



CROW WING COUNTY

## Goddard to seek reelection as sheriff

BRAINERD — Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott Goddard announced Tuesday, May 17, he will seek reelection.

"I am extremely proud of our office and the team of people that work to keep our residents and visitors safe," Goddard said in a news release.

"The last three and a half years have afforded me the opportunity to gain experience as your sheriff and learn more of the needs, wants and future of Crow Wing County."

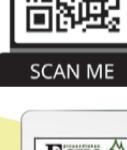
First elected in 2018, Goddard said during his time as sheriff, the office has had both accomplishments and challenges.

"We have faced the pandemic, while still providing professional response to the public, and implemented new programs for our community and our personnel. We are proud of the work we have done," Goddard said.

Goddard said highlights include the Brainerd Lakes Area Drug Education program, the creation and implementation of an employee mental health wellness program, the return of the K-9 program, restructuring employee recruitment, retention and support programs, continued expansion of mental health services in the jail, more personnel on the Lakes Area Drug Investigative Division, and a remodel to the sheriff's office that will include a training facility, bringing top training and trainers to the area.

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Photos by Nancy Vogt / Echo Journal

**Above:** Nisswa Chamber of Commerce President Pam Dorion uses an oar to pass doughnuts on napkins to a boat of anglers Saturday morning on Gull Lake. **Below:** Miss Nisswa First Princess Brooke Krivich hands doughnuts to an angler on Gull Lake on Saturday morning as part of the Nisswa Chamber of Commerce's annual Welcome Wannigan.

## Service with a smile

Nisswa Chamber serves coffee, doughnuts to Gull Lake anglers

**Nisswa** With three dozen doughnuts from Schaefer's Foods and hot coffee from Adirondack Coffee, the Nisswa Chamber of Commerce's Welcome Wannigan hit the waters of Gull Lake on Saturday morning, May 14, for the walleye and northern pike fishing opener.

Rather than casting lines, those on board offered anglers free doughnuts and cups of coffee, courtesy of the chamber. The tradition dates back to 1959 and has taken place in all kinds of

weather conditions - from snow and rain and choppy waters to sun and calm waters.

Saturday morning offered sun, warm temperatures and calm water until the wind whipped up mid-morning.

Those on board included Nisswa Chamber President Pam Dorion, Miss Nisswa First Princess Brooke Krivich, Little Miss Nisswa Harper Wilczek, Gina Meixner and Jay Chaney.

Chaney, owner of Boats and Beyond Rentals, was

captain of a pontoon boat sporting the old Welcome Wannigan sign.



## 4 area Catholic churches to get new priests

By Nancy Vogt  
Echo Journal



In mid-July, parishioners in the Our Lady of the Lakes Parish churches in Nisswa, Pequot Lakes and Pine River will see a new priest at the altar.

Effective July 13, Father Mike Patullo, parish priest for the past several years, will

become pastor of the Catholic churches in Aitkin, McGregor and McGrath.

A relatively new priest - Father Matthew Miller - will head Masses at St. Christopher's in Nisswa, St. Alice in Pequot Lakes and Our Lady of Lourdes in Pine River.

Father Michael Garry, pastor at St. Francis in Brainerd, All Saints in Baxter and St. Thomas of the Pines in East Gull Lake since January 2021,

will stay in that role and will become administrator of the Our Lady of the Lakes Parish.

"My plan right now is to try to get to the northern circuit of the Our Lady of the Lakes Parish once a month, at least for the first six months," Father Garry said.

He explained that

Father Miller will cover those churches in the Our Lady of the Lakes cluster every weekend while he covers the Brainerd area churches. Then once a month they'll swap so Father Garry will be at the northern churches and Father Miller at the Brainerd area churches.

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## Burning restrictions in place for Cass, Crow Wing

By Dan Determan  
Echo Journal

Don't burn that brush pile just yet.

Cass and Crow Wing counties are two of 17 counties recently added to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources list of counties where burning restrictions are in effect, as the wildfire season deepens and expands in northwestern Minnesota.

Seventeen other counties were already under restrictions.

The DNR will not issue permits for open burn-

ing of brush or yard waste in these counties until restrictions are lifted.

As of Monday, May 16, both Cass and Crow Wing counties are considered at high risk for fires, despite last week's rain.

Burning restrictions are put on annually in the springtime - generally after individual citizens have had a good two weekends to do yard cleanup and burning - because we get into these dry, warm, windier conditions this time of year," Backus

Area Fire Program Leader Craig Schultz said. "Given the elevated fire danger, indexes have been elevated during this time of year. Generally, we have the majority of our wildfires in the springtime."

Burning may only occur if an individual has obtained a variance permit.

However, last week's considerable amount of rainfall - some residents saw as much as 3 inches in a 48-hour period - may alter those restrictions sooner than expected.

"Generally, at minimum, restrictions are on for at least two weeks," Schultz said. "Things may be extended. Last year, burning restrictions got extended quite a long time into the summer. But with the rainfall and quick green-up that we've seen occurring and leaf out on the trees, that will most likely impact how long restrictions are in place."

"Looking forward, the restrictions should be coming off somewhat quicker than in the last couple of years," he said.

Schultz said roughly 90% of wildfires in Minnesota are human-caused, and most often a result of burning debris. If a debris fire rekindles or escapes, the person who set it is liable for any damage caused, as well as for wildfire suppression costs.

For more information and daily updates on current fire risk and open burning restrictions, visit the statewide fire danger and burning restrictions page of the DNR website at [mndnr.gov/BurnRestrictions](http://mndnr.gov/BurnRestrictions).

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