

Record

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRANDON, MN
PERMIT No. 4

Pick up a free Record at the following locations:
Brandon: JC's, Joe's Gas & Deli, Dollar General, Big Chip Inn
Evansville: Hiway Amoco, Lon's, First National Bank,
Main Street Market, Evansville Hardware, Schatzi's
Millerville: Creamery, Liquor Store
Garfield: Cenex
Alexandria: Elden's Fresh Foods, Pizza Ranch, Cub Foods,
Douglas County Library
Kensington: Crossroads

Delivered free each week in Brandon, Evansville, Garfield, Millerville, and Alexandria • wdrecord@gctel.com
2026 No. 15 • For advertising rates and information call (320)834-4924 • P.O. Box 86, Brandon, MN 56315 • Thursday, April 9, 2026



CHANGE OF SEASONS

Although the area just received another shot of snow the seasons are changing even if only slowly. Above is Whiskey Lake near the bridge on Hwy. 7. There is a lot of open water with still some ice to melt.

State graduation rates improve again

Governor Tim Walz on April 3 celebrated new data from the Minnesota Department of Education showing Minnesota's Class of 2025 achieved the highest four-year graduation rate in state history at 84.9 percent, marking the second consecutive year of record-breaking progress.

"This is a moment worth celebrating," said Governor Walz. "Decades in the classroom have helped inform many of the goals I've set and the policies we've passed over the last seven years to support our students, teachers, and parents. Every student who receives that diploma is better equipped to navigate the challenges of landing a job,

B-E Board holds special meeting

The Brandon-Evansville School Board held a special meeting April 7.

The meeting was held after the Record's printing deadline for this week's issue so it was not known what, if any actions, were approved.

The meeting agenda included accepting the resignation of B-E Superintendent Louisa Glenetske. She has accepted the same position for the Osakis

pursuing higher education, and building a future they feel excited about. Congratulations to an incredible class of students."

Graduation rates increased across nearly every student group, with notable gains among American Indian, Black, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino students, as well as students receiving special education services and those from lower-income families.

The graduation rate for American Indian students increased by nearly 5 percentage points from last year and has risen 9 percentage points since 2021, one of the largest gains of any student group. Achievement gaps also continued to narrow School District. She will begin her new position July 1.

The meeting also included the district approving an agreement with a superintendent hiring firm, Better U Solutions, to assist in selecting the next superintendent.

The board heard from Wade McKittrick of Better U Solutions at the meeting.

The Record will have a report on the meeting next week.

in many areas.

"The progress we're seeing among Native students is meaningful and long overdue," said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. "This represents real momentum and reflects intentional investments in education. While we celebrate this progress, we remain committed to continuing this work until every student has the support and opportunity to graduate and thrive."

"Our students are succeeding and leaving school prepared for career, college, and citizenship at record rates," said Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Willie Jett. "While there is still more to accomplish, it is clear our schools continue making gains in closing achievement gaps and ensuring every student of every background, zip code,

and ability can thrive both in and out of school."

The data reflect continued progress following historic investments in education and family economic stability, including universal school meals, a nation-leading child tax credit, expanded mental health resources, increased teacher pay, and long-term funding increases for schools. These efforts help ensure students are supported both inside and outside the classroom.

Minnesota is also seeing improvements in student engagement and school climate. Recent data show students increasingly report feeling safe, supported, and connected at school – key indicators linked to academic success and graduation.

2025 graduation rates for area schools

School Name	Number of graduates 24 / 25	Percentage of senior class graduating 24 / 25
Brandon-Evansville	30 / 42	93.8 / 95.2
Ashby	20 / 18	90.9 / 75
WCA	59 / 52	93.7 / 91.2
Alexandria	275 / 312	95.2 / 97.5
Minnewaska	93 / 95	96.9 / 95
Parkers Prairie	41 / 42	97.6 / 95.5
Osakis	69 / 70	92 / 95.9

Free! Take One

FREE

Classy Canary Shopper included

Douglas County Sheriff's Blotter

April 2

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Failure to signal correctly and proper lane usage.

Eagle Bend - Believes she has been scammed, thinks they have access to her bank account and possibly her phone and computer.

Alexandria - Vehicle in ditch. School bus driver noticed a vehicle in the ditch north of business. Complainant stated lights were on in the vehicle. White vehicle possibly a Charger. Transferred caller to state patrol.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Warning for speed and unsafe passing.

See **BLOTTER**, page 4

WHAT'S INSIDE

WEATHER

Severe Weather Week is good time to prepare for adverse weather events...

NOW AND THEN

The territory is a rich one, and in all probability, Mr. Hill will not feel disposed to give it up entirely to the Soo Road...Page 3.

CALENDAR

Find out what's going on in the area and what's coming up in the Community Calendar...Page 5.

DRIVING

The Office of Traffic Safety calling for safer driving this April...Page 6.

EMPLOYMENT

Minnesota's monthly job growth remained flat in January, and the state's unemployment rate ticked up two-tenths of a percentage point...Page 8.

Need to publish a legal notice? Fulfill your legal notice requirements for less in The Record!

The Record has the lowest legal notice rates in Douglas County

Certificate of Assumed Name • Foreclosure • Quit Claim Deed • Probate • Etc.
For more information call (320)834-4924

Free Take One

Severe Weather Awareness Week is time to prepare for extreme weather

Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 13-17, is a great time for Minnesotans to prepare for unpredictable and extreme Midwestern weather. Great River Energy and its member-owner cooperatives and customers are always working to keep the power flowing to homes, farms and businesses.

“Severe weather increases the likelihood of electric service interruptions, even though outages are typically brief for most people,” said Mark Peterson, director of system operations at Great River Energy. “During these events, personal safety is essential. If an outage happens, it’s important to stay aware of your surroundings and avoid downed power lines as our crews work to restore power safely and as quickly as possible.”

If you come across a downed or low hanging power line, keep these important safety tips in mind:

Stay well away from the area and call 911 right away to report it.

You can’t tell whether a power line is energized just by looking at it — always assume it could provide deadly electrical voltage.

Do not drive over a downed power line, even if it’s blocking your driveway or roadway. Call 911 and take a different route.

Avoid touching anything that is in contact with a power line, including trees or branches tangled in the line.

If a power line falls onto your vehicle or touches it, remain inside the vehicle. Call 911 using your cell phone and wait for emergency responders.

If you must leave your vehicle because of a fire, jump clear without touching the car. Land with both feet together and shuffle away from the vehicle.

When severe weather causes widespread damage, sometimes outages can be extended. When this happens, Great River Energy and its member-owner cooperatives and customers work hard to restore power quickly and safely.

The first focus is on removing any threats to public safety, then following established priorities for making repairs that will restore the most members first.

For more information and videos about how your power is restored, how to prepare an emergency kit, how to keep food fresh and more, visit greatriverenergy.com/restor-

ingyourpower.

When severe weather is accompanied by heavy rain, be aware of possible flooded roadways. People underestimate the force and power of water.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over half of all flood-related

Severe weather risk impacts grow in Douglas County

As Douglas County continues to grow in population, housing, campgrounds, and large outdoor events, the risk for impacts from severe weather also grows. Severe weather awareness is more important than ever to minimize the risks to human life and property.

“Please join the effort to reduce our risk by joining in our month-long effort in April to know your neighborhood,” said Douglas County Emergency Manager Julie Anderson. “When it comes to your neighborhood, take a look around and determine what could put you in harm’s way before and during severe weather.”

- Can you hear the nearest outdoor warning siren?
- Do you have large trees that could damage the structure you live in if they fall?
- How easily could you be

drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. Many of the deaths occur in cars swept downstream and are preventable. Never drive around the barriers blocking a flooded road. The road may have collapsed under that water.

Six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult.

Twelve inches of rushing water can carry away most cars.

Twenty-four inches of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks.

impacted if lightning struck and caused a fire in a nearby structure?

Recommendations to increase preparedness:

- Have a generator, know how to use it, and test it to make sure it starts
- Have tarps on hand, and a way to secure them, if your roof is damaged
- Check the settings on your cell phone to ensure you will receive all alerts issued by the National Weather Service and Douglas County. Depending on your phone, it’s likely under Notifications
- Know how to use the flashlight on your cell phone
- Refresh your emergency supplies: Jugs of water, batteries for flashlights, emergency phone numbers written down, non-perishable food
- For people without base-

ments, make plans to go to a friend or relative’s home with a basement during a tornado or severe thunderstorm watch — discuss whether you can bring your pets with you

Douglas County sounds its outdoor warning sirens on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. The county also activates its sirens on Tornado Drill Day. In 2026 that is Thursday, April 16 at 1:45 and 6:45 p.m. The idea of tornado drill day is to practice your plan to take cover and get more information when the sirens sound.

Buy, sell or find with The Record Classifieds
For more information call (320)834-4924

BE Proud Sponsors of Brandon-Evansville Charger Athletics! BE

Joe's Bait & Bullets
103 Central Ave.
Brandon
Hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
Monday-Sunday
(320)524-2646

M&D'S COLLISION SPECIALISTS
Professional Collision Repair • Expert Refinishing
Uni-Body Repair • Frame Alignment
PPG Paint mixing system • Glass Replacement
Mike Sanstead • (218)948-2890 or (320)834-4565
Evansville, MN 56326 “Quality You Can Trust”

ETC SIGNS & APPAREL
BRANDON, MN 56315
320-834-4572
Your Charger apparel headquarters!

Evansville Meat Market
Blake & Jeanine Quinn, Owners
Custom Butchering • Retail Items • Homemade Sausage
218-948-2285 • 102 Railroad St., Evansville

Joe's Gas and Deli
(320)834-4081

MOE-URNESSE-LUND MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.
We support our local families
Brandon, MN
(320) 524-2294

OVER 58 YEARS OF COMBINED FLUID POWER EXPERIENCE

FOR ALL OF YOUR HYDRAULIC NEEDS!!

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 7-5
218.948.2067
info@wwhydraulics.com
20629 County Hwy 82, Evansville, MN

World Wide HYDRAULICS

Hydraulic Pump • Motor • Cylinder Repair

voyager INDUSTRIES
Proudly Built in Brandon, MN

Yetti BEAR TRACK voyager DOCK TITAN DECK
Walk all over us. We can take it.

www.voyager-industries.com

Runestone Insurance
Todd Bright
Josh Andraesen
Tammy Fluto
26 Central Ave., P.O. Box 186, Kensington, MN 56343
(320)965-6254 • Fax: (320)965-6253
todd@runestoneinsurance.com

DOUGLAS COUNTY ABSTRACT
“YOUR TITLE CHOICE”
117 7th Ave. E., Alexandria, MN 56308
(320)763-3426 • Fax: (320)762-2455
www.dcabstract.com

Lakes Area Insurance
(320) 524-2525

RC Custom Builders, Inc.
Cody Holtberg • (320)290-3660
codyholtberg@icloud.com
Fax: (218)948-2062
License #BC586681

MASTER BUILDERS of West Central Minnesota
320-834-4668

14661 Skrove Rd. NW, Box 488 • Brandon, MN 56315
E-mail: masterbuilders@gctel.net • Fax: (320)524-2300
www.masterbuildersminnesota.net

MY KIND OF BANK | 1ST NATIONAL BANK

HENNING | OTTERTAIL | BATTLE LAKE | EVANSVILLE | DETROIT LAKES

Were here to grow with you!
Call us today • 866-531-5253 Member FDIC

Now and Then

Excerpts from the Evansville
Historical Foundation Archives

113 Years Ago – April 1903
Evansville Enterprise
Great Northern Extension
Now that the Soo railroad is to invade the territory lying north of here it is not at all unlikely that the Great Northern will extend the Evansville Aberdeen branch northeast and connect with some of its lines leading to Duluth. The territory is a rich one, and in all probability, Mr. Hill will not feel disposed to give it up entirely to the Soo Road. The only wonder is that Great Northern has not extended this line before, thus cutting off Soo's plans.

At the time the branch now running from here was built, a survey was made for the extension and later another survey was made, but the work stopped there. C.W. Webb, the local agent, says that he has heard of no definite plans of the company concerning the matter, but he does not believe Mr. Hill will allow the Soo to go into the territory without competition. It is not known where the connection would be made with another line, but it would possibly be at Wadena or, Mr. Webb says, it might extend to the north line and connect at Bemidji or Cass Lake.

In this immediate vicinity Millerville would be benefited more than any other place, outside of Evansville. It would, of course, be of great value to Evansville, as this would be the natural point for a round house and shops. Besides this it would give a direct line to Duluth markets. This is a matter which the Business Men's Association should take up with earnestness and undertake to make it plain to the Great Northern how valuable such a line would be to the company and make it a point to secure the round house and shops for this place. The town can well afford to furnish a site, and possibly more. We feel quite sure, from what we have learned in talking with others, that the village is willing and eager to meet any fair proposition. If this extension is built, and this point is secured as the end of a division, with shops, etc., it means everything to Evansville. It will present an opportunity which the village cannot afford to let pass by.

50 Years Ago – 1976
Evansville Booster
Top three finishers in the Elementary School Spelling Bee
Third grader Daniel Bruns placed third, his sixth-grade brother Richard placed second. Winner of the Spelling Bee was Vangi French, who is a fourth grader.

Jaycees Wrestling
Twenty-six elementary students wrestled at the Jaycees

Regional Wrestling Tournament held at St. Cloud this past Saturday. They had plenty of company as 450 wrestlers from seventeen cities participated in the event. Eighteen of the boys placed in the top three with champions advancing to the State Meet to be held in Alexandria. Champions were Ian Josephs (5th grade), Randy Helgeson (4th grade), Bob Ehlen, Daniel Anderson, Dan Sayre, and Dale Alstead (all 6th grade). Second place winners were as follows: Brent Olson and Wade Helgeson - 1st grade, Matthew Propst, Tony Zicker, and Paul Strand - 4th grade, and David Anderson - 6th grade. Third place finishers: David Anderson - 1st grade, Kerby Lund - 2nd grade, Daniel Bruns - 3rd grade, Eric Satterlie - 4th grade, Jon Lueders and Shane Englund - 5th grade. The Evansville Jaycees are proud of the boys' efforts and wish them luck in the coming state tournament.

25 Years Ago - 2001
West Douglas County Record
'Little Shop of Horrors' at EHS

After nearly two months of rehearsals, Evansville students will be putting on four performances for the public. The musical is about a down-and-out skid row floral assistant named Seymour, played by

Evansville Council to meet April 13

The Evansville City Council will meet for its regular meeting April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

The agenda includes a fire department report and a notice that there will be a joint recycling day with Evansville, Brandon and Garfield May 2 from 8-10 a.m.

Another agenda item will concern the city's fire department personnel policy.

A reminder the city's board of review will be April 14 at 1 p.m. is also part of the agenda.

A portable restroom for the bike trail shelter and park will also be an agenda item.

An office report and a maintenance supervisors' report are also on the agenda.

The agenda also includes approving the minutes of the March 9 meeting as well as any correspondence and structure permits.

Grant Ellis, who becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant. He names the plant "Audrey II" after the young lady he works with played by Shanna Bitzan. The plot takes a turn when it is discovered that in order for the plant to grow, it needs blood to eat. Blake Quinn plays Mr. Mushnik, the floral shop owner, and Clay Ostlund plays Orin, Audrey's current boyfriend. The show is narrated by six girls who take you through the play which includes a variety of rhythm and blues music as well as some beautiful ballads. "Little Shop" is one of the longest running off Broadway shows ever and features music written by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. The show will be directed by Kathy Ray, and her husband Tim Ray will be the technical director. Brian Poyzer will be directing all the music for the show and his wife Jessica will be the production accompanist. The musical is a joint production between the Evansville Arts Coalition and the Evansville School District.

Recognition for a Quarter Century of Service

Long-time Evansville police officer Lloyd Hokanson was recognized for 25 years of service to the city. He received a plaque from Evansville Mayor Justine Bous at the Evansville City Council meeting.

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

Additional hours are available by appointment.

Old or other business is also on the agenda as is an opportunity for any guest concerns or comments to be heard.

The council will also approve the April bills and authorize payment.

The agenda items were scheduled as of April 6 and are subject to change.

Book fair to be held at Evansville School

A buy one, get one free book fair will be held at the Evansville School. Use Door No. 1 to enter the school

Hours will be April 13, 14 and 16 from 7:45-8:30 a.m. and 3-4 p.m. On April 15 the hours will be 7:45-8:30 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. The fair will also take place April 20 from 7:45-8:30 a.m.

Students in grades 2-5 will also be going to the book fair at a time of their teacher's choice.



Brandon Lions Pancake Feed



will be held Sunday, April 19

Serving from 8 a.m.-Noon

Brandon Auditorium

Proceeds support Brandon Lions

Scholarship Fund

Free Will Donation



Englund



LAWN CARE

Offering

Spring & Fall Cleanup, Mowing

Weed Control Spraying
and Fertilizer

Free Estimates or questions, call:

Jamie Englund - (320)815-1510

or

Torrie Englund - (320)424-2560



Come to our

Scandinavian Supper

at Faith Lutheran Church

526 State St., Evansville

April 11

from 4:30 - 7 P.M.

Serving:

Potato Sausage, Swedish Meatballs,

Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn,

Swedish Almond Cake

Free will offering.

Proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity
and the food shelf



FARMERS AGENCY IN ELBOW LAKE CAN MEET YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS!

Call Insurance Agents

Tom Estrem or Matt Allen

(218)685-6880

FAX: (218)685-6882

farmersagencyinc.com



105 1st Ave. NE, P.O. BOX 1060
Elbow Lake, MN 56531

"Insurance
Of All Kinds"

The Record covers Charger Sports



Like no one else

(320)834-4924

BLOTTER
Continued from page 1

Alexandria - Public assist. 86-year-old male, lift assist. Been on the floor for a few hours. No injuries.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Citation issued for speed.

Evansville - School patrol. Kensington - Person one stated person two assaulted them through the night. Person two arrested for domestic by strangulation. Someplace Safe form completed.

Hoffman - Medical call. Male party involved in a domestic. Needs to be checked out.

Alexandria - Harassment. Complainant and person two would like to report harassment by person three. Recent neighbor dispute. Advised of HRO process and told to call when the behavior is happening. Stopped to speak with person three. No answer.

Garfield - Person one reporting a scam. Just wanted suspect information reported. Complainant did not provide any personal information or money.

Alexandria - Top of an electrical pole smoldering.

Osakis - Eastbound silver car weaving in and out of traffic.

Alexandria - I-94, mile marker 106. Property damage accident. Honda CRV blue, median, eastbound. Airbags deployed. Passed on to state patrol. Declined medical.

Osakis - I-94, mile marker 14. Driver refusing medical. Gray Nissan Ultima.

Osakis - I-94, mile marker 112. Pickup in the median, partially blocking. Passed onto state patrol.

Alexandria - Complainant hit a sign. Black GMC Acadia. Minor crash.

Alexandria - Domestic. Physical domestic between a male and female. Argument over pizza rolls and nothing physical. Person two was not in fear and the yelling for help was the male playing video games. Advised to quiet down.

Alexandria - 12-13-year-old male rode his bike up to complainant's house stating his mother kicked him out. States he lives in the area but doesn't want to talk about it. Stated mom is getting worse.

Alexandria - Occupied with lights off. Driver ran out of gas, provided lights until his help arrived.

Evansville - Public assist. Main entrance. Elderly female fell, conscious and breathing.

Alexandria - Complainant's two children just left with her son's girlfriend because they are upset. Unknown where they were headed. Persons two and three were transported to juvenile detention in Bemidji.

Alexandria - Vehicle in ditch. Vehicle one in the ditch, no injuries, not blocking, one mile east of Nordic Trails Golf Course. North ditch. Provided

lights for tow.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Maroon pickup. Headlight and failure to maintain lane.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Verbal warning for headlight.

April 3

Carlos - Female party on the phone, screaming in the background, then hung up, no answer on call back. Male party is wearing a black jacket and blue jeans. Person two arrested for misdemeanor domestic assault.

Brandon - Complainant's and his neighbor's mailboxes were hit overnight. Complainant wanting to report the incident and speak with a deputy.

Alexandria - Child custody matter. Complainant has 50/50 custody with ex-husband. Their 16-year-old son doesn't want to be at his dad's now and won't let him go to his mom's. She is wondering if she can go pick the son up at his dad's place. Civil issue.

Osakis - Elderly male on the side of the road. Complainant passed by. Male appeared to be having vehicle issues.

Alexandria - Public assist. Complainant has questions for a deputy about his teenage son's behavior. Checked on person one at mom's house. All okay.

C.R. 82 - A white Honda SUV with a tire on the back was traveling eastbound and passed the bus on the left. The driver of the SUV passed a pickup truck that stopped for the stop arm of the bus and then passed the school bus while students were unloading the bus. Bus has a camera.

Carlos - Person two is being released. Jail requesting assistance notifying person one. Person one notified.

Osakis - Complainant has a land right-of-way question. Spoke with complainant about trespass issues.

Carlos - Complainant was released from jail and wants to get her property.

Miltona - Public assist. Male party fell and can't get up. Inside the front door of the house, door is locked, there is a key code.

Alexandria - Juvenile trouble. Step daughter and his wife got into a verbal argument earlier today. Mom was going to pick her up from work. Daughter refused and left in an unknown vehicle. Complainant currently tracking wife's phone.

Glenwood - Suspicious activity. Male party came in driving a white Avalanche. Truck still on scene. Male scouted the scene and was asking for money. Also a black Audi was seen in the area with two guns on the dashboard. Believes they may all be together. Arrested for fifth-degree drugs and DOC warrant.

April 4

Osakis - Daughter sent complainant a picture with a black and blue lip saying to call 911. When complainant tried calling she keeps saying she can't talk. Complainant has her on a find

my phone app. Phone appears to be travelling westbound on I-94. Complainant unable to provide location but can see her on the app. Spoke with person one who said incident happened in Sauk Centre and she is not in Douglas County. Person one also advised she did not want to report the incident to law enforcement.

Brandon - C.R. 7 and I-94. Red van with trailer off the road. No injuries. State report for freeway fence damage.

Alexandria - Medical call. Female says her legs feel heavy and weak and she can't walk. No difficulty breathing or chest pain.

Alexandria - 911 hang up. Open 911 line. Female wanting to leave and someone was not allowing her to do so. No contact.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Verbal warning for stop line violation.

Alexandria - Male party has slashed himself with a razor. He has handed it over to the staff but is unwilling to go to ER.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Verbal warning for no taillights, don't work at all, and brake lights out.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Verbal warning for no headlights on, window and windshield tint.

Alexandria - Traffic stop. Driver was cited for stop sign violation

Alexandria - Truck going around the block for the last hour. Gray pick up, revving his engine. Stopped vehicle one. Addressed the complaint.

Person two is going home now.

Miltona - Traffic stop. Person one almost caused a crash, speed, stop sign, expired registration.

Holmes City - Someone may be moving or stealing some marble from her yard. Complainant states they were

notified by persons two and three and others have been taking granite from her property. Checked property as requested. No signs on any rocks being moved or unearthed.

Farwell - 74-year-old female party fell and hit her head and is bleeding.

If you like reading The Record each week you can help support it by making a donation on PayPal.

The Record is a free local newspaper that provides local news and photos and information each week. If you want to show your appreciation for the work needed to make The Record possible each week, you can donate on PayPal at: wdrecord@gctel.com Any donation will be greatly appreciated and used to keep a great small weekly newspaper going strong.

Pick up a free Record at the following locations:
Brandon: JC's, Joe's Gas & Deli, Dollar General,
Evansville: Hirway Amoco, Lou's, First National Bank,
Main Street Market, Evansville Hardware, Schatz's
Millerville: Creamery
Garfield: Cenex
Alexandria: Elden's Fresh Foods, Pizza Ranch, Cub Foods,
Douglas County Library
Kensington: Crossroads

Douglas County
Record

Postal Patron
PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRANDON, MN
PERMIT No. 4

Delivered free each week in Brandon, Evansville, Garfield, Millerville, and Alexandria • wdrecord@gctel.com
2025 No. • For advertising rates and information call (320)834-4924 • P.O. Box 86, Brandon, MN 56315 • Thursday, January 2, 2025

**MOE-URNES-LUND
MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.**
"Protecting Since 1883"
We support our local families
Brandon, MN

**Runestone
Insurance**

Todd Bright • Josh Andreasen • Tammy Fluto • Todd@runestoneinsurance.com
26 Central Ave., P.O. Box 186, Kensington, MN 56343
(320)965-6254 • Fax: (320)965-6253

M&D'S COLLISION SPECIALISTS

Professional Collision Repair • Expert Refinishing
Uni-Body Repair • Frame Alignment
PPG Paint mixing system • Glass Replacement
Mike Sanstead • (218)948-2890 or (320)834-4565
Evansville, MN 56326 "Quality You Can Trust"



**Community
Calendar**

SCANDINAVIAN SUPPER April 11, 4:30-7 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church, Evansville. Potato sausage, Swedish meatballs, potatoes, gravy, etc. Free-will offering.

A **BOOK FAIR** will be held at the Evansville School. Use Door No. 1 to enter the school. Hours will be April 13, 14 and 16 from 7:45-8:30 a.m. and 3-4 p.m. On April 15 the hours will be 7:45-8:30 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. The fair will also take place April 20 from 7:45-8:30 a.m. Students in grades 2-5 will also be going to the book fair at a time of their teacher's choice.

BRANDON LIONS Pancake feed will be April 19 from 8 a.m.-Noon at the Brandon Auditorium.

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY MOBILE FOOD PANTRY is in Evansville the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at City Hall. This is open to ALL Douglas County residents!.

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

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 hزابroski@yahoo.com.

EVANSVILLE American Legion Post 188 will meet at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month (March through October) at the Military House of the Evansville Historical Foundation.

Millerville American Legion Post 527 and Auxiliary meet at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at the Millerville Legion Hall. Social time from 6:30 p.m. All Vets are welcome for membership. Call 320-808-1479 for any questions.

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 Mon-

DOUGLAS COUNTY REPAIR

320-834-4044
Brandon



Hauling Available

**Roger Roers
Owner**

Specializing in I-H Tractor Repair since 1981

Bob's Backhoe Service



Percolation tests and septic systems
Basements • Gravel • Footing • Landscaping
Tiling • Black Dirt • Rip Rap • Free Estimates

(320)834-4487 • Cell: 760-2616 • Quality Service since 1984

THE ONLY FULL SERVICE TOWING & REPAIR COMPANY IN THE AREA
5227 Halvorson Road NW
Garfield, MN 56332
towingalexmn.com
Glenn's Towing and Repair

Pulling you forward
**Truck & Auto Repair, DOT Inspections
Tire sales & Service, and a whole lot more**

ExCel Plumbing/InFloor Heating

License, bonded, insured, Owner Ron Wagner
New Homes • Remodel • Complete Service & Installation water heaters
Specializing in InFloor Heating
Excellence in all your plumbing projects
Cell: (320)-760-5818

WASKOSKY WELL DRILLING INC.
Erdahl, MN
Residential • Lake Homes • Farm • Irrigation • All Repair Needs

For all your drilling and repair needs!
O - (218)948-2956 • C - (218)770-0780
26141 123rd Ave., Elbow Lake, MN
waskoskywelldrilling@gmail.com
www.waskoskywell.com

Schaffer Construction & Drywall LLC

Painting • Drywall • Framing/Siding • Trim/finish work
Interior Remodeling • Additions
Shannon Schaffer • Licensed & Insured
(320)815-7295
E-mail: FortheLookThatsDifferent@yahoo.com

day 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 6:30 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 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.

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 TOWN BOARD 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, second Monday, 6:30 p.m.; Brandon-Evansville School Board, third Monday in Brandon School Conference room, at 7 p.m.

www.gctel.com | 320.834.5151

gardonville
cooperative telephone association

Phone, TV, and Internet Services

Lakeside Lumber
Family Owned - Community Driven
218-747-2215 • Lakesidelbr.com

Family Run - Community Driven
In House Drafting Services for New Homes, Remodels, Additions, Garages, Pole Barns
Email: office@lakesidelbr.com
109 Birch Ave • Ashby MN 56309

Water Drop Flower Shop
Offering Fresh Cut Flowers and Plants for Most any Occasion!
WaterDropFlowerShop@gmail.com
Like us on Facebook

Bonnie Waskosky, Designer-Owner • (218)948-2360
12376 State Hwy. 79, Elbow Lake, MN 56531

BITZAN/OHREN Masonry, LLC
Residential • Commercial
For quality Concrete & Masonry Construction
Office: (320)834-5488
5096 Co. Rd. 82, Alexandria, MN 56308 • b-omason@gctel.net

Diekman's Jewelry
111 6th Ave. W., Alexandria
762-0309 • 1-800-568-5336
For all your jewelry needs

Watch, Clock & Ring Repair Downtown Alex
Call 1-800-568-5336
Your Total Service Store
"Let Kyle Serve You"

PRO-AG FARMERS CO-OP
Alexandria, Garfield,
Brandon, Urbank, Hoffman
Parkers Prairie & Henning

Brandon Liquor Store
Open Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Be a pal, take the keys, give a ride

This Space Available
Call The Record
(320)834-4924 for price information

This Space Available
Call The Record
(320)834-4924 for price information

Minnesota distracted driving enforcement campaign is underway now through April 30

Ashley Lehman was seriously injured last July in a T-bone crash at a four-way intersection. She later died from her injuries. Her family is joining local traffic safety officials - and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) - in calling for safer driving this April so no one else has to feel the heartache of losing a family member to a deadly crash.

OTS is leading and coordinating a distracted driving education and extra enforcement campaign April 1-30. The campaign uses funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and includes statewide advertising.

"All of our lives changed instantly and have been turned upside down ever since. I talk to God and Ashley daily," said Matt Lehman, Ashley's father-in-law and Shakopee mayor. "Both tell me to use my 40 years of automotive experience and decades on racetracks to help educate and prevent the loss of innocent lives, to help other families navigate the forever nightmare and family destruction from distracted, impaired and reckless driving."

Ashley's family hopes others will learn from their struggle and take every step possible to avoid completely preventable traffic crashes.

"Almost every crash that happens is an avoidable tragedy. We want to protect families by reminding drivers to focus on the road," said OTS Director Mike Hanson, who added that putting phones away and setting aside other tasks while driving saves lives. "Lives really do depend on how much attention you give the road."

Distracted driving is deadly driving

From 2020 to 2025, there were 33,183 distracted driving crashes that resulted in:

- 888 serious injuries
 - 162 fatalities
- In 2025, there were:
- At least 21 fatalities related to distracted driving
 - 159 serious injuries related to distracted driving

Hands-free is the law

The hands-free cell phone law means drivers can't hold their phone in their hand. Accessing or posting on social media, streaming videos, looking up information on a device while driving is against the law in Minnesota, even in hands-free mode.

- A driver can only use voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts, and get directions. Remember, hands-free is not necessarily distraction-free.

Distracted driving consequences

- \$100 or more, including court fees for a first offense.
- \$300 or more, including court fees for all subsequent offenses.
- A felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide if you injure or kill someone. Drive Smart and join Minnesotans driving distracted-free
- Cell phones: Put cell phones away, activate the "Do Not Disturb" feature, silence notifications, turn phones off, place them out of reach or go hands-free.
- Music and other controls: Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.
- Navigation: Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.
- Eating and drinking: Secure drinks and avoid messy foods.
- Children: Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.

Passengers should speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with anything that would take the driver's attention off the road.

Visit HandsFreeMN.org and DriveSmartMN.org for more information.

MDA accepting applications for various grants

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Value-Added and Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing (MPEM) Grants.

These reimbursement grant programs provide funding for eligible applicants to invest in equipment and physical improvement projects that support expanding processing capacity, market diversification, and market access for Minnesota agricultural products.

The MDA expects to award up to \$2.25 million through these reimbursement programs. Individual awards will range from \$1,000 to \$150,000 and require a cash match. Reimbursement grants mean that awardees receive funds after project expenses are paid and documented.

"I've visited grant recipients across Minnesota and have seen firsthand how these investments help businesses expand, innovate, and reach new markets," said Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "Thanks to the support of the Minnesota Legislature, these grants continue to deliver strong returns by building a more diverse and resilient agricultural economy in our state."

The scoring criteria of this grant program include priority points for projects that increase food safety, hemp fiber processing capacity, and access to kosher or halal markets.

Applicants with projects that are led by, impact, or serve Native American Tribal communities are also encouraged to apply.

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment used in the production of value-added agricultural products
- Grading, packing, labeling, packaging, or sorting equipment
- Cooler walls and refrigeration units
- Equipment that improves process efficiency at biofuel plants
- Livestock slaughter equipment such as cradles, saws, hooks, scalders, or sinks
- Creamery or milk product processing equipment
- Egg sanitizing, candling, drying, and grading equipment

Equipment that helps to maintain product identity and traceability

Full eligibility requirements and application details are available on the AGRI Value-Added and AGRI MPEM Grant webpages. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Wednesday June 17, 2026.

Funding for the Value-Added and MPEM grants is made available through the MDA's AGRI Program, which administers grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout Minnesota to advance the state's agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

STOP

and read

The Record for local news, sports and classifieds.

Sports Schedule

April 9

SB, V, JV, DH at Hillcrest, 4 p.m.

Track at OTC C meet

BB, V, Jr. Hi vs Clearbrook-Gonvick, 4 p.m.

April 10

Track at Perham, 4 p.m.

BB, V, JV, Jr. Hi at Pelican Rapids, 5 p.m.

April 11

SB at Frazee Tournament

April 13

Trac C meet at Minnewaska, 4 p.m.

April 14

SB vs Hancock, DH, in Brandon, 4 p.m.

Track at Sebeka, 4 p.m.

Jr. Hi SB vs Hancock, 4 p.m.

April 16

BB vs Rothsay, DH, 4 p.m.

Track at Fergus Falls, 3 p.m.

April 17

SB vs LPGE, 5 p.m.

April 20

Jr. Hi track at Pelican Rapids, 4:30 p.m.

BB at Waubun, 4:30 p.m.

April 21

SB at Ashby, DH, 4 p.m.

Track at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle, 4:30 p.m.

Track C meet at Perham, 4:30 p.m.

Timberwolves schedule

April 2 - at Detroit, 6 p.m.

April 3 - at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.

April 5 - Charlotte, 6 p.m.

April 7 - at Indiana, 7 p.m.

April 8 - at Orlando, 6 p.m.

April 10 - at Houston, 7 p.m.

April 12 - N. Orleans, 7:30 p.m.



Trumm Drug

ELBOW LAKE
PHONE
TOLL FREE
1-800-421-2999

The Marriage Poem is the perfect wedding or anniversary present



Have a wedding coming up? Special anniversary? Then The Marriage Poem is the perfect gift. Comes in a simple black frame ready to wrap.

Only \$23 which includes postage and handling.

To order send payment to:
The Marriage Poem
P.O. Box 86
Brandon, MN 56315







Trap Gophers. Earn Cash.

Help prevent fiber-optic internet outages caused by gopher chews! Earn up to \$10 per gopher through our Gopher Bounty Match Program. Scan the QR code to learn more!

gctel.com/gopher-bounty-match-program

The Douglas County Mobile Food Pantry

is in Evansville the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at City Hall.

This is open to ALL Douglas County residents!



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney



DISABLED?
We've Helped Thousands Get Benefits

Contact Us Today For Free Advice

Long-Term Disability
Short-Term Disability
Social Security Disability

320-257-0231
www.GetFields.com

ELLIS
INSURANCE AGENCY
 Agents: Dean Ellis, Larry Martini
 Health • Life • Auto • Home • Farm • Crop • Business
 Ph. 218-685-4441 • Fax: 218-685-5120 • service@ellisins.com
 12 1st Ave. SE, Box 60, Elbow Lake, MN 56531

Car wash

It's that time again! Clean your vehicle at the Evansville Car Wash! Open 7 days a week from 9-9.

Bullion/coins

We sell bullion and buy coin collections, accumulations, bullion, mint & proof sets, currency, tokens, etc. Will travel & pay cash. 55 years' experience. No deal is too big!

(612) 986-2566

Need to publish a Certificate of Assumed Name? Do it in The Record for only \$35 per week. For more information call The Record at (320)834-4924

Perfect wedding/ anniversary gift

Have a wedding or anniversary coming up? Then get the perfect gift without having to put in hours of shopping! Just check out The Marriage Poem at dbproser.com.

Free recycling

RND Computers offers free recycling of computers, laptops, flat panel monitors, and printers. Excludes CRT monitors. Please call for more information. RND Computers, 204 Main Street, PO Box 154, Evansville, MN 56326, (320)762-1212

A baby's gift

Have a Baptism coming up? Then consider "A Baby's Prayer" as a gift. Fitting for any Christian Baptism. Fits into a 5x7 space. To order send \$10 to: A Baby's Prayer, P.O. Box 86, Brandon, MN 56315.

Have something you need to sell?



The Record can help you find a buyer in the Classifieds. For more information call (320)834-4924.

Public notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA
 COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
 DISTRICT COURT
 SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 PROBATE DIVISION
 Court File No.:21-PR-26-465
 In Re: Estate of THOMAS JOHN IL-LETSCHKO,
 Decedent
 NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on *May 4, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 305 Eighth Avenue West, Alexandria, Minnesota, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of Decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Janice A. Doucette and Brian L. Doucette, whose address is 6275 County Road 13 NE, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the Decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

*Your appearance is not required at this hearing. If there is an objection to this petition, you will be notified of another hearing date and time.

BY THE COURT
 Dated: 3/24/26
 /s/ Timothy Churchwell
 Judge of District Court
 Kim Peterson
 Court Administrator
 PEMBERTON LAW, P.L.L.P.
 Nicholas J. Heydt, # 0327864
 203 22nd Ave W, Alexandria, MN 56308
 Telephone: 320-759-3143
 Facsimile: 320-759-3144
 e-mail: n.heydt@pemplaw.com
 ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
 Publish April 9, 16, 2026

Millerville Liquor Store

Daily Specials

Mon.-Thurs.: Noon-10 p.m. • Fri.-Sat.: 10 a.m.-1 a.m.



Mimosa & Margarita Monday
 Margaritas - \$4

Tapper Tuesday
 Tap - \$1.75 • Pitcher - \$7 • Pitcher, lg. pizza \$20
 Pitcher, sm. pizza, \$16

Any Wine & Whiskey Wednesday
 Any wine, any whiskey - \$4

Thirsty Thursday
 Buckets of domestic beer - 6 for \$20
 Coors, Busch, Bud Lite, Miller Lite, Mich Golden Lite & Ultra

Finally...Friday
 Happy Hours: 10 a.m.-Noon • 3-6 p.m. • 9-11 p.m.
 \$3 any canned beer, All Day

Seltzer Saturday
 Seltzers \$4.50
 Happy Hours: 3-6 p.m. • 9-11 p.m.



WAKE UP!
 To the fact advertising in The Record is effective and economical. To find out more call (320)834-4924

Bridal Shower

Happy Birthday!

Baby Shower

If you have a special occasion coming up, invite people with an ad in The Record. Let people know when and where the joyous occasion is! (320)834-4924 or e-mail: wdrecord@gctel.com

MCAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



HEALTH

IF YOU OR

a loved one suffered injury/death because of a Boston Scientific PACEMAKER, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles Johnson 800/535-5727

EMPLOYMENT

FULL TIME NIGHT CUSTODIAN

Night shift, 2:00-10:30PM, M-F, during school year. Daytime hours in summer. Salary Range: \$15.51-\$21.72, additional \$0.65 shift differential on night shifts. Year round, 12-month position. Apply now: www.applitrack.com/isd876/onlineapp

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED:

ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES

Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

WE BUY HOUSES

for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683

MISCELLANEOUS

SATELLITE TV + INTERNET!

Get Dish! Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 In gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309

CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER

Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 844/453-6983

MISCELLANEOUS

SAFE STEP

North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES!

Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!

Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506

Statewide Advertising ONLY \$279 Call Today! 612/332-8844

Your propane company – serving you since 1955

FARMERS UNION OIL COMPANY

320.763.6557 | Alexandria, MN

Call today! Ask for Jason.

Owned by the community, supporting the community.

Professional Directory



Lake Region HEALTHCARE
LRHC.org

Caring for you where you live, work and play.

Ashby / Barnesville / Battle Lake / Elbow Lake
Evansville / Fergus Falls / Herman / Morris



We are here to help you with your Medicare, Individual, and Group Health Insurance Needs

ELLIS INSURANCE AGENCY

Larry Martini

Dean Ellis

218-685-4441

service@ellisins.com • www.ellisins.com
12 1st Ave. SE • Box 60, Elbow Lake, MN

State's job growth is flat for January

Minnesota's monthly job growth remained flat in January, and the state's unemployment rate ticked up two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.4 percent while the national rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.3 percent, according to data released today by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

"Our state economy has weathered a number of economic shocks over the last year, and the impact of that now appears to be showing up in the data," said DEED Commissioner Matt Varilek. "This jobs report reflects the cumulative effect of almost 12 months of turbulence.

The national economy has been slowing over the last year, with erratic tariffs and a radical shift in immigration policy taking a toll.

No state has borne the brunt of these factors more directly than Minnesota, especially earlier in 2026. That said, I remain optimistic that our economic diversity and resilience will see us through, especially if some of these headwinds fade."

The private sector lost 900

jobs between December and January on a seasonally adjusted basis, while the Government sector gained 1,000 jobs gained in the same period.

Four supersectors in Minnesota gained jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis over the month, led by Educational and Health Services (5,000 jobs, up 0.8 percent) and Construction (3,700 jobs, up 2.6 percent). Six supersectors lost jobs over the month, led by Leisure and Hospitality (4,000 jobs, down 1.5 percent), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (2,500 jobs, down 0.5 percent) and Financial Activities (1,800 jobs, down 1.0 percent).

Over the year, Minnesota gained 13,147 payroll jobs, up 0.4 percent. The private sector gained 10,060 jobs, up 0.4 percent over the year. Five supersectors gained jobs, six lost jobs in Minnesota. Nationally, four supersectors gains jobs while seven lost jobs.

"The data are showing signs of a weaker labor market," said Angelina Nguyen, DEED Labor Market Information director. "We see smaller job growth and a higher unemployment

rate than we have in years."

The Minneapolis-Saint Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area saw a loss of almost 2,000 jobs in January 2026 – a decrease of 0.1 percent compared to a year ago.

Minnesota's labor force decreased by 4,562 people and the labor force participation rate ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point to 68.2 percent over the month.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is catching up on report delays stemming from the federal shutdown last fall.

The February jobs report will take place on April 16, and the March report will be shared on April 30. Visit the DEED website to view full state and national employment statistics, monthly jobs numbers and further analysis of this month's data.

In addition, find related articles about job growth and labor market changes in the latest issue of Minnesota Employment Trends. Access resources to help Minnesotans prepare for and find employment now at CareerForceMN.

Walz signs first bills of legislative session

Governor Tim Walz on March 27 signed four bipartisan bills into law, marking the first bill signings of the 2026 legislative session. The legislation will strengthen school bus safety standards, support Minnesota businesses by ensuring continued access to cannabis product testing, provide housing support, and eliminate Cesar Chavez Day.

"These bills show what's possible when we set party aside and focus on solving problems together," said Governor Walz. "These first bills set the tone for the session – making kids' mornings safer and allowing small businesses a little more stability."

SF 3623 enhances school bus safety by requiring drivers to stop at least 20 feet away from a school bus displaying flashing red lights. The law clarifies that

drivers must remain stopped until the bus is no longer signaling, improving protections for students and bus drivers. The bill passed unanimously in both the House and Senate.

HF 3615 extends the timeline, allowing lower-potency hemp edible products to be tested at qualified out-of-state facilities. With limited in-state testing capacity, this measure prevents backlogs, ensures product availability for consumers, and provides stability for Minnesota businesses as the state's cannabis market continues to develop. The bill extends current testing flexibility for lower-potency hemp edibles through May 31, 2027, allowing businesses to continue using out-of-state labs while Minnesota builds in-state testing capacity.

HF 3425 directs \$9 million

Simon responds to mail-in voting executive order

On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, the President of the United States of America issued a new Executive Order regarding election administration.

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon issued the following statement:

"This latest unconstitutional power grab will meet the same fate as the rest: It will not stand.

The President does not have the authority to make unilateral changes to election laws. The U.S. Constitution gives states and Congress the responsibility to make laws on elections. Our office has helped stop his actions before and we are now exploring our legal options to

stop this new order from taking effect.

Voting by mail is secure and trustworthy. Millions of Minnesotans have used this service for decades to exercise their right to vote in a way that is convenient for them.

Local election officials track every ballot that is sent by mail to ensure only eligible voters receive a ballot and that voters can only cast one ballot. Absentee voters who choose to vote by mail must provide a matching ID number, sign their signature envelope, and have a witness sign their ballot envelope before returning their ballot. All of that information

from the Strengthen Supportive Housing Program to recipients of the federal Continuum of Care Program, which provides permanent supportive housing in many areas of Minnesota. This is a budget-neutral bill because this funding is coming from an existing appropriation from 2023.

HF 4541 repeals the prior statute establishing Cesar Chavez Day in Minnesota.

"We will continue to celebrate the farm labor movement and the many people throughout history who have contributed to the improvement of farm working conditions," said Governor Walz. "I applaud the legislature for taking this swift action." The Governor declared March 31 as Farmworkers Day to continue recognizing the impact of agricultural workers.

is tracked digitally by election administrators. Voters are able to track the status of their ballot using our online ballot tracker tool. Any attempt to register or cast a ballot while ineligible is referred for investigation and potential prosecution.

The President's attempts to create chaos, stoke fears, and undermine our elections will not work. I will continue to stand up for every Minnesotan's right to free and fair elections. I expect that once again, this November our state will lead the nation in voter turnout."

Buy, sell or find with The Record Classifieds Call (320)834-4924

Democracy.

Read all about it in The Douglas County Record