

THIEF RIVER FALLS Times

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019

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Tradition of Prowler Van returns

Pioneers fall to Wildcats in overtime

Sports - Page 1B

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City of TRF grows by 22 acres

Council also approves engine brake ordinance

by April Scheinoha Reporter

The City of Thief River Falls just got a little bigger. At its meeting Tuesday, Oct. 1, the Thief River Falls City Council approved annexing 22 acres into the city.

Les and Marlene Snetting own the parcel, which is lo-

cated along Greenwood Street East, west of County Ditch 1. Public Works Director Mark Borseth said the Snettings are concerned about their well and wanted to connect to city water and sanitary sewer. Water and sanitary sewer lines were stubbed out to the property in 1987.

As part of a separate, related motion, the council authorized the Snettings to connect to city utilities prior to annexation and at their discretion based on contractor availability and before

the ground freezes.

Rocksbury Township was set to consider the annexation request at its upcoming meeting.

By a vote of 6 to 1, the council approved amending an ordinance pertaining to public nuisances affecting peace and safety. Council member Jerard Brown voted in opposition. Council member Rachel Prudhomme was absent from the meeting.

The amendment governs the use of an engine brake or Jake brake in non-emer-

gency situations. The city had received complaints from residents along U.S. Highway 59 Southeast and Highway 1 East regarding semi drivers using engine brakes.

At the last council meeting, Brown raised concerns about enforcement.

Joe Kramer and Erin Burns appeared before the council on behalf of Respect Minnesota. Respect Minnesota is a pledge to honor and respect people and their opinions, especially when it comes to con-

troversial projects like the Enbridge Line 3 replacement project.

Kramer and Burns asked the council to sign the resolution in support of the pledge. The Thief River Falls Chamber of Commerce, Plummer City Council, St. Hilaire City Council and various affected trade groups have already provided their support for Respect Minnesota. The council took the request under advisement and forwarded the request to the Administrative Services

Committee.

Mayor Brian Holmer proclaimed Tuesday, Oct. 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. The proclamation noted that "bereaved parents around the world remember their children annually on Oct. 15 with a candlelighting at 7 p.m." October is National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.

The next council meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

National Fire Prevention Week



Firefighters Paul Gonsorowski and Mark Bieganeck (hidden) showed firefighting gear to Kim Ellefson's kindergarten class during a tour Monday, Oct. 7 at the Thief River Falls

Fire Hall. As part of National Fire Prevention Week, the fire department hosted tours for local kindergarten classes. Video is online at www.trftimes.com.

Funding for airport cargo hangar sought

by April Scheinoha Reporter

It was round two for the Thief River Falls Regional Airport Authority as the Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee toured the airport's multi-purpose hangar Wednesday, Oct. 2.

The committee toured the hangar to hear about the Airport Authority's request for \$6.75 million for a new \$7.5 million cargo hangar at the airport. If approved, the request would be funded with bonding proceeds. A lit-

tle less than a month earlier, their Minnesota House of Representatives counterparts heard the same request.

The request came after IFL Group recently transitioned to using CRJ-200 aircraft at the airport. IFL Group transports packages on behalf of both UPS and FedEx. It makes nine round-trip flights per week.

Those flights are usually transporting packages from Digi-Key. "We currently stock about 1.8 million parts. We take orders till 8 (Continued on Page 13)



Members of the Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee posed with local officials for a photo inside a CRJ-200 at the Thief River Falls Regional Airport on Wednesday, Oct. 2. The committee toured the airport to hear about the Airport Authority's request for \$6.75 million for a new \$7.5 million cargo hangar. Video is online at www.trftimes.com.

Honor the Earth Horse Ride to visit area communities

Timeline of arrivals not available yet

The week of October 6-13 represents the seventh year that Anishinaabe, Dakota and Lakota youth and women have ridden horses to honor the water in northern Minnesota. Honor the Earth's "Ride for the Water Protectors" traverses the proposed Enbridge Line 3

route, hosting a prayer vigil to honor ancestors and water.

This year, the ride began at Rice Lake Village on the White Earth Reservation on Sunday, Oct. 6, riding the MinnCan pipeline route toward Clearbrook, Oklee and Thief River Falls.

During the event, community events will be held that will include a showing of LIN3, a documentary on Line 3. The documentary will be shown in the Red Lake and Thief River Falls casinos on Oct. 13.

Since the ride began, the route has changed a number of times, and once included the Enbridge Sandpiper project, a pipeline cancelled

by Enbridge before the company purchased a significant interest in the Dakota Access Pipeline. Ride organizers expect 20 horses and horse people.

"This ride is about protecting our water from the next tragedy - the tragedy of destruction of our wild rice and climate change," said Winona LaDuke, the ride's founder, and executive director of Honor the Earth. "This ride brings together, horses, and Dakota and Anishinaabe people who have lived on this land together for generations, we drink the same water."

"Enbridge is a threat to water, wild rice and cultural treasures of the Anishi-

naabe," said Frank Bibeau, attorney for Honor the Earth. "This pipeline also represents over 200 million metric tons of carbon annually, in a time when carbon dioxide-induced climate change is beginning to wreak havoc. It's time to stop."

"Sunka Wakans are my kodos. The horse represents the six directions, but when I am on the horse, that makes the seventh, it also means Wowakan. Sunka means dog, and Wakan means sacred," 19-year-old Monga Eastman said. Eastman is a highly recognized Native horseman from the Sisseton reservation. Native (Continued on Page 13)



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Traffic stops net DWIs

Third degree driving while impaired: On Oct. 1 at 12:54 p.m., police performed a traffic stop in the 17100 block of U.S. Hwy. 59 N.E. Jason Alan Lund, 48, Karlstad, has been charged with third degree DWI. He was arrested.

Third degree DWI, refusal to submit to a chemical test and driving after revocation: On Oct. 2 at 1:20 a.m., police performed a traffic stop in the 200 block of Main Ave. S. Francisco Arce Jr., 32, Thief River Falls, has charges pending for third degree DWI, refusal to sub-

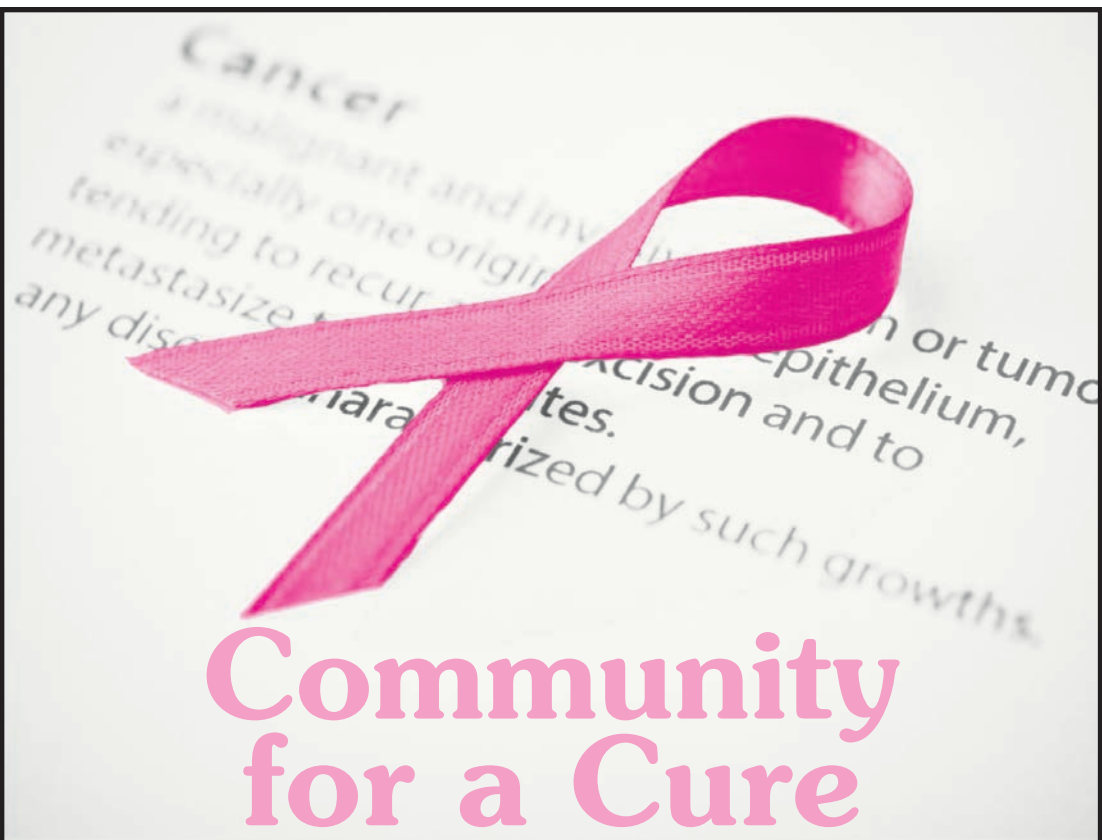
mit to a chemical test and driving after revocation. He was arrested.

If readers have any information about the above crimes, they are urged to contact the Law Enforcement Center at 681-6161.

Thief River Falls media receive these reports from law enforcement officials. If these reports appear in online forums other than those owned by Thief River Falls media outlets, the information has been copied. These reports include

names of those charged, arrested or cited with various crimes and offenses. Depending upon the circumstances of a case, charges can be, and sometimes are, changed or dropped by law enforcement or attorneys even before the case reaches court.

Readers should also realize that under the American system of jurisprudence, those charged with crimes are innocent until proven guilty of those crimes in a court of law.



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Contact DeDe or Tom before Wednesday, October 9, to advertise in **Breast Cancer Awareness**. This special section will be available to readers on Wednesday, October 16.

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2 Column x 3" = \$51.00	Quarter Page = \$267.75
2 Column x 5" = \$85.00	Half Page = \$535.50
3 Column x 6" = \$153.00	Full Page = \$1096.50




Thief River Falls firefighter Mark Bieganeck showed the contents of a fire truck Monday, Oct. 7 to Kim Ellefson's kindergarten class. The Challenger Elementary School students toured the Thief River Falls Fire Hall as part of National Fire Prevention Week. Video is online at www.trftimes.com.

RIVERVIEW CLINIC

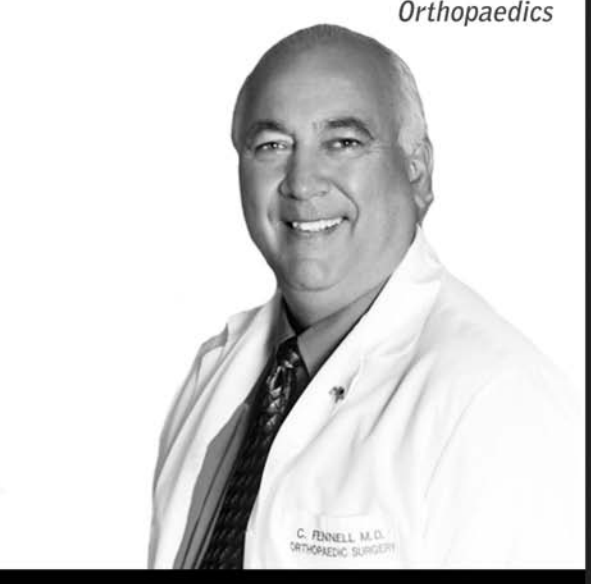
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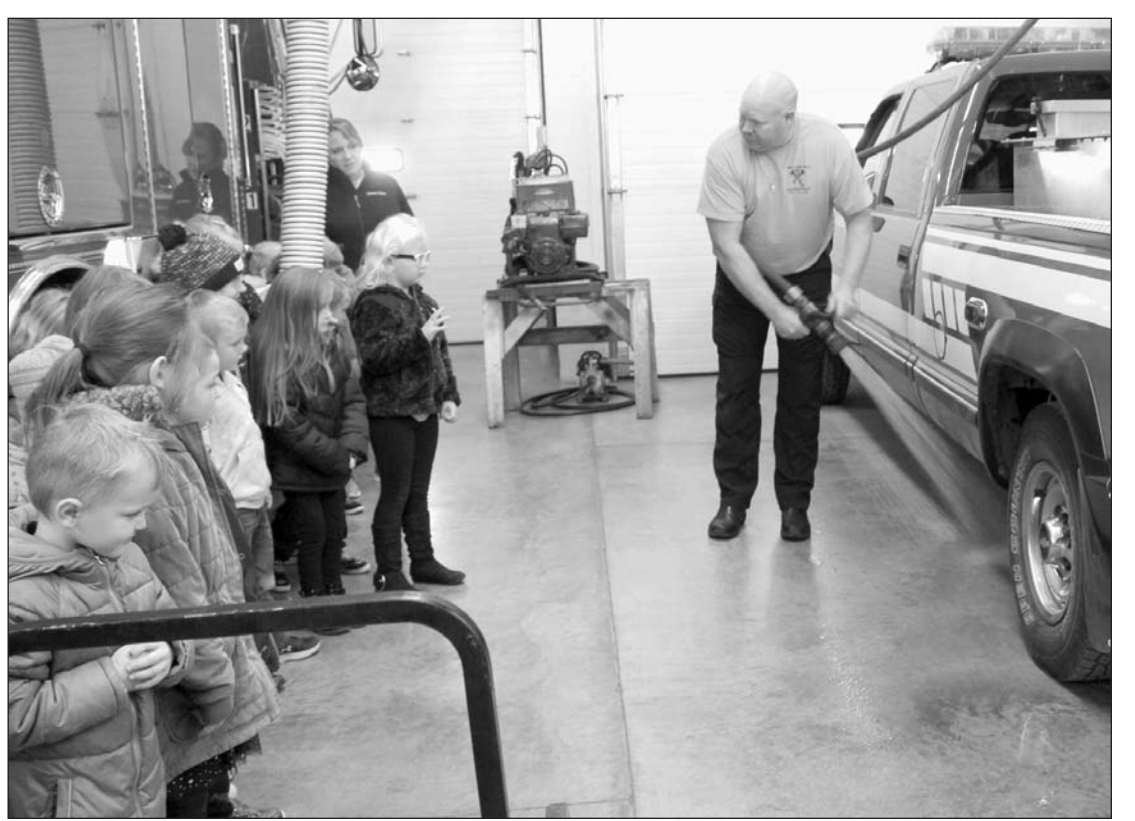
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Students in Kim Ellefson's kindergarten class watched as Thief River Falls firefighter Mark Bieganeck demonstrated the fire department's grass fire-fighting equipment Monday, Oct. 7. The Challenger Elementary School students toured the Thief River Falls Fire Hall as part of National Fire Prevention Week. Video is online at www.trftimes.com.



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Thief River Falls Co-Fire Chief Marty Semanko was among the local emergency responders participating in live, virtual and constructive unmanned aircraft systems demonstrations Thursday, Oct. 3. Northland Community and Technical College hosted the demonstrations at its aviation campus with counterparts in Ohio.

Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!



Fire destroys RLF house Oct. 1

Fire destroyed a rural Red Lake Falls house Tuesday, Oct. 1. No injuries were reported.

The fire started in the early morning hours at the Brad and Trish Seeger home about three miles west of Red Lake Falls, according to Red Lake County Sheriff Mitch Bernstein.

It is believed that the fire started in the chimney and then spread to the rafters. The Red Lake Falls Fire Department and Red Lake Falls Ambulance also responded to the scene.

Sheriffs' Association honors local residents



Pat Dunning of Thief River Falls received the Merit Award - Volunteer of the Year at the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association Conference on Thursday, Sept. 12. She is pictured with Pennington County Sheriff Ray Kuznia. Dunning volunteers at the Pennington County Jail, leading Bible studies and teaching art lessons. (Submitted)



Susan Halverson received a Service Award at the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association Conference on Thursday, Sept. 12. Halverson is pictured with Pennington County Sheriff Ray Kuznia. Halverson served as the Pennington County Jail administrator for 25 years and worked in law enforcement for 31 years. She retired in July. (Submitted)

Middle River man sentenced for separate felony fleeing cases

A Middle River man was sentenced Monday, Sept. 30 in Pennington County District Court for two separate felony fleeing cases.

For the first case, Ryan Michael Rude, 42, was sentenced for felony fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle. In that case, a gross misdemeanor charge of second degree refusal to submit to a chemical test, a gross misdemeanor charge of third degree driving while impaired and a petty misdemeanor charge of designation of through highways were dismissed.



Ryan Michael Rude

For the felony, Rude was granted a three-year stay of imposition. As a condition of that sentence, he was ordered to serve supervised probation for three years. That sentence is to be served concurrently with another case. Rude was ordered to complete a chemical assessment within 30 days of sentencing. He was ordered to supply a DNA sample. Rude was ordered to not use or possess firearms, ammunition or explosives. He was also ordered to pay \$660 in fees and fines.

Those charges stemmed from an attempted traffic stop at about 1:04 a.m. June 5, according to the complaint. An officer witnessed a vehicle travel at a high rate of speed onto Sixth Street West in Thief River Falls. The motorist, later identified as Rude, then failed to stop for a stop sign near a railroad crossing. The officer attempted to stop the vehicle. However, Rude continued traveling onto Barzen Avenue and then into rural Pennington County. Speeds reached up to 90 mph, and the pursuit continued into Marshall County.

On 230th Street Northwest, Rude slammed on the brakes and then drove forward again. He also drove erratically into an oncoming lane of traffic. Rude stuck his middle finger out the window at law enforcement as well.

A Marshall County sheriff's deputy was able to deploy stop sticks on the roadway. Rude drove over the stop sticks, which deflated tires on his vehicle and a Thief River Falls squad vehicle. His tire soon deflated, leading him to drive on the tire rims and causing sparks to fly. Before long, Rude stopped the vehicle near the intersection with 130th Avenue Northeast and ran. He was soon apprehended.

While walking to the squad vehicle, Rude told an officer "good training, good job." He also displayed indicators of alcohol use. The complaint indicated that Rude was agitated in the back of the squad vehicle on the way to the jail. Upon arriving there, Rude refused to get out of the vehicle and said he wanted to fight. He eventually got out of the vehicle after a sergeant arrived to assist the officer.

Inside the booking room, Rude would alternate between being calm and then becoming agitated. He attempted to contact an attorney after law enforcement asked him to take a breath test. He later refused to submit to the test, saying that he hadn't spoken to an attorney. A passenger told police that the two of them had been drinking alcohol at softball and then went to the Thief River Falls Eagles Club afterward. He offered to drive once they left the club, but Rude refused. After the officer initially tried to stop the vehicle, the passenger asked Rude to pull over. However, he told the passenger to buckle up because they were going for a ride.

The complaint indicated that Rude had been previously convicted of fourth degree DWI in August 2011 in Red Lake County.

Rude was also sentenced for a separate felony charge of fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle. In that case, a gross misdemeanor charge of driving after cancellation - inimical to public safety and a misdemeanor charge of fleeing by means other than a motor vehicle were dismissed.

For the felony charge, Rude was granted a three-year stay of imposition. As a condition of that sentence, he was ordered to serve supervised probation for three years. That sentence is to be served concurrently with another case. Rude was ordered to complete a chemical assessment within 30 days of sentencing. He was ordered to supply a DNA sample. Rude was ordered to not use or possess firearms, ammunition or explosives. He was also ordered to pay \$660 in fees and fines.

The charges stemmed from an attempted traffic stop at about 10:19 p.m. July 4, according to the complaint. A police officer clocked Rude driving a motorcycle 45 mph in a 30-mph zone near the intersection of Fourth Street and Davis Avenue. He then drove an estimated 45 to 50 mph onto Third Street and later hit a curb and crashed the motorcycle in a yard along Crocker Avenue.

Rude ran with the officer in pursuit, but the officer lost sight of him. Police later learned from Rude's ex-wife that he was driving the motorcycle, crashed it and had his girlfriend pick him up at Lions Park. She recorded him admitting to the incident. The girlfriend denied picking Rude up at the park and accused police of harassing him. A friend, who is listed as the registered owner of the motorcycle, had reported it stolen.

Kristi Arlene Anderson, 60, Goodridge, was sentenced for felony fifth degree controlled substance crime. Another felony charge of fifth degree controlled substance crime was dismissed.

Anderson was granted a five-year stay of imposition. As a condition of that sentence, Anderson was ordered to serve 120 days in jail. Work release and Sentence to Serve privileges were granted. Her time is considered to be served. Anderson was ordered to complete a chemical assessment within 30 days. She was ordered to supply a DNA sample. A lifetime ban was ordered regarding the use or possession of firearms, ammunition or explosives. Anderson was also ordered to pay \$210 in fees and fines.

The charges stemmed from a Jan. 11 report that a woman ran into Goodridge School, saying she had been assaulted by Anderson. A woman said Anderson had assaulted her after Tammy Hunt had accused the woman stealing some vaping oil from her. The woman said she had smoked methamphetamine with both women and a third woman a day earlier.

At the time, Anderson and Hunt were on conditions of release after 44 grams of suspected meth was found in a vehicle. After this latest report, law enforcement entered Anderson's home, 103 Rice Ave. N. in Goodridge. They found 128.19 grams of marijuana and a plastic container featuring a trace of meth. Both were inside Anderson's nightstand drawer. Near where Hunt had been sitting, law enforcement found a baggie containing 1.21 grams of meth and a glass pipe with meth residue. Elsewhere, a pipe containing meth residue was found. A baggie containing meth residue, a zip-top bag containing 5.54 grams of ground-up marijuana, and various drug paraphernalia were also found.

Both Anderson and Hunt tested positive for meth and THC, an ingredient in marijuana.



Kristi Arlene Anderson

People can vote once a day now until Thursday, Oct. 31 at www.vik9s.org/suvvote.

The finalists include Marshall County Deputy Cody Gillund and his partner, K-9 Eva, and Thief River Falls Police Sgt. Mike Roff and his partner, K-9 Max.

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Dismissed felony among cases

A dismissed felony charge is included in the latest edition of the Pennington County Citation Disposition Bulletin. The Times pays for copies of this public information. If it appears in an online forum other than The Times' website, it has been copied.

Pennington County Sheriff's Office cases: Ryan Michael Rude, 42, Middle River, felony charge of issuance of a dishonored check dismissed.

Thief River Falls Police Department cases: Misty Dawn Kotrba, 38, Thief River Falls, stay of adjudication for a gross misdemeanor charge of fifth degree controlled substance crime and dismissed, \$125, supervised probation for two years, set up chemical assessment within 30 days, individual or group therapy, not to use or possess firearms, ammunition or explosives; Lance Daniel Rasmussen, 21, Thief River Falls, use of a wireless communications device in traffic or motion, \$135. Ryan Michael Rude, 42, Middle River, domestic assault, \$260, 90 days in jail stayed for two years, supervised probation for two years, complete a diagnostic assessment within 30 days of sentencing, enroll and complete domestic abuse programming that is a minimum of 24 sessions or 36 hours in length, schedule a chemical assessment within 30 days of sentencing and complete all recommendations, not to use or possess firearms, ammunition or explosives, charges of fourth degree criminal damage to property, tampering with a motor vehicle, and emergency telephone calls and communications were dismissed; Brandon Lopez, 20, Thief River Falls, failure to yield, \$135. Amanda Jo Nelson, 30, Grygla, driving after revocation, \$210, 30 days in jail stayed for one year, unsupervised probation for one year, two other offenses of driving after revocation, for each sentence: \$135, 30 days in jail stayed for one year, unsupervised probation for one year; Nancy Ione Hockert, 55, Thief River Falls, driving while impaired, \$685, 30 days in jail stayed for two years, probation to the court for two years, chemical assessment.

Steven Lance Almen, 55, Thief River Falls, stay of adjudication for a charge of driving after revocation and continued, \$50, unsupervised probation for one year; Justin Wayne Brough, 37, Underwood, intent to escape tax, \$285, 30 days in jail stayed for one year; Jared Scott Ganyo, 30, Milaca, driving after revocation, \$285; Jennah Sue Kelley, 27, Thief River Falls, parking in excess of time limit, \$52. Minnesota State Patrol cases: Young Joon Chon, 33, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, 75/55, \$225, charge of driving after suspension dismissed; Zachary Mueller Westfall, 36, Fargo, N.D., 65/55, \$125; Richard Abraham Wiens, 40, Thief River Falls, 70/55, \$145; Mark Andrew Sigana, 39, Red Lake, 70/55, \$145; Briar Duane Sylvester, 18, Fargo, N.D., 65/60, \$125; Michael Anthony Okstad, 30, Gonvick, 68/55, \$135; Ryan Dale Rogen, 45, West Fargo, N.D., 65/55, \$125. Michelle Rae Tieman, 30, Goodridge, vehicle window tint violation, \$135, front and rear license plates required, \$30, charge of no proof of insurance dismissed; Bryan Ray Cleven, 41, Thief River Falls, no seat belt worn, \$110; Chung Van Duong, 37, Grand Forks, N.D., 71/60, \$135; Odalys Garcia Mendoza, 21, Farmington, 69/60, \$125; Jacob Lowell Johnson, 23, Grand Forks, N.D., 65/55, \$125; Anthony Milo Loken, 18, Wannaska, no seat belt worn, \$110; Shanda Ranae Morrison, 64, Middle River, expired driver's license, \$185; Amanda Jo Nelson, 30, Grygla, driving after revocation, \$135, 30 days in jail stayed for one year, unsupervised probation for one year.

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Firefighters to host ham dinner Monday, Oct. 14

The Thief River Falls Volunteer Fire Department will host a ham dinner Monday, Oct. 14, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., at the Thief River Falls Eagles Club. Freewill donations will be accepted, and proceeds will be used to purchase new safety equipment. The menu will feature ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, a vegetable and a bun. Slim and Bobby Bruggeman will prepare the dinner.

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The Thief River Falls Times is the official newspaper for: Pennington County; Cities of Thief River Falls, Goodridge and St. Hilare; School Districts of Thief River Falls 564, Newfolden 441, and Goodridge 561.

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Business Hours: Monday - Thursday 8 am - 5 pm, Friday 8 am - 3 pm



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF ST. HILAIRE

The City of St. Hilaire will hold a public hearing regarding changing the width of the road on a portion of Water Street. The public hearing will be held on Monday, October 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Hilaire Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

We will be closed all day on Tuesday, October 15 for inventory. Regular Business Hours resume on Wednesday, October 16.



Classified Advertising



St. Hilaire Lions Club President Dan Vandeventer (right) recently presented a check for Camp Confidence to Lion Jerry Wohler, who drove 345 miles from his home to present a program to the St. Hilaire Lions Club. The Confidence Learning Center was founded 50 years ago in Brainerd and provides education and recreation for persons of all ages with developmental disabilities.

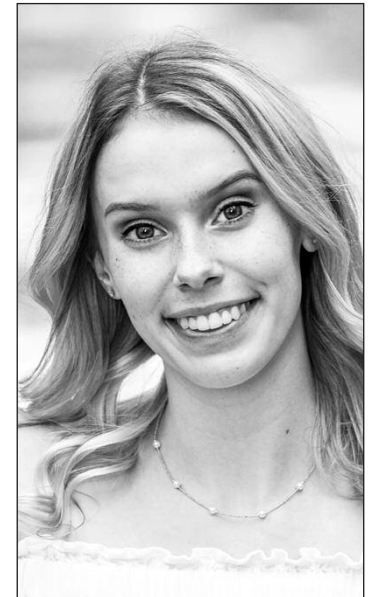
Christensen and Kisch are Student Rotarians of the Month

Kyri Christensen and Madi Kisch have been named Student Rotarians of the Month for October by the Thief River Falls chapter of Rotary International. The students will be guests of the Rotary Club and Lions Club during meetings in the month of October.

Her volunteer activities include those activities she volunteers for through Key Club. One of her biggest projects has been organizing the Teens Toward Zero Deaths at Lincoln High School in March and speaking at regional Toward Zero Deaths Conferences to share what they have done.



Kyri Christensen
Kyri is the daughter of Cord and Dusti Christensen. She has one sibling, Annika.



Madi Kisch
Madi Kisch is the daughter of Brandon and Kristy Kisch. She has one sibling, Bailey.

Thank You!

We are thanking the "700 Wing" staff nurses for the excellent care they provided Betty Ann during her extended stay at TR Sanford Hospital. Thank you also to Dr. Pearce & Dr. Petrescue. Thank you to the nurses & Dr. Parker of the emergency room.

- Family of Betty Ann Severson

Farm & Commercial Wiring

Local Electricians Serving Thief River Falls and surrounding areas.

Contact: **Tim Anttila** 218-688-0084 **Joel Kubischta** 701-789-0272



Derek Gebauer

- Graduated Lincoln High School in 2010
- Enlisted in Marines Corp. 2015
- Graduated Boot Camp in 2016
- Earned Four Medals and One Ribbon
- Completed his four years with honorable discharge on Sept. 23, 2019

Children's GARAGE SALE

Sat, Oct. 12th 9 am - 12 pm at Challenger Elementary

- Large Selection of:
- Childrens Clothing
- Toys • Equipment
- and More

Suggested donation: \$1.00 per adult

Fundraiser sponsored by the ECFE Advisory Council

facebook/ThiefRiverFallsECFE



2019-2020 THIEF RIVER FALLS ENTERTAINMENT SERIES



HALL SISTERS

Monday, Oct. 14, 2019 • 7:30 p.m. Lincoln High School Auditorium

The Hall Sisters are an established up-and-coming premier act in the country pop genre. The ensemble, having performed at venues such as The Grand Ole Opry, Carnegie Hall and the County Music Hall of Fame. Their sound has been described as a combination of the earthy vibe of Lady Antebellum and soulful harmony of the Carpenters, with an added touch of the famed sisters groups of the past.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE TIMES, KEZAR MUSIC, HUGO'S AND AT THE DOOR ON THE NIGHT OF THE CONCERT

or by contacting Darryl Tveitbakk at 218-681-6473

SEASON TICKETS

Adult, \$30.00 • Family, \$70.00 • Student, \$10.00

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THE TIMES' WEDDING AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

When submitting an announcement, please be advised of our policy regarding weddings and engagements:

- Engagement announcements should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the wedding date.
- Wedding write-ups will be published as follows:
 - If the wedding took place within six weeks from date of receipt at The Times office, a detailed write-up will be published from information provided, along with a picture, if submitted.
 - If the wedding took place from six to 12 weeks before submission to The Times, we will run a brief social announcement or a picture with a short caption stating names of the bride and groom, names and addresses of parents, date and place of wedding and where the couple is residing.
 - If the wedding took place from three to six months before submission to The Times, we will run a brief story or short caption under a picture announcing when the wedding took place.
 - There will be no publication of weddings after six months have elapsed.
- Every effort will be made to publish the wedding write-up within two issues of receipt. Forms are available at The Times office to help in organizing information regarding weddings and engagements.

BIRTHS

Sanford Medical Center in Thief River Falls announces the following births in the month of September.

On Sept. 1, a boy was born to Sadie and Robbie Miller of Goodridge. He was given the name Hubert Newman.

On Sept. 4, a girl was born to Samantha and Andrew Alme of Karlstad. She was given the name Adeline Marie.

On Sept. 8, a girl was born to Brieanne Koester and Nicholas Opdahl of Thief River Falls. She was given the name Cora Malinda Elaine.

On Sept. 9, a girl was born to Yvette and David Barry of Thief River Falls. She was given the name Sen Layla.

On Sept. 9, twins were born to Amber and Myles Keefe of Thief River Falls. They were given the names Brooks Daniel and Blaire Ann.

On Sept. 14, a girl was born to Kayla Walseth and Wyatt Olson of Thief River Falls. She was given the name Madelynn Jolee.

On Sept. 15, a boy was born to Hailey and Seth Halvorson of Thief River Falls. He was given the name Alexander William.

On Sept. 25, a girl was born to Judith and Matthew Rindahl of Goodridge. She was given the name Julianna Margo.

On Sept. 30, a girl was born to Lindsey and Daren Asp of Thief River Falls. She was given the name Esther Elizabeth.

MN senators call for financial security for Minnesota counties

Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Tina Smith (D-MN) and 30 of their Senate colleagues requested that any end-of-year legislation include at least a two-year reauthorization of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) programs.

Klobuchar and Smith said that because counties containing federal lands are unable to tax the property values or products derived from those lands, PILT and SRS payments are necessary to make up for lost revenue that goes to supporting essential local government services for rural counties and school districts.

"In 2018 alone Minnesota counties relied on more

than \$5.1 million in PILT and \$8.1 million in SRS payments to make up for lost tax revenue from federal public lands," Klobuchar said. "Minnesotans rely on these funds to support critical programs that improve schools, roads, and public safety. We must ensure that we extend this funding before the end of this year so that Minnesota communities know that they'll have the resources to fund these important programs next year."

"Minnesota counties need this important funding—particularly in St. Louis, Cook and Lake counties—to continue supporting communities, schools and infrastructure investments," Smith said. "The federal government has an obligation to support work

at the local level, and by extending this vital funding we're living up to that promise and doing what's right for Minnesotans."

In the letter to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, the senators wrote, "Congress has an obligation to ensure counties with large swaths of federally-owned, tax-exempt forests and rangelands can adequately provide essential services for their residents. As history has proved, without the certainty of these two critical programs, schools, libraries, and jails will close. The services counties continue to provide will see a reduction in staffing and resources. Roads will go unpaved and become unsafe. Mental health and

physical health services will be scaled back and in some cases even ended. Fewer and fewer law enforcement officers will be forced to patrol larger and larger areas.

As we work to establish a permanent county payments solution, diversify rural economies, improve forest management and forest health, strengthen historic forest revenue sharing with local governments, and ensure that our public lands provide a range of values such as clean water, jobs, grazing opportunities, and wood fiber for local economies, a short-term reauthorization of at least two years is critical to provide fiscal certainty for counties containing federal-owned lands."

Be prepared: Apply for a REAL ID now

Minnesotans with standard driver's licenses or identification cards are strongly encouraged to consider applying for a REAL ID, so they'll be prepared ahead of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's full REAL ID enforcement date of Oct. 1, 2020.

Every air traveler 18 years of age or older will need a REAL ID, enhanced driver's license or ID, passport or passport card or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States or enter federal facilities beginning Oct. 1, 2020. A standard Minnesota driver's license will not be accepted for federal use as of that date, but it will still be a valid form of identification and valid for lawful driving privileges.

"We want all Minnesotans to have the required identification to board an airplane next year," said Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington. "Less than 10 percent of all Minnesota driver's license and ID cardholders have a REAL ID-compliant card right now. We know there are people in this state who will need a REAL ID and don't have one yet. We want to reach those people and make sure they know exactly what they need to do to get a REAL ID-compliant card."

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act establishes minimum secu-

rity standards for state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards. The Act refers to federal anti-terrorism laws and regulations that control access to:

- Federally regulated commercial aircraft.
 - Federal facilities requiring identification to enter, such as military bases or nuclear power facilities.
- "REAL ID is a coordinated effort by the federal government to improve the accuracy of driver's licenses and will greatly improve aviation security," said Minnesota TSA Federal Security Director Cliff Van Leuven. "We highly recommend that Minnesotans who plan to travel by air upgrade their standard driver's license to a REAL ID or enhanced license before the deadline."

Renew early
Any eligible Minnesotan can apply for a REAL ID now, but there is a fee in addition to the standard cost of the license or ID card. It depends on how early you renew:

- \$2 for a renewal up to 17 months before expiration
- \$4 for a renewal 18-29 months before expiration
- \$6 for a renewal more than 29 months before expiration

When renewing early, four years will be added to the license or ID card's original expiration date, so while an early renewal will cost a little more, the license or ID card will be valid for a longer period of time. The

early renewal option is only for those who renewed their Minnesota driver's license or ID card before REAL IDs were available on Oct. 1, 2018. Their licenses must also expire after the full enforcement date of Oct. 1, 2020.

Enhanced driver's license or ID (EDL/EID)
State Enhanced Driver's Licenses designated as acceptable border-crossing documents by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative are acceptable for official federal purposes such as accessing a federal facility or boarding a commercial aircraft. Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, and Washington are the only states that currently issue EDLs.

Minnesotans who have an enhanced driver's license or ID can continue to use it to board domestic flights or enter federal facilities after Oct. 1, 2020.

More information about EDLs and EIDs can be found on the REAL ID website.

Save time, arrive prepared

Minnesotans' new driver services system, which launched in 2018, features an online pre-application tool. Minnesotans can provide a significant amount of information online before they arrive at a driver's license office. The tool also includes a list of required documents for each license

type.

REAL ID required documents
Minnesotans are required to provide additional documentation when applying for a REAL ID, compared to a standard driver's license or ID card.

A person must provide the following in person when applying:

- One document proving identity, date of birth and legal presence in the United States.
- If the name on the identity document is not the same as a person's current name, a name change document must be submitted.
- One document proving the person's Social Security number. If you have not updated your name change with the Social Security Administration, you must do so prior to applying for a REAL ID.
- Two different documents proving current residency in Minnesota. Must have applicant's name as used at print and current address in Minnesota. A P.O. Box will not suffice as proof of current residency in Minnesota.

Applicants must provide original documents or documents certified by the agency that issued them. Laminated documents will not be accepted. Digital documents shown on your phone or other electronic device will also not be accepted. A full list of accepted documentation is on the REAL ID website.



(From the front page) Over 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkin are produced each year in the United States. This Squash Pumpkin stand is located at The Shop at the corner of Seventh Street and Atlantic Avenue in Thief River Falls. It is one of the many locations where residents and visitors can

purchase a pumpkin and/or other varieties of squash. According to Good Housekeeping, there are more than 45 different varieties of pumpkin. They range in color like red, yellow and green, and have names like Hooligan, Cotton Candy and Orange Smoothie.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Minnesota

Gov. Tim Walz proclaimed October 2019 Cybersecurity Awareness Month in the State of Minnesota. The proclamation, in conjunction with National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, draws attention to the need for public education and action around this critical issue.

"Secure technology is critical to ensure that everything from our bank accounts to our elections are safe and protected," said Walz. "We're making sure Minnesota is evolving by educating folks about emerging cybersecurity threats and making sure Minnesotans' personal data is protected."

"Minnesotans spend a significant amount of time on internet-based devices, whether they are helping children with homework, updating family through social media, or using their computers for work," said Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan. "It's crucial that we understand how the devices we use every day can be at risk, and how to best protect ourselves and our families from these challenges."

Minnesota IT Services will be sharing cybersecurity tips with the public on social media and educating state employees about best practices and the most recent threats to their valued information throughout

the month. Some of MNIT's efforts include visiting state agency offices to distribute materials that contain safety tips and reporting procedures, encouraging employees to better protect their accounts, and coordinating an internal messaging campaign to help state employees recognize suspicious emails and report them right away.

"Every Minnesotan is capable of becoming better about protecting their information," said Commissioner Tarek Tomes. "Whether it is looking at the privacy settings of your social media accounts, understanding how a ransomware attack can impact critical services,

or utilizing more secure password technology such as multifactor authentication, we all have a part to play in ensuring that information is secure."

While Minnesota IT Services will continue to protect citizen data and state systems, citizens can do their part by learning about cybersecurity tips they can use at home. Check out advice from MNIT's Chief Information Security Officer, Aaron Call, on: email attacks; passwords; privacy and security on phones; and safe shopping online.

Turning Back The Times ...

100 men begin work on storm sewers

1919 - One Hundred Years Ago

-One hundred men will begin work next week on the job of putting in storm sewers in the downtown section of the city. The laying of the water mains near the Knox School has also just begun.

-All arrangements have been made for the first dance of Pennington County's post of the American Legion. The dance, at the City Auditorium Friday, will start at 9:30 p.m. and end at 2 a.m. A jazzy orchestra has been engaged.

-A six-month vocational mechanics course will be offered by Lincoln High School to boys who, for good reasons, have had to drop out of school.

1969 - Fifty Years Ago

-Mrs. Stanley Wilson has become the first woman in many years to be a member

of the Thief River Falls Board of Education when she was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Robert Bredeson.

-All Thief River Falls residents 50 years of age or older received letters this week asking them to take part in a pioneer medical study.

-The Franklin Junior High School has adopted "modular" or flexible scheduling for classes.

1979 - Forty Years Ago
-Nanci Kezar has been named 1979 Lincoln High School Homecoming Queen.

-A dedication ceremony and open house are scheduled at the new Thief River Falls Area Vocational Technical Institute building, east of the city.

-The Thief River Falls City Council has denied a special use permit to locate the Ripley Alliance for Battered Women Shelter

and office on South Crocker Avenue.

1989 - Thirty Years Ago
-Northland Community College and St. Cloud State University have signed an agreement that will allow joint enrollment by students in the two schools.

-Maryel Anderson has been named Woman of the Year by the Thief River Falls Business and Professional Women's Club.

-The State Board of Vocational Technical Education held its regular meeting at the Thief River Falls Technical College Tuesday, coincidental with the renewal of the local school's five-year accreditation.

1999 - Twenty Years Ago
-Arctic Cat has announced that it is exiting its personal watercraft line of products after four years of declining sales.

-Dave Hill has been

named the new editor of The Times and Northern Watch after working at The Times since 1985 and holding the position of associate editor since 1987.

-A microfilm reader and printer is now available at the Thief River Falls Public Library, thanks to a grant from the Hartz Foundation.

2009 - Ten Years Ago
-A candlelight vigil was held at the foot bridge in Hartz Park on October 5 to call attention to the serious societal problem of domestic violence.

-Northland Community and Technical College is offering a class on how to write a business plan this fall.

-Irvin and Alice Iverson, residents of Thief River Falls for over 30 years and Goodridge area farmers before that, celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary on Oct. 6.

Social Security News ...

Social Security's commitment to you and your family

by Brian Rudolph and Rhonda Whitenack
Social Security Public Affairs Specialists
Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin

Social Security is here with information, tools, and benefits to help you secure today and tomorrow. Our journey together begins when you're born and get your Social Security card. It continues when you get your first job and follows you through your entire career, marriage, and retirement. Our commitment is to be with you throughout life's journey.

Our promise extends to surviving family members when a worker dies.

Some of the Social Security taxes you pay go toward survivors benefits for your family. In the event of your death, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits; these include widows

and widowers, divorced widows and widowers, children, and dependent parents.

The amount of benefits your survivors receive depends on your lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings are, the higher their benefits will be. The value of your survivors benefit may be more than the value of your individual life insurance.

By making sure your earnings are posted correctly, you are passing down protections to your survivors, just as your parents did before you. You can do this by:

Creating a personal my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/mya account. Your personal my Social Security account is secure and gives you immediate access to your earnings records, Social Security benefit estimates, and a printable Social Security Statement.

Visiting our Benefits Planner for Survivors will help you better understand you and your family's Social Security protection as you plan for your financial future at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/survivors.

Check your Social Security Statement to see an estimate of survivors benefits we could pay your family at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. It also shows an estimate of your retirement and disability benefits and provides other important information.

For more information, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov or read our Survivors Benefits publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf. You can also help us spread the word by sharing this information with your family and friends.

Marshall County Park Board Member
The Marshall County Auditor-Treasurer is seeking letters of interest until position is filled for a person to serve as a **Board member for the Marshall County Park Board near Florian for a three year term.** This board consists of seven members, meeting monthly or as needed to cover Park related business. Mileage and per diems of \$60 per meeting are paid by the County.
Please send letters of interest to serve on this board or any inquiries to Scott Peters or Sam Winger at the Marshall County Auditor-Treasurer's office at 208 East Colvin Avenue, Suite 12, Warren, MN 56762 or call 218-745-4851 or email at scott.peters@co.marshall.mn.us or sam.winger@co.marshall.mn.us

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LADIES NIGHT 7 p.m. TEXAS HOLD 'EM 7 p.m.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10
HAPPY HOUR 4 - 6 p.m.
PROGRESSIVE BINGO 5 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
HAPPY HOUR 4 - 6 p.m.
PROGRESSIVE BINGO 5 p.m.
Dance to **HONKEY TONK TRUBADOURS**
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
BAR BINGO 5 p.m.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14
HAPPY HOUR 4 - 6 p.m.
POST & AUXILIARY MEETING 7 p.m.
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October | Immunizations, Vaccines, Flu Shots, Oh My!
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» October 8 | 12 p.m.
» October 10 | 5 - 7 p.m. (includes Flu Shot Clinic)
Learn more about these events at altru.org/calendar
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The Northwest 8 Adult Local Advisory Council for Mental Health meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at the River Walk Public House in Thief River Falls. The next meeting is Nov. 6 and is open to the public. Members of the local council include: (from left) Dawn Baumgartner, Christen Pirtle, Beth Gunkel, Joan Sydow, April Craft, Tami Wellman and Dan Bartsch.

Advisory Council on Mental Health established in region

An advisory council for mental health has formed in the region. Dan Bartsch, a member of the Northwest 8 Adult Local Advisory Council for Mental Health, explained it is helpful in many ways.

Bartsch said, "The council is comprised of one individual with a mental health experience, and one family member of an adult with a mental illness from each of the following counties: Kittson, Mahnommen, Norman, Pennington, Polk,

Red Lake, and Roseau counties. Our goal is to use the knowledge of a broad range of people to improve mental health services in our communities.

"As someone who has lived with panic anxieties and depression for over 20 years, it has helped me so much to know that there are others like me in other counties who want helpful services for people with mental illness. "So, if you or someone you know is suffering

through mental health problems and feel that you don't have a voice, the Local Advisory Council is here for you. We have monthly meetings from 10 a.m. to noon at The River Walk Public House on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is Nov. 6 and is open to the public. And always know that you are a worthy and awesome person, and that you have a light to shine for all of us to see."

Positive Thoughts ...

Fond October memories



by Dan Bartsch

This week's column is about the month of October and how it makes a man in his early 50s fondly remember his life when he was a young lad.

For those who have Memorable Entertainment TV Network, you have seen that they are airing "The Flintstones" TV show. I remember many October afternoons after getting done with school at Washington, walking across two leafy blocks to my house, making a peanut butter sandwich, and watching the good folks

from the town of Bedrock. Now, you are probably saying, "Haven't you seen these Flintstones episodes about 200 times?" Oh sure, but after a day of math and English and writing book reports on "War and Peace," it's nice to remember those important things in my life when I was a kid, like if Fred would finally become the head of the Royal Order of Water Buffaloes, you know, the important stuff. But what got me was later when I saw this vintage TV show called "The Honeyymooners," starring Jackie Gleason and Art Carney, and wondered how dare they. They stole that idea from "The Flintstones!" How young and silly I was.

October is a good time to go outside and enjoy the beautiful colors of the trees

as they turn from green to yellow, red, and orange. But this year, I felt bad for the trees because that last month was cool, then we had a bit of an Indian summer, then back to cool again. Then, Mother Nature left the water faucet on for so long that a guy named Noah showed up and asked me if I had any animals that wanted to go for a ride on his boat. Hopefully, this month will be drier.

October is also a good time to look forward to happy and fun holidays. Like, of course, getting your list ready and writing a nice letter to "The Great Pumpkin," which I will share in a couple of weeks. Yeah, yeah - it's Halloween, too. Well, I hope you have a super day and as always God bless.

Theology in the Trenches ...

Have a Jim in your life?



by Kathleen Kjolhaug

Do you have a Jim in your life?

I pray that you do ... have a Jim in your life, that is.

Inspiration was his point. Inspire was the gear he shifted into throughout all of life. He was a teacher by trade, and he lived being a teacher. He was an example setter, dad, husband, and infuser of possibilities. His smile beamed when he looked upon others.

He lived a full life according to the words printed on paper. His obituary was solid enough, but if you knew him at all ... you knew he lived his life in 3-D. You saw those words which all but jumped off the page. You see, his life was more alive than the words in print, and truth-be-told, it wasn't even about Jim. Rather, it was what Jim knew within the word he read that made him who he was.

I met Jim after he'd retired from teaching, and long after he'd traveled abroad to faraway places. By this time, his family was mostly grown, yet they remained central in his life. When I first saw Jim, he

was behind a kitchen serving line, serving with a smile - a smile that resonated hope at a Bible camp that could have easily been named Inspiration Point after him. With his wife, Ellie, of many years, they were an inseparable team. They worked as one welcoming the stranger.

With a strong embrace of a handshake or a nod of the head, he encouraged campers, staff, and all whom he served. Funny thing, I don't remember him speaking much but rather, faithfully living love. It was as if he was girded with a strength far deeper than the eye could see.

His white hair hadn't always been that color, you know...but it was symbolic. Like salt pouring out of the shaker, he touched tens of thousands in ways everlasting. You see, he knew well the legacy he was leaving on this earth and that none of it was about him. No, it was not about him. Rather, it was about his desire to lift up and inspire others to live for the very same Jesus who not only shed light in this world but who shed his very blood.

What could Jim possibly live that hadn't already been lived through the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ? There was nothing more Jim could live out, and he knew it. He could not add one more ounce of anything to what had been done on that cross. Therein was the

secret to his smile, and the point of his passionate desire to inspire.

Jim's secret was not to replace anything that had been done, but rather to confidently resonate that which the Lord Jesus Christ was living through him. He knew his source. Jim knew from where his strength came. He did not lean onto his own understanding, but in all his ways acknowledged him so he would direct Jim's path (Prov. 3:6).

Jim made his plans and allowed the Lord to direct his footsteps (Prov. 16:9).

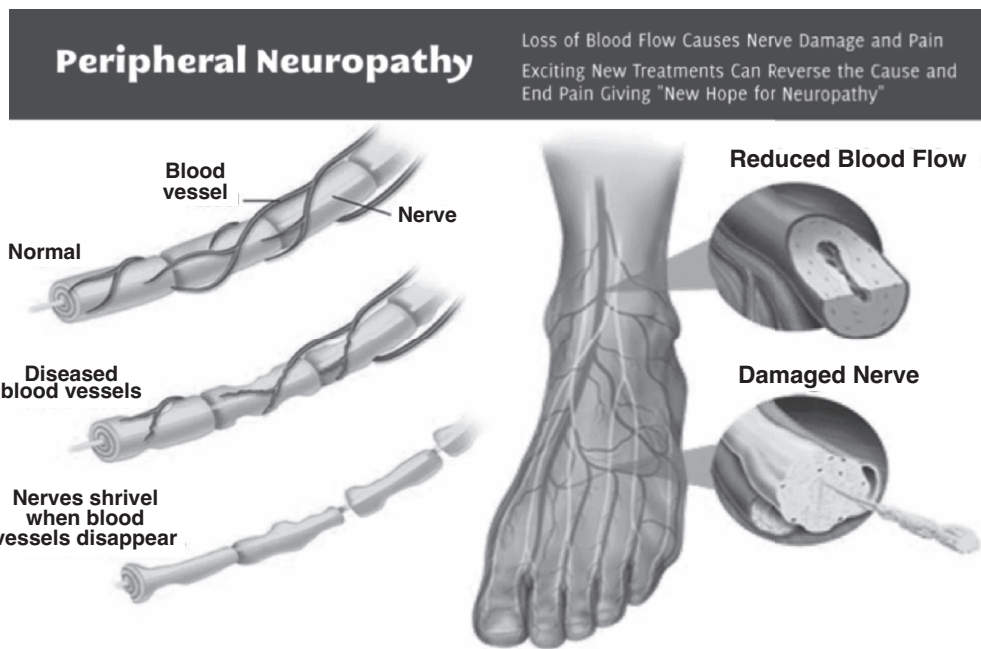
Jim was a man after God's own heart, like David. He lived by example, confessed with a contrite heart, and knew he was fully human while the God he served was fully divine.

Jim knew the divine as he readily prayed how the Lord had taught: "Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name..." (Matt. 6:9-13).

May Jim live on in us ...only to the extent that like Jim, we get out of the way in order to make way... so he might make a way through his only begotten Son who lives and reigns both now and forever.

"The Lord reigns, he is clothed with majesty; the Lord has clothed and girded himself with strength; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be move." (Ps. 93:1). Amen.

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Speaking of ...

The difference between church suppers and potluck suppers

by Sherry LaCoursiere Pippin



All those lovely church suppers I've talked about previously are only surpassed by one thing - potluck suppers. Of course, you know the difference between the two: church suppers consist of a particular menu, which is usually cooked on-site by the church members, and potluck suppers are different dishes cooked at home and brought, ready-to-eat, to the church.

The best potluck supper I ever went to (although all of them have been memorable) was one put on by the women of the church (heaven forbid I say "Church Ladies," even though that is what we were). It was a sort of "spring fling" thing, a special evening where we could get away from hubby and the kids and get together and sit down to a relaxing, extremely tasty, dinner, and enjoy one another's company. And we did.

Every woman brought her very best, most tasty, fancy dish. Some brought casseroles - not your old "funeral stew" hamburger and macaroni hotdish (which is really good, too), but elegant ones, made with chicken or shrimp and cheeses, little green things and red things and crunchy things. Nice dishes hubby and kids don't enjoy. Many brought salads - those fancy ones that were served on separate salad plates, with

little sprinkles of crispy, succulent veggies of various colors on top and interspersed throughout. Breads abounded: raised, fruit filled, bun-shaped and flat, some topped with seeds, nuts and/or fruit, and all served in tiny, flaky, bite-sizes, just right for ladies' fingers. No big hunks for us. And the desserts! The desserts were to die for. Chocolate and strawberry and lemon, tarts, tortes and tiny little puffs, cheese-filled, cream covered and frosted to perfection, and plates of cookies, bars, and mouthwatering French, Polish and Scandinavian family delicacies. It was a wonderful dinner!

But enough of that super feminine potluck dinner of long ago. I've attended plenty of the hearty potlucks, too. Those were the ones that had a certain taste of their own, a taste that was pure church potluck dinner. I think it is something chemical that happens on the plate after it is piled high. You know how the plates are never large enough for what we want to pile on them, so everything gets stuck in, around and on top of everything else?

When this piling happens, the warm hotdish is rubbing elbows with the cold gelatin, which causes the gelatin to melt into everything else on the plate. The melting gelatin is sitting on top of a porous roll, which is next to the pile of dill pickles and relish, so the roll is soaking up the vinegary juices from the side, along with the melting gelatin from the top.

Taking a forkful of what we think is one thing on that plate results in a won-

derful mixture of hot and cold, sweet, salty and sour on the tongue. It has to be a chemical reaction between the different foods that makes it taste so good.

And it seems the taste can never be duplicated with foods at home, either, no matter how hard we try. It only works with food served at the church potluck, maybe because we stand in line just long enough for everything to

melt and meld together.

I think a bit of the special atmosphere at church potlucks and dinners is created by the sharing of the meal, too. Sitting down with friends and family and partaking of such bountiful feasts is bound to create something of a magical feeling. The conversation at the potluck supper is always interesting and you know that no one ever says anything bad at potluck sup-

pers. It's the law, you know.

Have you noticed, too, that parents don't even holler at their children and/or grandchildren at potlucks? They just let them play and run around and have a good old time. And nobody seems to care if they make a little noise either. And you know, those good times the kids had at church suppers will stay with them even when they are grown up and have chil-

dren of their own. Mine often talk about the church events they attended. Of course, they've finally confessed some of the mischief they got into there, too, but that's another story. Anyway, do try to attend one of the church suppers going on in the area now. Forget the diet and indulge, and I guarantee you'll go home with a full tummy and a good feeling in your heart, too.

Public Health Points ...

Encourage kids to walk to school

Inter-County Nursing Service for Pennington County reminds residents that Oct. 2 was National Walk to School Day, and that walking to school is one way for kids to get more exercise.

One way to get kids more active is to encourage them to start walking or biking to school. Students who do benefit from 47 more minutes of physical activity per week. www.health.state.mn.us/communities/physicalactivity/saferoutes.html

Minnesota's adult obesity rate

What were Minnesota adult obesity rates over the past five years?
2018: 30.1%

2017: 28.4%
2016: 27.8%
2015: 26.1%
2014: 27.6%

What's the concern about obesity?

Obesity increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, arthritis, sleep apnea, liver disease, kidney disease, gallbladder disease and certain types of cancer. In addition to being a significant health concern, obesity is also a significant driver of health care costs. In Minnesota, 2017 health care costs due to obesity were estimated to be \$3.2 billion.

Why is addressing obesity so difficult?

"Obesity is more than just a health concern for individual Minnesotans - it's a major challenge for the entire state," said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm in a press release in mid-September. She noted that while Minnesota had managed to put the brakes on rising obesity rates for several years, these efforts have been undercut by a combination of factors that includes the ongoing popularity of sugary beverages and increased time spent on computers and mobile devices.

"Addressing this challenge requires an individual and community-level response, including smart

changes to our food and physical environments."

"Sugary drinks are the largest source of added sugars in the American diet, and the added calories from sugary drinks are strongly associated with weight gain and obesity," Malcolm said. "Also, young adults between 15 and 18 are spending more than seven and a half hours per day sitting in front of a screen - that's time they're not being active."

www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2019/obesity091219.html (CDC) 2018 state- and territory-specific data on adult obesity prevalence from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

On the Other Hand ...

How my furry brother has influenced me



by Camryn Schwab

On the Other Hand is written by students attending Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls.

Who would've ever thought one dog could leave such an imprint on your life?

One fateful day when I was 4, my mother and I were shopping around downstairs at the old Ben Franklin in town. A lady working there had a pen full of puppies. I begged my mom to let me play with them.

Mom asked the lady if I could sit in the pen while she shopped around. Well, that was probably the worst decision my mom could have made.

When Mom returned from shopping, instead of begging to play with the puppies, I was begging to get one. She finally couldn't take my whining and begging anymore and caved. She kept saying,

"We are getting a girl, though, not a boy!"

However, one specific puppy kept coming up to me. I tried to push him away, but he kept coming back. My mom saw this and decided this puppy was the one.

"Just take him," the worker said. "I'm just trying to get rid of them."

My mom felt bad for her, so she offered her everything she had left in her purse.

On the car ride home, Mom kept saying, "Oh, your

dad is going to be mad."

Well, he was very mad. But, after about two weeks, Mickey, had grown on him. Yes, there were moments Dad threatened to get rid of him. For example, it didn't take long before we didn't have a single snowmobile, ATV, or bicycle that didn't have duct tape on the seat from Mickey chewing on it.

But I didn't focus on all the bad stuff Mickey did. I focused on the stuff he did for me. Some people may find this a little different, but Mickey was my brother growing up. I'm an only child, so growing up got to be a little boring at times. Mickey helped turn those boring times into exciting times. Mickey let me dress him up; there are even pictures where he is wearing a Magic jersey and in the other, he is in scrubs. Mickey was there when I got my first black eye. I had climbed the

stairs on a slide backwards, and fell. Mickey was my makeshift pillow on the couch. And sometimes I became his makeshift pillow. Mickey played hockey with me in the driveway. But, the type of hockey we played was a little unusual. Instead of using a puck, we used a frozen horse turd.

Mickey was also my protector. He hid behind the couch with me when the FedEx guy came to the house. The biggest thing Mickey did for me, though, was he helped me realize softball was my favorite sport. Mickey and I would go hours on end playing fetch. Even though he had a bad hip, he never wanted to stop.

Mickey was my everything. But most importantly, Mickey was my outfielder. So now, I play outfield for him.



The One Vegetable, One Community Bee-utification Award was presented to Peder Engelstad Pioneer Village last Saturday at the Farmers Market. Jamie Bakken (left), director, and Beattie Mickelson, village gardener, accepted the award. Squash was the vegetable of the year. During the

planting season, One Vegetable, One Community encouraged businesses to plant squash in planters or existing landscapes because the organization believes that any time people see beautiful things in the community, they feel better about the community. (Submitted)

Times for Toddlers ...

All children grow at different rates

Children grow at different rates. This is normal and healthy. But then how do you know if your child has a delay in some area of development? When you do detect a delay, how will you know if it is something that needs immediate attention, or if it can wait a while before intervention is necessary? That is what an early childhood screening can help you find out!

Early childhood screening is a service that is provided, at no charge, by the Thief River Falls School District. Minnesota requires all children to go through a health and development screening before entering public school, preferably between the ages of 3 1/2 and 4. The purpose of the screening is not to determine kindergarten readiness, but rather to identify delays in development (including vision, hearing and speech) or other factors which could interfere with the child's ability to learn. If you have a younger child and are concerned about his/her development, you may have him/her screened by requesting an appointment.

IF YOU HAVE A 4-YEAR-OLD CHILD WHO HAS NOT BEEN SCREENED, PLEASE CALL THE CHALLENGER PRESCHOOL AT 681-8670 AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT! Screening clinics are held several times throughout the school year.

You can learn more about

children's developmental stages at a website: HelpMeGrowMN.org.

(Contributed by the Early Childhood Family Education Department of School District 564.)

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Prepare your child for the screening by talking about it. Tell your child that you are going to a special event for children. They will be weighed and measured, they will have their eyes and ears checked, and they will be asked to talk to an adult and "play some word games." Tell them that you will be with them the whole time.

(Contributed by the Early Childhood Family Education Department of School District 564.)

ACTIVITIES

Pumpkin and Shakin'
Shake up some fall fun with these nifty milk-carton shakers. To make one, paint an empty half-pint milk carton orange. When the paint is dry, place a handful of dried beans inside the carton. Cut several lengths of green curling ribbon; then tape one end of each length inside the carton top. Curl the lengths of ribbon to resemble vines. Staple two construction-paper leaves to the top of the carton while stapling the top shut. If desired, glue black construction paper features or use a black marker on one side of the carton to create a jack-o'-lantern face. Now get your children shaking as they sing their

Halloween favorites or the song below!

I'm Picking Out a Pumpkin
(Sung to the tune of "I'm Bringing Home a Baby Bumblebee")

I'm picking out a pumpkin on a vine.

I want one big and fat and fine.

I'm picking out a pumpkin on a vine.

Oh, I see mine!

I'm pulling on a pumpkin on a vine.

It's so big and fat and fine!

I'm pulling on a pumpkin on a vine.

Snap! It's mine!

SCAVENGER HUNT

For next week's Activities feature, you will need a large piece of clear Con-Tact paper, black marker, tape, and several black pom-poms.

(Contributed by Discovery Place Early Learning Center.)

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Q: How do you fix a flat pumpkin?

A: With a pumpkin patch.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

There are thousands of books written for young children every year and many are available for you to borrow from a public library or can be purchased from a bookstore or online. Here are a classic children's book or two that your family might enjoy:

Brown, Margaret Wise. **I Like Bugs**. In brief rhyming text, lists all the

types of insects the narrator likes.

Sturges, Philemon. **I Love Bugs!** A boy extols the various characteristics of insects, all of which he loves.

VIDEO VARIETY

In addition to the books that are available for your family, there are also many movies and documentaries that may make you laugh and inspire you, as well. Here is one classic choice:

Miss Spider's Tea Party. This Read with Me DVD software is filled with learning exercises and games based on David Kirk's irresistible story about the rewards of kindness and the importance of friendship.

WONDERS OF THE WEB

The Internet has long been available to supplement your parenting knowledge and skills. This is one web location that your family might enjoy: Ideas for helping your child study insects. <https://layers-of-learning.com/insects-for-preschool/>

Remember that you can also visit the website of your local public library to find out more about local library services. Libraries in much of northwest Minnesota are listed on the Northwest Regional Library website: <http://www.nwr-lib.org/>

(With assistance from the Thief River Falls Public Library.)

Student survey shows vaping rates up sharply

Governor calls for aggressive outreach and policy response

Amid the backdrop of an ongoing national outbreak of severe lung injuries associated with vaping, new survey results released Oct. 2 show an alarming jump in the rate of teens vaping in Minnesota. In response, Gov. Tim Walz is calling for an aggressive, multi-faceted campaign focused on youth education, outreach and tightening limits for accessing vaping products.

Survey Findings
According to the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey, one in four Minnesota 11th graders reported using an e-cigarette in the past 30 days. That represents a 54% increase from the 2016 survey, in which 17% of 11th graders reported vaping. The jump among eighth graders is even more significant, with nearly twice as many students (11% in 2019 compared to 5.7% in 2016) reporting using an e-cigarette in the past 30 days.

The survey also found Minnesota youth are ill-informed about the health risks of e-cigarettes with 76% of eleventh graders saying there is either no, slight or a moderate risk to using e-cigarettes. E-cigarette marketing efforts have included child-friendly flavorings and misinformation related to the safety of vaping products.

These survey results come to light at the same time the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and partners around the country are racing to determine the cause of

severe lung injuries associated with vaping. The latest Minnesota count is now 55 confirmed or probable cases of vaping-related severe lung injuries, and one death. Nationwide, more than 800 cases have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Vaping is a public health crisis for young Minnesotans, and it is critical that we act now to bring the rate down,” Walz said. “As a teacher and as a father, I know the first step is making sure our young people understand the risks. That’s why I’ve directed our health and education commissioners to work together to get the word out to students, parents and school officials this month while also putting forward bold legislative policies to tackle this crisis head on. Our goal must be to make sure young people and the adults in their lives have the information, support, and resources to fight back against those profiting at the expense of our children’s health and well-being.”

“As the mom of a child with asthma and as someone who has advocated for children for my entire career, I am deeply concerned about the rising rates of vaping in our schools and the potential health risks for our future generation,” said Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan. “Eighth graders don’t have lobbyists. It’s our responsibility as elected officials, advo-

cates, and adults to fight back on their behalf.”

Outreach and Policy Response

Walz has directed the commissioners of health and education to work together to launch an aggressive outreach campaign to provide school officials with information and resources to help as they struggle with vaping in schools. This includes conducting informational briefings across the state as well as other activities to get information to parents, students and health care providers to make sure people understand the risks of vaping. This action builds on the departments’ previous work to prevent vaping through a variety of efforts, including a School E-cigarette Toolkit that provides resources for school staff working to address the use of vaping products in schools.

Meanwhile, Walz has directed his Administration to determine a set of bold 2020 policy options to combat youth vaping. The list of legislative options under consideration includes: raising the statewide legal age for tobacco to 21; prohibiting the internet sale of tobacco products, e-cigarettes and vaping products; prohibiting the sale of all flavored nicotine and tobacco products; and providing authority for MDH to declare a public health emergency in critical situations.

“I have heard concerns

about the impact of vaping in just about every school that I’ve visited,” said Minnesota Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker. “We will work together to combat this problem. That’s why the Minnesota Department of Education is partnering with Commissioner Malcolm and the Department of Health and working with students, parents, and educators to make sure they have access to the critical information and resources about the health risks, prevention strategies, and how to address the use of vaping in schools.”

Additional Survey Findings

The vaping rate information is one of several categories of information about student health generated by the Minnesota Student Survey, a voluntary, anonymous survey conducted every three years. It includes questions tailored for various grade levels regarding school climate, bullying, out-of-school activities, healthy eating, emotional health, substance use, connections with school and family, and other topics. State agencies use the survey data to identify important trends and efficiently target resources to improve the well-being of the state’s youth. The complete survey results will be released in the coming weeks.

The survey data show the challenges ahead for those seeking to limit youth vaping. Eleventh grade stu-

dents responding to the survey said they got e-cigarettes in several ways, including getting products from friends (72% of respondents), getting someone else to buy them (22%), getting products at a vape shop (14%), and getting products on the Internet (10%). E-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and harmful to the adolescent brain. Nicotine can impact learning, memory and attention span, and contributes to future addiction to tobacco and other substances. E-cigarettes can also be used to vape other substances – including illegal THC products that have been associated with the Minnesota cases of severe lung injuries.

Research shows teens who try e-cigarettes are nearly four times as likely to start smoking cigarettes as teens who do not try them. Nicotine in e-cigarettes and other tobacco

products can also prime the adolescent brain for addiction to tobacco and substances.

The 2017 Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey found that one in three high school students who used e-cigarettes reported trying the device with marijuana.

“The cases of severe lung injuries in Minnesota and other states show how dangerous vaping can be,” said Minnesota Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm. “However, this isn’t just about the lung injuries associated with vaping illegal THC. We should all be very alarmed by the increasing number of eighth graders who reported vaping, because we know that the earlier a person is exposed to nicotine, the greater their risk in terms of future brain development and addiction.”

MN Commerce Dept. releases 2020 health insurance rates

Minnesota’s individual and small group health insurance market rates for 2020 reflect stabilized markets, according to information released by the Minnesota Department of Commerce in advance of the open enrollment period beginning Nov. 1.

“Rates for health insurance plans in the individual and small group markets for 2020 indicate that Minnesota has stable health insurance markets. However, many Minnesotans still struggle to afford health insurance, due in part to the combination of expensive premiums and out-of-pocket costs,” said Minnesota Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelley.

With Blue Plus joining Medica in offering statewide plans, every county in Minnesota will have at least two insurers offering coverage in the individual market, and every county will have at least 14 separate health insurance plan options available in the individual market. Additionally, three insurers — U Care, HealthPartners and Medica — will not have enrollment caps in 2020.

The small group market serves employers with fewer than 50 full-time workers who purchase insurance for their employees. Individual market rates apply to health insurance plans that Minnesotans purchase for themselves and their families through MNSure, insurance agents or the insurance companies directly. The rates do not affect Minnesotans who are covered by large employer-based insurance or public programs like Medicare, Medicaid and MinnesotaCare.

In the small group market, the 2020 average rate changes range from a 9.43 percent decrease to an 8.87 percent increase. In the individual market, the 2020 average rate changes range from a 20 percent decrease to a 0.18 percent increase.

Small Group Final Rate Changes

Blue Cross - 4.10%; Blue Plus 5.30%; Quartz (formerly Gunderson) -9.43%; HealthPartners Inc. 4.07%; HealthPartners Ins. Co. 4.68%; Medica Insurance Co. 3.71%; PreferredOne Community Health Plan 3.00%; PreferredOne Insurance Co. 2.00%; Sanford 1.94%; UnitedHealthcare 8.87%; UnitedHealthcare of

Individual Mark Final Rate Changes

Blue Plus -1.50%; Group Health (HealthPartners) - 1.26%; Medica Insurance Co. -1.01%; PreferredOne Insurance Co. -20.00%; UCare 0.18%.

The actual rate change that a consumer will experience in 2020 can vary depending on factors such as specific plan, geographic rating area and age.

The Commerce Department website (mn.gov/commerce) has a rate change summary with more details.

Commerce works to stabilize the market

On behalf of Minnesota consumers, the Department of Commerce reviews health insurance rate proposals to make sure they meet actuarial standards and comply with state and federal consumer protection laws. The Minnesota Department of Health evaluates the plans for network adequacy, while MNSure operates the state’s health insurance marketplace where individuals and families can shop, compare and choose health insurance coverage, and receive tax credits if they qualify.

Rate changes for 2020 indicate that Minnesota’s individual health insurance market has stabilized from the dramatic market fluctuations that occurred in 2016 and 2017. This is due, in part, to Commerce’s role in establishing Minnesota’s reinsurance program.

Minnesota enacted its reinsurance program, known as the Minnesota Premium Security Plan, to offset the expense to insurers of high-cost medical claims. Specifically, the program reimburses insurers for 80 percent of an individual’s annual claims costs that fall between approximately \$50,000 and \$250,000.

“The work done by Commerce to implement the reinsurance program in 2017 is one tool used by the State to ensure the existence of a stable marketplace for consumers to purchase health coverage,” said Kelley. “But as Minnesota consumers are experiencing, the program does not address the underlying costs of health care. Commerce and the entire Walz-Flanagan administration will continue to look for policy solutions to not only stabilize, but address the overall costs of health care for all Minnesotans.”

Open enrollment begins Nov. 1

The rate announcement comes in advance of the annual open enrollment period, which begins on Nov. 1 and continues through Dec. 23, 2019. Insurance companies, insurance agents and MNSure will have specific plan information available for consumers soon.

Minnesotans can view available 2020 plans through MNSure starting on Oct. 15. MNSure’s shop and compare tool allows consumers to find the plan that offers the best value for their health needs and budget. For the continuity of their own health care, consumers should carefully review a plan’s provider network to see what doctors, clinics and hospitals are included.

MNSure is the only place consumers can access federal tax credits that can reduce premium costs. For 2020 plans, the tax credits are available to households with incomes up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level, which in 2019 is \$49,960 for an individual and \$103,000 for a family of four. Additional income guidelines are available on the MNSure website. Approximately 60 percent of current MNSure enrollees are receiving tax credits.

GATZKE NEWS

Mrs. Clifford Klamar • 459-3445

Thursday, Howard and Mary Ann Lunsetter attended funeral services for Dolores Kolden at First Lutheran Church in Middle River.

Dwight Hassler and Duane Reimer of Iowa spent a week at the Alan Severts home.

George Rybakoski of Middle River visited recently at the Alan Severts home.

On Thursday, Howard and MaryAnn Lunsetter visited at the Tim Bernstein home in Grygla.

Sandy Severts and Tammy Wallace went to the Middle River pageant on Saturday evening.

Seniors met at the Center on Thursday for a potluck lunch.

Sue Aune was a coffee guest on Sunday at the Alan Severts home.

Friday, Howard and Mary Ann Lunsetter had dinner at Yo-Hawns in Grygla with Dale and Elaine Billberg and Marion Moe.

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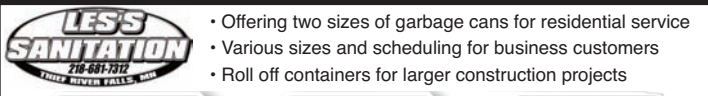
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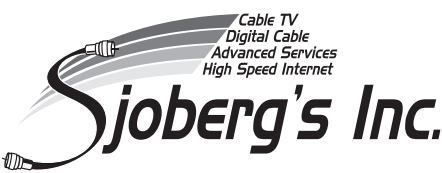


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Health insurance rates remain stable; save on premium costs through MNsure

The Minnesota Department of Commerce announced final 2020 health insurance rates. Premiums across the state are remaining stable and every county in Minnesota will have at least two insurers offering coverage in the individual market. Minnesotans looking for coverage should enroll during MNsure's open enrollment period, which begins Nov. 1, 2019.

"MNsure will offer 39 more health plan options in 2020," said MNsure CEO Nate Clark. "Which means more coverage and network choices for Minnesotans across the state."

BluePlus, HealthPartners, Medica and UCare will offer 122 differ-

ent health insurance plans through MNsure for the 2020 coverage year. Dental plans will be available from Delta Dental and Dentegra. All premium rate information are available on the Minnesota Department of Commerce website.

While premiums remain stable, MNsure reminds Minnesotans that tax credits can help lower their monthly premiums.

According to the Department of Health's Health Access Survey, nearly 75 percent of uninsured Minnesotans—over 250,000 people—in 2017 would have been eligible for financial help through MNsure.

Income guidelines for financial help are available

at the MNsure website.

"There is a misconception that most people earn too much to qualify for financial help through MNsure when the truth is that an individual earning up to \$49,960 a year, or a family of four earning up to \$103,000 a year, can qualify," Clark said.

Minnesotans can view available 2020 plans through MNsure starting Oct. 15.

MNsure's seventh open enrollment period runs Nov. 1, 2019, to Dec. 23, 2019. More information can be found on MNsure.org.



The Middle River Goose Festival activities began Friday, Sept. 27, but these media representatives met at Sundance Dining in Thief River Falls for a welcome dinner to kick off the 13th collaborative event between the Middle River Community Club and Visit Thief River Falls. They have worked together for 13 years to bring media from a large area to cover the annual Goose Festival and promote hunting in the Thief River Falls area. Pictured are (front row) Laura Stengrim, Visit Thief River Falls executive director; Larry Rohlf, Visit Thief River Falls and Thief River Falls Trap Club; Vern Boer, Wild Dakota; Tom and KayDell Super, Goose Festival Co-Chairpeople/Middle River City Council; Dave Bergman, Explore

Minnesota; (middle row) Brian Holmer, mayor of Thief River Falls; Brock Kepford, Wild Dakota; Miss Thief River Falls Shelby Erickson; Miss Middle River Piper Sondreal; Tim Ferch, North Country Promotions; Matt Breuer, Outdoors Weekly; (back row) Doug Johnson, KRWB Radio; Hunter Host Matt Olson; Hunter Host Wyatt Lunke; Hunter Host Wyatt Alby; Mike Pederson, KKWQ Radio. Other hunter hosts and media attending the weekend but not pictured were Hunter Hosts Izeck Lunke, Josh Veselka and Matt Brenden; Mark Johnson, Pioneer Radio; Middle River Mayor Mark Stromsodt and Jeffrey Boer, Wild Dakota. (Submitted)

Local 4-Hers participate in State 4-H Show

Four Pennington County 4-Hers participated in the Minnesota 4-H State Horse show Sept. 13-16.

They included:

- Kinzie Melvie, who competed in Poles, Barrels, Jumping Figure 8 and Key Race
- Lydia Nelson, who competed in Western Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation and Trail

Jumping Figure 8

Annie Olson, who competed in Poles, Barrels, Jumping Figure 8 and Key Race

Madelyn Westlin, who competed in Western Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation and Trail

This year, 634 youth from across the state participated in the annual event

at the Minnesota State Fair. 4-Hers demonstrate their skills and knowledge in hipology (showing knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry), horse judging (study of an animal, measuring it against an accepted ideal), horse training and achievement, speech and demonstrations about interest in horses or the horse industry, showmanship and drill team skills.

Youth who participate in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Project learn about show, trail, and endurance riding; test their horse knowledge at quiz bowls or on judging teams, and study horse science. Youth may participate if they own or lease a horse. There are options for youth who are interested in horses but don't have access to one in their community.

"Through the Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show, youth build communications skills, gain deeper learning and interest in horses, and build relationships with caring adults," said Renee Kostick, Extension educator who manages the 4-H horse project in Minnesota. "These experiences contribute to their success in school, community, and the future."



Pennington County 4-Hers participating in the Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show included (from left) Madelyn Westlin, Lydia Nelson, Kinzie Melvie and Annie Olson. The show was held Sept. 13-16. (Submitted)

GATZKE NEWS

Mrs. Clifford Klamar • 459-3445

Clifford and Mary Klamar were among those on Saturday who attended the 60th wedding anniversary celebration for Elhue and Evelyn Castle in Roseau.

Ronnie and Shelia Peterson visited on Thursday at the Alan Severts home. Monday, Bob Engelstad visited at the Howard Lunsetter home.

Gordy and Darlene Leman of Grantsberg, Wis., spent Monday and Tuesday at the Alan Severts home. They also visited with Tammy and Lew Wallace.

Ron and Bonnie Ward were coffee guests at the Howard Lunsetter home on Wednesday.

Marcus Wallace visited recently with his grandparents, the Alan Severts.

Buck and Marg Barth visited recently at the Alan Severts home.



Thief River Falls Mayor Brian Holmer (left) and Middle River City Council member Tom Super showed the cooperation between the two cities by welcoming Miss Thief River Falls Shelby Erickson (second from left) and Miss Middle River Piper Sondreal to the annual media event "Call of the Goose" Media Familiarization Tour. This is a collaborative event hosted by Visit Thief River Falls and the Middle River Community Club to promote the Middle River Goose Festival and the Thief River Falls area. (Submitted)

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Walz unveils Clean Car standards

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to implement clean car standards—reducing carbon emissions and increasing the choices Minnesotans have when it comes to purchasing electric cars. The new standards will combat climate change, protect public health, increase consumer choice, create jobs, and save Minnesotans money at the pump.

“Climate change threatens the very things that make Minnesota a great place to live, from our magnificent 10,000 lakes to our farmable land and clean air,” said Walz. “If Washington won’t lead on climate, Minnesota will. That is why we are taking bold action to reduce carbon emissions in a way that increases car options, protects public health, creates jobs, and saves Minnesotans money at the pump.”

The governor directed his Administration to implement two clean cars standards to reduce vehicle emissions in our state. The low-emission vehicle (LEV) standard requires vehicle manufacturers to deliver passenger cars, trucks and SUVs that produce lower greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants for sale in Minnesota. The zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) standard requires automobile manufacturers to deliver more vehicles with ultra-low or zero tailpipe emissions for sale in Minnesota, including electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrid models. Initial estimates indicate that these two policies combined may reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by two million tons by 2030.

“Minnesota is an amazing place to live, but we must take immediate action to ensure our children can enjoy it for generations to come,” Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan said. “For too long, low-income communities, communities of color and Indigenous communities have been disproportionately impacted by air pollution. These new standards put Minnesota at the forefront of the Green Energy economy and ensure that all Minnesotans have the opportunity to breathe clean air.”

These new standards will increase consumer choice in Minnesota. Despite the fact that many Minnesotans want to drive electric vehicles, manufacturers offer less than half of their models here, and instead offer them in states that have adopted clean car standards. Implementing clean car standards in Minnesota will unleash this market in our state, give Minnesotans greater access to vehicles with better fuel economy, and increase the availability of used electric vehicles. Minnesotans get to choose the vehicle that is right for them and their families. Setting higher standards does not force anyone to give up their current vehicle or choose a vehicle that does not work for their lifestyle.

The new standards will save Minnesotans money at the pump. America’s clean car standards have saved drivers in other states over \$88 billion and counting. The clean car standards are estimated to save Minnesotans \$320 million a year in 2030 and \$750 million a year by 2040. These benefits would be even higher under a high gasoline price case. Electric vehicles are cheaper to

operate and maintain than gasoline vehicles. Increasing access to these vehicles will save Minnesotans thousands of dollars over the lifetime of their car and reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil.

The standards will also improve public health by reducing emissions and protecting Minnesotans from air pollution in every corner of the state. Building out Minnesota’s electric vehicle infrastructure will create good-paying jobs and boost the economy across the state, particularly Minnesota’s rural electric cooperatives. Already, more than 61,000 Minnesotans work in clean energy, with 40 percent of these jobs in Greater Minnesota.

“Clean Cars Minnesota builds on local climate leadership and activism by starting the process of adopting the same clean car standards that have been implemented in 14 other states, including Colorado and Maine,” said MPCA Commissioner Laura Bishop. “If Colorado and Maine can make new standards for electric vehicles work, Minnesota can definitely do it.”

The transportation sector is one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota. Last week, the Minnesota Department of Transportation released a report recommending state-level ways to cut carbon emissions, which included the adoption of clean car standards. As part of putting together this report, MnDOT gathered input from Minnesotans across the state and Minnesotans made clear they want to help move our state towards a low-carbon transportation future.

“Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is critical to MnDOT’s vision of maximizing the health of people, the environment and our economy,” said MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher. “I’m proud of the proactive efforts our team has taken to engage the public and other agencies in this discussion, and develop meaningful actions and recommendations that will help Minnesota achieve a low-carbon transportation future.”

Walz is ensuring Minnesota is at the forefront of the effort to combat climate change. Earlier, the governor declared Sept. 23 – 29 to be ‘Climate Week’ in Minnesota to highlight the bold action necessary to mitigate climate change. He recently established the Governor’s Biofuels Council to advise his Administration on policies that will foster growth of Minnesota’s biofuel industry and help move our state toward a cleaner, greener transportation sector. The Council will advise the governor on how to best expand the use of biofuels, increase the carbon efficiency of biofuels, and implement biofuels as part of Minnesota’s larger goal to reduce greenhouse gas production in the transportation sector.

Walz has also put forward a set of policy proposals that will lead our state’s electricity sector to 100% clean energy by 2050. These policies will reduce Minnesota’s dependence on fossil fuels and increase the use of clean energy while ensuring reliable, affordable electricity. This effort will help ensure Minnesota has a cleaner, healthier environment and a strong clean energy economy.



Minnesota state senators Bill Ingebrigtsen (left) and Charles Wiger toured the inside of a CRJ-200 at the Thief River Falls Regional Airport on Wednesday, Oct. 2. The Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee toured

the airport to hear about the Airport Authority’s request for \$6.75 million for a new \$7.5 million cargo hangar. Video is online at www.trftimes.com.

Funding sought for hangar/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) p.m.,” said Chris Lauer, vice president of order fulfillment at Digi-Key. He added that someone in the United States, Canada and most of Mexico may order a part by 7:50 p.m. and have it on their doorstep by the next morning. For that to happen, Digi-Key relies on IFL Group and the CRJ-200 aircraft.

However, the current multipurpose hangar can only fit one CRJ-200 at a time. “As it is, it is a problem of the door width and the depth of the hangar, so you can get one into the corner, but you just don’t have the wing space clearance off to the side,” said Airport Manager Joe Hedrick. Larger ground support equipment further complicate matters.

“In addition to just storing the aircraft, loading them inside of the temperature-controlled climate is crucial as well,” said

Hedrick. He referred to the unpleasant weather conditions one may face while loading and unloading packages into an aircraft parked outside on a ramp.

The Airport Authority has come up with a solution – build a 50,000 square-foot cargo hangar south of its fuel farm. The hangar would have enough space to park three CRJ-200 aircraft. An access route would be located along Pennington County State Aid Highway 17.

The Airport Authority already has ideas about who may use the multipurpose hangar after the proposed cargo hangar is built.

“We’ve got a myriad of different users that could potentially use this hangar, including Textron with their corporate aircraft, Sanford with their charter aircraft and passengers that are requiring emergency transportation,” Hedrick said. He also referred to other poten-

tial tenants, including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Boutique Air.

“During wintertime, in particular, to be able to offload or onload patients in a heated facility like this will be extremely beneficial,” said Sanford Thief River Falls Chief Executive Officer Brian Carlson. “Oftentimes, medical transport is not always about getting a patient from our location to a different location quickly.”

In those situations, Sanford transports medical professionals from its Fargo, N.D., facilities to Thief River Falls. They help stabilize the patient further here and then transport the patient. While out-of-area staff are helping tend to the patient’s needs, Sanford’s fixed-wing aircraft sits idle outside at the airport.

Now what?
The Thief River Falls proposal was among more

than 30 proposals from local governments, colleges, state agencies and other entities. The proposals totalled more than \$5.3 billion.

“It was an insightful tour that highlights just how vast the needs are across the state of Minnesota. Visiting these communities, meeting the passionate people involved in the projects, and seeing the projects firsthand really helps the committee make decisions on which projects we have the capacity to fund. When the legislative session begins, there will be some really tough decisions to make,” said Sen. David Senjem (R-Rochester), chairperson of the Capital Investment Committee, in a press release.

The committee is expected to formally consider the requests once the Legislature convenes in February.



Chris Lauer (far right), vice president of order fulfillment at Digi-Key, filled in Minnesota state senators on the need for a new cargo hangar at the Thief River Falls Regional Airport on Wednesday, Oct. 2. The Minnesota Senate Capital

Investment Committee toured the airport to hear about the Airport Authority’s request for \$6.75 million for a new \$7.5 million cargo hangar. Video is online at www.trftimes.com.

Riders visit/Continued

(Continued from Page 1) youth from the White Earth, Red Lake reservations, and Dakota youth from Sisseton and other reservations ride together this fall to honor the water and future generations.

This year’s ride is supported by many individual donations through www.honorearth.org, including the donation of a new horse stock trailer: “We are really grateful to all those who make this possible, and grateful to you for your prayers,” LaDuke said. Those interested in supporting the ride with donations, hay, water or food can contact the riders at hon-

orearth.org. Many of the youth in this year’s ride also ride in the Dakota 38 +2, and Big Foot Memorial Rides, commemorating the hangings of the 38 Dakota and two others that occurred on Dec. 26, 1862 – one day after Christmas, and the route that Chief Bigfoot followed with his people, before they were massacred at the site of Wounded Knee in Pine Ridge, S.D. For the past 30+ years, many memorial and healing rides have emerged in Native communities, bringing together cultural restoration and horse therapy.

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MnDOT announces availability of grants

Minnesota communities, schools and their partners are invited to apply for funding for local projects that enhance transportation goals, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

For the 2019-20 application cycle, MnDOT is conducting a solicitation for the Transportation Alternatives program. Applicants submit a letter of intent to be considered. A regional representative will contact applicants to help review the project proposal and the

steps necessary for delivering a funded project. Applicants will then submit a full grant application.

A total of \$6.2 million is available in federal funding through the Transportation Alternatives program in Greater Minnesota (each region has a sub-targeted fund). This program offers a competitive grant for Greater Minnesota communities, schools and regional agencies to fund pedestrian and bicycle facilities, historic preservation, Safe Routes to School and more.

Projects selected for the Transportation Alternatives program must be implemented in 2024.

Grant solicitation timeline:

- Oct. 31 – Deadline for applicants to submit letters of intent.
- Jan. 3, 2020 – Deadline for applicants to submit full applications.
- April 15, 2020 – Grant recipients announced.

For grant details see the Transportation Alternatives website (www.mndot.gov/ta/).



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SCOTT DCAMP
 Sports Editor
 e-mail: scott@trftimes.com



Pioneers fall to Wildcats in overtime

NDSCS defeats Northland 27-21 in Western Division battle for first

Sixty minutes wasn't enough time to decide Saturday's MCAC Western Division showdown between North Dakota State College of Science and Northland Community & Technical College in East Grand Forks.

With first place on the line, the visiting Wildcats claimed a 27-21 overtime win over the Pioneers.

"I'm not over it yet," said Northland Head Coach Jeremy Richardson. "I hate the fact that we let one slip through. We battled back and put ourselves in a position to finish the game off and we didn't do it."

North Dakota State College of Science used a run-

heavy offense to piece together an opening drive that took more than eight minutes off the clock before it ended with a Trashawn McMillan to Daveone Williams touchdown pass from seven yards out.

The Wildcats converted two fourth downs on the drive, one of which was originally a successful field goal by kicker Spencer Skeesick. After a five-yard penalty for lining up off-sides, the Wildcats took points off the board and opted to go for it on fourth and short.

The Wildcats continued to use the run to set up the pass in the second quarter, as Austin Lawson grabbed a 13-

yard pass from McMillan to make it 14-0.

"We didn't play bad, we just didn't make plays," Richardson said.

Northland trailed 14-0 at the half, but got things going late in the third quarter after defensive back Brandon Brown fell on a loose ball at the NDSCS 32-yard line.

The Pioneers took advantage of the great field position and put together a 10-play scoring drive that ended with a one-yard fourth and goal touchdown run by Raphael Bell. On the run, Bell started to his right, but heavy penetration by NDSCS forced him to cut

[Continued on page 3]



Northland running back Raphael Bell runs through the arm tackle of an NDSCS defender during the first quarter of Saturday's MCAC Western Division game. NDSCS won the game in overtime 27-21.

Prowlers receive top-seed in Section 8A girls tennis

Seeds are in for the 2019 Section 8A girls tennis team tournament. Thief River Falls is the top-seeded team in the section. The Prowlers will open section play at 10:30 a.m. Thursday against eighth-seeded Parkers Prairie at Courts Plus in Fargo, N.D.

Other first round matchups include second-seeded Perham against seventh-seeded Wadena; third-seeded East Grand

Forks against sixth-seeded Park Rapids; and fourth-seeded Crookston against fifth-seeded Roseau.

Quarterfinal and semifinal team matches will be held Thursday. The championship match will be held Friday morning.

The Section 8A individual tournament will begin Friday afternoon, following the conclusion of the Section 8A team championship. Thief River Falls is represented by

a pair of number one seeds in the individual portion. Emma Fagerstrom is the top singles seed, while the team of Khloe Lund and Bela Nelson is the top seed in the doubles competition.

Also competing in the individual tournament are Ava Yuska, seeded sixth in singles; and Brea Prickett/Brooklyn Broadwell, seeded seventh in doubles.

Prowlers are blanked by Patriots

Pequot Lakes gave Thief River Falls its sixth loss in six games during the 2019 season Friday night. Playing at Swenson Field, the visiting Patriots became the fourth team to post a shutout against the Prowlers, with an 18-0 win.

Despite failing to score, the Prowlers were in the game for most of the 48 minutes.

"We moved the ball fairly well, but key penalties and other mistakes hurt us," said Head Coach Bryce Lingen. "As disciplined as we were on offense in drawing them off-sides, we had some bad penalties that really hurt us."

Ball security was one area that cost the Prowlers. They fumbled the ball six times and lost two fumbles. Five of the six were on the center to quarterback exchange.

Pequot Lakes was also mistake-prone, especially on the defensive side of the ball with six encroachment penalties and two pass interference penalties. Overall, the Patriots committed 14 accepted penalties for 130 yards.

Lingen said the pass interference penalties were a sign that the Thief River Falls receivers ran good routes. Getting balls to the receivers was challenging at times, however, due to the fairly

consistent blitzing done by Pequot Lakes.

The Prowlers used screens and draws to get the Patriots to back off on the pressure, and it worked to an extent as quarterback Grant Hartmann completed 14-of-32 passes for 141 yards and an interception.

"I thought Grant battled," Lingen said. "I don't know how many times he was hit, but he was on the ground a lot."

Hartmann also showcased some speed when he pulled the ball down and ran with it. His best three runs went for 20, 12 and 10 yards on a day that he finished with nine carries for 33 yards.

"None of that was designed," Lingen said. "He

just made some good decisions."

Pequot Lakes took a 6-0 lead on a Bode Magnusson 11-yard touchdown run that capped a nine-play, 55-yard scoring drive that was its first possession of the game.

The score was still 6-0 when Pequot Lakes took the ball for its second possession of the second half. The Patriots put together an eight-play, 58-yard drive, with six of the carries by Zach Jorgens, to take a 12-0 lead. Jorgens did the heavy lifting on the drive, but it was Nick Kostaska who hit pay dirt with a seven-yard touchdown run.

Down 12-0, the Prowlers pieced together a 14-play drive that reached the

[Continued on page 3]



Thief River Falls quarterback Grant Hartmann hands off to running back Cole Johnson, with Carter Pribyl leading the way upfield during the first quarter of Thief River Falls' home game against Pequot Lakes Friday night. The Patriots defeated the Prowlers 18-0.

TRF SPORTS

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| <p>Wednesday, Oct. 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Volleyball - NCTC at Central Lakes 6:30 p.m. <p>Thursday, Oct. 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Football - LHS at East Grand Forks 6 p.m. ■ Tennis - LHS Girls at Section 8A Tournament (Courts Plus, Fargo, N.D.) TBA <p>Friday, Oct. 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hockey - TRF Norskies vs. Dryden 7 p.m. ■ Tennis - LHS Girls at Section 8A Tournament (Courts Plus, Fargo, N.D.) TBA ■ Volleyball - NCTC vs. Hibbing 6:30 p.m. | <p>Saturday, Oct. 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hockey - TRF Norskies vs. Dryden 7 p.m. ■ Swimming - LHS Girls at Section 8A True Team (Grand Rapids) 2 p.m. ■ Volleyball - LHS at Brainerd Tournament 9 a.m.; NCTC vs. Mesabi Range 11:30 p.m. <p>Tuesday, Oct. 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cross Country - LHS at Bemidji Invitational 4 p.m. ■ Swimming - LHS vs. Crookston, Grand Forks Central 5 p.m. ■ Volleyball - LHS vs. Warroad 7:30 p.m. |
|---|---|

Restoring the roar

The tradition of the Prowler Van returns

by Scott DCamp
 Sports Editor

An old tradition has been reborn. Friday night, Thief River Falls football fans once again heard the audible roar of the Prowler Football Van after big plays made by the Prowlers during the game.

The original Prowler Football Van debuted in 2007. Lee Plumbing & Heating donated an old work van to the Thief River Falls football program.

"We raised some funds among the parents and had it painted at the college," said Jim Mattison, whose son Billy was a senior on the 2007 Prowler football team. "In '05 and '06, there were a lot of the students who were backing their cars up to the fence and revving their engines after scores. The parents got together and decided to get them a support vehicle."

John Weets at Big John's Muffler donated pipes for the van. The original Prowler Van was up and running, and it led the chorus of loud engines game after game.

Jeff Mumm, head football coach at the time, said the goal of the van was to get support from non-

athletes.

"We had a spot at the MEC where all the kids who had trucks would park together at the south end," Mumm said. "Mr. Lynn Dyer had it coned off, so no one could park there except them. Big trucks, loud trucks, flags, tailgating, etc. Not sure what else was going on back there, but we left them alone. When the National Anthem was done, they'd rev up their trucks. They'd do the same after we scored. Loud, obnoxious, but a great tradition that just pissed off our opponents. The Prowler Van would lead it."

The tradition of the Prowler Van continued for the next 11 seasons. Each year, the van was entrusted to one of the senior captains and his family. The family would insure the vehicle for the year.

Following the season, that player would pass the torch, or, in this case the van keys and title to the van, to a junior who would take responsibility for it for the subsequent winter, spring and summer.

The original Prowler Van met its demise this past winter, when the shed it was stored in collapsed due to the excessive snow volume.

It appeared that the tradition had died ... at least for the first few weeks of the current season.

The new Prowler Van
 Jeff Brouse, owner of The Shop and father of sophomore lineman

Jaxon Brouse, was recently approached by DHL for some work.
 [Continued on page 3]





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Grant Hartmann
Current Sport: Football
Positions: Quarterback, Defensive End
Favorite Sports Team: Twins
Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo
Favorite Movie/TV show: QB1
Career Highlight/favorite memory: Bus rides with the team.
Other Sports/Activities: Hockey and baseball
Plans After High School: College baseball

Jonathan Hulst

Current Sport: Football
Positions: O-line, D-line
Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Vikings
Favorite Food: Cheesburger
Favorite Movie/TV show: Criminal Minds
Career Highlight/favorite memory: C Team against Crookston in 10th grade
Other Sports/Activities: LHS Band
Plans After High School: Undecided



Cole Johnson
Current Sport: Football
Positions: Running back, Middle linebacker.
Favorite Sports Team: Vikings
Favorite Food: Sushi
Favorite Movie/TV show: Rick and Morty
Career Highlight/favorite memory: The EGF playoff game
Other Sports/Activities: Pole Vault, wrestling, weightlifting
Plans After High School: Play football in college

Matt Kolden

Current Sport: Football
Positions: Wing back, Cornerback
Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Vikings
Favorite Food: Brownies
Favorite Movie/TV show: The Office
Career Highlight/favorite memory: Playing under the lights
Other Sports/Activities: Baseball
Plans After High School: College



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Letters of interest to our Readers

Meaningful engagement can drive environmental protection and tribal opportunities

To: Minnesota and to our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters to the South,

We represent many of the First Nations along the Line 3 Replacement Project (L3RP) in Canada, including Blackfoot, Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, Ojibwe and Anishinabe.

We want to share what we experienced as L3RP was proposed and then built through our traditional and treaty lands.

For many of us, the decision to either oppose or find ways to influence and benefit from the project was not easy, but we did choose to engage with Enbridge. We worked with them and found ways to ensure environmental protections, and ways to secure tangible economic benefits and career development commitments for the indigenous people we represent. Enbridge listened and we believe this project has been a success for our people.

Many Indigenous people participated in cultural surveys, cultural walks, held sweat lodges and various traditional ceremonies in accordance with each tribe's customs and traditions. We helped shape significant

environmental and water protection programs. In every instance, Enbridge worked hard to listen and understand. It wasn't always easy for Enbridge, but they found a way to do the right thing.

These activities and many discussions culminated in a collaborative effort with Enbridge to make construction, route and work-space adjustments that ultimately protected our resources, lands and peoples. We also jointly set a new precedent of having Indigenous people serve as monitors during construction to see firsthand that our resources were and will always be protected.

Each Nation along the project route was enriched in different ways. Over 1,100 of the jobs on the project were filled by Indigenous people. Workforce development and job training programs brought new people into the construction trades, built capacity, and provided life-long career skills.

Enbridge addressed our concerns and supported our aspirations by investing in our people and working with us to improve our infrastructure and enhance

social programs for our people. Over \$300 million U.S. dollars were spent with First Nation and First Nation citizen-owned businesses. This economic stimulus benefited more than just the workers, it benefited the families and the Nations we represent.

We respect and honor your Nations. As tribal leaders, you must do what you know to be best. Nothing can or should change that. That said, we do want to share our experience and let you know that we were able to secure significant benefits and resources protection through difficult, yet respectful talks with the company.

Enbridge's door is always open and we know that the same holds true in the United States. As the construction of the project is largely concluded in Canada, we are now engaged with Enbridge in long-term operational relationship discussions and are very optimistic about what the future will hold for these opportunities.

While oil is a big part of maintaining the quality of our daily lives, our Nations and Enbridge are looking to the future and find our-

selves engaged in innovative discussions around energy efficiency and renewable energy. You're invited to visit our Nations to learn more about how we participate with and benefit from the industry and from our relationships with Enbridge. We are also committed to attend your Tribal lands, by invitation, to personally share our experiences with Enbridge and L3RP.

Sincerely,
 Chief Glenn Hudson,
 Peguis First Nation
 Chief Ken Clamers,
 Birdtail Dakota Sioux Nation
 Chief Nathan Pasap,
 White Bear First Nations
 Chief Cadmus Delorme,
 Cowessess First Nation
 Chief Todd Peigan,
 Pasqua First Nation
 Robert Daniels, on behalf
 of Chief Watson, Mistawasis
 Nehiyawak First Nation
 Chief Kenny Moccasin,
 Saulteaux First Nation
 Chief Brad Swiftwolfe,
 Moosomin First Nation
 Iowa Beebe, Piikani
 First Nation and
 Indigenous thought leader
 Guy Lonechild, CEO
 First Nations Power
 Authority



DAVID HILL
 Editor
 e-mail: dhill@trftimes.com

Editorial opinion published under this heading is intended to stimulate thinking and discussion among our readers. Unless specified otherwise, the editorials are written by Editor Dave Hill and do not represent opinion of other staff members. Opinions in items from other publications may not coincide with the editor's own views but are offered for their general interest.

Flu shots?

Signs and advertisements are already reminding us of the need to get vaccines for this year's influenza season. I visited some schools recently and heard a lot of coughing and sneezing and wondered whether it was allergies, a cold or the first signs of flu. Some businesses are offering flu shots to their employees. Our office scheduled vaccines for Oct. 8. It just makes sense because it keeps everyone happy ... and productive. Regardless of whether it's self-serving, like many of you, I've had the flu in the past and I'd rather be healthy and productive than sick with influenza.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that there are many different flu viruses and they are constantly changing. The composition of U.S. flu vaccines is reviewed annually and updated as needed to match circulating flu viruses. This year, flu vaccines will protect against the three or four viruses (depending on the vaccine) that research suggests will be most common.

When is the best time to get a vaccination? The CDC states that because the timing of the onset, peak and end of flu seasons varies from year to year and cannot be predicted, it is difficult to say when is the best time to be vaccinated for any one season. I liked this sentence: "Optimally, vaccinations should occur before the onset of flu activity in the community." OK. Personally, I think it begins in our region anytime after school starts and the weather chases people inside.

Of course, the usual warnings are in place and unchanged. That includes people who are allergic to eggs.

Although I understand all four of the vaccine viruses used to produce cell-grown flu vaccines this year were grown in cells, not eggs. There are some other issues that might influence whether you should or shouldn't get a vaccine, or the dosage amount, so if you're concerned at all, I'd ask your doctor.

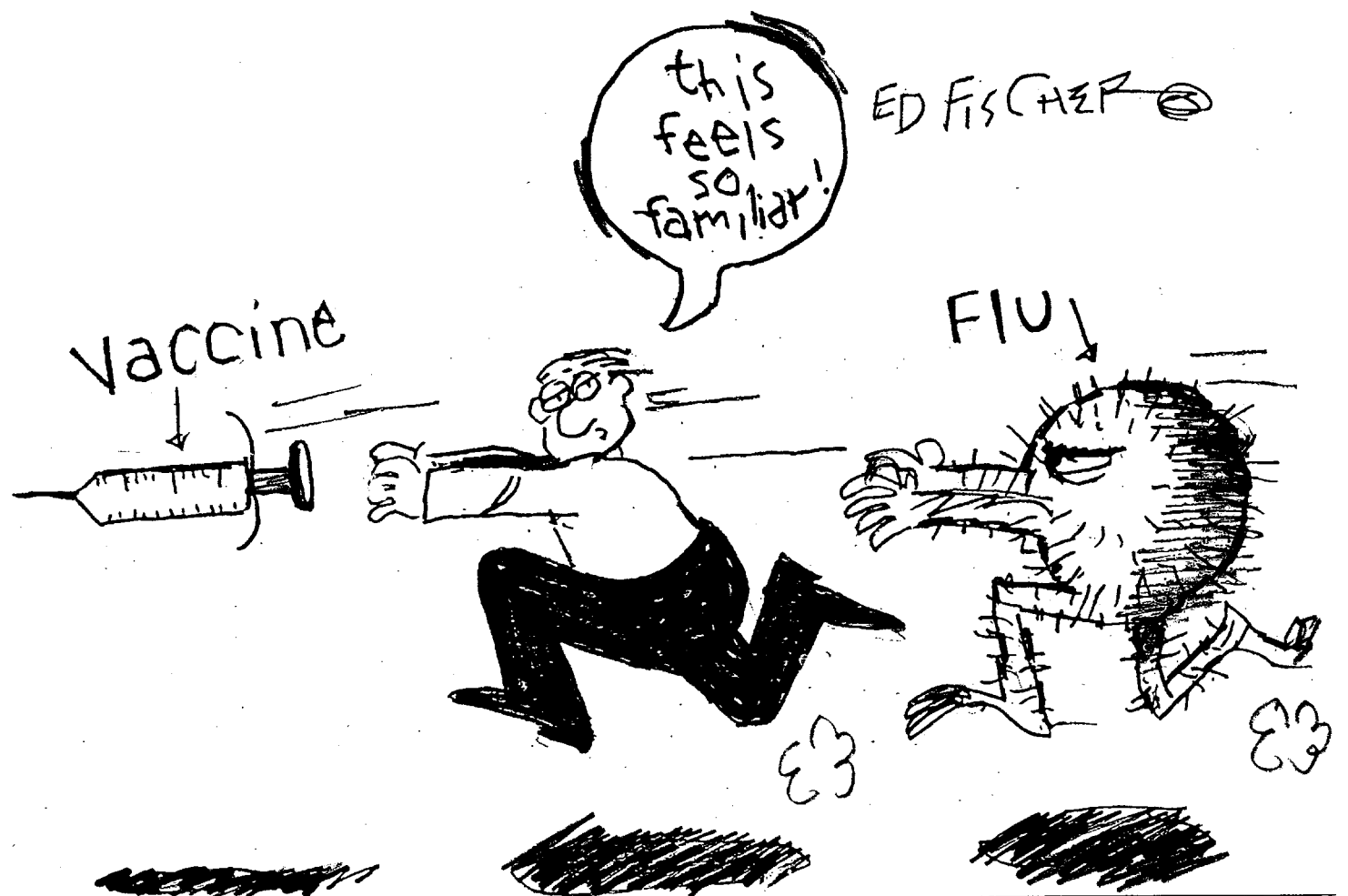
As noted above, there are many different flu

viruses, and it's kind of a guessing game as to which one will cause the most illnesses. Last year's mid-season estimates suggested that the flu shot only reduced the risk of illness by about 47 percent in vaccinated people. During the severe 2017-18 flu season, vaccine efficacy was estimated at just 36 percent. Still, having had the flu in the past, my odds of avoiding the flu are better with a shot than not.

The CDC notes that most people who get the flu will recover in a few days to less than two weeks, but some people will develop complications (such as pneumonia) as a result of the flu, some of which can be life-threatening and result in death. Some of the complications can include sinus and ear infections, inflammation of the heart, brain or muscle tissues, and multi-organ failure. Flu can also make chronic medical problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have the flu, and people with chronic heart disease may experience a worsening of this condition triggered by the flu. CDC estimates that from 2010-11 to 2017-18, influenza-associated deaths in the United States ranged from a low of 12,000 (during 2011-2012) to a high of 79,000 (during 2017-2018).

For those of you hanging onto the belief that the flu vaccine can give you the flu: Harvard Health examined 10 common myths about the flu and explained the flu shot is made from an inactivated virus that can't transmit infection. "So people who get sick after receiving a flu vaccination were going to get sick anyway. It takes a week or two to get protection from the vaccine."

The CDC recommends that getting vaccinated each year provides the best protection against the flu throughout flu season. It's important to get a flu vaccine every season, even if you got vaccinated the season before and the viruses in the flu vaccine have not changed for the current season.



LGA increase provides critical boost to cities, but difficult decisions remain

by Audrey Nelsen

As the Minnesota Legislature wrapped up its special session last May, one state lawmaker spoke out about the increases in Local Government Aid and County Program Aid in the 2019 tax bill. Cities, he said, "should be fat and happy for a long time," thanks to the \$30 million boost in LGA.

Now that cities are in the midst of important budget discussions, I keep thinking back to that comment and how it trivializes the challenges cities face in prioritizing the needs of our residents and communities.

Let me be clear — city leaders are extremely grateful for the LGA increase. Organizations like the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities advocated for years to get LGA funding back to its 2002 high-water mark. Thanks to support from Gov. Tim Walz and numerous legislators, program funding will finally be fully restored by 2021.

Still, I bristle at the notion that cities should now be "fat and happy."

The \$30 million in new LGA funding is distributed between 760 cities. The median increase that a city will receive in 2020 is 4.2%. That is a welcome bump, but it is important to note that inflation alone is forecast to rise by 3.1% from this year to next.

To put it in household terms, the LGA increase passed by the Legislature is akin to getting a raise at your job at the same time as your landlord ups the rent. The raise certainly makes

the rent increase easier to swallow, but it does little to help you get ahead.

The way a city chooses to use its LGA depends on a number of factors such as the state of its infrastructure, equipment and staffing needs, and rising costs. In an unscientific poll taken at a CGMC gathering this summer, about one-third of city officials said they plan to use the 2020 LGA increase to reduce or hold down their levy, while nearly two-thirds said the increase barely keeps up with rising costs.

My city, Willmar, is poised to get a \$272,000 boost in LGA in 2020. However, the cost of health insurance for city employees is going up 30%, nearly \$500,000. This added expense alone far exceeds any additional LGA that Willmar will receive.

Here are examples of how other cities in Greater Minnesota plan to use their additional LGA:

- Fergus Falls plans to use much of its \$85,386 increase on street repairs and other infrastructure improvements.

- Bemidji is using its \$161,560 increase to keep its levy increase at 3% instead of nearly 6%.

- Winona plans to use the majority of its \$160,620 increase to help hire additional firefighters.

- Little Falls plans to use its \$136,790 boost to help offset salary increases for city employees and an increase in health insurance costs.

- Eveleth will use part of its \$140,869 increase to hire

a patrol officer, which will help the city continue to provide police services to a neighboring township while addressing the challenges of the opioid crisis.

As prices for everything from concrete to electricity to health insurance premiums continue to rise, city officials are still forced to make difficult choices when setting city budgets. We are not aiming to pave the streets in gold, but we do want fewer potholes.

The truth is that other than LGA and property taxes, cities have few ways to get revenue to provide the services and amenities on which our residents depend. One way to help ensure that the quality of city services is not determined by zip code would be to peg LGA to inflation, as Walz has suggested. This is something municipal organizations like the CGMC have supported the past and which deserves renewed attention by the Legislature.

City officials are pleased with the increase in LGA, but city coffers are certainly not busting at the seams. As cities set their 2020 budgets, difficult decisions will have to be made. The modest boost in LGA helps provide a cushion, but cities remain far from "fat and happy."

Audrey Nelsen is a member of the Willmar City Council and president of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities.

POLICIES

Letters To The Editor: The staff of *The Times* encourages written responses to editorial comment or letters with original thoughts or ideas of general interest. Letters should be intended for publication in *The Times* exclusively; letters sent to multiple publications will generally not be accepted. Right is reserved to edit letters for length and clarity and to reject letters deemed to be promotional in nature, promote violence or in poor taste. Letters should not exceed 650 words in length.

If individuals request their letters printed "as is" they will be deemed a paid advertisement and must appear in a box.

Letters Must Be Signed: All letters must be signed and contain an address or phone number of the writer so authenticity can be verified.

Signatures must appear on letters published. The staff believes that there is greater credibility in letters signed in print and will not withhold names of writers from publication.

Responses Invited: Letters critical of individuals or other entities may be shown to those individuals or representatives of those entities in advance of publication with an invitation by newspaper staff for response in the same issue as the original letter.

Corrections: If an error is made in news or advertising publication, the staff encourages readers to call it to our immediate attention by calling 681-4450. We will attempt to correct the error or clarify the misunderstanding in the next issue.

Deadline: The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. on Mondays.

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October 2, 9, 2019
NOTICE OF SALE
 The contents, including: furniture, wooden bread box, cooler, wine rack, cowboy boots, winter boots, RCA stereo system, handmade bar and other miscellaneous items of a self storage facility rented by Steven Johnson from TRF Mini Storage, Inc., will be sold on an online auction called storagetreasures.com beginning at 12 noon on Friday, October 18, 2019 and ending at 12 noon on Friday, October 25, 2019.
 TRF Mini Storage, Inc.
 Thief River Falls

September 25,
 October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2019
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
 DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 12, 2002
 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$108,000.00
 MORTGAGOR(S): David Erickson and Kay Tischler Erickson, husband and wife
 MORTGAGEE: Advanced Family Mtg

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 14, 2002 as Document Number 167703 in the Office of the County Recorder of Pennington County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: National City Mortgage Co. by assignment recorded on November 14, 2002 as Document Number 167704 in the Office of the County Recorder of Pennington County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to PNC Bank, National Association by assignment recorded on November 14, 2012 as Document Number 197860 in the Office of the County Recorder of Pennington County, Minnesota; thereafter assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper by assignment recorded on August 7, 2017 as Document Number 210807 in the Office of the County Recorder of Pennington County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The Westerly four hundred twenty-nine (429) feet of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section Thirty-three (33), Township One hundred Fifty-three (153) North of Range Forty-five (45) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian.

AND The South half of the Southwest Quarter (S 1/2 SW 1/4), and the South Half of the North Half of the Southwest Quarter (S 1/2 N 1/2 SW 1/4) of Section Thirty-three, Township One Hundred Fifty-three (153) North, Range Forty-five (45) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian.

AND That part of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township one hundred Fifty-three (153) North of Range Forty-five (45) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of said SE 1/4, thence in a westerly direction along the south line of said SE 1/4 a distance of 706 feet to the point of beginning; thence in an easterly direction 706 feet to the southeast corner of said SE 1/4; thence in a northerly direction along the east line of said SE 1/4 to the northeast corner of said SE 1/4; thence in a westerly direction along the north line of said SE 1/4 a distance of 336 feet to

a point; thence in a southwesterly direction to the point of beginning, Pennington County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 19040 CENTER ST W, THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN 56701

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Pennington County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$78,423.65

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Advanced Family Mtg
 RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 0203214300, 0203314900 and 0203314801

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: November 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Pennington County Sheriff's Office, County Law Enforcement Center Lobby, 102 West First Street, Thief River Falls, MN 56701.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the prem-

ises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 19, 2020.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: September 20, 2019
 NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC
 D/B/A MR. COOPER
 Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
 By:
 /s/ N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
 Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
 Michael van Muelken, Esq.
 Attorneys for Mortgagee
 25 Dale Street North
 St. Paul, MN 55102
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 (19-0881-FC01)
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.



These students were selected as Students of the Month for September at Franklin Middle School. They included (front row) Logan Kriel, Kade Black, Andy Dagg; (back row) Gwendolyn Wojciechowski, Sierra Gregerson and Charlize Melikan. (Submitted)

Pioneer Village hosts Scare Off

Peder Engelstad Pioneer Village hosted a Scare Off on Saturday, Sept. 28. Three teams competed, including Haunted Woods from Red Lake Falls, Terror Universal from Thief River Falls and Scare Oaks from Grafton, N.D. Scare Oaks won the \$200 prize.

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The Line 3 Replacement Project is a \$2.6-billion private investment in Minnesota. It will create jobs, an economic boost for communities and an extra \$35 million per year in tax revenue for many years to come.

And most importantly, it's a project based on doing the responsible thing.

Minnesota needs a new Line 3. Learn more at

