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Where's Erma?

Did you

find Erma in

a photo on

page B2

last week?

She was watching Pequot

Lakes football players

celebrate a homecoming

victory. Have fun hunting for

Erma this week!

Go Pine River

tickets are

being sold for

\$100 each.

Contact the

chamber to buy

a ticket. Weekly

drawings will

resume in

November.

Nisswa Community Fund joins BLACF

BRAINERD — The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation announced the Nisswa Community Fund will join the BLACF family of funds.

The foundation reported it is honored to host this fund and excited to see the impact it will have to support initiatives for the betterment of the city of Nisswa.

"We are thrilled that local leaders formed the Nisswa Pretty Good Foundation, as it will be known locally," Karl Samp, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation executive director, said in a news release. "They had the foresight to create this fund to enhance a pretty good small town. And we all know here, that means the (recently named) Best Small Town in Minnesota! Donations are now being accepted to grow the fund and its impact in Nisswa."

Pam Dorion, president of the Nisswa Chamber of Commerce, said: "I am beyond excited to get the Nisswa Pretty Good Foundation up and running. I can't wait to assemble the last few committee members and see where this goes. Everyone here loves this town and everyone that comes through wants to come again. ... I see big things happening with this going forward and I can't wait. I love Nisswa!"

"Nisswa is an amazing community, and this will be instrumental in the community's future success," Jenny Max, Nisswa city administrator, said in the release. "A big thank you goes to the Nisswa Chamber for their vision; I can't wait to be a part of this initiative that will provide opportunities for anyone who loves Nisswa to come together and do great things!"

Dorion is the chair of the Nisswa Pretty Good Foundation and Max will serve on the committee as well.

"Once additional committee members are finalized, the committee will accelerate fund-raising efforts to give the fund a jump-start," Dorion said. "This could be a real game changer and provide a source to fund immediate and future needs of the community."

The committee is asking anyone who is interested in donating to do so online at bit.ly/3CkAcGS or mail it to CommunityGiving at 101 Seventh Ave. S, No. 100, St. Cloud, MN, 56301. Donors should note "Nisswa Community Fund" in the memo line.

The Fund Committee would welcome any donations or matching grant dollars to help increase fund growth and requests people contact Dorion

if interested in providing a matching grant challenge or donation.

The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation attracts and administers charitable funds for the benefit of the local Brainerd area. Since 1998, the foundation has grown to over \$16.7 million in assets and awarded over \$8.1 million in grants to nonprofits.

The Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation is governed by a local board of directors and is a partner of CommunityGiving, which is a collaborative of many community foundations united under a single framework to create efficiencies that maximize the impact of donors, the release said. Collectively, CommunityGiving administers over 1,000 funds totaling nearly \$195 million.

Learn more at CommunityGiving.org/Brainerd.

CASS COUNTY

Election officials clarify procedures for absentee voters

By Kyndra Johnson
Cass County Correspondent

WALKER — Cass County elections officials are clarifying procedures for absentee voters for the upcoming general election.

Cass County Board members heard an update regarding direct balloting procedures from Pam Smith, county elections administrator, during the board's Tuesday, Oct. 4, meeting.

Smith said direct bal-

loting is for absentee voters who would like to personally deposit their ballot into a DS200 ballot tabulator rather than use the envelope process.

In the past, absentee voters were allowed to use the DS200 ballot tabulator seven days prior to and on Election Day. However, it was discovered that use of the DS200 tabulator is not allowed on Election Day.

Instead, on Election Day Nov. 8, absentee

voters will place their ballots in a ballot box where election judges will collect them and place them into the larger ballot tabulator.

At their meeting Tuesday, Sept. 20, the county board held a public hearing concerning the second reading of an ordinance to enact golf cart usage on city and county roads within Lake Shore.

With no public comment made the hearing was closed and the board approved the ordinance.

Also Sept. 20, the board heard from Brooke Remer, 4-H extension educator, who discussed the results of the 2022 Cass County Fair and the future of the 4-H program in Cass County.

This year's fair saw an increase in participation, with 53 4-H youth and three 4-H clubs exhibiting with a total of 458 entries. Out of those entries 33 of them advanced to Minnesota 4-H regional and state events.

Remer said that retention rates over the past five years have increased from around 50% to 80% of area kids continuing with 4-H until they age out at 18.

Remer said she is beginning to revive the after-school programs with area schools, particularly the schools in the northern half of Cass County due to the southern half already having a strong program.

Kyndra Johnson is the Cass County correspondent.

Tickets available for Nisswa home tour, a food shelf fundraiser

PEQUOT LAKES — The Lakes Area Food Shelf has several hundred tickets remaining for its 31st Nisswa Christmas Home Tour, which will take place Oct. 20-22.

Tour participants are shuttled to two private homes elaborately decorated for the holidays. Upon return to Nisswa, they can get a meal at a restaurant and shop at the stores.

The revenue from sales is

needed to meet growing needs in the Brainerd lakes area. Tickets are \$40 with all proceeds benefiting the food shelf. Tickets and additional information are available at lafshometour.com.

"With the need growing in 2022, buying a ticket to the Nisswa Christmas Home Tour is very much appreciated," LAFS Director Kathy Adams said in a news release.

Nisswa shops donated their

time and expertise to decorate the tour homes, including Anchored In, Buffalo Plaid, Chocolate Ox, Double T Acres, Found: A Curated Life, Lark and Olde Crow Gatherings.

LAFS served over 6,000 through August, as government pandemic relief programs expired and inflation raised costs. The numbers track well ahead of 2021. LAFS projects it may serve as many as 10,000 by the end of the year, despite

limiting individuals to two visits per month.

"The combination of our buying power with the help from area grocers will maximize the impact of every dollar from every ticket sold," said Adams. "The Christmas Home Tour is our biggest annual appeal. With the continued growth in the number of friends and neighbors using the food shelf, we're really hoping to reach record sales."

BRIEFS

12-year-old boy dies in hunting accident near Motley

MOTLEY — A 12-year-old boy died in a hunting accident Sunday, Oct. 9, in Moose Lake Township, rural Motley, Cass County Sheriff Tom Burch said in a news release.

Burch said that at 8:19 a.m. Sunday, the sheriff's office received a report of a hunting accident. Deputies arrived on scene and learned that a family from St. Paul was in the area, on pub-

lic land, hunting squirrels when the boy was accidentally shot by his uncle, 47, of St. Paul.

Deputies and responders initiated first aid and transported the boy from a wooded area to a nearby roadway to meet emergency medical services personnel. Life-saving measures continued and the boy was transported from the scene to a nearby helicopter and taken to a Twin Cities area hospital, where he died later that day.

An autopsy is sched-

uled with the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office.

The investigation indicates that the incident is a result of a hunting accident that remains under investigation. Assisting on the scene were Motley Fire and Rescue, North Memorial Ambulance and Air Care.

Man injured when pinned by truck in Lake Edward Township

LAKE EDWARD TOWNSHIP — Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott