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## 'NEWSIES' UNITE

Megan Buffington / Echo Journal

The cast of "Newsies" rehearses "Carrying the Banner" on Friday, July 8, in the Pequot Lakes High School auditorium. The musical runs July 14-17 and 22-24. See story on page 2.

### Woman dies in HWY 371, CR 29 crash

Concerns about intersection were voiced in 2018

PEQUOT LAKES - An 88-year-old St. Cloud woman died in a two-vehicle collision Saturday, July 9, at Highway 371 and Crow Wing County Road 107/County Road 29, south of Pequot Lakes.

The Minnesota State Patrol responded to the collision at 9:24 a.m. According to the state patrol's crash report, a Dodge Caravan was traveling north on Highway 371, approaching the intersection of County Road 107 in Pequot Lakes, while a Chrysler Sebring was crossing Highway 371, traveling east at the intersection of County Road 29 to go east on County Road 107.

The Sebring was struck by the northbound Dodge Caravan.

The driver of the Sebring, Anita Haller, was pronounced dead at the scene. Her passenger and granddaughter, Tyler Haller, 21, Phoenix, Arizona, suffered life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to a Duluth hospital.

The driver of the other vehicle, Joseph Benson, 56, Nevis, suffered non life-threatening injuries and was transported to Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd.

A passenger in Benson's vehicle, David LeDoux, 40, Belcourt, North Dakota, suffered life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to a Duluth hospital. A second passenger, Anthony Bureau, was not injured.

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## POSITIVE CONNECTIONS

Lake Hubert Grange builds community, raises funds since 1944

By Megan Buffington  
Echo Journal

Nisswa

Located on Sunset Valley Road in Nisswa, the Lake Hubert Grange Hall is somewhat inconspicuous.

The over 100-year-old building, which was once the Lake Hubert School, is marked only by a small wooden sign denoting it as the grange hall. But, the small building is local history itself and houses a group woven into local history.

"A lot of the members today are members because their parents or grandparents were members," said Loni Burnard. "That's how I'm here, because my grandma used to be a Grange member."

Burnard is the master or president of the Lake Hubert Grange, completing the duties of the head of an organization. She presides over meetings and serves as the representative of the Grange.

The Lake Hubert Grange was chartered in 1939, closed because of World War II, and



Burnard

then started again in 1944. The activities of the early days of the Grange are similar to what happens today: Funds are raised and donated and community picnics and other events are held.

The Minnesota State Historical Society website says, "The purpose of each local Grange was to educate farmers and their families, enrich their social lives and share information on the growing of crops."

While the Grange movement that began after the Civil War was originally focused on agriculture, the social aspect emerged more over time. MNHS says that the number of Granges in Minnesota grew between 1930 and 1950 because of the need for inexpensive social outlets during and after the Great Depression.

At its peak, the Grange held multiple community events



Megan Buffington / Echo Journal

The Lake Hubert Grange sits off Sunset Valley Road in Nisswa.

a year and most Granges also had Junior Granges, for youth 14 and older to raise funds and participate in other activities. Many members of the Junior Grange later became members of the Grange.

This social aspect continues to be the focus of Granges as the number of farms

continues to decrease. A 2022 report from the Department of Agriculture said there were 67,400 farms in Minnesota, down from 186,604 in 1945.

With the shrinking number of farms and farmers, Granges across the country have struggled to stay open.

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### BREEZY POINT

## Council adopts short-term rental ordinance

By Dan Determan  
Echo Journal

BREEZY POINT — After months of hearings and deliberations, the city of Breezy Point finally has a short-term rental ordinance in place.

The Breezy Point City Council approved the ordinance during its Tuesday, July 5, meeting. It will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023.

"This ordinance really regulates the conditions a property must meet to receive a short-term rental license, and then the actions to be taken if

a property does not comply with regulations," City Administrator David Chanski said.

Prior to voting on the ordinance, the council hosted one more public hearing on the topic during the meeting. Three residents spoke during the hearing, with the consensus being they approved of the ordinance as it was written, but wanted more clarity on where short-term rentals would be allowed within city limits.

The ordinance as written does not address that, but short-term rentals

are currently allowed in the commercial, resort commercial and multi-family residential districts.

"I agree with the ordinance as it is written today ... but what I am not for is expanding the 'where,'" board member Michael Moroni said. "That is my stance right now. The 'how' is good, and the 'where' is good as of now."

Mayor Todd Roggenkamp reminded the council that even with this approved ordinance, the conversation of short-term rentals in Breezy

Point does not end.

"I think what's really important for all of us to understand, as a council, is that this is going to be new," Roggenkamp said. "We have to go into this knowing that we're going to have to work out the details ... There might be some kinks and bumps along the way that we will have to work with city staff to take care of. Nothing is ever perfect, but I think what we have is a foundation that we can work on moving forward."

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