

# County board files response to Inman's counterclaims

## Case moves to discovery phase

BY JAKOB KOUNKEL  
STAFF WRITER

Benton County commissioners and their attorney filed a response to the counterclaims alleged by Benton County Auditor-Treasurer Nadean Inman in the lawsuit regarding Inman's residency as an elected official in Benton County.

The Benton County Board filed a complaint against Inman in civil court May 13, alleging she was not living in Benton County for the duration of her current term as an elected official of the county. Inman filed an answer and made counterclaims June 2, and now that the board has

responded to Inman's counterclaims, the trial moves into the discovery phase of litigation.

Scott Anderson, of Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, PA, the board's attorney in the matter, said there is a primary theme and three primary elements to the board's second court filing in the case against Inman in a separate interview.

The theme, Anderson said, is that Inman is hoping the public ignores the residency issue and instead focuses on her unfounded claims that the board is not allowing Inman to perform her statutory duties as auditor-treasurer.

The three elements of the county board's response are, first, that Inman has and has had access to all financial information she alleged she did not have. Second, that even though the auditor-trea-

surer's office does not manually enter accounts payable information into the county's financial system, it has operated that way for more than 15 years, before Inman served in elected office. Lastly, Anderson said the allegations related to voting machines and the county's credit card policy are wrong.

"My opinion is that the counterclaims are meant to deflect attention from the main issue here, which is why wasn't (Inman) residing in the county when she was supposed to be by saying, 'Wait, there's other stuff going on here,'" Anderson said. "I don't find a factual basis for most of this."

Anderson said the case will likely not be resolved until after the auditor-treasurer's election in November.

### News Briefs

#### Nominations for Innovation Awards due July 22

**ST. CLOUD** – The Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation is seeking nominations and applications for the 11th annual Innovation Awards. The Innovation Awards recognize originality among non-profit and for-profit organizations in Benton, Sherburne and Stearns counties. Deadline for submission is July 22.

For the purpose of its Innovation Awards, GSDC defines innovation as a new product, service, practice, technology or business model which is a fresh take on solving a challenge, has been implemented, has improved the experience of a stakeholder and has added value and/or generated revenue for a business or organization.

Innovation Awards will be presented Nov. 3 to an emerging for-profit company, an established for-profit company and two non-profit organizations. Each recipient will receive \$1,000.

More information is available at [www.greaterstcloud.com/innovation-awards](http://www.greaterstcloud.com/innovation-awards).

#### COVID-19 vaccine series opens to younger children

**ST. CLOUD** – COVID-19 vaccines are now being offered to children 6 months and older.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved the PfizerBioNTech COVID-19 series for children 6 months to 4 years old June 18. The series is one-tenth the dosage given to adults and is a three-shot regimen.

Parents and/or guardians can schedule an appointment with their child's clinic or start the series during a primary care visit. Parents and/or guardians must give consent and be present during the immunization.

#### DNR continues parks library program

**ST. PAUL** – The Department of Natural Resources is continuing its state park library program through June 2025. The program offers 175 state park passes for checkout.

Passes are good for seven days and can be recycled after use; no return necessary.

Up to four passes are available to check out at participating Great River Regional libraries, including the Foley and St. Cloud locations.

#### Draft of state's wolf plan open for public comment

**ST. PAUL** – The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources welcomes comments through 4:30 p.m. Aug. 8 on a draft of Minnesota's updated wolf management plan that will guide the state's approach to wolf conservation once finalized.

The updated plan includes summary information about Minnesota's wolf population and the history of wolves in the state. It details the diverse and changing public attitudes about wolves, the legal status of wolves, tribal perspectives on wolves, and ways to support a healthy and resilient wolf population while minimizing conflicts between humans and wolves. The draft plan also sets out a framework for future decision-making about whether to hold a wolf hunting or trapping season.

To learn more about wolves in Minnesota and review and comment on the draft, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/wolves/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wolves/index.html).

An informational webinar about the plan will be 6 p.m. July 13. Registration is required at [engage.dnr.state.mn.us/wolf-plan](http://engage.dnr.state.mn.us/wolf-plan) and is free. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and comment during the webinar.

The DNR expects to finalize the wolf management plan in early fall.

### Community Education Corner

#### F.A.S.T. Kids

First Aid and Safety Trained (F.A.S.T.) Kids is a four-hour course for 7- to 10-year-olds. This course helps prepare children for staying at home alone. Lessons cover basic first aid, water safety, vehicle safety, home emergencies, injury prevention, stranger and internet safety. Students will receive a book, handouts and a home first aid kit as part of the class.

**Thursday, July 14, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
– Mississippi Heights Elementary School, 1003 Fourth St. S., Sauk Rapids.

To register or for more information on programs and costs, contact Sauk Rapids-Rice Community Education at [www.isd47.org/ce](http://www.isd47.org/ce) or 320-258-1577.

#### Babysitting Clinic

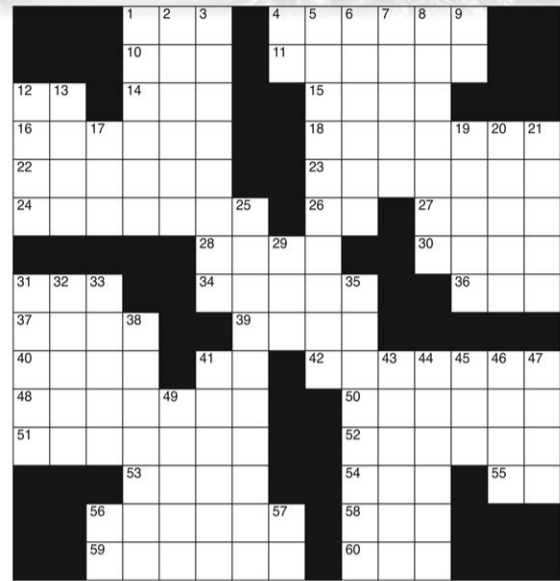
This hands-on babysitting clinic for students in fifth through eighth grades includes activities that focus on basic first aid, fire and weather safety, child development and parent expectations. Updated handbooks will be provided for each participant with a login to take a certified test online at home after the course. Individual certifications will be mailed once the test is completed.

**Thursday, July 21, 1-3:30 p.m.** – Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School, 901 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.

# COFFEE BREAK



## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Basics
- 4. In a new way
- 10. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
- 11. Jailhouse
- 12. Expresses surprise
- 14. Trigraph
- 15. A small stream
- 16. Dissimilar
- 18. Promote
- 22. Gives a boost
- 23. Lawmaker
- 24. Orthodox Jews
- 26. Actor Harris
- 27. Wild cherry
- 28. Participate in democracy
- 30. Opposite of begins
- 31. A Brit's mother
- 34. Set of moral principles
- 36. Very fast airplane
- 37. Czech river
- 39. Private school in New York
- 40. Israeli dance
- 41. Electron volt
- 42. Adjusting
- 48. Duct by the bladder
- 50. Small burger
- 51. Begin again
- 52. Unstuck
- 53. Jai \_\_, sport
- 54. Get free of
- 55. For instance
- 56. Hotel chain
- 58. A team's best pitcher
- 59. Extracts from various sources
- 60. Indefinite period of time

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. St. Francis of \_\_\_
- 2. Supported
- 3. United in working
- 4. It cools your home
- 5. Predicting
- 6. Irritated
- 7. Popular talk show host
- 8. Fabric edge
- 9. A resource for employees
- 12. Broadway's Jackman
- 13. Small water buffalo
- 17. City of Angels: \_\_\_ Angeles
- 19. Asteroids
- 20. Tailless amphibians
- 21. German expressionist painter
- 25. What drives you
- 29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
- 31. Gold coin used in British India
- 32. Have deep affection for
- 33. Ponds
- 35. Breaks between words
- 38. Hairstyle
- 41. Print errors
- 43. Family of iron alloys
- 44. Sidelined in bed
- 45. Many couples say it
- 46. Brazilian hoopster
- 47. Allman Brothers late frontman
- 49. German city
- 56. One hundred grams (abbr.)
- 57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)



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