



Tri County Canary

A supplement of the:
• Leader-Record • McIntosh Times • Grygla Eagle
• Red Lake County Herald (Oklee, Plummer - Brooks - Red Lake Falls)

Robbins recalls memories of his military service



Will Robbins

Editors Note: Will Robbins is the father of Doug Robbins of Gully. Will lives in Richfield, MN, now age 97 as well as his wife Blanche (Dolly) Bergh Robbins soon to be 95. They just celebrated 75 years of marriage and were married at the church in Gully. Doug's sister Anne Robbins Holloway lives in Minneapolis.

By Will Robbins
Today is Vets Day. More than half my life, it has been Armistice Day, marking the end of World War One, supposedly the war to end all wars. It was the 11th month, the 11th day, the 11th hour that the Germans signed the Peace Treaty. And that was it. Not just too many years later, when I was a young man, World War II broke out.

When I was in the 3rd or 4th grade at Hale School, we used to have vets come in on Memorial Day or Armistice Day, and I can remember one coming in when I was in probably 3rd or 4th grade and he was a Civil War veteran. I mean, he was old in my mind, I think. But now when I think of it, he was probably only about 85 and I'm ten years or 12 years older than he was right now. So things change.

And of course, on December 7th, 1941 all hell broke loose and everything was turned upside down. You know the US had a population of approximately 150 million people. Of those, you know, if you were born between 1900 and 1928 you were no doubt, going to serve in the military, some branch of the service. There were 16,000,000 of us that did that. My Uncle Jeff, he was either 41 or 42 when he was drafted - probably one of the oldest people ever drafted. I had six male cousins, they all served. When I got married in 1948 I acquired some brother-in-laws and ended up having five brother-in-laws that all served.

Olaf Lee (from Erskine) (spouse Hazel Bergh) was a cook in the Navy. Ray Brekke (from Gully) (spouse Grace Bergh from Gully) served in the Army in England. Russell Bergh (from Gully) was awarded a Bronze Star for his service in the Army in the Philippines. Jerry Berry (from Oklee) (spouse Iona Bergh from Gully) served on a destroyer in the Pacific. My sister Carol's husband, Bob Smith, served for 6 years in the Navy and was present at Bikini Island during the testing of the atomic bomb.

There was no doubt, no demonstrations that people were not going to go, or I'm going to Canada. Besides, Canada had been in

the war before we got there. But I'll give you a rundown of what some of my buddies and relatives went through. My cousin Bob Chapin, who was kind of the all American boy - captain of his basketball and football team - he was a pilot in New Guinea. He had flown his 50 missions and was eligible to return. However, somebody got sick and he took the 51st mission. On that mission his plane crashed and Bob died. My one brother-in-law got the Bronze Star in the Philippines. He set up a cannon in the middle of the road and stopped a Japanese tank as it was coming down the road. Russ, my friend that I met after the war, he was in the Army and he was in North Africa. He got shot in the leg. They took him to a hospital in Algiers where the French doctors wanted to amputate his leg. As he was laying there on his cot he saw the doctor from his hometown. This small town with about 1000 people more or less, but the odds of a doctor from his hometown showing up were very small. The doctor looked at his leg and he said there's no way they're going to cut your leg off. We'll take care of it and he did. Russ lived to about 95 and always had a little limp, but he did very well. One night we were playing cards in his basement amusement room and I looked over and I saw his Purple Heart. He said "there was an officer that came through while I was in Algiers and he was passing out Purple Hearts." He said the fellow on the bunk next to me also got one. Well, he broke his leg falling down the stairs in the whore house. So that was kind of the way it was.

There's still 72,000 people who are missing from World War II. There are 41,000 that are missing at sea, most of them in the Pacific, but many of them were merchant marines and troop ships that were hit and mostly naval ships. In 1943, I talked my buddy Don Ross into going out and joining the Marines. We were 17. We both went down to the federal building in downtown Minneapolis. They rejected me right away because my eyesight was not good, and I was colorblind. But Don they kept. And they took him out to Fort Snelling, gave him a second physical and of course, Don stuttered. He had always stuttered. And I think when he got up there and found out what he was getting into, he stuttered even more and he got out. Don did enlist in the Navy, maybe a couple weeks after I did in 1944. He was put on the battleship

Colorado. Fortunately, he was below decks when a kamikaze hit them and killed 165 of his fellow crew.

When I finished my 30 days training at Farragut, Idaho, we got 10 days leave. I went home. Took a train back and forth. They lined us up and they said everybody from "A" to "Robbins" will going to Seattle. Those named Roberts, with only one "B" will go to San Diego. Well, those who went to San Diego got put on ships and got into a big storm in the Pacific. Many of them died. My group was sent to Seattle. They put us on a ship. They called them Liberty ships, also known as Kaiser Coffins. All the joints were welded rather than rivetted, and when they would get in a storm, they would break in half. We did make it to Kodiak and it took us almost three weeks. When we got to Kodiak, they put me on a troop ship. We never landed at all, they just transferred us from the one ship to the other. They took us down as far as Dutch Harbor, where they transferred us to a smaller ship, some of us. And we went to Attu Island. By the way, Dutch Harbor is the last island in the Aleutian chain that has a forest. I think there are 13 trees. Somebody had imported them.

Anyway, when I got to Attu, I spent a night in the Quonset Hut and they said your ship is at the dock. Boy, you know when you say ship you think battleship, cruiser, destroyer. Nope, my ship was the Tatnuk ATO27, which was a fleet tug. It was 150 feet long and 35 feet wide. We were stationed in the Aleutians and the ship had been launched in 1916. That was old at that time even. It was steam propelled. I spent a little over two years on that ship, 22 months of what were considered being in combat water. So, when it came time for discharge, I did get some credit and got out in a little over two years. Our duties, on the Tatnuk - sometimes we would go out beyond the International Dateline and set up a radio station for the PBVs, or flying albatrosses, as they would call them, which were amphibious airplanes. They would come over and bomb islands held by the Japanese. One time when we were in port at Attu and we were watching a movie. The radioman came down and said I took up a message from Tokyo Rose. Of course, there was more than one Tokyo Rose, but she said the crew of the Tatnuk is watching such and such movie in the engine room of the ship. That ought to make your hair curl a little bit. Another time it was reported that there was a submarine in the area where we were and we were to drop two of our six depth charges. And they went off and the first thing they heard up on the bridge was "don't drop anymore." Our gauges are going crazy. We got pipes leaking, everything else. So that ended up our discharge. Our only armament was those 6 depth charges and we had a magazine. We had some rifles and shotguns. That that was it. We had no anti aircraft guns or any other mounted guns on our ship.

While we were in Attu, the captain said, "I think you want to get off the ship for a while". He took a bunch of us, I think there were six or eight of us, and gave us rifles and he had us go up in the hills. The army had just taken back Attu not too long ago. As we went up the hill, there would be a sign 15 Japs buried here, 25 Japs buried here, 50 Japs buried here. And as we got up to the top of the hill, there was still some Japanese. Of course, dead in the pill boxes. The vegetation was some kind of a dead grass, swampy grass. On Attu and there are not mountains but they're kind of hills. We were at Attu quite a bit. Our call was to aid, act, and assist ships and all the small islands - Dutch Harbor, Kodiak and more.

After the war we all went back home and started over, went to school, went to work, got married. Seems like we had lots of kids. Then we didn't talk too much about the war, but that's the way it was. Thank you.



Chris Reder, Founder of DTOM Veterans Ranch.

Chris Reder founder of DTOM Veterans Ranch

By Pamela French

For many of us, it takes a few hard knocks before we wake up to the truth and His greater plan for our lives. This was the case for Chris Reder, Founder of DTOM Veterans Ranch, located just south of Bagley, MN. Veterans Ranch is an equine therapy ranch for veterans recovering from PTSD, addiction, etc.

Chris was in the Navy 7 years, before a life changing motorcycle accident redirected the course of his life. While stationed in California, instead of Spain, where his orders had him going, Chris was riding his motorcycle home when a motorist pulled out in front of him. Chris sustained numerous injuries including a Traumatic Brain Injury(TBI). Along with his injuries, plus the TBI; Chris was released medically from the Navy 1999. One minute you have all the support and structure from the Navy, and suddenly it's all gone.

For the longest time Chris was very angry at God for his situation, and lived a life of "extremely" risky behavior. Though he was not suicidal, death did not scare or deter him. Nearly everything in his life involved alcohol. For years he floundered from job to job, finding success in many places, but when promotion opportunities came up, he shipped out. He rarely had a job longer than a couple years.

In 2015, a friend suggested he try volunteering or find something of interest that involved veterans, with hopes that would help him with his struggles. After some research, Chris decided on helping a few organizations. He signed up for the "Operation New Trails", a 75 mile hike in the Rocky Mountains to raise funds to build a handicap accessible house for a severely injured veteran. He signed up to march in the 22Kill 22K Ruck March in Dallas, TX, to raise awareness of the 22 veterans lost each day to suicide. He held a fund raising concert to benefit K9s for Warriors, a project that trains and donates service dogs to veterans in hopes of reducing suicide. Chris enrolled and participated in various Team Rubicon Events. He participated in various "Mission Continues" events; all of which led him to the same conclusion, not enough being done on a daily basis to reduce the 22 per day veteran suicides.

Chris did manage to hold a job as a long haul truck driver for a while out of Colorado, a "million miler". This gave Chris plenty of quiet and alone time to think and process. Eventually he came up with DTOM 22/0 Foundation(DTOM-Don't Treat On Me). After the formation of the non-profit, fundraising and help was slow. About this time his thoughts turned to God and began asking if he should give up, move on or just keep driving trucks with a comfortable salary. Additionally, he was being evicted from his home for no reason, making him basically homeless, buying an RV to live in at campgrounds in the mountains. Then, one day in May 2018, he was driving in rainy weather, no weather alerts to cause any concern. He looked to his side-view mirror and noticed the trailer rising up off the ground. Suddenly, his truck was being picked up as

well. The next thing he remembers was his truck slamming to the ground on the passenger side. Finding himself dangling from his seat belt, looking out the broken out window. Chris was able to undo the seatbelt and walk through that window, without a scratch. It was at this moment he realized God had a greater purpose for his life. But being hard-headed he attempted to continue to drive trucks until August when he moved.

Chris moved to North East South Dakota where he drove for an Agricultural Company for about a year. He chose to resign from this job as he was attending school to become an Equine Draper Sensory Method Therapist. "Draper Sensory Method is an innovative and worldwide unique methodology, based on scientific principles of the brain-body connection and a well defined series of equine mounted activities. It supports and enhances participants' abilities to think more rationally, make more socially acceptable decisions and receive hope for a successful and better life."(Horseback Miracles). This was the biggest step for Chris in the process that DTOM would become the DTOM 22/0 Veterans Ranch north of Warner, SD. Initially, they were able to build an outside arena, then a barn over the arena. The first horse was Max. Growth continued and they were able to assist veterans at no cost. It was at this time he knew he was fully committed and never looked back.

A nearly 10 acre ranch was purchased, where they worked until they ran out of room. After an exhaustive search for land, a 40 acre ranch was found south of Bagley, MN. They moved to Bagley the summer of 2023. The ranch currently has 10 horses. Along with the therapy horses, arenas and barns, the



Booker loves to smile for the camera!!



Chris with Valor: their bond is indescribable!



Tatnuk ATO27,

Lung Cancer Awareness Month: 'Screening just might save your life'

Quick, painless scan leads to early detection for one Essentia Health patient

Carol Thumma knew something wasn't right in late summer of 2020.

"I had stepped outside to enjoy my morning coffee and a smoke, and I noticed that when I walked back inside, typically normal sounds sounded different," explained Carol, who continued to hear what she described as an auditory echo throughout the day.

In addition, she felt nauseous, had a bad headache and her blood pressure kept spiking.

Carol decided to visit walk-in care at the Essentia Health-West Fargo Clinic the next day. After tests and labs, it was recommended that she connect with family medicine provider Dr. Katherine Neubauer.

"I remember she reviewed everything and then looked at me and asked what I thought about getting a screening lung scan," said Carol.

At the time, Carol was 61 and had smoked for many years. She admitted that she was hesitant at first, but ultimately decided to go ahead with the low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scan.

A LDCT scan is a computerized scan that uses special X-ray equipment to take detailed pictures of a patient's lungs. It features a low dose of radiation and is quick and painless. You don't have to take any medicine and no needles are used.

LDCT scans occasionally show abnormal areas – called "nodules" – in the lungs. In



Carol Thumma with her daughters.

Carol's case, something was spotted on top of her right lung.

A positron emission tomography (PET) scan and biopsy confirmed that Carol had early-stage lung cancer.

Carol underwent surgery on Nov. 23, 2020, to remove the affected lobe. She has since followed up with Essentia's oncology team every six months for the last three years – and has remained cancer-free.

"If Dr. Neubauer hadn't been diligent and recommended that lung scan, I would have never known," said Carol. "I wasn't having a single symptom that would have led me to believe I had lung cancer. It's a very silent but deadly issue."

Carol no longer smokes. She encourages others with a smoking history to get an LDCT scan.

"It might just save your life,

because it did mine," added Carol. "Heaven only knows what would have happened if I let that go on. From the first scan to before surgery, the affected area had grown."

"Don't mess with it, especially if you have that smoking history. Listen to your body and to your providers when they recommend these things."

More about lung cancer
November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and the perfect time to consider a lung cancer screening.

Lung cancer causes more cancer-related deaths in the United States than any other type of cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It's the third-most common cancer in the U.S.

Lung cancer symptoms may include:

- Coughing that gets worse, doesn't go away or includes blood.
- Chest pain.
- Shortness of breath.
- Wheezing.

Often, lung cancer symptoms don't show up until the cancer has spread or is in an advanced stage. Screening helps detect cancer early even if you don't have signs or symptoms. When lung cancer is caught early, it can be easier to treat.

Talk to your primary care provider to determine if a lung cancer screening is right for you. Most insurance companies cover screenings as part of preventive care. Contact your insurance carrier for more information about your coverage.

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Polk County Sheriff

Residence Fire

On 10/30/23 at approximately 11:57 hours, The Polk County Sheriff's Office and East Grand Fork Fire Department responded to 26343 410th Ave SW, Fisher, MN for a residential fire. No one was injured in the fire and the residence had some internal property damage. No foul play is suspected. This case is currently under investigation therefore no further information will be released at this time.

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R34C

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Region 2 Arts Council awards this year's Artist Fellowships to Will Weaver and Cindy Hamilton

The Region 2 Arts Council is excited to announce the recipients of the 2023-2024 Artist Fellowship: Author Will Weaver and Visual Artist Cindy Hamilton. These Artist Fellows were selected on October 19, 2023 by the Region 2 Arts Council Board. This award is intended for dedicated artists who have created a substantial independent body of work, have received recognition for their work, and whose work has been selected for publication, solo exhibitions, commissions, presentations, readings, or performances.

Will Weaver is a novelist from Bemidji who grew up on a dairy farm near Park Rapids, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and Stanford University with a focus on literature and creative writing and returned to northern Minnesota where he taught for twenty-five years in the English Department at Bemidji State University. "It was a dream job," he says, "helping young writers find their voice. Teaching them not what to think but how to think. I've loved seeing their success as adults."

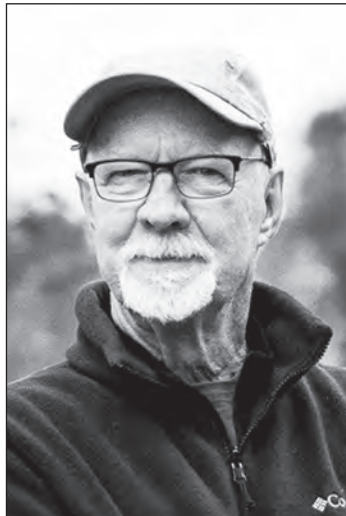
While teaching full time he also wrote a dozen novels and short story collections, including the best seller Red Earth, White Earth, which was adapted into a CBS television movie, and his short story "A Grave-stone Made of Wheat," which



Cindy Hamilton

became the award-winning film Sweet Land (2006) starring Alan Cumming and Ned Beatty. In the 1990s he focused his writing toward young adults. His baseball trilogy Striking Out, followed by a car-based series Saturday Night Dirt, plus the sci-fi novel Memory Boy are all widely read in schools.

Recently Weaver returned to his writing roots with novel, Power & Light. The saga taps into a very personal story. "My grandfather was born in Norway and emigrated to America. My son was born in Minnesota but met a Norwegian girl and now lives in Norway. That completes a remarkable family circle." He will be promoting the novel through library readings, historical society presentations,



Will Weaver

book clubs, and book store events across the Midwest. You can connect with Will on social media or at willweaverbooks.com

Cindy Hamilton is a Treaty 3 Ojibwe Artist originally from Rainy River, Ontario, currently living in Williams, MN. Cindy has both European and Native ancestry. Her journey to explore her Native ancestry started later in life. Creating traditional native items makes her feel closer to her ancestors in an almost spiritual way.

She creates moccasins, mukluks and mittens using moose and elk leathers featuring beadwork, embroidery, wool and fur trims. By focusing on techniques and quality materials, completed artworks are notable

for their meticulous finish and tactile nature. Working with her preferred mediums, Cindy's skills evolve and strengthen her love of her Ojibwe culture. Cindy teaches classes making mittens, moccasins, or gauntlet mittens. She takes pride in sharing her knowledge with others.

Cindy has always enjoyed creating many kinds of arts and crafts. She enjoys painting (oils, watercolor, acrylic and pastel), drawing, and sewing. She is currently the President of the Lake of the Woods Art Guild and enjoys bringing quality arts programming to her community.

The Region 2 Arts Council Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank each of the Artist Fellowship nominees and congratulate Will and Cindy as the 2023-2024 Artist Fellows!



Study Abroad Opportunities for High School Students

Qualified high school students are offered a unique opportunity to explore the world by spending an academic year, semester or summer in Europe, Asia, North or South America, Australia or South Africa as part of the ASSE International Student Exchange Program. A non-profit, public benefit organization, ASSE is dedicated to promoting closer ties of friendship between the United States and other countries by fostering intercultural understanding through youth exchange programs.

Students, 15 to 18 years old, qualify on the basis of academic performance, character references and a genuine desire to experience life abroad with a volunteer host family. Prior knowledge of the host country's language is not a requirement. Scholarships are available and are based on academic performance, leadership skills and financial need.

Families abroad are carefully screened, and students do not need to know the language of the host country prior to departure but will acquire the language skills through experiencing the day-to-day local culture and attending regular high school classes along with their new teenage friends.

ASSE also provides the experience of a lifetime to American families who are interested in hosting an international student from Spain, Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Thailand, Japan, and many other countries. These exceptional young students will attend the local American high school for an academic year or semester.

Students or families interested in learning more about becoming an ASSE exchange student or host family should contact ASSE at 1-800-677-2773, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusaest@asse.com.

James W. Tracy Scholarship applications open

The Minnesota FFA Foundation is excited to announce that the James W. Tracy scholarship applications are open. The James W. Tracy scholarship application carries a deadline of February 1st, 2024. This is the ninth year the Minnesota FFA Foundation has offered this scholarship program.

James W. Tracy was born in 1941. He grew up on a farm near Northfield, Minnesota. During his childhood, James was an active FFA and 4-H member. After graduating from high school, Jim served two years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He loved helping young people and wanted to see agriculture and rural America remain strong. He farmed his land until he lost his battle with illness in 2014.

Besides being a lifelong member of his church, he was an active member in the Lions Club. Jim was a generous man who donated to many causes. He loved helping young people and wanted to see agriculture and rural America remain strong. Tracy had a deep love for the land and farming. He farmed his land until he lost his battle with illness in 2014.

But Jim's story doesn't end there, his desire to support youth in Agriculture led him to donate his farm to an organization that he admired most,

the FFA. The Minnesota FFA Foundation is pleased to bring life to James Tracy's dream of providing scholarships to youth involved in Agriculture. Generations of young people will benefit from this donation as the funds will be used to support youth agricultural scholarships.

The scholarship is open to Minnesota FFA and 4-H members.

Eligibility Requirements for students to apply include:

- Must be a resident of Minnesota
- Must be enrolled or plan to be enrolled in an accredited post-secondary school in the U.S.
- Must plan to pursue an academic award (certificate, diploma, or degree) in agriculture or animal husbandry

This year \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to students based on the following criteria:

- Leadership, involvement, and agriculture interest
- Three Essay questions: limited to no more than 500 words.
- Two letters of recommendation. Letters must be from non family members. One letter must be from someone who has worked with the student over the last 12 months.

Applications are due by Feb-

ruary 1, 2024 with scholarship recipients being announced by May 1, 2024.

For full details please go to our website. Student applications can be completed with a Google Form application that can be found here. Applicants can be high school seniors, or college students. Students are eligible to apply annually. If selected each year, they can receive this scholarship once as a high school student and once as a college student.

For more information about the James W. Tracy Scholarship Program, you can go to our website here. For questions on the James W. Tracy Scholarship Program, contact Amanda Sommers at 507-461-2214 or visit our website at www.mnffa-foundation.org

About the Minnesota FFA Foundation

The Minnesota FFA Foundation partners with individuals and businesses to provide resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Minnesota youth in Agricultural Education. For more information about the Minnesota FFA Foundation, contact Executive Director, Val Aarsvold at (507) 259-3586 or visit us on the web at www.mnffa-foundation.org.

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D C I R T A I R E G E T I P S E R O R E

CAREGIVING WORD SEARCH Answers on page 6

ACUTE
AGE IN PLACE
AGING
CAREGIVER
COMPASSION
CONTINUING

COORDINATOR
DAYCARE
EQUIPMENT
FAMILY
GERIATRIC
HOME HEALTH AIDE

HOSPICE
ILLNESS
MEMORY
NURSE
NURSING HOME
PALLIATIVE

PROXY
RESPIRE
SKILLED
THERAPY
VOLUNTEER



Mackinac Bridge

By Auctioneer Eric W. Mickelson



Every September an event happens on the Mackinac Bridge. It is the annual tractor crossing. It is a unique and interesting tractor ride. If you are not familiar with a tractor ride, a bunch of tractor fans get together and head down the road with their old tractors. Some rides are long lasting more than a day. Others are short measured in hours or even less. No matter the distance those that love tractors enjoy their jaunt, sitting in the seat of their favorite tractor and enjoying the view of whatever the path they are taking. One episode of my favorite show, Classic Tractor Fever talks about the Mackinac Bridge tractor crossing. In 2022 I heard over 1500 tractors crossed the bridge.

I don't know if you are familiar with the Mackinac Bridge. I was not but learned many facts about the bridge. The Mackinac Bridge connects the upper peninsula of Michigan with the lower peninsula, spanning the strait of Mackinac. It is the fifth longest suspension bridge in the world and the longest in the western hemisphere. Construction began on the bridge on May 7, 1954. It was opened for use on November 1, 1957. The two main support towers are 552 feet tall. The height of the roadway in the middle of the bridge is 200 feet above the water. All suspension bridges are meant to move to accommodate wind, temperature, and weight. According to the Michigan Department of Transportation(MDOT), the bridge can move up to 35 feet in an east and west direction if the wind was strong enough!!

A man named Bob Baumgras of Owosso Tractor Parts organized the first crossing. In 2007 the Mackinac Bridge Authority



Tractors crossing the bridge!

granted Owosso Tractor Parts permission to conduct a tractor parade over the bridge. The first year (2007) 614 antique tractors made the crossing, in 2015 over 1000!! In 2017, 1326 tractors crossed the bridge. In 2022, like I said, a cap of 1500 tractors was made and reached. It has turned into a huge event. People from many states and even England participated in the crossing. This event takes place in September, pretty hard for a school teacher to get away!! The 2023 event was canceled due to construction on the bridge.....but now that I am retired I sure hope I can make the trip and watch the parade across the Mackinac Bridge, maybe even participate! It is on my bucket list!!

How about a little tractor trivia!

1. The towers of the Mackinac Bridge are 552 feet high. This is almost exactly the same as what Monument in Washington DC?

A) The Lincoln Memorial
B) The Washington Monument
C) The White House

2. What two Great Lakes Meet under the Mackinac Bridge?

A) Superior and Michigan
B) Erie and Huron C) Michigan and Huron

3. How long is the Mackinac Bridge?

A) 2.5 miles B) 19 miles C) 5 miles

4. What tractor company, mentioned in an earlier article, had its headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan.

A) John Deere B) Fordson
C) International Harvester

5. The Nichols and Sheppard Company was bought out by Oliver in 1929. What Michigan town was its headquarters?

A) Detroit B) Lansing
C) Battle Creek

Answers: 1. B 2. C 3. C
4. B 5. C

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/msp/about/Pages/special-assignments-canine-unit.aspx>

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Ask a Trooper

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

Question: Does the Minnesota State Patrol have K9s?

In what purpose do they serve?

Answer: The Minnesota State Patrol K-9 unit is currently staffed with 15 K-9 teams trained to detect the odor of narcotics, and one team trained to detect explosives. The State Patrol's dogs are not trained in other typical police functions such as apprehension or tracking. They live with their State Trooper handlers' families.

The K-9s are responsible for sniffing out illegal drugs destined for Minnesota communities each year. All Minnesota State Patrol K-9 teams regularly respond to requests for assistance from allied law enforcement agencies.

Requests range from assisting other troopers on traffic stops, to assisting local law enforcement where drugs are believed to be hidden inside houses, vehicles or other structures.

The dogs are Belgian Malinois, German Shepherd, Dutch Shepherd, German short hair and wire hair pointers. The unit also consists of a Hungarian Vizsla, which is the patrols only explosive detecting K-9.

These dogs are trained to

Theology in the Trenches

By Kathleen Kjolhaug



There is a Log in the Way

There's a reason for everything—or

so I've been told. This time I applied these words to a verse being read in the book of Matthew. As I read it, something new surfaced.

What verse am I speaking of? Matthew 7:3-5: "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye' while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye."

It's a useful verse for sure—one which teaches much. However, it can also be misused and the gold nuggets within can quickly turn a tad rusty. Can you see where the breaking point is? Can you see which word of instruction could also be used to name call instead of instruct? And when misused, can you see where the instruction might be missed?

I'll share which word I'm re-

ferring to in a minute, but first, let's back up and ask one more question. Is God a loving God?

1 John 4:8 is clear."Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." This not only suggests that God is a loving God but that He is love.

When we look at the log/speck verse in Matthew, we understand the meaning of it—until we see the word I was referring to at the beginning of this article. To what word am I referring? It's the word "hypocrite." When we reach the word "hypocrite," things quickly go south. It can be a conversation shutter downer. I've heard it used to name call—turning the point of instruction into shame based admonishment. When used as a shield in self defense, the finger pointing begins.

As God is love, it doesn't

seem to jive as to why He would use such harsh terminology knowing we'd most certainly misuse it. If there is a reason for everything, what could be His reason for using this term? Could it be He's tenderly tough so we might see more clearly and when we see more clearly we'll be able to better help our neighbor? Perhaps God, who is a God of love, desires we work on our shortcomings first in order to better help those whom He also loves.

When we take time to look into the things we need work on, sort out the issues attached to them—then and only then will we be able to help our neighbor see more clearly.

In short, the reason we need to remove the log is to be able to help our brothers and sisters in love.

As we tenderly reflect upon our shortcomings—may they no longer blind or bind us. May we gently take any specs out of others by humbly confessing our own. Amen.



Senator Steve Green

Minnesota Senate District 2

Last Session, Democrats

passed a bill that implemented a Paid Family Leave Program. It was one of their many extreme plans, and it was clear that it was going to cost Minnesotans. Their proposal included a new and excessively large government agency, limiting of benefits employees currently have, and a large tax hike. Republicans knew it would come with a hefty price tag, but even we underestimated just how crippling these news costs would be.

An actuarial study was recently done, thanks to Senate Republicans who pushed for it, and we now know just how much it's going to cost Minnesotans. Unsurprisingly, it's much more expensive than Democrats led folks to believe. The study found that the plan will require \$630 million more than expected, and the tax rate will also be 31% higher than what Democrats originally claimed. The program was always going to be costly, but these new numbers are absurd. And make no mistake—we know who will foot the bill.

Republicans knew this one-

size-fits-all mandate wasn't the right move. Instead of listening to our concerns, Democrats with their "we know best" mentality pushed through this extreme bill. It's too costly for the average taxpayer. The taxes and fees needed to make this program viable will fall squarely on the shoulders of employees and taxpayers.

We should also take a moment to consider another recent announcement: the state is projected to have \$2.4 billion surplus heading into 2024. If that's not proof of constant over-taxation, then I don't know what is. So while folks are being consistently over-taxed year after year, Democrats are taking the opportunity to implement costly programs that will force taxpayers to pay even more to receive less.

Minnesota has become a high-tax state, there's no arguing otherwise. We find ourselves ranked with the likes of New York and California. Instead of pushing for tax relief to help families, Democrats have doubled down and find new ways to spend away taxpayer money. And as soon as a surplus is available, they spend it before it's even in-hand. Fac-

ing another surplus, it's clear our tax structure needs a total overhaul. Minnesotans have been asking for tax relief, and that's what we should be focusing on. And I can promise you that tax relief doesn't start with implementing costly programs.

Considering that this study found the Democrats' Paid Family Leave Program to be so excessive, it begs the question: how much will all their other new mandates and programs cost Minnesotans in the long run? They didn't have their numbers right with this one, and we still don't know what the final product will look like. In the face of yet another surplus, we need to focus on tax relief, not raising taxes for Democrats' pet projects.

<https://strgnfibcom.blob.core.windows.net/nfibcom/Actuarial-Analysis-of-Minnesota-PFML-Program-10-27-23-1.pdf>

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Building a Stronger State and National Partnership

Superheroes from across the country gathered in Denver, October 11-13, for the annual Partnerships in Action (PIA) conference. Coordinated by the Federation of State Beef Councils and funded by the Beef Checkoff, PIA brings state beef councils together to build a stronger state and national partnership. The theme of "Superheroes in Action" packed a powerful punch as attendees learned about national Beef Checkoff programs and discussed ways those efforts could be expanded in Minnesota. Topics discussed during the

event highlighted how the "dynamic duo" of the Beef Checkoff and state beef councils work together to drive demand for beef. Attendees learned about program strategy, current consumer trends and preferences, and upcoming Beef. It's What's For Dinner. promotions. More than 80 state staff from 32 state beef councils participated in the event, including Kelly Schmidt (CEO), Jon Dilworth (Director of Industry Relations), and Ashley Wulf (Communications Director) from the Minnesota Beef Council.

The Minnesota Beef Council is part of the Federation of State Beef Councils and voluntarily invests in the Federation to enhance the national Checkoff and leverage producer dollars through a coordinated partnership. The Federation was established in 1963 by grassroots producers as a more concerted and focused effort to conduct national beef research and promotion programs.

For more information about how the Minnesota Beef Council is driving the demand for beef, visit mnbeef.org.

NEARING HOME

Written by Pastor Gary L. Johnson

In this long-awaited sequel to 'Till I See Heaven', Pastor Gary Johnson takes his readers along on his journey of faith, ministry, and family. Picking up in 1978, Gary invites us to follow along as he tells of services in large churches in cities, in individual homes and in tiny churches meeting in the middle of nowhere.



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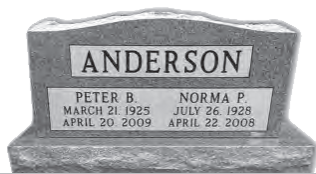
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D S L U A C A K I E T V H I R Y S D U C K
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OBITUARIES



Obituary for Josephine Kelly

Josephine M. Kelly, age 77 of Edinburg, ND passed away on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at the First Care Health Center of Park River, ND with her family by her side.

Josephine Mildred Olness was born March 14, 1946 on the family farm near Gonvick, MN the daughter of the late Gorde and Viola (Johnson) Olness. She attended rural schools near there. Following her education she worked as a nanny in the McIntosh area. Josephine married Brian Kelly. The couple made their home in Bagley, MN where she worked as a CNA at the Good Samaritan Center in Bagley and Crookston, MN. Three children were born of this union; Tammy, Pete and Cindy. She later married Bruce Bourque and the couple made their home

in Clearbrook, MN. Bruce passed away in 1996 and Josephine moved to Edinburg, ND shortly after his passing. She worked at Marvin Windows in Grafton until retiring in 2009.

Josephine enjoyed quilting, sewing and baking cakes.

She is survived by her children: Peter (Joyce) Kelly, Park River, ND; Cindy (Chris) Vargason, Edinburg, ND; step-daughter, Julie Bourque, Brooklyn Center, MN; son-in-law, Daniel Olson, Edinburg, ND; six grandchildren: Andrew (Samantha) Olson, Elizabeth (Tyler) Needham, Tanner (Kaylan) Kelly, Casey & Cylen Vargason and Hope Rivers; five great grandchildren; siblings: Shirley Delage, McIntosh, MN; John (Sheri) Olness, Superior, WI; Luem (Rose) Olness, Andover, MN; Gorde (Rita) Olness, Clearbrook, MN and Vi Myklejord, Fosston, MN. She was preceded in death by her parents, two husbands, daughter Tammy, three sisters and one brother.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Grace Free Lutheran Church of Edinburg, ND. Visitation was held for one hour prior to the service at the church.

An online guest book is available at: www.tollefson-funeralhome.com

The Tollefson Funeral Home of Edinburg, ND is in charge of the arrangements.



Obituary for Eric Foldoe

Eric Carl Foldoe passed peacefully at home in Bagley, Minnesota surrounded by his loved ones on October 27, 2023.

Eric was born on June 2, 1957 in Bagley, Minnesota to Ervin and Ruth (Norby) Foldoe. He was raised on the family farm in Copley Township of Clearwater County. He grew up chasing sheep and cows and farming with team of horses and a tractor. Every free moment, he could be found on the back of his trusted pony, Queenie, as they headed into the woods to explore and to camp. When he outgrew his pony, he found a new ally and best friend- another horse, Whiskey. They held a deep bond that lasted a lifetime.

During his childhood, the Foldoe family moved to Alaska, for a time only to return to Bagley, where Eric attended school and was confirmed at Faith Lutheran Church. He graduated from Bagley High School in 1975 and directly afterwards, answered the call of the wild by traveling with a dear friend north to Alaska to work for his uncle, Kenny Foldoe.

Eric returned to the Bagley area once again. Being the craftsman he was, he started his own homestead and began building a log home.

He joined the Local 49 Union at the age of 18 where he became a heavy equipment operator until his retirement. His work took him on many travels and he enjoyed seeing various parts of this country that he loved; but he always looked forward to coming home to Bagley to spend time with family and friends. When his parents took ill, he

was always there to care for them and take them on the endless trips to the doctor. He was a caring, loving man and would do anything for the people he loved.

Eric loved Minnesota and spent countless hours working and playing outdoors. He raised stock, farmed his fields, and logged with (Whitey) Brad Klemmetson in the winters. He also enjoyed countless seasons of fishing (especially dark house spearing), hunting, and trapping. Eric loved living off of what Minnesota had to provide. He was always up for a good time cooking and sharing these treasures over a bonfire with music and laughter.. He kept everyone laughing with his sense of humor.

He was the proud father of his son, Miles Foldoe, and enjoyed many hunting and fishing adventures with Miles in his youth.

Eric married Wanda Garland on September 2, 2006 and welcomed her son, Keegan Michel, into their family. Keegan provided abundant light and love and Eric loved him as his own son. They made the log home into their dream home and enjoyed much love and laughter together over the years.

Later, Eric and Wanda bought the family farm where they worked together, gardening, canning, preserving, foraging, growing flowers, running the homestead, and raising their beloved animals. He could always be found with his dog by his side. There they "lived happily ever after until early 2023, when Eric was diagnosed with cancer. He fought a valiant fight, but was overcome by the cancer on Oct. 27, 2023.

Eric made some mistakes, but got a lot of things right and enjoyed life to its fullest.

Eric was preceded in death by his parents, Ervin and Ruth, as well as his sister, Linda Salvhus. May all their memories forever be blessed.

Services will be held on November 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at Fireside in Bagley, MN with a supper and bonfire to follow. The Cease Family Funeral Home of Bagley assisted the family with arrangements.

Messages of condolence may be sent to ceasefuneralhome.com

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Obituary for Patricia Anderson

Patricia 'Pat' Louise Anderson, 88, of Pine Island MN died Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at Pine Haven Care Center with her children by her side, following a brief illness. Pat was born on her family's farm in Grygla MN on January 20, 1935 to Clarence 'Gink' and Alice (Salveson) Peterson. She attended elementary school in Grygla and high school in Goodridge, graduating in 1952. She was united in marriage to Gordon L. Anderson at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Grygla on Easter Sunday night, April 5, 1953.

After high school Pat briefly attended Gale Institute with plans to become a stewardess, before realizing she didn't have any desire to fly on an airplane! Pat worked for S & L Department Store in Thief River Falls and following her marriage she worked at the Federal Reserve in Minneapolis, while her husband Gordon attended school. Before long they returned home to Grygla where she became a homemaker and stay-at-home mom. In 1965 they moved their family to Greenbush MN, and in 1971 they moved again to Pine Island where they lived the remainder of their 69 married years together. Her husband passed away on June 7, 2022.

Pat spent decades volunteering with different organizations as well as many groups within her churches. She volunteered for 35 years at Pine Haven Care Center, giving manicures and polishing nails for many of the residents. Pat loved the simple beauty of gardening, flowers and birds in her feeders. She loved baking; and her lemon meringue pies for bake sales and her waffle iron cookies for Bible School were among the favorites. She made lefse with multiple generations, passing on the art so that part of their Norwegian heritage would not be lost. Pat was a nurturer with a heart of gold! She was

a champion of sending greeting cards and letters to many friends and family members over the years. She opened their home to their children's friends, often with no advance warning. She cooked delicious meals not only for her family, but for many going through difficult times. Pat enjoyed babysitting for friends and later welcomed any opportunity to take care of her grandkids and great-grandkids. Attending their family's activities kept her and Gordon busy, and they loved every minute of it. They enjoyed taking all eight of their grandkids on trips at various times and hosting New Year's Eve parties for those that lived close. Daily rides for fast food lunch or evenings looking for deer were a must; sometimes including the younger offspring. Many hours of card games, Yahtzee and Scrabble were played around the dining room table. Love of family was abundant.

In May, 2021 Pat and Gordon moved from their home of 50 years to an assisted living apartment. A few months after Gordon's passing Pat moved to the nursing home, where she resided until her death. Pat was a 25-year breast cancer survivor.

Pat is survived by her children: Rhonda (Randall) Hoffman of West Concord, Lynn (Ruth) Anderson of Grygla, and Lori (Stuart) Weis of Pine Island; grandchildren: Angie Alberts, Crystal Henslin, Melissa Saurdiff, Jeremy Weis, Anna Olson, John Hoffman, Robbie Anderson and Lezli Kuster; 19 great-grandchildren, with the newest baby arriving the morning of Pat's death; sister-in-law Janice Peterson, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, infant son Craig, and her brother Sheldon Peterson.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Pine Island at 12:30pm with Pastor Marie AK Anderson officiating. Visitation will be Saturday, November 18 at Saint Paul Lutheran Church from 4:00-7:00pm, with a time of sharing at 6:00pm. Visitation will continue for an hour before the service on Sunday. Inurnment will be at a later date in Grygla MN.

Memorials are suggested to Saint Paul Lutheran Church or the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester MN. Cremation services were provided by Rochester Cremation Services, www.rochestercremationservicesmn.com.

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Obituary for Anthony Kozojed

Anthony (Tony) Kozojed, 82, of Thief River Falls, MN passed away on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at Sanford Hospital, Fargo, ND.

Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Father Rick Lambert was held 1:30 PM on Friday, November 3, 2023 at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Thief River Falls, MN. Burial at St. Bernard's Catholic Cemetery following the Mass.

Visitation was held on Thursday, November 2, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Thief River Falls, MN. A vigil service followed by a rosary began at 7:00 pm. Visitation was also held one hour prior to the service on Friday.

Anthony (Tony) Edward Kozojed was born December 16, 1940 in Thief River Falls, Minnesota the son of Anton and Florentine (Hance) Kozojed. Tony grew up in Thief River Falls attending St. Bernard's Catholic School and graduated from Lincoln High School. Tony graduated from the Minnesota State Patrol academy.

On August 16, 1958 he was united in marriage to Sharon Yvonne Saurdiff at St. Bernard's Catholic Church. The couple raised their 5 children in Thief River Falls, Warren, and Marshall Minnesota moving multiple times due to State Patrol assignments and promotions for Tony. Tony served as the State Patrol Chief in St. Paul, MN from 1991 - 1993 prior to retiring from the Minnesota State Patrol in 1995 after 28 years of service.

Tony & Sharon were members of their local church. Tony was an usher and enjoyed working at the yearly Lenten fish fry. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Tony was a fire arms safety instructor for 40+ years. He was an avid gun enthusiast and participated in high power competitive long range target matches over the years. Tony enjoyed reloading bullets, repairing engines and gardening. Tony and Sharon were participants in the annual Marshall County Fair parade, sporting his father's 1948 Chevy deluxe. After retirement, Tony was a regular at the local café and "coffee" with his friends. When he was able, Tony made a weekly trip for Sunday meals with extended family. Tony looked forward to deer hunting each fall with his sons, son-in-law, and grandsons. Tony had a talent for remembering details and sharing events. He was rejuvenated whenever he was able to tell a story to a willing listener.

Tony is survived by children Tom (Suzan) Kozojed, Kathy (Dave) Blish, Teresa (Rod) Dahlstrom, Karen (Chuck) Enright and Tony (Caroline) Kozojed Jr.; grandchildren: Becky (Richard) Dafeo, Nikki (Tom) Kieffer, Laura Dahlstrom, Sally (Marshall) Bass, Mary Kozojed, Jamie (Matt) Dohnalek, Jacob Enright, Garret Enright,

Nick (Katie) Blish, George (Taylor) Blish, Anton and Claire Kozojed; great grandchildren: Jonah, Elijah, Isaac, Olivia, Jude and Elliott Dafeo, Ingrid, Soren and Lena Kieffer, Julie and Kimberly Aguilera, Scarletta, Francesca, Isabella and Remington Enright, Henry and Gwyneth Dohnalek, Judson and Elle Blish and Walker Blish, and Sharon Bass.

Tony is preceded in death by his parents, a sister Emily and his wife of 64 years Sharon.

Anthony Kozojed of Thief River Falls, MN passed away on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at Sanford Hospital, Fargo, ND at the age of 82 years, 10 months and 13 days. May he rest in eternal grace.

Condolences may be sent at www.johnsonfuneralservice.com

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Peyton Wittenberg of Gonvick shot this 6 point buck during the youth hunt.



Tyler Wolden of Carlos, shot this 11 point buck opening morning on the family land NordaGully. He weighed in at 185 lbs. Tyler hunted with his brother, Justin, and his parents, Lori and Wayne Wolden of Wadena.

DNR grants help children get outside, begin a lifetime of outdoor experiences

Apply through Dec. 12 for funding aimed at increasing outdoor experiences, education and stewardship

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce another phase of the No Child Left Inside grants. These grants help more children cast a line, study animal tracks, hike or bike, or simply learn more about nature.

"This successful outreach grant program continues to send resources to schools and organizations to help get children outdoors," said Jeff Lederhann, DNR education and skills team supervisor. "These grants boost outdoor programs and initiatives all around the

state, especially in communities with limited opportunities to connect with nature."

Public entities and nonprofit organizations serving youth younger than 18, including Native American tribes, schools or governments, can apply for No Child Left Inside grants.

This grant program contributes to realizing the vision of the Minnesota Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (mn.gov/children-outdoors) for each and every Minnesota child to experience outdoor recreational activities and discover the natural envi-

ronment regardless of where they live, learn, or play

As of Monday, Oct. 30, the Minnesota DNR is accepting applications for both mini grants (less than \$5,000) and larger grants (\$5,000 to \$25,000). The request for proposals is available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/no-child-grants). Applications will be accepted until 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Mini grant awards will be chosen by lottery after review to ensure they qualify. Larger grant awards will be selected

using a competitive review process. Funding can be used for outdoor recreation equipment, transportation, and related natural resource education expenses. Past mini grant awardees are encouraged to apply for a larger grant during this phase. Organizations that previously received a larger grant are ineligible for funds this round.

The 2023 Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1 million from the state's General Fund and the Heritage Enhancement Account of the Game and Fish Fund to continue the work of the No Child Left Inside grants program in fiscal year 2024.

For more information about the grant program, instructions for how to apply, and a link to the application or informational

webinar registration, visit the No Child Left Inside grants webpage of the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/no-child-grants). Questions about these grants or the application process should be emailed to outreachgrants.dnr@state.mn.us with "Grant Questions" in the subject line. People can also call 888-646-6367.

DNR sets winter walleye fishing regulations for Upper Red, Mille Lacs lakes

The walleye limit for Upper Red Lake will decrease from the five allowed during open water season to four this winter while the Mille Lacs Lake walleye limit will remain at one.

"Fall netting assessments on both lakes suggest these harvest levels will keep walleye populations sustainable and healthy," said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "We're pleased to offer anglers harvest opportunities on both lakes."

Effective Wednesday, Nov. 1, anglers fishing on the state waters of Upper Red Lake can keep up to four walleye with one longer than 17 inches.

Beginning Friday, Dec. 1, Mille Lacs Lake anglers can keep one walleye 21-23 inches long or one longer than 28 inches.

The DNR sets winter regulations for these lakes after completion of annual fall population assessments.

Results from Upper Red showed an optimal level of wall-

eye spawning stock and a high overall net catch rate, especially of nearly mature walleye.

Mille Lacs' results found slightly lower walleye numbers than in 2022.

But the continued strong presence of walleye born in 2013 and 2017 and acceptable numbers of walleye born in 2021 and 2022 suggest there are adequate numbers of younger fish to keep the population sustainable as they mature and reproduce to replace fish caught by anglers.

Governor Walz Signs Order to help maintain Minnesota's Workforce

Governor Walz signed on October 20, 2023 - Executive Order 23-14 to build and maintain Minnesota's workforce by removing college degree requirements for most state jobs and making it easier for people in Minnesota to find jobs that work for them.

We're helping existing em-

ployees like you develop long-term career paths in government, with individual development plans and training to help prepare you for future opportunities. We're also helping supervisors get the skills they need to guide effective teams and help their employees learn and grow.

This executive order is important. We need talented and motivated staff to help implement the work we're doing together to make Minnesota the best state for kids and families. And with unemployment rates at or near all-time lows, we need to attract great employees, remove unnecessary barriers to state jobs, and help workers develop and build careers in state service.

We've heard from supervisors and managers throughout the enterprise who are working to fill vacant positions, and we've listened to employees looking for more opportunities to advance in their state service. We know the work we do together is more than just a job - and this executive order will help more people find purpose, connection, and growth with the State of Minnesota.

We're excited about this step and excited for the work we'll continue to do together.

Register your deer

Contact: Barbara Keller, DNR big game program leader, 651-259-5198.

Hunters are required to register every deer they harvest before processing, before antlers are removed and within 48 hours after taking the animal. Hunters can register deer online, via phone or in person. Information from deer registration is essential for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to track and manage deer populations. Detailed registration instructions for all methods are available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/deer/harvestreg.html).

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Tract 2 Located: From Thorhult, south 1 3/4 miles on Hwy. 89.

Auctioneer's Note: This is an excellent opportunity to add a large chunk of tillable farm acreage to your land holdings! This accessible farm is located along the highway south of Thorhult, MN and features highly fertile soil. This auction also includes a 20-acre tract which could be a perfect building site for someone looking for a hunting getaway in one of the best hunting areas in the state.

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