



Tri County Canary

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



Anthony Kinkel



Shari Olson

Finalists Named for Interim Presidency of Northland Community & Technical College

Minnesota State has named two finalists in the search for the interim president of Northland Community & Technical College. The candidates are Anthony Kinkel and Shari Olson.

The candidates are scheduled to conduct campus visits on Wednesday, April 3 and Thursday, April 4. The campus visits provide an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and members of the community to meet each of the candidates and offer feedback. Details of the candidates' campus visits and the process for providing feedback are available at www.northlandcollege.edu/president-search.

Anthony Kinkel has served the Mount Dora Christian Academy & Children's Home (FL) as the vice president of development since 2021. Previously, he served the Minnesota State Board for School Administrators as Executive Director from 2017 to 2022, Motlow State Community College (TN) as president

from 2015 to 2017, Wichita State University-Tech (KS) as president from 2010 to 2015, Pikes Peak Community College (CO) as president from 2007 to 2010, the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville as chancellor from 2004 to 2007, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges as executive director and CEO from 2002 to 2004, and Northwest Technical College (MN) as dean of general education from 2000 to 2002. He also served in the Minnesota State Senate from 1999 to 2002 and the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1986 to 1998. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth and a doctorate from the University of Minnesota.

Shari Olson served the South Mountain Community College (AZ) as president from 2011 until her retirement in 2022. Previously, she served Anoka Technical College (MN) as interim president from 2010 to 2011, Minnesota State Col-

leges and Universities (now Minnesota State) as system director of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from 2009 to 2010, Eastern Wyoming College as president from 2007 to 2008, and Northland Community & Technical College from 1995 to 2007 in several capacities, most recently as vice president of planning and administrative services from 2006 to 2007, vice president of outreach and planning from 2005 to 2006, and vice president of outreach and technology from 2004 to 2005. She holds a bachelor's degree and a master's from North Dakota State University, and a doctorate from the University of North Dakota.

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is expected to consider Chancellor Scott Olson's recommendation at its April 17, 2024 meeting. The anticipated start date of the interim president is July 1, 2024

Prevent conflicts with bears this spring by being BearWise

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is encouraging homeowners to remove birdfeeders now and check their property for food sources that could attract bears.

While most of the female bears with cubs and yearlings are still near their denning areas, the mild winter has caused some full-grown bears to emerge from dens early to look around or find a quick, high-calorie snack.

"Bird feeders can become bear feeders," said Andrew Tri, DNR bear project leader. "Birdseed and grains are very attractive to bears looking for a quick, high-calorie meal. Prevention is key. Once a bear finds a food source, it will likely return."

As bears emerge from hibernation, their metabolism gradually ramps up as they transition from nibbling on plants to more substantial meals. Food and food odors attract bears, and they can pick up a scent from over a mile away.

Home and cabin owners can prevent bear conflicts now by using the BearWise checklist (files.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/bear/bearwise/mn-bearwise-at-home-checklist.pdf) and following these BearWise basics: (bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics):

- Remove bird feeders when bears are active.
- Secure food, garbage and recycling.
- Never feed or approach a bear.
- Never leave pet food outdoors.
- Clean and store grills and smokers.
- Alert neighbors to bear activity.

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Take Back The Night is April 11

By Angelina Grigoryants

Join us in taking a stand against sexual violence in our community at the upcoming Take Back the Night event, hosted by Support Within Reach and held at Bemidji State University.

Date: April 11th, 2024
Time: 5:00 PM - March begins at 6:00 PM - Gathering and Guest Speaker
Location: Paul and Babe Festival Area (Start of March) & Lower Lakeside, Bemidji State University

Take Back the Night is more than just an annual event; it is a movement dedicated to ending sexual violence in all its forms. We aim to raise awareness, em-

power survivors, and dismantle the systems that perpetuate violence. While historically acknowledging violence against women, we emphasize that this event is open to all, recognizing the prevalence of male and non-binary identifying victims in our region.

The evening starts with a march starting at the iconic Paul Bunyan and Babe statue, leading to Lower Lakeside on the Bemidji State University campus. At 6:00 PM, join us for a gathering featuring a guest speaker, food, and refreshments. The event will include a speak-out session open to all attendees and a bonfire and s'mores for a chance to connect

and share powerful stories.

For more information about the event or to inquire about donation contributions, please contact Support Within Reach at (218) 444-9524.

If you or someone you know has experienced Sexual Violence, advocates are here and ready to help you. Reach out to Support Within Reach at our 24/7 crisis hotlines: 1-800-708-2727 (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Cass) or 1-866-747-5008 (Itasca and Aitkin). Please like, follow, and share our social media platforms, and visit our website at supportwithinreach.org.

Minnesota severe weather awareness week 2024

The week of April 8 - 12, 2024 is designated Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week. Severe Weather Awareness Week is a public education campaign promoted by the National Weather Service, Minnesota Department of Public Safety and local Emergency Management Agencies. Each day of the week features a different weather hazard, and two statewide tornado drills will be conducted on Thursday, April 11th.

Weather Alerts and Warnings are Monday's topic. Several different types of watches and warnings may be issued for an area. Remember that watches mean that conditions are favorable for the development of severe weather or tornadoes, and warnings mean that severe weather or tornadoes are occurring, likely to occur, or are imminent. Advisories and special weather statements may come from the National Weather Service for storms that will impact an area but don't quite meet warning criteria. Thunderstorms are considered severe when they have one-inch hail or winds higher than 58mph.

Severe weather, including hail and lightning are covered on Tuesday. Hail develops during thunderstorms when a strong updraft is featured, especially in super cell thunderstorms. Hail causes nearly a billion dollars in damage annually and can range from pea size to over the size of softballs. Lightning kills around 100 people each year, more than

tornadoes. If you are outdoors and encounter lightning, remember the saying, "When thunder roars, go indoors." Lightning can strike ten miles from a storm and can strike even when it isn't raining.

Wednesday's topic is flooding. Minnesota floods kill more people than other weather events. Flooding deaths occur at night 75% of the time, and of those deaths' half died in vehicles. As little as six inches of rapidly flowing water can knock you off your feet. Never drive through flooded roadways, a foot of water will float most vehicles. Turn around, don't drown!

Minnesota's state-wide tornado drill will take place on Thursday. Outdoor warning sirens and NOAA Weather Radios across the state will be sounded at 1:45PM and 6:45PM. The two drills are intended to allow workplaces and schools an opportunity to test their severe weather plans. The second drill is to allow second shift workers and families at home an opportunity to test their plans. In accordance with the Association of Minnesota Emergency Manager's best practice guidelines, outdoor warning sirens in Polk County are used for tornadoes and intense thunderstorms with expected winds in excess of 70mph. There is never an "all clear" activation for sirens. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota experiences an average of 29tornadoes per year. In 2021, Minnesota

recorded 64 tornadoes, including 22 on December 15 alone, which were the latest reported tornadoes on record. A record was set in 2010 with 113 tornadoes touching down across the state.

So don't forget! The state-wide tornado drills are Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 1:45 P.M. and 6:45 P.M. Please take this opportunity to review emergency plans and procedures, and conduct emergency drills at work and at home.

Friday is dedicated to heat related emergencies. During the summer months, even here in Minnesota, temperatures can soar to near or over 100 degrees. Combined with high humidity, these temperatures can create dangerous conditions. To avoid heat related ailments, drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids, avoid strenuous activity during the hottest time of day, check on the elderly, wear light weight loose clothing, and never leave children or pets in vehicles. Even on warm days, vehicles act like a greenhouse and temperatures can rise to lethal levels in minutes.

Specific information about these topics, including fact-sheets, checklists, data and other resources, is provided on the HSEM Weather Safety and National Weather Service, Chanhassen websites. Contact HSEM for comments, questions or support at ready.mn.state@mn.us

Jody Beauchane, jody.beauchane@co.polk.mn.us
Polk County Emergency Management

Pancake Breakfast held March 24 in Bagley

Fundraising event for Clearwater County Search & Rescue Dive Team was held at the Bagley American Legion March 24.

The Clearwater County Sheriffs Reserve is raising money for the purchase of necessary equipment for the Clearwater County Sheriff's Search & Rescue Dive Team. The Dive Team is made up of members of the Clearwater County Sheriff's Office and Clearwater County Sheriffs Reserve.

Pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice was served from 10:30am - 1:00pm. There also was a silent auction. Cash donations can be sent to: CCVSR. Attn: Becky Thompson 34 Bagley Ave SW; Bagley, MN 56621.



Those in attendance at the Fundraising event for Clearwater County Search & Rescue Dive Team had a chance to win a firearm donated from Off the Grid Armory. The lucky winner was Kyle Crist of Bagley.



Pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice was served.



National Public Health Week is April 1-7, 2023

We Are All Public Health
Minnesota's public health system can best be described as: a state and local partnership. This partnership, known as the community health services system, enables state and local governments to combine resources to serve public health needs in an efficient, cost-effective way. It is fundamental to the success of Minnesota's public health system because it is the infrastructure for nearly all public health efforts and in Minnesota.

The three P's of public health are prevention, protection, and promotion. These are the core functions of public health. Most public health careers involve preventing illnesses, injuries, or death; pro-

tecting vulnerable groups; and promoting lifestyles, actions, and laws that can improve health and safety.

What is the difference between public health and healthcare?

The health care industry treats people who are sick, while public health aims to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. Public health focuses on entire populations, while health care focuses on individual patients. We need everyone in our communities working together if we're going to improve our nation's health. By building our connections, we build new possibilities for all of us to thrive together.

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FDIC

Polk County Sheriff

Structure Fire

On March 25th, 2024 at approximately 1043 hours the Crookston Fire Department and the Polk County Sheriff's Office responded to the report of a structure fire at 11908 310th Ave SW, Euclid, MN.

A 55' by 80' shop was a complete loss as a result of the fire. The State Fire Marshal's Office was contacted, and the case remains under investigation. There were no injuries reported.

Assisting agencies were East Grand Forks Fire Department, Warren Fire Department and Crookston Area Ambulance.

No further information will be released at this time.

Possible Burglary

On March 27th, 2024 at approximately 5:53am, the Polk County Sheriff's Office received a call for service regarding a possible burglary in progress in Belgium Township. Upon arrival, Deputies discovered that the suspects fled the area on foot. After an

extensive search of the area, a 29 year old male from Warren, MN was located and arrested. It is believed there was a second suspect who fled from the scene, however, has not been located. Although the second suspect has not been located the Polk County Sheriff's Office has no reason to believe there is a threat to the public at this time.

The arrested individual's identity will be released once formal charges are filed.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Crookston Police Department and Minnesota State Patrol.

This incident is still under investigation, anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Polk County Sheriff's Office at 218-281-0431.

Update: On 3-27-24 at approximately 10:45am, the Polk County Sheriff's Office arrested the second sought after suspect in regard to this incident. The suspect is a 34-year-old male from Emera, ND, whose identity will be released once formal charges are filed.

Summer camp at Lake Sarah

MFU holds a summer camp at Lake Sarah Campground near Erskine. This year's camp is June 17-June 21 for ages 9-12.

Sons of Norway Granlund Lodge #240

The Granlund Lodge #240, of the Sons of Norway will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday evening, April 11, at 6:30 pm at the Embassy Center in Fosston.

After the meeting and lunch, the program will feature Stephenie Anderson with a powerpoint presentation on Nordic Knitting Heroes who made an economic impact. Stephenie will have on display her many hand knit sweaters, mittens and various additional items. As always, visitors are invited to attend both the meeting at 6:30 and the program, which will begin at approximately 7:30.

Join the members and visitors on Thursday evening, April 11, at the Embassy Center in Fosston on the corner of 3rd and Eaton for Nordic Knitting Heroes.



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Passport photos

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Update: 29 year old Robert Fred Fish and 34 year old Richard William Paulson were arrested and charged with Conspiracy to commit Burglary in the 2nd and 3rd degree in regards to this incident.

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ANTIQUES

By John Eggers



"Is it worth anything?"

When I was a child, looking for chocolate candy eggs for Easter was fun, but it was even more fun if those eggs were in a tin basket pulled by the Easter Bunny. Remember those tin toys? The J. Chein Toy Company of New York made most. Those beautiful lithograph toys were primarily made in the 30s and 40s. Oddly, Julius Chein, the founder, was killed in a horse accident while riding in Central Park in 1926. His widow took over the company and eventually gave the management to her brother. The company stopped producing toys in the 1970s. The tin bunny pictured is in excellent condition and relatively scarce. It is worth between \$75 and \$125. Displaying these old tin toys at Easter brings back many sweet memories. Do you have some old tin Easter toys? How much are they worth? Well, that depends.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Red Lake County Landfill Operator I

The position mainly works out of the Oklee location but may assist with the Red Lake Falls site as needed.

The duties include: monitor loads delivered to landfill, maintain landfill property, assist patrons, work with Household Hazardous Waste, operate and maintain equipment as needed, and work outdoors in varying weather conditions.

This is a part-time position. The general work schedule is as follows: May 1st - Oct. 31st: 24 hrs. per month; Wednesdays, and 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Candidates must be 18 years of age, able to lift 50 lbs., and have a valid MN driver's license. Wage starts at \$19.65 per hour.

Applications are available at www.co.red-lake.mn.us/ employment Questions call the HR office at 218-253-2590 or email hr@co.red-lake.mn.us. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE

O3-4C

Red Lake County Seasonal Tar Crew Laborers

Position will assist in tar-patching and various road maintenance operations, and occasionally assigned to other seasonal job duties within the Highway department.

Applicants must be 18 years old as of the date of hire, possess a valid Minnesota Class D driver's license, and be able to do manual labor. Position will approximately start the end of May, works 4-10 hr. days, and wage is \$19.05/hr.

Applications are available online at www.co.red-lake.mn.us/ employment or at the Red Lake County Highway Department, 204 7th St SE, Red Lake Falls, MN, (218) 253-2697. Applications accepted until positions are filled. EOE

R2-3C



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FARM OPERATOR/ MECHANIC POSITION

Gunvalson Farms, Inc. has an open position for a **full-time Farm Operator/Mechanic** at our wild rice farming operation 10 miles north of Gully, MN. Must be physically fit, have machinery repair experience and be able to competently operate farm machinery. Must be willing to work long hours during the fall harvest season however we have flexible winter hours. Maintaining a healthy work-life balance for the team is very important to us.

We offer competitive pay depending on experience. Benefits include PTO, 401k and Health Insurance.

Address: 18345 390th Ave SE, Trail, MN 56684
Phone: 218-556-0736

R2-9C

Clearwater County Deputy Auditor-Treasurer

Applications are being accepted for a Deputy Auditor-Treasurer position, under the general supervision of the Clearwater County Auditor-Treasurer. This position is assisting with maintenance of department accounting functions, processing accounts payable, receipting monies, entering and maintaining county budgets, reconciling and balancing accounts. Responsible for processing land tax forfeitures, assists with payroll, tax collection and the entering of special assessments, issuance of passports and administering election procedures.

Desired education requirements are an Associate Degree in accounting, business, finance or related field or a minimum of three years' experience in accounting of governmental accounting procedures and practices. Must be proficient in computer skills and willing to learn various software applications. Salary Range is \$21.25-27.69 with full benefits.

Applications may be obtained from the Clearwater County Service Center located on the 2nd floor of the Clearwater County Courthouse or on the website at www.co.clearwater.mn.us.

Applications can be returned to Allen Paulson, Clearwater County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, 213 Main Ave N, Bagley MN, 56621. This position is open until filled.

R2-3C

HIRING FULL-TIME SCIENCE TEACHER 2024-25

Clearbrook-Gonvick School District has an opening for a full-time Science Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. The Clearbrook-Gonvick Science Department is a two person department with one instructor teaching the following courses for the 2024-2025 school year: Physical Science 8 & 9, Advanced Physical Science, and Chemistry. The other instructor would teach Life Science 7, Biology 10, Environmental Science, and STEAM 7. Teaching assignment would be based on candidates' licensure area(s) and experience.

A Minnesota Teaching License in conjunction with the Science courses listed above is required for the position. Individuals who are interested in extra-curricular or coaching activities are also encouraged to apply. Position is open until filled.

Please submit letter of interest, resume, credentials, and three references to:

Clearbrook-Gonvick School
16770 Clearwater Lake Rd
Clearbrook, MN 56634
Attn: Melissa Weems, HR
Phone: 218-776-3112 Ext. 105
Or email the materials to:
mweems@clearbrook-gonvick.k12.mn.us

Clearbrook-Gonvick School District ISD #2311 is an equal opportunity employer.

R2-5C



CURRENT JOB OPENINGS OPEN POSITIONS

Director of Indian Education position opening immediately. Applicants must have a four-year Bachelor of Science Degree as well as a valid driver's license. Experience in Indian Education is preferred but not required.

Elementary Special Ed. Teacher position opening immediately. Proper Minnesota licensure is required and experience is preferred.

High School Math Teacher position opening fall of 2024. Proper Minnesota licensure is required.

Athletic Director .5 FTE position opening fall of 2024. Preference given to a Four-year college degree and experience in the field of education.

Elementary Art Teacher position opening fall of 2024. Proper Minnesota licensure is required.

High School Spanish Teacher position opening fall of 2024. Proper Minnesota licensure is required and experience is preferred.

Secondary Physical Science and Physics Teacher position opening fall of 2024. Proper Minnesota licensure is required and experience is preferred.

*Interested applicants should send a resume, letter of interest, three letters of recommendation and a copy of college transcripts to Nichole M. Ekre at 202 Bagley Ave. NW, Bagley, MN 56621 or nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled. *

Substitute Teacher opportunities are available. Applicants should submit their teaching license (or substitute licensure with a 4-year degree) and resume.

Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check.

Native American Home School Liaison position openings. Candidates must be highly qualified, which includes either two or more years of college, an AA Degree, or the ability to pass the ParaPro Exam.

Paraeducator position openings. Candidates must be highly qualified, which includes a High School Diploma or equivalent and either 2 or more years of college/an AA Degree, or the ability to pass the ParaPro Exam.

Substitute Para opportunities are available. Applicants must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

*Application forms may be downloaded from the District Website bagley.k12.mn.us, picked up in the District Office or you may email nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. For more information, please call Nichole Ekre at 218-694-6184. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled. *

Food Service Cook opening immediately - a high school diploma or GED is preferred but not required. This is a 6.5-hour position.

Food Service Support Staff - a high school diploma or GED is preferred but not required. This is a 3-hour position.

Substitute Food Service Support Staff - a high school diploma or GED is preferred but not required.

Food Service Cook opening fall of 2024 - a high school diploma or GED is preferred but not required. This is a 5.5-hour position.

*Application forms may be downloaded from the District Website bagley.k12.mn.us, picked up in the District Office or you may email nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. For more information, please call Jennifer Hecht at 218-694-6184. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled. *

Full-Time Route Bus Driver and Substitute Bus Driver positions. Applicants must have or be able to obtain a school bus driver's license endorsement. The District is willing to help applicants obtain their school bus endorsement. New drivers will receive a \$200 stipend after six months of driving to help defray the cost of certification. For more information, please call Stuart Dukek at 218-694-6122. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled.

COACHING

Currently accepting applications for **Co-Head Varsity Dance Coach**

*Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume of coaching and playing experiences and three references to Nichole M. Ekre at 202 Bagley Ave. NW, Bagley, MN 56621 or nekre@bagley.k12.mn.us. Successful candidates must pass a criminal background check. Positions will remain open until filled.

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R51-5C



MCAN

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MISCELLANEOUS

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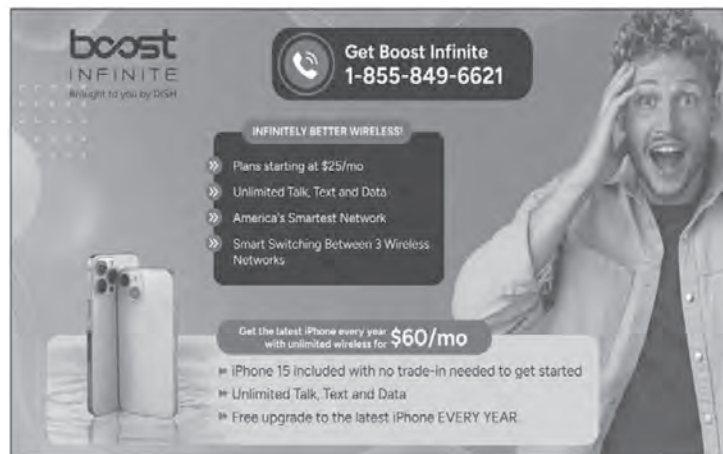
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by Sgt. Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol

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safer because of their large size and design. School bus interiors are designed on “compartmentalization”, which packs seats closely together and covers them with energy-absorbing pads. This minimizes their movement upon impact. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, less than one percent of all traffic fatalities involve children on school transportation vehicles.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

Senator Amy Klobuchar United States Senator

Ensuring Minnesota veterans can get the care they’ve earned

By Senator Amy Klobuchar
Whether they served in the

jungles of Vietnam, the mountains of Afghanistan, or the sands of Iraq, when our veterans signed up to serve our country, there wasn't a waiting line. When they return home from duty and need a job, education, housing, or health care, there should never be a waiting line in the United States of America.

That's why for years I worked alongside Minnesota veterans and families to ensure that veterans exposed to toxic substances, including burn pits in the Middle East and Agent Orange in Vietnam, could get the high-quality, affordable health care they need through the Department of Veterans Affairs. For too long, our vets had to jump through bureaucratic hoops to prove the obvious — that their conditions, be they high blood pressure from Agent Orange or cancer from exposure to burn pits, were related to their service — and in some cases, they still found they weren't eligible to receive care through the VA. That changed when Congress came together to pass the PACT Act.

In March, the VA announced that it is now able to provide health care for all vets who were exposed to toxins or served in the Vietnam War or any combat zone after 9/11. That means millions of vets can apply for VA health care up to eight years earlier than expected. This is a game-changer for the 118,000 Minnesota vets who the VA estimates benefit from the PACT Act. In our state alone, more

than 8,000 vets have already applied for care.

I think of the Starks family, who I had the privilege of meeting in March. Jerald Starks served our country in the Army for 16 years, and his dedication to service didn't end when he got home — he went on to work in law enforcement and for the Postal Service. He tragically passed away from leukemia related to burn pit exposure, but during his cancer battle, the PACT Act ensured he and his family could afford care.

In the wake of the VA's announcement, I am focused on ensuring all Minnesota veterans can get the health care they need. If you or a loved one served and may have been exposed to burn pits or toxins of any kind, I encourage you to enroll in health care through the PACT Act. You no longer

have to file a disability claim to receive this care — if you were exposed to toxins or served in the Vietnam War or any combat zone after 9/11, you are eligible to enroll in VA health care today and will have access for life. Visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more. For assistance, you can also call my office at 612-727-5220.

Just as our veterans made a promise to defend our nation, we make a promise to be there for them when they come home. By expanding access to health care, we are letting our veterans and service members know that when the United States of America makes a promise, we keep it.

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Phone: (612) 727-5220



The Hour of The Opossum

By Travis Peterson

Got home late the other night and parked in the back. I sat in the car for a bit so I could finish listening to “He’s a Rebel” by The Crystals and rock out to the saxophone solo.

Eventually, I hop out of car and make my way through the backyard. I was just outside the reach of the motion detector sensor that activates my yard lights when I hear this guttural growl that slowly morphed into a sinister hiss within the same breath. This was no defensive “leave me alone” hiss. No. This was a combative “I’m coming for you” hiss.

I cautiously take another step forward and start waving my hand. Ba-bloom! The motion detector recognizes movement and activates my flood lights. A crazed and mangy-looking opossum, greedily hunched over a half-chewed rat, is staring right at me.

I can see saliva shimmering on its razor-sharp teeth as it flashes its fangs. I sneak a quick glance at the rat and it gives me a look as if to say, “Run! Save yourself!”

I look back up at the opossum. It takes a step forward. I take a step back. My only thought was, “If I get bit, how deep are those incisors gonna sink into my shin?” The last

thing I need is a bone marrow infection. It hisses at me again. I hiss back. It steps over the rat and hisses louder and more frenzied than before. It’s serious now.

We both stand dead still, waiting for each other to make the next move. I know that my yard lights are on a fifteen-second timer and sure enough, clink, the yard lights flick off. Thick darkness and a wild hiss.

Screaming like a banshee, I high-tail it for my front door, running hard and fast around my house, unsure if the manic marsupial has taken pursuit. I fumble with my keys and finally get the front door unlocked. At some point during the day, my dog had fluffed up the entryway rug which was now making it very difficult to swing the door open. I push the door in as far as I could and squeeze through the gap and fall to the floor. I kick the door shut and my dog welcomes me home with a flurry of loving licks.

Clambering onto my feet, I dart to the back-patio door to see if the opossum is still in the yard. With the limp rat clenching in its jaw, I watched as it disappeared into the night, never to be seen again. Hopefully.



Looking Forward to Tractor Shows

By Auctioneer Eric W. Mickelson

Maybe it is the mild winter we have had but I am looking forward to summer and tractor shows and local parades (Love to see a few tractors go by here too!). I have already talked to my wife and started planning our summer travel schedule!

Some of the events in mind include the 4th of July Celebration in Plummer. Along with that for the past several years The Tri River Pioneers organization has sponsored a tractor show at the museum there following the parade. Later in July will be the Freedom Festival in Goodridge, MN, also featuring a parade!

I also found a couple of shows featuring John Deere tractors. I have never attended the Albert City, Iowa show, but I just may this year! It is called the Albert City Threshermans and Collectors Show. The very first Threshing Show was held in August of 1971. The Threshermen and Collectors Association wasn't formally organized until December 11, 1974. On October 31, 1975, the members of the Association voted to accept a land gift of 15 acres from Ed and Agnes Sundholm for the development of their show site. The Albert City Show Association has grown into one of the best shows in the region. With the help of volunteers, exhibitors and patrons, the show's future will hopefully shine on for generations. In 2011 they purchased 35 more acres to expand the show site. This year the show is featuring John Deere tractors. The Northwest Iowa Tractor Collectors are in charge of the John Deere feature. Tractors that will be highlighted for 2024 will be the line of New Generation John Deere tractors. So you may



The Waterloo Boy!!

have noticed why I want to go this year!

Of course if you are from our area the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion in Rollag, MN, is also featuring....you guessed it JOHN DEERE. The Lake Agassiz Two Cylinder Club is in charge of lining up exhibits for the year. Don Dufner of Buxton, ND, is a member of the committee and is bringing about 15 of his units to display! That will be a treat to see!

Spring is here (sort of) so summer is around the corner! Tractor shows, tractor pulls, I am waiting for it anxiously!

How about a little tractor trivia!

1. On March 14, 1918 Deere & Company bought what tractor company?
A) The Dain B) The Waterloo Gasoline Tractor C) The

Big Four

2. What John Deere tractor came out in 1923 and celebrated its “centennial” last summer.

A) Model A B) Model B C) Model C D) Model D

3. What model John Deere tractor was featured in the movie Field of Dreams?

A) Model 2010 B) Model 2640 C) Model 3020 D) Model 4440

4. Name the first John Deere Diesel?

5. What state was John Deere born in?
A) Maine B) New Hampshire C) Vermont D) Massachusetts

Answers: 1. B. Waterloo 2. D. Model D 3. B. 2640 4. Model R 5. C. Vermont

Theology in the Trenches

By Kathleen Kjolhaug

If I Could Just...

and had an opening one week prior to our move in date. In no time flat, we had a fireplace up and running within the home. “Lord, if I could just find a couple of fun chairs so we’d have a place to sit near the fireplace.”

A friend called and the very chairs that were the desire of my heart were now for sale. I said YES to the chairs and knew this would be the final request...or so I thought. “Lord, if I could just find the right couch to match, it would complete the room.”

I found just the right couch at just the right price at just the right place and purchased it. “Lord, if I could just find the right Christmas tree in the corner...it would make for an incredible season.”

A perfect tree was sought and bought but soon, the season was over and there was a space in the corner. “Lord, if I could just order a chair or two I know they’d pocket nicely within that space.”

The chairs are now within our space. As I look around, the next thing on the list speaks,

“If I could just...” and then the next and the next and on it goes.

I thank You, God, for Your provisions and “If I Could Just” remind myself that without You, it becomes all about me.

There’s nothing wrong with creating a space in which to gather—a place to come home to, a place which offers refuge and acts as a shelter or fortress of sorts. However, He reminds us that life goes deeper than what we see within the spaces we create.

Psalms 91:1-2, 4-5 says, “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”

Psalms 71:3 says, “Be my rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.”

If I could just keep this perspective, I know the next thing on my list will be of You, for Your glory and not my own. May it be so. Amen.

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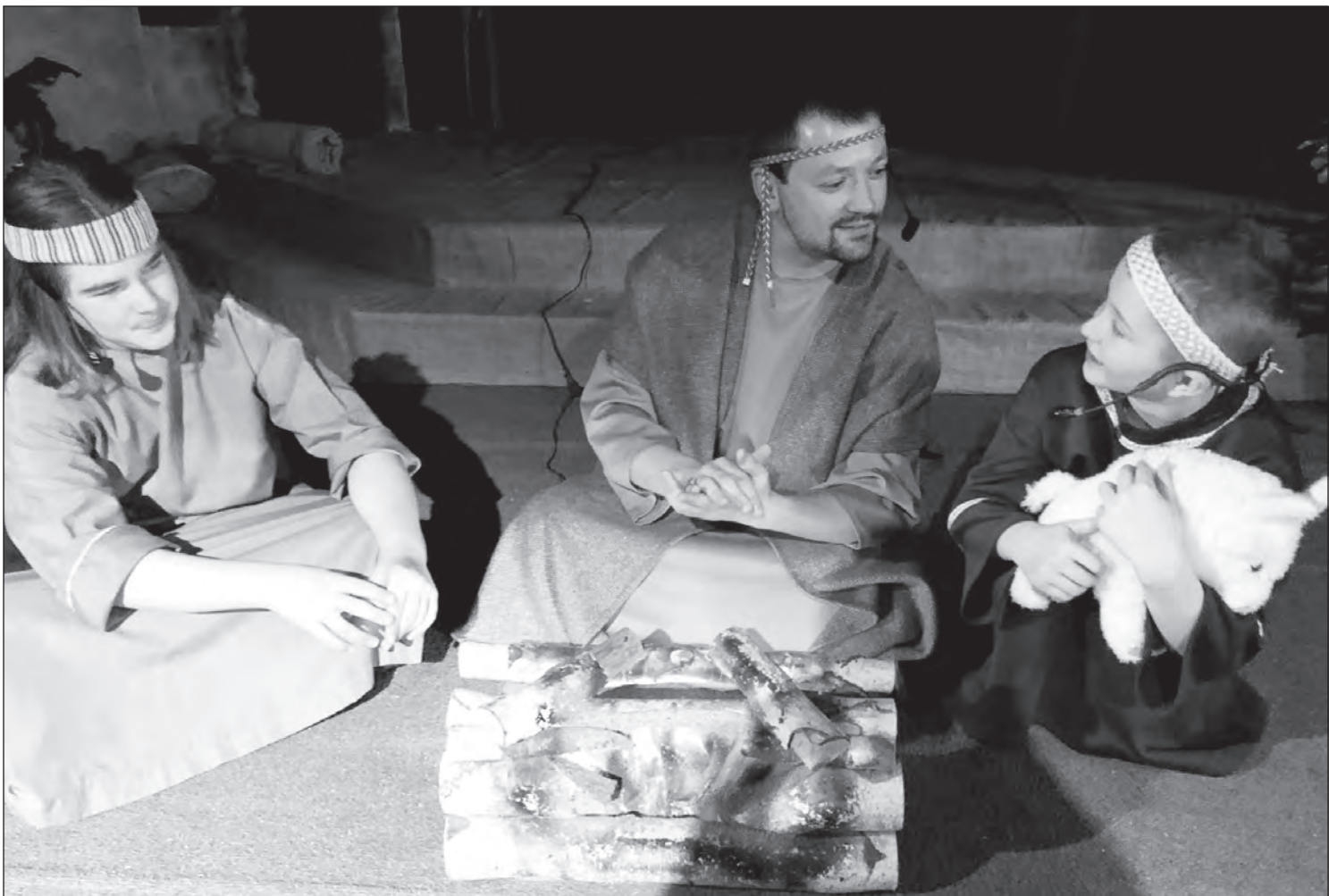
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Tractor Pull Registration Here



"Watch the Lamb" to be performed in Thief River Falls

Watch the Lamb, a dramatic musical written by Ray Boltz and Steve Millikan, and arranged by Ronn Huff will be performed at Open Arms Christian Fellowship, 401 St. Paul Avenue South in Thief River Falls on Saturday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 14 at 2:00 p.m. Community attendance is invited. There is no admission charge; a freewill offering will be accepted. Refreshments will be served following the program.

The background of the story, scripted by Tom Lawson, is the Biblical account of a Cyrenian father, Simon (Dan Sayler), who is taking his sons, Rufus (Zander Olson) and Alexander (Kail Hagen) on pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover. They bring with them a lamb from their flock. The younger son has named the lamb Methu-saleh.

What the family experiences in Jerusalem is described in the song, "Watch the Lamb". Because of what Simon, Rufus and Alexander see and hear during their Passover stay, their lives are forever changed.

Other members of the cast, in order of appearance, are: Narrator (Kurt Nelson), Abraham (Joe Efta), Isaac (Elijah Jahn), crowd during "He's Coming to Jerusalem" (Christina Nelson and self-selected choir members), Pilate (Joe Efta), Prisoner 1 (Simon Carrizosa), Prisoner 2 (Spencer Simmons), Jesus (Marc Schimek), Roman soldiers (Zach Eisele and John Eisele), Simon's "double" (David Jahn), onlookers during "Watch the Lamb": (Cary Efta, Eunice Jahn, Janice Juhl, Sherry Largis, Darold and Linda Johnston), Angels (Christina Nelson and Mya Arlt).

The adult choir, under the direction of Kari Lindemoen, includes: sopranos-- Cindy Arlt, Tara Cross, JoAnn Eisele, Jill Hall, Connie Moe and Muriel Olin; altos-- Kelly Dodson, Beth Nelson, Sheryl Northup and Marilyne Sayler; tenors-- Dave Fish, Tim Rittenour and Ben Sayler, Jr. and bass--LeRoy Aasland, Jake Huwe, Wes Largis and Scott Pream.

The children's choir, also under the direction of Kari Lindemoen, includes: Lyla Dodson, Mira Harstad, Elijah and Selah Jahn, Aria Joseph, Aurora Lofberg and Zady Taylor.

Watch the Lamb Technical, Artistic and Support Staff are: sound--Ben Sayler, Sr., Ben Sayler, Jr., and Dan Sayler; lights--Renae Franke and Ben Sayler; prompter--Lisa LeClaire; stage manager--Rolf Bredeson; owner of the lamb--Ollie Urdahl; drama coach--Marilyne Sayler and drama assistant--Lisa LeClaire; choir risers--Ben Sayler, Sr., Ben Sayler, Jr., Ron Northup, Jr., Zach Eisele, John Eisele; costumes--Cindy Arlt, Lisa LeClaire and Marilyne Sayler; props--Marilyne Sayler, Lisa LeClaire, Zander Olson, Cindy Arlt, Kari Lindemoen, Zach Eisele and John Eisele; decorations--Debbie Brothers; town of Bethany--Cindy Arlt, Wes and Sherry Largis, Darold and Linda Johnston; model of the Temple--Scott Besserud; design and construction of the stage, altar and stable fence--Ron Northup, Sr.; artwork of the hills of Judea--Helen Juhl; crosses--Nathan Rittenour; refreshments--David and Eunice Jahn.



Red Lake County is well represented in the choirs of the upcoming dramatic musical "Watch the Lamb". Wes Largis, Cindy Arlt, Lila Dodson, Kelly Dodson, Aria Joseph and Mira Harstad, make time after a rehearsal to pose for a photo. They will be joined by Sherry Largis and Linda and Darold Johnston in performing "Watch the Lamb" on Saturday, April 13, 7:00 pm and Sunday, April 14, 2 pm at Open Arms Christian Fellowship, 401 St. Paul Ave. South, Thief River Falls. There is no admission charge; a Freewill offering will be accepted. Everyone is invited.



During a rehearsal for the dramatic musical, "Watch the Lamb", when Jesus (center, front--Marc Schimeck) falls under the weight of carrying the cross, a trio of weeping women try to help Him. One of them (left, front--Connie Moe) kneels and reaches for the fallen Man but is forbidden by Roman soldiers (Zach Eisele and John Eisele) to help Him. A second woman (left, second row--JoAnn Eisele) looks on in shock and horror at the suffering Victim. A third woman (Cindy Arlt) appeals to one of the soldiers to render aid to the fallen Man. Hardened by their exposure to the violence of criminals and the horrors of war, both soldiers refuse her request.

"Watch the Lamb"... Continued on next page

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K G N E N G I N E S B T Z I C W F O C U

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

In 1989, as *Watch the Lamb* was first being published, producer George W. King wrote, “*Watch the Lamb* has been a labor of love for all of us who have taken part in bringing this wonderful musical parable to life.” Thirty five years later, King’s words still ring true for those preparing to share its message with others.

The local choir, cast and staff of *Watch the Lamb 2024* hail from Thief River Falls and several neighboring communities, including: Brooks, Goodridge, Greenbush, Grygla, Middle River, Newfolden, Plummer and Red Lake Falls. They wish to invite their respective communities to join them in celebrating not only this significant anniversary, but, more importantly, the musical’s timeless beauty and powerful message.

Doors will open an hour before performance times. Early-comers are invited to stroll through the main street of “Bethany” (in the church foyer) and enjoy the anniversary issue of *Bethany Bylines*, provided free of charge and available at the “Bethany Chamber of Commerce” (in the church foyer).

For more information, please call Marilyne Saylor, 218 689-3276.



During a recent “Watch the Lamb” rehearsal, members of the adult choir and children’s choir pose for a photo. Members of the choir and cast come from several neighboring communities. They will be performing “Watch the Lamb” on Saturday, April 13, 7:00 pm and Sunday, April 14, 2 pm at Open Arms Christian Fellowship, 401 St. Paul Ave. South, Thief River Falls. There is no admission charge; a Freewill offering will be accepted. Everyone is invited.

9 signs of pest infestation



Individuals want a home that is welcoming and comfortable. Unfortunately many conditions that people find appealing also appeal to pests. Pests may be more problematic at certain times of year , such as when weather is extreme and pests like rodents or even rac-

coons seek refuge in a home. During times of year when temperatures are mild, certain insects may begin to hatch or swarm, becoming problematic around the home.

Some signs of pests taking up residence may be readily apparent, while others may be less obvious. The following are nine signs of pest infestation in or around a home.

1. Droppings: Small droppings may indicate that pests are nearby. Droppings will vary depending on the insect or rodent. It's good to familiarize yourself with the appearance of various droppings, from mice to termites to bed bugs.

2. Footprints: Footprints are another sign of pest infestation. Footprints left in dirt around a home, or in dusty areas in the attic or basement, may show that pests are track-

ing in and out of the house.

3. Sawdust piles or trails: Sawdust could be indicative of termites or ants. Insects like carpenter bees also may burrow into areas of wood and leave sawdust behind.

4. Shed wings, skins and casings: Many insects molt and, during this process, will shed certain parts of their anatomy to grow larger. Roaches, bed bugs and beetles are some pests that might be scattering sheds or egg casings in a home. Termite wings are discarded once the swarms choose a new location for the colony.

5. Foul odors: Musty or foul smells, particularly in hidden areas, may indicate pests are nesting nearby.

6. Unexplained noises: Scratching or scurrying in walls or floors often indicates

Minnesota Hemp Growers and Processors Must Apply by April 30 for 2024 Season

Licenses are for industrial hemp only

St. Paul, MN: Those wanting to grow and process hemp in Minnesota in 2024 must apply for a license with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) by April 30. To date, about 113 people have applied for an MDA license. A license from the MDA is required for individuals and businesses.

Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2024, and a license is valid for the 2024 calendar year.

The application can be found on the MDA website. Along with the online form, first-time applicants and authorized representatives need to submit fingerprints and pass a criminal background check. These licenses are for grow-

ing and processing industrial hemp only. The hemp grower or processor application is not for the growth or sale of adult-use or medical cannabis. The application is also not intended for the sale of hemp-derived cannabinoid products. Adult-use cannabis information can be found on the Office of Cannabis Management website. Information related to medical cannabis and hemp-derived cannabinoid products can be found at the Minnesota Department of Health website.

Growers and processors need to be aware of the following for 2024:

- All authorized representatives designated by the applicant must pass a criminal history background check prior to

the issuance of a license.

- Every lot of hemp grown requires pre-harvest THC regulatory testing. Each official regulatory sample collected by the MDA will cost \$100.
- The MDA licenses processors that handle raw hemp and initially process it by extraction, decortication, devitalization, crushing, or packaging, and the department will continue random inspections of processor locations.
- License fees will remain the same. The minimum cost of a grower license is \$400. A processing license is a minimum of \$500.

Questions about the MDA’s Industrial Hemp Program should be sent to hemp.mda@state.mn.us or 651-201-6600.

In-state tuition for Minnesota residents makes SDSU best value among peer institutions

BROOKINGS, S.D. — When the South Dakota Board of Regents extended the South Dakota Advantage tuition rate to Minnesota residents in December 2023, it made SDSU the best value for Minnesota residents among its peer institutions in Minnesota. South Dakota Advantage will offer in-state tuition to Minnesota residents enrolling as new students at SDSU starting summer 2024.

“We’ve received a lot of questions recently with concerns of tuition reciprocity going away for Minnesota students considering college in South Dakota. The facts are this — the South Dakota Advantage tuition program will provide an even stronger tuition value for Minnesota residents at SDSU than they were receiving under the previous reciprocity agreement,” said Shawn Helmbolt, SDSU assistant vice president for enrollment management.

The addition of Minnesota to the South Dakota Advantage tuition program eliminated the need for a reciprocity program for Minnesota students, as South Dakota Advantage will reduce tuition from the previously negotiated reciprocity tuition rate by approximately

\$1,600 each year.

“We value our Minnesota neighbors and the impact our Minnesota students and alumni make as Jackrabbits. We’re thrilled to be able to offer them an even lower tuition rate, making SDSU a stronger value for them,” Helmbolt said. “We have already had positive results with the program in other states, particularly Iowa and Nebraska, so having this available in another neighboring state will only continue to make SDSU an option for students who want a premier education at a tremendous value.”

The cost of attendance at SDSU for undergraduates living on campus during the 2023-24 academic year is \$18,861 for tuition, fees, room and board. Factoring in the average cost of books and supplies, students attending their first year spend approximately \$20,062. Compared to other universities in Minnesota, SDSU is the best value when it comes to cost of attendance:

- South Dakota State University: \$20,062
- Minnesota State University-Mankato: \$21,756
- Southwest Minnesota State University: \$21,972
- University of Minnesota-

Duluth: \$25,524

- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities: \$30,682

Source: University websites

“The public higher education system in South Dakota has made it a priority to remain a great value for students who seek the benefits of earning a four-year degree from a land-grant university like South Dakota State University, and we value the support from the South Dakota Board of Regents and our Legislature to do so,” Helmbolt said.

“SDSU continues to attract thousands of students from the Midwest and beyond, offering them more than 85 different majors that incorporate hands-on learning opportunities, undergraduate research, internships, education abroad and job placement after graduation.”

Minnesota students who are currently enrolled at SDSU will continue to receive the Minnesota reciprocity tuition rate until graduation.

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April Weed of the Month: Annual Treatment Cycle for Invasive Plant Species

Invasive plant management occurs throughout the year and depends on the growth habit and lifecycle of the species.

Maya Sarkar, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

It’s been a warm winter in Minnesota and our plant life is celebrating spring early this year. While it’s still fairly quiet in the plant world compared to our main summer growing season, it’s a great time to get started on controlling some invasive plant species.

Invasive plant management occurs throughout the year and depends on the growth, habit, and lifecycle of the species. Plant types include woody, herbaceous annual, herbaceous biennial, or herbaceous perennial plants.

- Spring is a great time to pull garlic mustard before it seeds. It’s also a good time to use prescribed fire to burn invasive plants before many native prairie plants emerge.
- Summer months are ideal for controlling plants that are accessible and actively growing but haven’t produced seed yet, such as spotted knapweed.
- Fall is a good time to spray herbaceous biennials and perennials because they will move herbicide along with carbohydrates into their roots as they store energy for spring emergence.
- In the winter, while herbaceous plants are dormant it can be advantageous to cut and treat woody vines, such as roundleaf bittersweet.

While accessibility is one planning factor for treatment, there are numerous other considerations, including:

- Knowing which treatment method will be most effective depending on the lifecycle stage of the plant.
- Spraying outside of the plant’s bloom window to avoid spraying pollinators. Another way to avoid pollinators is to spray early in the morning before pollinators are active.
- Having the correct materials, equipment, and sufficient time to complete a treatment thoroughly.

The following is a helpful general treatment guideline for the seasons when it comes to general characteristics of an invasive species, including growth, habit, and lifecycle.

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Minnesota DNR News

Bear hunt lottery applications available

Deadline is Friday, May 3
Prospective bear hunters have until Friday, May 3 to apply for a bear hunting license from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Applications for the 2024 season can be submitted online, at any license agent or by telephone at 888-665-4236.

A total of 4,030 licenses are available in 15 quota areas where licenses are limited for the 2024 season, which opens Sunday, Sept. 1, and closes Sunday, Oct. 13.

The number of licenses available each year in the quota area is based on Minnesota's bear population trends for those areas. The trends indicate the bear population has stabilized and is slowly increasing, in part because of recent conservative license quotas. License quotas for the 2024 season are similar to those available for the 2023 season.

Bear hunters who plan to apply for bear permit area 51 should review the boundaries for newly created bear permit area 53 to ensure they select the right area they intend to hunt. Twenty licenses will be available in area 53, which DNR created at the request of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Lottery winners will be notified by Saturday, June 1. The deadline to purchase bear hunting licenses awarded by lottery is Thursday, Aug. 1. Any remaining unpurchased licenses will be available over the counter starting at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

An unlimited number of bear licenses also will be sold over-the-counter for the no-quota area that includes east-central and far northwestern Minnesota. No-quota licenses are valid only in the no-quota area.

Hunters with either a quota or no-quota license who are interested in taking a problem bear should contact the DNR wildlife manager (mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife) for their area(s) of interest to be added to the

hunter contact list for any opportunities that might arise.

Complete instructions about how to apply for a bear hunting license, maps of permit areas and a listing of permit availability for each area are available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/bear).

Video shows how to handle flathead catfish, other large fish

Contact: Tony Sindt, Minnesota River specialist, 320-753-0333.

A video from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources aims to educate anglers about how to properly catch and release large fish.

Being properly equipped and understanding how to handle a large fish is critical to enhancing the fish's chances for survival after release. The video covers: having the proper equipment for large fish; minimizing the time the fish is out of the water; protecting the fish's slime coating; holding the large fish horizontally and supporting the fish's body; and releasing the fish properly.

The flathead catfish fishing season began April 1. Additionally, seasons are around the corner for other large fish like lake sturgeon, muskellunge, northern pike, steelhead and others.

The video can be found on the Minnesota DNR's catch and release webpage (mndnr.gov/fish/catchandrelease.html).

Pheasants Forever, Minnesota DNR join forces to get new hunters into fields and forests

Contact: Cara Hanson, DNR marketing coordinator, 651-259-5246.

With spring turkey season starting April 17, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Pheasants Forever are inviting Minnesota hunters to join the Hunter Mentor

Challenge and take someone hunting who has never hunted or hasn't hunted for a few years.

Minnesota hunters and those they mentor will qualify for a discount code for ALPS OutdoorZ brand gear; and, after their hunt, they have the chance to win a custom, limited-edition Pheasants Forever hunting backpack from ALPS OutdoorZ.

The program is open to all spring wild turkey and light goose hunters. Experienced hunters can invite a new hunter of any age if the new hunter has the proper license/tag necessary and either the mentee hunter's safety or apprentice hunter validation.

Participation is simple: hunters visit the Minnesota DNR page on the Pheasants Forever website and take the pledge (pheasantsforever.org/mndnr). After taking the pledge, hunters are asked to bring a novice or returning hunter on a hunt during the season and snap a picture or short video during the hunting trip. The last step is to submit contact information, a hunt recap and a photo or video on the submission page to be entered for prize giveaways. All online entries must be received by June 30.

The Minnesota DNR has helpful information for new hunters and experienced hunters who would like to share their skills with new hunters. To learn more, visit the Minnesota DNR take a friend hunting webpage (mndnr.gov/go-hunting/take-friend-hunting.html).

Minnesota DNR invites people to share pheasant and turkey observations

Minnesotans will be able to report observations of ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys in a citizen science effort by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources that kicks off this May.

"We'll be asking folks to report any pheasant and turkeys they see in the wild from May through September," said Nate

Huck, resident game bird specialist. "We anticipate people will be enthusiastic about this new tool and the chance to report their sightings."

Information from the reports will help the Minnesota DNR monitor pheasant and turkey population trends, evaluate conservation efforts and make decisions about harvest regulations. People can report pheasants and turkeys of all ages.

Using a mobile device or desktop computer, people can enter information on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/wildlife/sightings). The page will also include the opportunity to sign up for email updates that will be sent out when results are available from the reporting effort.

Minnesota DNR seeks input on updates to pheasant and waterfowl plans

Refreshed plans will span from 2025-2030

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking for feedback on pheasant and duck management which will inform updates to the state's duck and pheasant action plans.

"We're starting the process to refresh these two action plans to reflect current conditions and public priorities and to inform near-term management priorities for 2025-2030," said Leslie McInenly, DNR wildlife populations and regulations manager. "We're in the scoping phase of the updates and there will be additional input opportunities once we have adjustments to propose for these plans."

McInenly said the process is starting with outreach to tribal nations, conservation organizations, and Minnesotans. Initial input will be used to identify gaps in the current plans, including potential adjustments to plan objectives, strategies or performance metrics, and general priorities for work in the coming years.

Both the duck and pheasant action plans were drafted to guide shorter term management actions in support of longer-term strategic plans, including the 50-year Long Range Duck Recovery Plan adopted in 2006 and the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan.

People can share their thoughts in an online questionnaire available on the Engage with DNR webpage (engage.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries-public-input-wildlife-public-input).

The plans for these popular birds focus on longer-term conservation efforts designed to foster stewardship of ducks, pheasants and their habitats. The action plans were developed with the help of conservation and tribal partners as well as the public and technical experts. Each action plan is designed to identify management priorities to inform DNR work planning as well as collaborative efforts conservation partners. Each outlines short-term actions that can help fulfill long-term conservation goals.

More information about Minnesota DNR habitat work, activities and accomplishments related to the action plans, as well as the plans themselves, are available on the Minnesota DNR waterfowl webpage (mndnr.gov/waterfowl) and pheasant webpage (mndnr.gov/pheasant).

Minnesota state park summer tours now taking reservations

This summer, Minnesota state parks will offer tours introducing visitors to the Iron Ranges' mining history, prairie life, and the longest cave in the state.

Reservations are now available for tours at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine, Blue Mounds, and Forestville/Mystery Cave state parks. Schedules and reservation information are available on the state park tours webpage of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website (mndnr.gov/tours).

Returning in 2024: Soudan Underground Mine tours at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Minnesota has been a powerhouse in the production of iron ore starting with the state's first iron ore mine, the Soudan Mine, which opened in 1882 and operated until 1962. Underground mine tours (mndnr.gov/soudan-mine-tours) will return in May after being closed the last two years due to an extensive restoration project. The mine shaft restoration was completed in December 2023 and new interpretive exhibits are coming to the visitor center in April. In addition, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the installation of the mine shaft hoist in the engine house.

"The Soudan Mine is a living memorial that honors all who immigrated to the Iron Ranges of Minnesota to seek a better life for themselves," said Sarah Guy-Levar, interpretive services supervisor at the park. "We are eager to share the major improvements with our visitors and help people fully immerse themselves in the authentic experience of an underground miner."

The Soudan Underground Mine offers historic tours where visitors travel 2,341 feet — nearly one-half mile — underground by cage on authentic, expertly maintained hoisting equipment. Once underground, participants board a train and ride nearly a mile to the last and deepest area of the mine. On the tour, visitors hear true stories of the miners and learn firsthand about the working conditions that made this underground iron mine the safest of all the Iron Range mines.

Historic tours run daily from Memorial Day weekend through the end of September. In October, tours are offered on weekends through the third weekend of the month. Mine tours are fully accessible. Reservations are highly recommended as tours frequently sell out.

Prairie and bison tours at Blue Mounds State Park

Blue Mounds State Park, in the state's far southwest corner, offers a 90-minute bus tour into a vast prairie that might include the sighting of the park's massive bison herd. These powerful wild animals can be elusive, so there's no guarantee of seeing one. However, prairie life — such as grasses, prairie flowers and other wildlife — can easily be seen on the tour.

"The bison's story of resilience shows us just how pow-

erful the prairie can be," said Tiffany Muellner, interpretive naturalist at Blue Mounds State Park. "Taking the tour is a great way to experience some of that story and discover how the prairie is so much more than grass."

Tour reservations are required. Prairie and bison tours (mndnr.gov/state_parks/tours/prairie-and-bison-tour.html) run Thursday through Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and weekends from mid-September to mid-October. The tour bus is equipped with a lift and can accommodate one wheelchair per tour.

Mystery Cave tours at Mystery Cave at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park

Covering 13 miles, Mystery Cave is Minnesota's longest cave. Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park offers a variety of tours through the cave, including the one-hour lantern tour, the one-hour scenic tour, the two-hour geology tour, and the four-hour wild caving tour. Each tour takes visitors to different areas of the cave and showcases stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, fossils, and cave pools.

"Mystery Cave is unique because of its interconnectedness to so many wonderful things," Cave Manager Dawn Ryan said. "When visitors leave the surface and go underground into Mystery Cave, they quickly discover the cave is its own environment defined by water. Everywhere you look, water is dripping, flowing or pooling. Water flowing through the cave contributes to the beautiful cave formations and provides habitat for rare cave life."

One-hour scenic tours begin May 11 and run through Oct. 20, and are offered multiple times daily. These tours are fully accessible. Reservations are recommended, but walk-ins will be accommodated based on availability. The 12:20 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. tours on weekends are not reservable and are for walk-ins only.

The lantern, geology and wild caving tours are offered on weekends only, and reservations are required. Participants in these tours should read the cave tour webpage (mndnr.gov/state_parks/tours/mystery_cave/tours) for details about age restrictions, footwear requirements, and conditions that participants will encounter. Lantern and geology tours are available from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Wild caving tours run from June 1 to Aug. 24.

State park vehicle permits

A state parks vehicle permit is not needed for the parking area at the visitor center at Soudan Underground Mine or the Stuntz Bay parking lots; visitors will need a vehicle permit to enter other areas of the park, including the campground.

Tour participants at Blue Mounds and Forestville/Mystery Cave state parks will need a vehicle permit to drive into the park for their tour.

The permit cost is \$7 per day, or \$35 per year for unlimited visits to all state parks and recreation areas. Vehicle permits can be purchased on the state parks permit webpage (mndnr.gov/permit) or in person during open hours at state park ranger stations.



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