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Senator Kiffmeyer to lead forum on legislative redistricting



Minnesota Senator
Mary Kiffmeyer

The community is invited to attend the next Rosenmeier Forum, which focuses on legislative redistricting, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22 in the Chalberg Theatre, Brainerd campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Speaking will be Minnesota Senator Mary Kiffmeyer.

Kiffmeyer, a Pierz native, represents Senate District 30. She is currently serving as chair of the State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee, vice chair of the Redistricting Committee, and as a member of the Finance Committee, Transportation Finance and Policy Committee, and the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee.

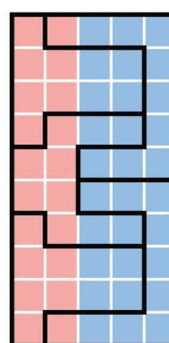
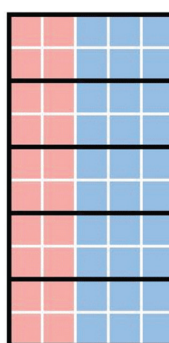
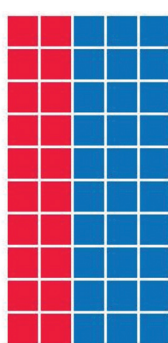
Steve Wenzel, Executive Director of the Rosenmeier Center for State and Local Government, said "Senator Kiffmeyer brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the key issue of legislative redistricting. We know that she will greatly inform the community of the 'why and how' decisions made by the

Minnesota Judicial Panel on redistricting that was handed down on February 15."

Legislative redistricting is the process that both begins and ends legislative careers

and the decision handed down by the judicial panel on February 15 pitted many incumbent legislators, both House and Senate, into the same district and created

unusual district boundaries. Kiffmeyer served as Minnesota's Secretary of State from 1999 to 2007, Minnesota ranked No. 1 in voter turnout for all eight years of her term.



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Magic and illusions of Bill Blagg Live hits the Gichi-ziibi stage on April 1



effects in the book, he began constructing magic props with his dad.

He chose to put his skills to the test in 1998 by entering the adult stage competition at the Abbott Magic Get Together in Colon, MI, which is also hailed as the magic capital of the world. Magic had been Bill's life for over twelve years. He had performed hundreds of shows, and it all hinged on a single five-minute routine: his dancing handkerchief. He had just turned eighteen, barely old enough to enter the competition, and he was about to make magic history by becoming the youngest contestant to ever win the prestigious event. Following his win, Bill never looked back.

Today, Bill is one of the nation's top touring illusionists. His theatrical brand of magic thrills thousands of people every single year. Bill's live performances leave people in complete disbelief as he creates the impossible in a way only he can do.

Bill prides himself in performing new, never-before-seen illusions such as the world's only rideable hoverboard. He is also known for instantly teleporting across theaters, squishing his body from 6 feet to 6 inches tall, passing through the blades of

an industrial fan, and more!

Audience restrictions lifted
The Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center announces the lifting of audience size restrictions for

its remaining events. There is now availability of tickets for upcoming events previously listed as sold out. All events will remain general admission seating. Patrons wanting

tickets or information can go to the Center's website at www.clcperformingarts.com or contact the CLC box office at (218) 855-8199.

Audiences will be left amazed at what they see (or don't see) when The Magic of Bill Blagg Live hits the Gichi-ziibi stage on April 1. The 7 p.m. show of large-scale magic and illusions is part of the Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center's Cultural Arts Series.

Tickets for The Magic of Bill Blagg are available through the CLC Box Office (218) 855-8199 and online at www.clcperformingarts.com. A family package is also available.

Center Director Patrick Spradlin says the date chosen for the performance was no

accident. "What better April Fool's gift can we give?" he asked. "We've not presented a talent like Bill. This will be a one-of-a-kind event for our audiences."

Blagg is described by Spradlin as a personable, magnetic showman. "I've met him on several occasions at performing arts conferences around the country. He is incredibly engaging in real life, and his stage persona really mirrors that."

Blagg formed his interest in magic began with a gift from his great-grandfather: a professional book of magic. As he studied the different

Upcoming classes at Crossing Arts



The Crossing Arts Alliance located at 711 Laurel Street, Brainerd offers arts workshops to the community in a variety of mediums.

Please pre-register for the following classes at <https://www.crossingarts.org/workshops>, or call 218-833-0416 to reserve your spot.

Sterling Silver Pendant class with artist Jim Reed, on Saturday, March 26, from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Students will roll sterling silver through the rolling mill and make an impression on the silver, shape the piece and solder a little cabochon

stone to the pendant. We will be using a rolling mill, a small drill and other equipment to complete the piece.

Jim Reed has been making custom, sterling silver jewelry for a 4+ years. You can often see his work to purchase in the Crossing Arts gift shop. Jim teaches 7th grade technology at Forestview Middle School. In the summer, he mines gems and minerals in the Colorado mountains. He enjoys making things and watching others experience their creation come to life.

Classroom instruction will take place at Jim Reeds Workshop. Upon registration a confirmation email will be sent disclosing directions of class location.

This class is \$140. Limited to three students. 16+ years of age. Crossing Arts members, as a benefit of membership, will receive a \$5 gift card when attending the class.

Beehive Pincushion with Lisa Jordan on Saturday, April 2 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

This is a great class for be-

ginning needle-felters ages 10 and up. Using a specially barbed needle and fluffy wool, students will create an adorable and functional pincushion with a tiny bee-topped pin. Your completed



pincushion will be about 3 inches tall. Students will be provided with all the wool and tools they need to complete the project, and will keep their mats, needles, and leftover supplies after the class. \$30 per person (Crossing Arts members, as a benefit of membership, will receive a \$5 gift card when attending the class). Masks are recommended. Class size is limited to 6.

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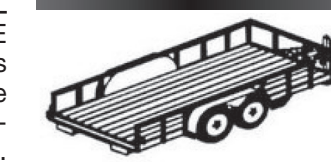
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Scammers target Minnesotans with calls about Energy Assistance Program

Scammers are targeting Minnesotans with fraudulent calls about Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program to trick consumers. The Minnesota Department of Commerce, which administers Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program, offers

these guidelines to flag calls as fraudulent:

No bank account or credit card information is required for a household to apply the Energy Assistance Program. If you are asked for that information or payments of any kind, hang up.

Fraudulent callers may claim to offer a refund for a utility bill overpayment, and then ask for credit card information. If you are asked for credit card information, hang up.

Scammers may spoof caller ID to display a number

from any utility company or Energy Assistance service provider at your local community assistance program. You can always hang up and call directly to your utility or local energy assistance service provider.

To avoid scammers trying to defraud consumers, Minnesotans can directly contact the Energy Assistance Program and Commerce is encouraging Minnesotans to apply. Energy Assistance funding is available for thousands more Minnesotans. The program is open for applications through May 31, 2022.

The Energy Assistance Program Dashboard published by Commerce shows over \$104 million has already been paid to almost

87,000 Minnesota households since October 2021. The dashboard, which is updated weekly, shows county-by-county info for household average energy costs and energy assistance for Minnesotans who have already applied and qualified for benefits.

This year, Commerce raised eligibility and benefits, paying up to \$3,200 to cover energy bills for income-eligible Minnesotans. The Energy Assistance Program helps people who own or rent their homes to pay for current and past-due bills for electricity, gas, oil, biofuel and propane, emergency fuel delivery, and repair/replacement of homeowners' broken heating systems, and could also cover water and sewer bills.

How to apply: To request an application or find your local service provider:

Search online for "Minnesota energy assistance"

Go online: mn.gov/energy-assistance

Call 800-657-3710 and press 1

With one application to the Energy Assistance Program, households may also qualify for water bill assistance and for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which can permanently reduce household energy costs. The Energy Assistance and Weatherization Assistance Programs are both federally funded, with Commerce as the administrator working with local service providers across the state to serve Minnesotans.

Seasonal watercraft inspectors

Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and share our vision of being Minnesota's favorite place. The County encourages those who enjoy working outdoors and educating others on the importance of protecting our natural resources, to apply for a seasonal watercraft inspector position. These positions conduct inspections of entering and exiting watercraft equipment at public water accesses and educate watercraft users about aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Starting pay is \$15 per hour and hours range from 18 to 40 hours per week. Crow Wing County is looking to fill positions to work from Fishing Opener in May until

Labor Day weekend in September. Work is primarily Friday through Sunday with the possibility for some weekday shifts. "These positions provide important face-to-face contact with the public to increase awareness and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species to our waters," stated Nicole Erickson, Environmental Services Specialist.

Those interested in applying to be a seasonal watercraft inspector may view the full job description and apply online at www.crowwing.us/careers or contact our Human Resources office at 218-822-7030.

The proposed 2022 AIS Prevention Plan includes funding for watercraft inspections at

44 boat landings throughout the Crow Wing County this summer. Watercraft inspections were identified by lake associations and stakeholders as a top priority for AIS prevention. For more information on Crow Wing County's AIS plan visit: www.crowwing.us/ais

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping our residents make wise decisions that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.us to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

Habitat Toolin Tour revived May 22

Get your motor running: motorcycles, spiders, classic cars and trucks – it if can go down the highway you are in.

Aitkin County Habitat

for Humanity is hosting our Toolin Tour ride on Sunday, May 22. While the exact route is still being mapped, we will start and end in Aitkin on Sunday afternoon.


Needed are riders, volunteers, door prizes and silent auction items.

Call 218-927-5656 or email aitkinhabitat@gmail.com for more info.



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