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Evansville City Council awards bid for 2024 project

The Evansville City Council at its meeting April 8 awarded the contract for its 2024 sanitary sewer system improvements.

Robert Schlieman of Apex Engineering Group was at the meeting to provide information on the project.

Schlieman said the city received one bid for the work and recommended the council accept it. The bid came from C&L Excavating, Inc. of St. Joseph in the amount of \$443,582 for the base bid and alternate No. 1.

The base bid calls for replacing a portion of the city's force main piping which conveys

wastewater from the city's main wastewater lift station to the wastewater treatment facility.

Alternate No. 1 calls for making improvements to transfer structures at the wastewater treatment facility.

Schlieman presented information on the project which estimates the total cost at \$628,361.

The total cost includes the following: Construction costs and professional services costs which include a facilities plan, design engineering, construction administration, construction observation, construction

staking, construction testing and legal/financing fees and contingencies.

Funding information for the project was also included. An application has been submitted to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. The PFA has indicated the project is eligible for a low interest loan. The loan is anticipated to be 20 years at an estimated interest rate of 2.5 percent.

The city is awaiting a funding agreement from the PFA.

Now that the bid has been awarded, Schlieman anticipates construction to begin in May

and to continue through October of this year.

The city also approved a task order with Apex Engineering for the project.

Apex has already completed the study and report phase and the design and bidding phase.

Other services include construction phase and resident project representative for April 9 through Dec. 31; post construction and commissioning phase from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31; and post constitution and commissioning phase from April 9 through Dec. 31.

Low water will affect boat launching this spring

Minnesota boaters could find launching watercraft difficult this spring due to low water levels on many lakes and rivers. The lack of snow this winter and persistent dry conditions have left lakes without the normal spring recharge.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is working to repair boat ramps damaged over winter and will extend boat ramps when possible. However, it is not possible to extend boat ramps on waterbodies that are naturally shallow beyond the ramp. Boat ramps damaged by power loading are also a challenge to repair. A boater might be able to launch into the space at the end of the boat ramp - however, a buildup of the material moved by power loading settles beyond the ramp can prevent boaters from getting to deeper water.

"With unusually low water levels, people launching larger boats and pontoons with longer trailers will need to pay extra special attention to ramp lengths and depths," said Nancy Stewart, DNR water recreation consultant.

In addition to repair work, DNR crews will use the month of April to put docks in. For DNR public access sites, dock-in dates are shown on LakeFinder; search for the lake then click on water access sites noted on the lake map to find dock details on the water access

site webpage.

Spring boaters should always anticipate and prepare for cold water conditions. This year, they should also watch out for obstructions such as rocks and sand bars that typically are not an issue for spring boaters.

Stewart offers the following tips for launching boats in low water conditions:

- Launch slowly.
- Have a spotter in the boat

while launching so trailer tires and boat axles don't fall off the last plank where an existing blowhole might be present.

• Have hip boots or waders and a life jacket as it might help to get in the water and guide the boat or check the ramp for firmness and water depth.

• Lower the motor only after making sure there is enough water depth.

• Use a lake map as a guide to avoid shallow areas and watch for obstructions.

Boaters who encounter problems at a DNR public access site can contact their local DNR office or the DNR Information Center at 888-646-6367. For public water access maps, state water trail maps and boating information, go to the DNR's public water access webpage.



It may be harder to launch boats this spring due to a lack of snow this winter. This ramp is at the public access on Stowe Lake.

Free! Take One

FREE

Douglas County Sheriff's Blotter

April 8

Alexandria - Traffic stop. I-94, mile marker 95. Obstructed license plate by cover, license plate illumination.

Alexandria - Complainant just got a call from a female that all he could hear was screaming. Male party was heard stating he may be going to prison. No answer at door. Deputies stayed in area and nothing heard.

Carlos - School patrol.

Osakis - Pallet fell onto driver of truck. Conscious and breathing. Assisted loading patient onto soft stretcher and into ambulance for transport.

Miltona - Traffic stop. Use of wireless device and following vehicle too close.

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Free Take One

Rural cities need more funding for emergency medical services

By Ava Kian
Minn Post

In March, when Gov. Tim Walz released his administration's plan for \$226 million in new spending, it included \$16 million to aid emergency medical services across the state.

The proposal sets aside \$6 million for the creation of an Office of Emergency Medical Services, which would replace the current Emergency Services Regulatory Board, as well as for a pilot program to test different ways of providing emergency medical services.

The remaining \$10 million, meanwhile, would be used for the creation of an aid program for licensed ambulance service providers in EMS regions that had operating losses of more than \$1 million in 2022.

The proposal, however, fell far short of what Greater Minnesota advocates had asked for - \$100 million short, to be exact. They are hoping to secure more funds as the end of the session nears.

Several EMS providers that count on insurance reimbursements have been operating at a loss. Those providers serve many people on Medicare and Medicaid - and, as a result, receive lower reimbursements and must tap local funds to fill in the gap.

Rural Minnesotans are more likely to have public health insurance coverage, such as Medicare, Medicaid or MinnesotaCare. Rural Minnesotans are more likely to have public health insurance coverage, such as Medicare, Medicaid or MinnesotaCare. Credit: Virginia, a city in the Iron Range, is one of those. According to Mayor Larry Cuffe Jr., its EMS has been running at a deficit for the past seven years. Each year, around \$3.8 million from the city's budget goes toward EMS. However, last year the city only recovered around \$1 million from Medicare reimbursements, he said.

'A little boost'

The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities is one of the organizations that's been advocating for the governor to dedicate more funds to help EMS providers stay in service.

"(We're) obviously very disappointed" in the Walz proposal, said Bradley Peterson, the executive director of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. "There's just a lot of those providers that are hurting financially and just need a little boost here just to even keep going for the next year or so."

Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, represents an area that's familiar with the issue and faces some unique challenges in supporting EMS delivery.

In many rural areas, there is no financial incentive for private or nonprofit organizations

to operate EMS services, so cities "are taking on these licenses and running their ambulance service," he said.

Tower, for example, is a northeastern Minnesota town with a population of around 440 people that has done precisely that. For a time, their EMS ran thanks to volunteers.

But once they began getting more calls, they realized they needed more people to help, and it became more difficult to find volunteers willing to do the work, said Dena Suihkonen, the area's EMS director. To keep its staff, the city began paying people to be on-call.

"As time went on, it became where you had to have two people on your roster every minute of the day, 24 hours a day. So that's an awful lot to expect somebody who's volunteering their time to do," Suihkonen said.

Suihkonen said they get around 500 calls a year. This year, they're already at 130 calls and she thinks they'll have more calls than they did last year.

Tower has around 16 ambulance staff. Its EMTs make \$11.50 an hour while its EMRs make \$10.50, Suihkonen said. While personnel is one part of their costs, the other is the medical supplies and medications.

The financial cost is a strain. In 2023, the city spent 10% of its annual property tax levy (over \$51,000) to keep the services running, according to Suihkonen.

"We don't take in enough to support our service," she said. "So then our small city, which is a low- to moderate-income community, is having to subsidize us. It can't be forever because, eventually, they're not going to be able to do that either."

That's something that the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities has heard from its member cities.

"This is a make or break for us. We have literally cities that are facing decisions that they don't want to face. And that is a matter of do we continue or do we give up this license," Erik Simonson, a lobbyist for the coalition, said during a House committee hearing on a bill advocating for \$120 million in EMS support funds.

Another issue in some Greater Minnesota regions is that the number of people on Medicare and Medicaid is rising - and because reimbursements are lower for people with that insurance, the providers in the areas are taking more costs on.

Greater Minnesota has a higher aging population than metro areas, and for several reasons - including age, income and insurance coverage through employers - those living in rural areas are more likely to be on Medicare and Medicaid, according to an analysis by

the Minnesota Department of Health.

Credit: Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Suihkonen said a high number of calls are among Medicare and Medicaid patients. She estimated that about 85% of their population is on those programs, which reimburse around 20%-40% of the charges.

When someone has Medicare or Medicaid, or no insurance, the city still provides the same services.

Another big cost they take on is for the medication used on patients. EMS providers pay in full for medications, like Epi-Pens, for example, regardless of insurance status, she said.

More funding possible?

Peterson, of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, worries that the \$10 million dedicated to supporting EMS providers won't help all of the regions struggling with high costs because of the provision that requires funds to go toward providers serving EMS regions with at least \$1 million in operating losses.

He said that only the northeast and central EMS regions would get any of the \$10 million - about \$3.6 million and \$5.5 million, respectively, based on their operating losses last year. "And even at that level, it would be getting significantly less than what the needs that have been identified," he said.

Lawmakers like Sen. Andrew Lang, R-Olivia, who sits on the EMS Task Force in the Legislature, are upset with the proposed \$16 million.

"With \$3.5 billion left on the bottom line, I'm stunned to learn the governor wants to pinch pennies before funding emergency medical services for greater Minnesota. This is a laughable amount and no one should be proud of this proposal," he said in a prepared statement.

Hauschild is authoring a bill in the Senate that proposes \$120 million for EMS support.

Hauschild's bill has support from many EMS organizations, cities and towns - and not just rural ones. Hennepin Healthcare and the Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs are among those who expressed support for the \$120 million in funds.

If they don't receive that amount, Hauschild said they're going to determine which areas - likely in the northeast and west central parts of the state - might more desperately need the funding.

"If the money falls between \$120 million and \$10 million, there's going to be different mechanisms of how we can set up the formula to get to the right places. This is a moving target," he said. "We're all kind of figuring out what is the most appropriate structure based on

how much money is allocated."

The seven ambulance services in Otter Tail County, for example, experienced an estimated \$1.5 million loss last year, according to a letter to Hauschild from the chair of the Board of

Commissioners. The county urged Hauschild to advocate for \$120 million, and also for a second year of funds for 2025.

Rep. Dave Lislegard, DFL-Aurora, one of the authors of the House version of the bill, said it's only a "bandaid to stop the bleeding."

He added: "I do know and understand that there are different budget targets and stuff like that, but I'm committed to furthering this conversation as it goes through the process."

B-E Schedule

April 18

Boys golf at Graceville Golf Club, noon

Girls golf at Wheaton Country Club, 3:30 p.m.

SB, A, Jr. Hi vs C-G-B at Brandon, DH, 4 p.m.; JV vs C-G-B at Millerville, DH, 4 p.m.

Varsity track at Wahpeton, 4 p.m.

Jr. Hi track at Osakis, 4 p.m.

April 19

BB, ABC, vs Border West at Wheaton, 4 p.m.

April 22

Girls golf at Graceville, noon SB, ABC, at Hillcrest, DH, 4 p.m.

Jr. Hi track at Minnewaska, 4 p.m.

Jr. Hi BB, 7th at Starbuck Lakeshore; 8th at Starbuck School, 4:30 p.m.

April 23

BB, A, vs Hillcrest, DH, 4 p.m.

Jr. Hi BB vs Hillcrest, DH, in Brandon, 4 p.m.

Track at Barnesville, 4 p.m.

JV BB at Morris, 5 p.m.

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Now and Then

Excerpts from the Evansville
Historical Foundation Archives

100 Years Ago - 1924

Evansville Enterprise Free Movies Cancelled

In last week's Enterprise was an advertisement of the businessmen of Evansville wherein they invited the general public to a series of free moving picture shows which were to have been staged for a period of sixteen weeks. At a meeting held in the village hall Tuesday evening, it was decided that this idea was not feasible and as a consequence they decided that they would not put them on. There were many in town yesterday afternoon who came to see them but were disappointed in learning that they had been cancelled. As a result of this, Evansville will have no movies in the coming months, the theatre having been closed recently when C. E. Lord, who has been managing it, left for Watertown, S. D.

Do You Remember When 30 years ago;

Eggs were 3 doz. for 25 cents; butter 10 cents per pound; milk was 5 cents a quart; the butcher gave away liver and treated the kids to bologna; the hired girl received \$2 a week and did the washing; women wore long hair and didn't play Mah Jong; did not powder and paint (in Public), smoke, vote, play poker, wear knickers or shake the shimie?

Men wore whiskers and boots, chewed tobacco, spit on the sidewalk and cussed. Beer was 5 cents and lunch was free. Laborers worked 10 hours a day and never went on strikes. No tips were given to waiters and the hat check grafter was unknown. A kerosene hanging lamp and a stereoscope in the parlor were luxuries. No one was operated on for appendicitis or bought monkey glands. Microbes were unheard of; folks lived to a good old age and every month walked miles to pay their bills.

Today You Know:

Everybody rides in automobiles or flies; plays golf or shoots crap; plays the piano with their feet; goes to the movies nightly, smokes strong cigars; drinks malt; eats "margarine", blames the H.C.L. on the Democrats; never go to bed the same day they get up, and they think they are having a wonderful time. These are the days of suffrage, excess taxes and prohibition, and if you want to be recognized by your neighbor you have to be in the "swim".

50 Years Ago - 1974

Evansville Booster Branch Law Office to be Opened in Evansville

Jon Stafsholt, an attorney from Elbow Lake, will be opening a branch law office in the

old Evansville Bank Building. The office will be open every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Persons desiring to make an appointment may do so at the Farmers State Bank in Evansville or by calling the Stafsholt Law Office in Elbow Lake. Stafsholt is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Law and has been in general practice with W. M. Goetzinger in Elbow Lake for the past two years.

Streakers Strike At Don's Lanes

The ladies bowling night had a new side attraction as two virile young men streaked through the lanes. There have been several inquiries by the ladies as to who they were.

P. S. Ladies - rumor has it - Don knows.

25 Years Ago - 1999

West Douglas County Record Students Stuff Evansville Taxidermy Class

Evansville VoAg instructor Tim Fenlason became interested in taxidermy when he was 14. Through the years he taught himself a great deal about the practice of preparing a bird, fish or deer head for display. Now he is handing down his knowledge of the art by teaching taxidermy as a class at Evansville School. "I tell them their projects won't be perfect the first time through", said Fenlason. The students have brought in a variety of animals to be stuffed. Fenlason said both times the class has been offered, it filled up with 18 students in each class.

Junior Casey Kangas brought in a one pound, two ounce crappie to mount. He said taking his fish through the steps of mounting it was harder than he thought it would be. Senior Andrew Zicker brought in a goose as his project. Getting the wings just right was the hardest part for Zicker in having his goose look just the way he wanted it to. Sophomore Jason Martin mounted a raccoon as his project. The animal sits atop a small log. Martin said it took him about 40 hours to get the animal to look just right. Other animals brought in for mounting included ducks, a pheasant, a beaver, snapping turtle shells and deer heads, racks, feet and antlers. Fenlason said as long as there is interest in the class he will offer it.

Evansville Historical Foundation

Winter hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Beginning April 29 - Summer hours: Monday-Thursday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Additional hours available by appointment.

EAC's annual Poetry Night will be held April 25

April is National Poetry Month. The public is invited to attend Evansville Arts Coalition's annual Poetry Night on Thursday, April 25 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Evansville Art Center. Begun in 1996, it is the longest running literary event in West Central Minnesota.

Poets of all ages and stages are invited to come share their original work or read their favorite poems. Those who enjoy listening to poetry will be refreshed as well. Studies have shown that poetry causes the part of the brain that activates during daydreaming to light up when reading or listening to poetry.

Bring a treat to share at intermission if you like. Beverages will be provided. This is a free event. Donations to support Evansville Art Center gratefully accepted.

The Evansville Art Center is located at 111 Main Street, Evansville, MN 56326

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Lake

Region Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund and in part through a Minnesota State Legislative general fund appropriation.



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**Community
Calendar**

SCANDINAVIAN SUPPER at Faith Lutheran Church April 20, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Freewill offering.

ST. LUKE'S FISH FRY April 26, 4:30-7 p.m. 201 Ida St. East, Garfield. Tickets at Trumm Drug, downtown Alexandria and St. Luke's Lutheran Church office. (320)834-2285.

THE MILLERVILLE TOWNSHIP meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. at Millerville Fire Hall.

Brandon American Legion will meet at 7 pm the Fourth Tuesday of each month, March through October, at the Brandon Hall. New Members Welcome. For questions, please call 320-304-5333 or email carl196545@hotmail.com

Brandon American Legion Auxiliary will meet at 7 pm the Fourth Tuesday of each month, March, April, May, June and October, at the Brandon Hall. New Members Welcome. For questions, please call 320-304-0809 or email hzabroski@yahoo.com.

A REMINDER TO ALL EVANSVILLE City Residents: Sump Pumps cannot discharge into the sanitary sewer. Please make sure your sump pump is discharging outside!!

TO EVANSVILLE RESIDENTS: If you would like to be added to the email event listing please email your name and email address to evansvil@gctel.com and ask to be added.

THE BRANDON LIONS MEETINGS are the first Wednesday of the month at the Brandon Community Center (fall, winter, spring) and at Lion's Park (summer months), 7 pm. New members welcome.

THE CITY OF BRANDON has received numerous complaints of dogs running loose. Please keep your pets on your property and under your direct control. City ordinance prohibits dogs running at large.

THE EVANSVILLE SENIOR CITIZENS meet each month on the third Wednesday for a potluck noon meal at the Senior Center.

THE BRANDON FIN & FEATHER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB will be meeting monthly at 7 PM on the third Wednesday on the month at the Brandon Community Center. New members welcome!

THE GARFIELD LIONS CLUB MEETINGS are the second Monday of the month at the Garfield City Hall, 7 p.m. New Members are welcome.

MILLERVILLE SPORTSMEN Club meets at the Millerville Fire Hall the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

There shall be no burning of any sorts in the City limits of Evansville except a recreational fire as defined in the definitions.

Reminder to all Evansville City residents to NOT blow your grass clippings into the streets. They will plug the storm sewer.

Reminder to all Evansville City residents that dogs cannot be running at large and must be on a leash.

THE RECORD has a drop box at Hiway Amoco in Evansville. It is located next to the free Records. If you leave something in the box please try to call us to let us know at (320)834-4924 or e-mail to: wdrecord@gctel.com.

THE EVANSVILLE LIONS CLUB MEETINGS are the third Wednesdays of the month at the Soderholm Insurance, 7 p.m. New members welcome.

THE EVANSVILLE AREA
**See Community
Calendar, page 5.**

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How to write a news release for The Record
When submitting a news release to The Record the following rules must be applied. Any release not conforming to these rules will be returned along with the rules. Changes will then have to be made and the release re-submitted.

- Do not use words such as: our, us or we.
- DO NOT USE ALL CAPS!!
- Time notations must be as follows: 11:15 a.m.; 2:30 p.m. Do not note time as 11:15AM; 11:15am; 2:30PM; or 2:30pm.
- Do not include the year along with calendar dates.
- Do not use "&" for the word "and".
- Do not use bold letters or numbers.

When submitting a news release it should be written so that the reader will receive the information you wish them to know. The simpler, the better.

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SPORTSMEN CLUB meets at the Evansville City Hall in Evansville the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

LUND TOWNSHIP meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Lund Townhall in Melby. THE EVANSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Evansville City Hall at 7 p.m. January, February, March, April and December; at 8 p.m. all other months

THE BRANDON TOWNSHIP holds its monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Township Hall at 106 Mallard Lane, Brandon. The exceptions are that in January and February, the monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday due to legal holidays.

THE URNESS TOWNBOARD meets the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

AREA MEETINGS: Evansville City Council, second Monday, 6:30 p.m.; Brandon City Council, first Monday, 6:30 p.m.; Brandon-Evansville School Board, third Monday in Evansville Band Room, at 7 p.m.

BLOTTER
Continued from page 1

Alexandria - Complainant noticed her mailbox is missing.

Evansville-I-94, mile marker 83. Traffic stop. Westbound. Impeding traffic.

Alexandria - Public assist. Husband has questions on what services are available for adult care assistance.

Alexandria - I-94, mile marker 99. Traffic stop. Westbound. Illegal lighting, blue.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. License plate illumination, failure to maintain lane.

Kensington - Domestic. Female threw his food on the floor. Person two was in the doorway when arrived. He shut the door quickly and wouldn't answer the door or phone calls. Left voicemail for person one also.

April 9
Alexandria - Out with two males. Impeding traffic, bike lights required.

Alexandria - I-94, mile marker 108. Traffic stop. White Honda Odyssey van, no plates. Westbound.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Person one cited for driving after revocation.

Garfield - School patrol.

Alexandria - Suspicious vehicle. Liberty Road/Colonial Court, at stop sign, car sitting there running with loud exhaust. Black car, tint window seen at 8:20 a.m. Seemed out of place to caller, no plate.

Alexandria - Mailbox stolen from the address. Caller is out of town.

Alexandria - Security reporting trespass at Arrowwood boat landing. Boat landing is for customers only.

Garfield - Patrolled area. Spools of copper inside of locked fence.

Brandon - I-94, mile marker 88. Speed.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Verbal warning for no rear brake lamp.

Alexandria - Suspicious ac-

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ativity. Sitting across Berglund Mile NE. Male all in black with bike upside down. Possible sword in his lap. Person one sat down to mediate. Person one stated not suicidal and refused any help. Person one eventually left area.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Wireless device use.

Alexandria - Theft. Complainant stated daughter took something from shed.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Driver was cited for speed

Alexandria - Medical call. 57-year-old, kidney issues. Male party not being himself, unable to talk to his wife.

Alexandria - Medical call. Male party had recent spinal surgery and not feeling well and very shaky.

Alexandria - Suspicious activity. White four-door car. Left the scene. Does keep coming back. Last time it was spotted about six minutes ago. Person two, daughter to complainant, believes it's going to be person one. Did come up to the house and was banging on the door and windows playing ding, dong, ditch.

April 10
Osakis - I-94, mile marker Traffic stop. Two vehicles. Traveling together, lead stopping as well. Eastbound lane. Following too close, failure to maintain lane. Mother and son.

Nelson - Traffic stop. Citation for speed. Verbal warning for registration not on license plate.

Alexandria - Medical call. 80-year-old male part, very weak with COPD and recovering from lung cancer.

Carlos - School patrol.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Speed.

Nelson - Complainant is reporting she is a victim of a scam with DirectTV.

Alexandria - 6-foot tall white male keeps going in and out of the bathrooms while staring at the teenage females. Silver Ford Volt. Wearing brown leather jacket just west of the park.

Carlos - Medical call. 86-year-old male with congestive heart failure, very dizzy and having trouble focusing.

Carlos - Black sports bike going about 100 mph, northbound on C.R. 3. Complainant reporting black sports bike driving at excessive speeds north on C.R. 3 for the past two days. Thinks the bike is traveling from Carlos about 4:30 p.m. each day. Complainant only concerned for driver's safety.

Alexandria - Caller says there is a large area of ground coverage being burned by one person. Citation by DNR.

Alexandria - Someone is dumping trash, TVs, furniture and tires at the access. No new information or suspect info from last CFS. Dispatch spoke with DNR personnel who were going to work on getting the garbage cleaned up.

Alexandria - 76-year-old female, defibrillator going off.

Alexandria - Grass fire started by burning cardboard. Citation by DNR.

Carlos - Suspicious vehicle. Male party, slumped over steering wheel. White pickup. Stopped to watch the sunset.

Nelson - Complainant has questions about an eviction notice that could be served. Forwarded to civil process.

Alexandria - Juvenile in the ditch on an ATV. Two miles west of complainant. Tears around the area in a reckless manner. No ATVs in the area.

Carlos - Traffic stop. Person one arrested for second-degree DWI and open container.

Alexandria - Parked cars. 10 cars, advised about being respectful to park due to recent vandalism, advised on park hours.

Alexandria - Complainant's wife took off on foot. Law, tweed coat. This has happened in the past. Complainant is concerned for her safety. She is bipolar. Person one for no specific reason walked away from her house.

April 11
Alexandria - Complainant stating female is threatening him with a knife. Complainant didn't want us inside the house. Nothing further.

Carlos - School patrol.

Miltona - School patrol.

Alexandria - Male sleeping on roadway here. Indicted he is driving to Fargo to help family. No indicators of impairment.

Osakis - Traffic stop. I-94, mile marker 111. Arrested for driving after cancellation.

Miltona - Driving complaint. Swerving. All over the road between center and fog lines. Varying speeds. Believed to be a pickup. Unknown make, model and color. Checked area.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. No front plate, tabs show expired even though they are up to date.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Headlight.

Alexandria - Suspicious vehicle. Playing Pokemon.

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DNR identifies access, accessibility projects throughout the state

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has identified more than 100 access and accessibility projects throughout the state as part of the once-in-a-generation Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences) investments approved by the legislature and signed by Gov. Tim Walz in 2023. These projects will serve new and existing users by making it easier to get to recreational opportunities, and easier for people to enjoy outdoor recreation.

“Access and accessibility are vital to bringing new users to state parks, state forests and wildlife management areas to enjoy outdoor recreation and to improve the experiences of existing users,” DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said. “These investments show Minnesota’s commitment to ensuring people of all abilities and interests enjoy a world-class recreation system.”

The DNR manages 74 state

parks and recreation areas, 60 state forests and more than 1,500 wildlife management areas that encompass nearly 5 million acres throughout the state. Of the \$149.9 million in Get Out MORE investments, \$35.4 million will go toward enhancing access and accessibility, including:

- \$15 million for accessibility improvements in state parks and wildlife management areas, which includes:

Three comprehensive accessibility projects at key state parks — William O’Brien, Sibley and Fort Snelling — and 11 smaller scale projects across the state. These comprehensive projects will involve improving accessibility of park amenities, bathrooms, and other facilities throughout the park, bringing greater accessibility park-wide.

Over 70 projects will focus on access improvements at wildlife management areas statewide, including building new accessible trailheads and ensuring ex-

isting hunting blinds, overlooks and trails are fully accessible.

- \$9.4 million for road improvements.

Road modernization will enhance more than 35 roads across Minnesota that provide access to recreational opportunities in state forests, wildlife management areas, state recreation areas, and state parks.

Projects in this category include bridge replacements, road reconstruction, erosion control and resurfacing.

These improvements will make it easier for more people to reach and enjoy outdoor recreation opportunities.

- \$8 million for improvements to hiking and paved trails at state parks and hunter walking trails at wildlife management areas.

These projects include improvements at more than a dozen state parks to improve accessibility and long-term sustainability.

Improvements will focus

on increased access to hunter walking trails at wildlife management areas across the state.

- \$2 million for improved wayfinding and signage.

These projects will create or improve trailhead signage at priority wildlife management areas and hunter walking trail networks.

Additionally, the DNR will update maps for four state forests, including creating maps that users can download using various map apps and access even without cell service. These maps will include a high level of detail and highlight nearby recreation opportunities like trails and public water accesses as well as state forest amenities.

Wildlife management areas will receive improved signage and wayfinding at access points and hunter walking trails to increase function and accessibility for all users.

- \$1 million for adaptive equipment, including track chairs and accessible hunting blinds, and supporting infrastructure. This includes:

Purchasing nine more track chairs and other items needed to support the track chair program, such as storage sheds and trailers.

Purchasing 65 pairs of specialized glasses to assist visitors with red-green color deficiencies see colors outdoors.

See DNR, page 8.

Record deadlines:

The Record deadlines are as follows:

News, 2 p.m. Mondays

Advertising, 10 a.m. Tuesdays

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Michael J. Cass
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B-E softball team splits first two games to open season

The Brandon-Evansville softball team opened the season April 8 on the road against WCA.

After a scoreless first inning the Knights managed to put seven runs on the board in the second stanza.

The Chargers scored their only run of the game in the third inning. The Knights added two in the fourth and one in the fifth to end the contest with a 11-1 win.

“This was a tough opening game against a solid West Central team. Unfortunately we gave them too many free bases with walks and hit batters and an aggressive base running team like WCA took advantage of our young infield.

We played this game without a senior on the field and four players getting their varsity debut and I was happy to see how they responded to different situations that we got into,” said B-E Coach Kasi Sieling.

Madeline Stich had the only hit of the game for the Chargers.

Claire Boesl started on the mound for B-E going two innings with three strikeouts. Mia Elmer finished the contest for the Chargers.

“Our fielders did a nice job of making the plays when the ball was put in play. Offensively, we struggled to feel comfortable in the box and find our groove to get something going. We were able to get runners on in a couple innings, but just couldn’t bring them in. Overall, we learned a lot from this game and know what we need to do to improve. I look forward to seeing how these girls improve from here,” added the coach.

B-E 13, LPGE 1

The Chargers travelled to take on Long Prairie-Grey Eagle April 11.

B-E scored once in the second inning, twice in the third and had a huge fourth stanza plating 10 players.

Chargers defeat Thunderbirds

The Brandon-Evansville baseball team travelled to take on the Mahnomen-Waubun Thunderbirds April 11.

After a scoreless first inning each team put one run on the board in the second. The Charger run happened when Hunter Grothen singled home his teammate.

From there the Chargers went out to a 2-1 lead after the third stanza when Landon Sullivan lofted a sacrifice fly to score Seth Thoennes.

In the fourth inning B-E put four runs across adding single runs in the fifth and sixth for a 8-1 win.

“We did a nice job of making plays on defense and got quality pitching performances from Carter White, Lucas Fuller, and Riley Perleberg”.

The three B-E pitchers combined to only give up two hits while striking out 12 Thunderbird batters.

Offensive leaders for B-E were Thoennes, Grothen and Carter White.

White picked up the win with six strikeouts.

The next contest for the Chargers will be April 19 against Border West in Wheaton at 4 p.m.

LPGE scored its only run of the game in the bottom of the fourth.

“We had a solid game in all areas tonight. Kylee Dingwall threw the ball extremely well and our defense made solid plays behind her. Offensively, it took a bit for us to find our groove, but once we started hitting it was contagious and we were able to put together a huge fourth inning. Hopefully we can carry the confidence we found

tonight into next week with the start of conference play,” said the coach.

Hallie Richter led the 15-hit attack with four while Tahira Schaffran and Ava Santjer had three each. Dingwall had a double for B-E.

Dingwall also picked up the win going the distance with 12 strikeouts.

The next contest for the Chargers will be a double-header April 18 in Brandon against

C-G-B at 4 p.m.

		B-E 13, LPGE 1									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
B-E		0	1	2	10	0	x	x	13	15	0
LPGE		0	0	0	1	0	x	x	1	3	2
		AB R H RBI SB									
Hallie Richter		5	2	4	1	0					
Madeline Stich		4	1	1	1	0					
Kylee Dingwall		3	2	1	1	0					
Tahira Schaffran		4	2	3	2	0					
Claire Boesl		2	1	1	0	0					
Mia Elmer		2	1	0	0	0					
Ava Santjer		4	2	3	2	1					
Drea Fernholz		1	1	1	2	0					
Jadyn Deschene		3	1	1	1						
		Pitching									
		IP	H	R	ER	SO					
Kylee Dingwall		5	3	1	1	12					

WIC program celebrates 50th anniversary

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is celebrating its 50th anniversary nationwide, marking five decades of steadfast dedication to improving public health and ensuring that mothers and young children have access to proper nutrition. Horizon Public Health oversees the WIC program in the five counties of Douglas, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Grant.

WIC has been a lifeline for many families, offering vital nutrition education, healthy food options, and healthcare access. This milestone anniversary reflects the program’s ongoing commitment to building healthier communities and equipping families with the resources they need for a better future.

Throughout its history, WIC has continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of its participants. By adopting evidence-based practices and collaborating with healthcare providers, community groups, and public health agencies, WIC has not only addressed

nutritional deficiencies but has also played a crucial role in preventing chronic diseases and supporting early childhood development.

The program’s wide range of services includes nutrition education, healthy food benefits, breastfeeding assistance, and referrals to healthcare providers. By taking a holistic approach to health and nutrition, WIC has become a cornerstone of public health efforts across the country.

As we reflect on 50 years of

success, Horizon Public Health remains committed to the core principles of the WIC program and looks forward to continuing to serve and support families in the years to come.

If you have questions about WIC or would like to schedule an appointment, visit the Horizon Public Health website <https://horizonpublichealth.org/program/wic-women-infants-and-children/>, contact the WIC office at 800.450.4177 option 2, or email wic@horizonph.org.

OBITUARY

Betty Cravens

Betty Lou Cravens, 88 of Elbow Lake passed away Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Tom and Donna’s home in Apple Valley, Minnesota.

A Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 20, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church in Ashby.

Visitation Friday, April 19 from 5-7 p.m. with a 6:30 p.m. Prayer Service at Erickson-Smith Funeral Home in Elbow Lake. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Betty Lou Cravens was born on September 23, 1935, the daughter of Knute and Clara (Carlson) Homme. She attended the Evansville Public School, graduating with the class of 1953.

On December 31, 1955, she married her high school sweetheart, Donald Cravens at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Evansville. Together they built a home on family farm land where they raised their daughter Donna. After Donnie’s passing in 2009, Betty Lou lived in her home until 2017, when due to health issues she moved in with Tom and Donna.

Betty Lou made a career in the Banking Business, working for fifty years before retiring in February 2005.

Betty Lou enjoyed bowling, golfing and shopping. She experienced many adventures traveling with family, friends, and going to various bowling tournaments. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Elbow Lake, and then of Ashby. Betty Lou stayed active in the community, volunteering



and helping with local festivals and events.

Betty Lou cherished all family and friends. Many treasured memories were made.

She is survived by her daughter Donna (Tom) Woodall; sister-in-law, Kay Homme; as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Betty Lou is preceded in death by her husband, Donald Cravens; parents, Knute and Clara Homme; siblings, JoAnn Hassel, Chuck Homme, Tommy Homme, Dennis Homme, and Patricia Thill; sister-in-law, Judy Homme; and nephew Damon Thill.

Arrangements by Erickson-Smith Funeral Home of Elbow Lake.

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Professional Directory



DNR Continued from page 6

Adding of kayaks and adaptive accessories.

Purchasing several mobile, fully accessible hunting stands for use during wildlife management area special and traditional hunts.

The historic, one-time Get Out MORE investment of \$149.9 million centers on five key areas:

- Enhancing fisheries and fishing infrastructure (\$60 million)
- Enhancing access and welcoming new users to public lands and outdoor recreation facilities (\$35.4 million)
- Modernizing boating access (\$35 million)
- Restoring streams and modernizing water-related infrastructure to support outdoor recreation (\$10 million)
- Modernizing camping and related infrastructure (\$9.5 million)

As further details are available about these projects, information will be added to the Get Out MORE webpage of the DNR website.

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