and those elsewhere around the state who will undoubtedly visit the facility for competitions and tournaments.

"It took a long time, but we're here, and I think the wait is well worth it," said School Board Chair Ruth Nelson during Wednesday's ceremony.

With a whole host of speakers singing the praises of the new center, the event served as a public thank you to those who worked on the project and a chance for community members to see just how their tax dollars were spent and how they will contribute to the future accomplishments of an already successful swimming program.

"If you like what they've done



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Brainerd School Board Chair Ruth Nelson, left, and Superintendent Laine Larson watch as student swimmers Grace Haglin and Thomas Ruhl attempt to cut the ribbon Wednesday, May 4, 2022, during Brainerd High School Aquatic Center dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony.

with six lanes, wait until you see what they can do with eight lanes and a diving well," Activities Director Jack Freeman said.

The older and much smaller six-lane pool put Brainerd behind the times in terms of facilities, Warriors swimmer Thomas Ruhl said, so the upgrade was welcome.

"People are going to enjoy it, especially the future swimmers," Ruhl said. "They're going to enjoy this facility for years and years to come."

With a diving well separate

from the main pool, the aquatic center will allow divers their own space and time for practice, senior swimmer Grace Haglin explained. For younger swimmers, it will be a place to grow, and for opponents it will be a place they will want to compete, Haglin said, who also noted the impact on women's sports in general.

"Title IX was signed almost exactly 50 years ago," she said. "... It is still difficult for women

SWIMMING: Page 8

State seeks end to lawsuit against former Lake Shore restaurant owner

ST. PAUL — The end may be near for the more than two-year court battle over violations of pandemic-era executive orders between the Minnesota Department of Health and the former operator of Iron Waffle Coffee Co.

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office filed a motion April 20 seeking summary judgment in the ongoing lawsuit over the business continuing operations despite the revocation of its food and beverage license. In seeking the judgment in its favor to avoid a trial, the health department stated the fact the establishment continued opening its doors with-

out the license was not in dispute.

"Despite multiple court orders directing Defendant to cease operating its food and beverage service establishment without a license, Defendant has continued to operate its unlicensed business in violation of Minnesota Statutes ... which the Commissioner is empowered to enforce," the memorandum of law in support of the motion stated.

"... It is undisputed that Defendant is aware of the licensing requirements, is aware of the status of its license, and yet has repeatedly

OWNER: Page 8

Busy summer ahead for Camp Ripley

By Tim Speier
Brainerd Dispatch

BAXTER — Thunder and steel rain are in the forecast this summer around Camp Ripley as the installation begins ramping up the number of units it hosts.

Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse, the Minnesota National Guard's assistant adjutant general and Camp Ripley's senior commander, spoke to the Baxter City Council Tuesday, May 3, to provide an annual overview of Ripley's \$86 billion economic impact.

"What I like to tell people is Camp Ripley is a military training installation and a National Training Center in Minnesota," Kruse said. "We exist to train your nation's mil-



Tim Speier / Brainerd Dispatch

Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse speaks to the Brainerd City Council on Tuesday in Baxter City Hall.

itary for our country's worst day. We also exist to train your National Guard for your state's worst day. ... The reason why I'm here tonight is to be the best community neighbor I can be. As your adjacent property to the south of the city of Baxter, you're a

pretty important neighbor. And so that's the heart of why we're here tonight, to talk about and give you an update of what's happening at camp this summer and throughout the next year."

The camp is expected to host artillery

and demolition ranges throughout the 2022 summer, the sound of which can be heard quite a distance from the installation.

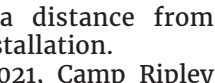
In 2021, Camp Ripley hosted 550,906 Department of Defense along with 68,346 local and state agency personnel days. Each day an individual spends at Camp Ripley is counted toward the overall number of personnel days.

The base houses state partners such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officer headquarters, Minnesota State Patrol training offices, Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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