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Mille Lacs winter walleye

Ice anglers on Mille Lacs and Upper Red lakes can harvest walleye on both lakes this winter season.

A four-walleye bag limit, with only one walleye longer than 17 inches allowed, went into effect on Upper Red Lake on Monday, Nov. 1.

Effective Wednesday, Dec. 1, through Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, winter anglers on Mille Lacs may keep one walleye between 21-23 inches or one fish longer than 28 inches.

The new regulation on Upper Red increases the possession limit from the three-fish limit that was in place during the 2020-2021 winter season and 2021 open water season, when mature walleye were lower in abundance. Results of this fall's walleye population assessment showed a wide range of sizes with an abundance of mature spawning walleye, which allowed the more generous bag limit while

also creating conditions that are favorable for the survival of upcoming walleye year classes.

This is the sixth consecutive year of winter walleye harvest on Mille Lacs, where winter regulations are set after completion of the annual fall netting assessment. Results from 2021 showed that the walleye population has declined from recent years but remains above population lows seen from 2012 to 2016.

Mille Lacs Lake winter regulations also reduce the possession limit for cisco (tullibee) from 10 to five and forbid the harvest of burbot (eelpout).

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's website offers regulation information on both lakes - Upper Red Lake at www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=04003501 and Mille Lacs Lake at www.dnr.state.mn.us/millelacslake/index.html.

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Final Highway 210 road improvements included a new surface and remaining rumble strip grinding operations. Photos courtesy of MnDOT

Highway 210 from Aitkin to Deerwood is open

By ANN SCHWARTZ
PCI Roads was the main contractor for the repair and shouldering project on Highway 210 from the city limits of west Aitkin to near Hwy. 6 in Deerwood that wrapped up November 5.

Shoppers and commuters were painfully aware that a detour was in place on the well-traversed road from July 12 to November 5, 2021. The project is expected to cost about \$5.7 million, according to Nate Walton,

MnDot project construction engineer. "Our main goal was to repair concrete pavement along that nine-mile stretch," said Walton in an interview. "We chipped out joints and panels which were in disrepair and needed

partial and full-depth repairs on the concrete." It was mostly a concrete rehab project. They identified the areas that needed partial and full-depth concrete repairs and chipped them out. Then they reinforced it with steel rods and poured in fresh redi-mix."

They also graded the entire surface, paved the shoulders and added rumble strips and striping. Two culverts were also replaced.

"Usually, replacing culverts would call for dewatering the area, but this year, with it so dry, that part of the job went smoothly," observed Walton. Culverts were replaced at Ruschmeier Lake near Deerwood and Bass Lake by Aitkin.

The shoulders remain at a width of 6.5 feet, but the new asphalt should be more biker-friendly.

PCI from the Twin Cities, Anderson Brothers of Brainerd and Young Excavation from Hackensack were the main contractors.

Last week, the contractors were finishing up by scoring rumble strips into the pavement and completing striping and signing.

Walton said he was more than lucky to have such a smooth project during this pandemic and with supply chain delays. "We had dry weather when we needed it to replace our culverts in what are usually wet and swampy areas. Then, later, there was rain which will help us get the turf established on the landscaping at the end of the project."

Aitkin passes school levy

Voters in the Aitkin School District approved a \$9 million capital projects levy Tuesday, Nov. 2, with 1,595 yes votes and 828 no votes, according to a post on the district's Facebook page.

Passage will avert laying off at least eight teachers and cutting other programs and services.

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READER RIBBETS

Rep. Dale Lueck legislative update

It's been busy dealing with a variety of topics. I visited the Tamarack Nickel Project. Attended the Crosby City Council meeting to provide an update on the Safe ATV Route into both Crosby and Ironton.

I also attended the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) fall conference at Walker. Eight northern counties including Crow Wing and Aitkin counties make up the MHB. The county boards through the MHB oversee environmental protection and recreational use of the northern 400 miles of the Mississippi river. Check the MHB out here.

During my visit with Talon Metals at the Tamarack Nickel Project I had the opportunity to see the core samples coming out of the ground with as much as 11 percent nickel content. That is exceptionally high-grade mineral concentrations, rarely encountered anywhere in the world.

Reducing our dependence on fossil fuel based energy is directly tied to the ability to produce non-ferrous minerals. Nickel is one of many minerals necessary to create the batteries, vehicles and other items that will allow an orderly shift toward less reliance on fossil-based energy sources.

There is another element that these resources bring to the table. It's difficult to estimate the exact value of the minerals in the Tamarack Deposit. That work is ongoing with more than 50 Talon employees operating drill rigs 24/7, bringing up 10-foot core sections one at a time, mapping out what the Tamarack Deposit holds.

However, we can get a perspective on the economic benefits that have accrued since 2000, when the project first began. While these are only ballpark estimates, the mineral lease exploration activities have provided millions in revenue so

far at both the local and state level:

\$1.5 million to Aitkin and Carlton counties and \$1 million to local cities/townships

\$1.2 million to McGregor and Cromwell Schools Districts

\$1.2 million to the state Permanent School Trust Fund

\$716 thousand to the Consolidation Conservation Fund

\$1.6 million to the State via the leases handled by the MN DNR

In addition, the project has invested about \$40 million within our area on general goods and services needed to sustain this 11-year effort.

Northeast Minnesota is mineral, timber and water rich. Going forward, I believe we can continue our history of strong environment stewardship, while at the same time sharing the critical resources, we are blessed with here in our part of Minnesota.

Representative Dale Lueck
Minnesota House District 10B

Gov. serving his political agenda

A good state government relies on a good working relationship between the Governor and members of the Legislature. With past Governors, regardless of party, this has always been a possibility. Many times, the Legislature and Governor do not agree on policies, or bill language, but they can always come together on behalf of Minnesotans in a positive way. Our State and our voters rely on and expect this relationship. Unfortunately, Governor Walz has shown a drastic unwillingness to work with the Legislature in any way.

Last week, Governor Walz visited a proposed Local Jobs and Projects site in the Brainerd Lakes area. The goal of his visit was "to hear from Minnesotans and visit projects that [he] is considering including in his bonding proposal for the 2022 legislative session." Etiquette in Minnesota politics dictates that the Governor not only inform local elected officials that he will be visiting, but also that he extends an invitation to them for whatever visit he's embarking on. This shows a camaraderie between elected

officials and demonstrates a willingness for the Governor and other elected officials to work together to serve the State. Not only was I not invited to a tour that would affect my voters, I wasn't even informed of this event until the day after it occurred when I read about the visit in our local papers.

I was elected by the people of Senate District 10 to serve their interests and act as their voice at the Capitol, and I take that job to heart. Instead of inviting a member of the Legislature that was elected by the very people his projects would serve, I'm extremely disappointed that Governor Walz and his team carefully curated a stop that only served his interests and political agenda. Our Governor has shown time and time again that he desires no input from the Legislature. We are heading into a very important Bonding Year in 2022—the Bonding projects that get selected will have the potential to affect many businesses and voters after nearly two years of hardship. This is one area the Governor and Legislature should provide equal input on. These local

bonding projects he toured are important to me, but more importantly, they also matter to the people in my district.

It is disrespectful that I was not even extended the courtesy of an invitation to this tour. I would have appreciated attending these project sites to hear more about the projects and the constituents I represent, and how the Governor plans to incorporate these projects into his bonding proposals. I have always seen the importance of having a good bipartisan relationship with previous Governors, Senators, and Members of the House, because it's what our constituents deserve. I'm disappointed to see Governor Walz being so calculated in the way he cuts the Legislature out when it serves him. The Governor and Legislature should work hand-in-hand to compromise in ways that serve the public, but under the Walz Administration, that appears to be a way of the past. This is not how our State should be governed, and our Governor must do better.

Senator Carrie Ruud
Minnesota Senate District 10

Betrayed the public trust and badge

Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott Goddard has thumbed his nose at every single county resident. He publicly bans police departments from our offices, damages the office of Sheriff by publishing cases on former deputies, then, he hires a part time unlicensed background investigator that arbitrators found lies, alter documents, make documents disappear in internal investigations when investigating an officer under their command. This places

the integrity of the system at high risk.

We have the right to expect high standards of law enforcement officials be kept high by those who wear the badge. When local elected officials hold their tongue and refuse to speak up, represent us, we need to remove them from office as well. Scott Goddard is an elected official, he may be the highest law enforcement official in the area, despite what he believes, he answers

to us. Goddard has not lived up to the requirements of Sheriff, bragging constantly he only has to work one day a year. Goddard has not kept the moral high ground, he is bending the law, clouding the lines as far as he can. Goddard has betrayed the office, betrayed our trust, our safety, our deputies, our county. The clearest betrayal Goddard has done is to the badge, he can't be trusted in office further.

Kelly Avelsgard, Deerwood

COMMUNITY EVENTS

November

5th & 6th - Friends of the Aitkin Library Book Sale 9-3 All hardcover books are \$1 each, and everything else is \$.50 each. Bag sale on Saturday afternoon - all you can fit in a bag for \$3. Proceeds go to the Friends to help fund new events and programs at the Aitkin Public Library.

6th - Waukenabo Community Center and Bake Sale, 6am-noon, Breakfast includes eggs (any style), sausage, juice, coffee, milk and all you can eat pancakes. Adults \$6, Ages 6-12 \$3, Ages 5 and under eat free. Co-sponsored by Mayer Electric in memory of Kunte and Ruth Holm. Proceeds to benefit: Up North Golden Age Club. Directions: from Aitkin take Hwy. 169 north to CR 3. Turn west (left) on CR 3 for 1 1/4 miles. Community Center is on the South (left) side of the road

6th - Red Bird Bazaar at Cromwell-Wright High School 9-2 Admission \$1.00, kids 12 and younger free
6th - Garrison Bay Lake Area Lions MN Wild Rice Hot Dish Cook Off, Craft, Bake and Fudge Sale, Deerwood Auditorium. Doors open at 9 am; lunch is from 11 am-1 pm.

6th - Concordia College Orchestra concert along with the Brainerd High School Chamber Orchestra, directed by Amber Kopp, 7 pm, at the Gichi-Ziibi Center for the Arts, 602 S. 5th St., Brainerd. The concert is open to the public with a freewill offering accepted. For information, email mwinarski@cord.edu.

11th - State of Minnesota Virtual Veterans Day Program, 30-minute recorded program will be available starting at 8 a.m. at <https://mn.gov/mdva/news/events/?id=1066-503512>

11th - Veteran's Day Program, 10am, at the Brainerd High School Gichi-ziibi auditorium. The public is invited and may park in the Brainerd Public Library parking lot.

11th - Crosby-Ironton High School Veteran's Day Event at 12:30pm. The public is invited.

13th - Immanuel Lutheran Church Spirit of Christmas Bazaar, 8:30am-1:pm, fresh baked rolls, quality crafts, bake sale, lefse, fresh wreaths, photography fancy candies & treats, little elves gift shop — chance to win great raffle items— 600-4th Street SW, Crosby

13th - Riverside Elementary holiday arts and crafts festival, 9am-3pm, 220 NW 3rd street Brainerd

Hit and run accident in Aitkin

On Friday, Oct. 29, at approximately 2:10 p.m., the Aitkin Police Department, along with the Aitkin County Sheriff's Department and the Minnesota State Patrol, responded to a call of a hit and run involving a bicycle at the stoplight in Aitkin.

Bicyclist, Andy Hays, 19, of Aitkin, was riding a bike pulling a child trailer with a 2-year-old child. The child trailer was hit by a vehicle, which tipped over the trailer and the bike.

Witnesses stated that it did not appear the driver of the

vehicle involved was aware he hit the child trailer. North Memorial ambulance transported both Hays and the child to Riverwood Hospital for treatment for minor injuries. The driver of the vehicle has been located and the case is pending.



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- **Sat., Nov. 20 and Sun., Nov. 21**
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Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Solid Waste Office at (218) 824-1010 or for more information on Chronic Wasting Disease, please visit the Crow Wing County's Web site at <http://crowwing.us/1566/Chronic-Wasting-Disease>

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