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## WHAT'S INSIDE

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## Nesika Bellville named regional spelling bee champion

You are what you can spell – and there's no doubt Nesika Bellville is c-h-a-r-i-s-m-a-t-i-c.

The Pine River-Backus eighth grader was the last student standing at the 2022

Regional Spelling Bee, hosted by Sourcewell, on March 23.

Bellville moves on to the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. where she will compete in the semifinals June 1, which

determine the top students to advance to finals on June 2. The finals will be broadcast live on ION, both June 1-2, 2022.

Following the successful

Continued on Page 2



Pine River-Backus eighth grader Nesika Bellville responds to her spelling word as Pequot Lakes sixth grader Brekkin Glazier looks on from the stage. Bellville won the Regional Spelling Bee with Glazier taking the runner-up spot.

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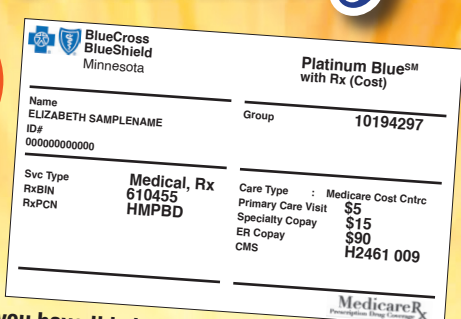
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# One-fish walleye limit set on Mille Lacs Lake for spring, fall fishing

Mille Lacs Lake walleye anglers will have two potential opportunities to harvest during the 2022 open water season.

A one-fish limit will allow Mille Lacs anglers to harvest one walleye 21-23 inches or one longer than 28 inches from Saturday, May 14 through Monday, May 30. After a summer of catch-and-release fishing with an early July closure to reduce hooking mortality, the one-fish limit is expected to return on Thursday, Sept. 1.

"We must continue to manage state harvest very carefully on Mille Lacs so we can provide as much angling opportunity as prudent while protecting the opportunities for the future," said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Two recent year classes show below average numbers of walleye, which means we need to factor in that fewer fish than normal will mature into spawning adults during the next few years."

While the drops in fall walleye catch rates for the 2018 and 2019 year classes aren't as dramatic as previous levels that closed walleye harvest on Mille Lacs, they do signal that more conservative walleye harvest regulations may be needed in coming years.

"Our goal for Mille Lacs fishing regulations now and in the future is to offer fishing opportunities while also maintaining the long-term

sustainability of the lake's fish populations," Parsons said.

After opening weekend (when fishing is allowed 24 hours a day) fishing hours on Mille Lacs Lake will be 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for all species. Beginning Saturday, June 4, muskellunge and northern pike anglers using artificial lures or sucker minnows longer than 8 inches can fish after 10 p.m.

Walleye fishing will be catch-and-release from Wednesday, June 1 through Thursday, June 30. A two-week closure – implemented to reduce hooking mortality – will be in place from Friday, July 1 through Friday, July 15. Catch-and-release walleye fishing will resume on Saturday, July 16 and continue through Wednesday, Aug. 31.

The one-fish walleye limit is scheduled to resume Thursday, Sept. 1 through Wednesday, Nov. 30. During this period, anglers may fish from 6 a.m. to midnight.

### Season structure depends on many factors

"Our projections make me confident we'll have fall harvest," Parsons said. "But predicting fishing pressure, catch rates and weather involves some uncertainty, so we want people to recognize that the fall harvest will depend on how much of the state's walleye harvest total remains as we approach September."

The state and the eight Ojibwe bands that have treaty fishing rights have agreed that Mille Lacs Lake can sustain a total walleye harvest of up

to 135,000 pounds in 2022, with state anglers harvesting up to 80,300 pounds and a maximum tribal harvest of 54,700 pounds.

The drop from last year's levels of 87,800 pounds for state anglers and 62,200 pounds for tribal harvest was necessary to account for below-average catches of the 2018 and 2019 year classes in the fall walleye population survey

"Factors can change so we'll reassess the walleye population come fall," Parsons said. "Fish in those year classes in question are important for replacing the current mature walleye that are lost to both fishing and natural mortality."

### Regional spelling bee | Continued from Page 1

spelling of 'charismatic' and being declared by judges as the winner, Sourcewell Student Academics Coordinator Phillip Olsen approached the stage to congratulate Bellville and asked how she was feeling about her big win.

"I feel excited," she said humbly. "This is what I was actually hoping would happen, but that's probably what everyone else thought, too."

The top three regional finishers were:

- Champion – Nesika Bellville, eighth grade, Pine River-Backus
- Runner-up – Brekkin Glazier, sixth grade, Pequot Lakes
- 2nd Runner-up – Greta Alajoki, seventh grade, Menahga

Each year, Sourcewell hosts the Regional Spelling Bee for third through eighth graders of member schools in the five-county service area of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties. The winner earns an all-expenses-paid trip to

Mille Lacs Lake has been in a state of change since the 1990s, when the water clarity started to improve. Since then, there has also been warmer water temperatures and the introduction of invasive species such as zebra mussel and spiny water flea.

"The changing lake conditions impact fish populations and we will continue to monitor the lake to determine how these changes will influence fishing opportunities in the future," Parsons said.

This year's winter walleye harvest was about 6,800 pounds, less than half of what was expected. Lower catch rates for anglers and poor ice

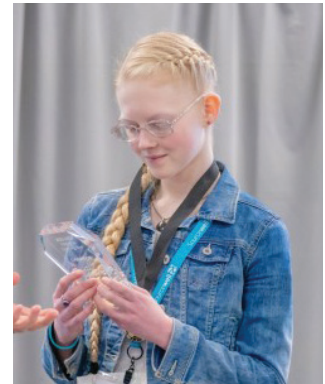
conditions in the early season were responsible. That drop in winter walleye take gave the DNR more flexibility to implement less restrictive open water regulations for 2022.

Even with the drop in winter harvest, a two-week closure during what's normally one of the hottest times of the summer is needed to remain within the state's harvest total. As water temperature increases, so does hooking mortality – the tendency for fish to die after being caught and released. Protecting walleye during this vulnerable period can allow for many weeks of harvest during cooler times of the year.

### Additional details

The northern pike population on Mille Lacs Lake is healthy and harvest of fish under 30 inches is encouraged for anglers looking for another option to bring home a meal of fish.

To help avoid incidental catch of walleye during the two-week closure in July, fishing for any species with certain kinds of bait will be restricted. Anglers targeting northern pike and muskellunge can use sucker minnows longer than 8 inches. But anglers targeting other fish may not use live, dead, preserved or parts of minnows, night crawlers, worms, leeches or crayfish.



Spelling Bee Champion was Nesika Bellville, eighth grade, Pine River-Backus



Runner-up was Brekkin Glazier, sixth grade, Pequot Lakes



2nd Runner-up – Greta Alajoki, seventh grade, Menahga

representation formula is one speller per 1,000 students based on K-12 enrollment, which also includes private and parochial schools within the geographical boundaries of a district.

Congratulations to all regional spelling bee participants: Matthew Prethish, sixth grade, Aitkin; Miette Hansel, eighth grade, Bertha-Hewitt; John Ahlin, eighth grade, Little Falls; Colin Schlangen, sixth grade, Little Falls; Greta Alajoki, seventh grade, Menahga;

Brekkin Glazier, sixth grade, Pequot Lakes; William Craig, fifth grade, Pequot Lakes; Claire Lucking, fifth grade, Pierz; Adilyne Tomala, sixth grade, Pierz; Kylie Wentz, sixth grade, Pierz; Nesika Bellville, eighth grade, Pine River-Backus; Ashton Keith, seventh grade, Royalton; Hudson Nelson, sixth grade, Sebeka; John Schotzko, fifth grade, Staples-Motley; Beau Thieschafer, seventh grade, Swanville and Noah Drange, seventh grade, Wadena-Deer Creek.

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# OBITUARIES

## ALICE PICKLES



Alice Ann Pickles, 75, of McGregor died Monday, March 21, 2022 at her home near McGregor.

Services were held on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at the Fireside Inn, McGregor with Wolfgang Sixl leading the service.

She was born April 9, 1946 in Brainerd to Custer Albert and Edna Louise (Kottke) Nelson. She grew up in Garrison and attended Brainerd High School. Alice was united in marriage to Howie Junior Pickles on May 12, 1962 in Aitkin. They lived in several places before settling in McGregor in 1969. It was there that they built their family home and raised their children. She loved living in the country, sewing, baking bread and gardening. She and her husband, Howie built the Fireside restaurant in McGregor in 1977. In

addition to helping at the restaurant, she managed the Galaxy Roller Rink that she and Howie built and operated for several years. She enjoyed roller skating and getting to know the area youth, remaining lifelong friends with many. They also opened the Country Meadows Inn which Alice managed. Again, making many friends among her employees and customers.

She is survived by her husband; daughters: Holly Anderson of McGregor, Wendy Anderson (Greg) of Anchorage, AK; and Julie Keller (Tom Simonson) Key West, FL; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; brothers: Albert Nelson (Debbie) and Truman Roach (Marlene) and many other special relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and sisters: Virginia Worley and Joyce Eder.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service in McGregor. Leave online condolences at [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com).

## TIMOTHY ADAMS



Timothy Michael Adams, 65, died Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at the Bigfork Valley Hospital in Bigfork surrounded by family and friends.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, May 28, 2022, Memorial Day weekend in Wirt, MN with a four-wheeler ride to lay him to rest.

Tim was born March 23, 1956 in Kalispell, MT to Ulysses and Lollita Adams. Tim enjoyed being with family and was always there for them. If he could not be, he would always call. Tim was known for his Cowboy hats and boots along with singing. A couple of his favorite songs he would sing were *I can't help falling in love with you- Elvis* and *Don't worry about me-Marty Robbins*. Tim's hobbies were playing cards, singing karaoke, going to the casino, watching

movies and talking on the phone with family and friends. When Tim was younger, he was always outdoors hunting, fishing, trapping, picking wild rice, making Christmas wreaths and singing in the mirror with his hair brush to Elvis's songs.

Tim is survived by his children: Jason (Donelle) Adams and George (Shannon) Adams; brother Lee Adams of Wirt; sisters: Candy (Tony) Mulholland of Dodge Center, MN, Shirley(Donald) Barrett Deer River, MN and Susan Adams Grand Rapids, MN; grandchildren: six Cassidy Lueck, Makaira Adams, Amber Adams, Merrick Adams, Victor Adams, Rogue Adams and one great-grandchild and many nieces and nephews.

Tim was preceded in death by his daughter Brandi Adams; parents; brothers: Dave Adams, Pete Adams and George Adams.

Cremation Service were provided by Carroll Funeral Home of Deer River, MN.

## MARLYCE GUSTAFSON

Marlyce June Gustafson, 94, of Aitkin died Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at Riverwood Health Care Center in Aitkin.

Services for Marlyce will be held later this spring/summer 2022.

She was born September 11, 1927 in Aitkin to Alfred and Anna Sophia (Westerberg) Spute. She graduated from Aitkin High School and then attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Teachers Degree.

She was a teacher at Mora and Minneapolis Schools.

She is survived by her sister Carol Todd and other special relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Burton Gustafson and her parents.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com).

## JUDY DOTZLER

Judy Ann Dotzler, 69, of Aitkin, died unexpectedly, Monday, March 28, 2022 at her home.

Visitation will be Sunday, April 3, from 5-7 p.m. with a Rosary Service at 7 p.m. in Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home, Aitkin. Visitation will continue Monday, April 4, from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. Memorial Mass in St. James Catholic Church, Aitkin with Father David Forsman officiating. Interment will be at a later date in St. Thomas Catholic Cemetery, Aitkin.

She was born September 12, 1952 in Duluth to Arnold and Bonnie (Knaack) Stofferahn. Judy graduated from McGregor High School in 1970. Judy was united in marriage to Philip Dotzler on October 3, 1970 at Holy Family Catholic Church, McGregor. Judy worked in daycare for 30 years and considered many of the children her family. She was a member of Moose Lodge #1060 of Aitkin. Judy enjoyed photography, scrapbooking, playing cards and especially spending time

with her family.

Judy is survived by her loving husband, Philip Dotzler of Aitkin; three sons: Christopher (Claudia) Dotzler of Aitkin, Neil Dotzler of Aitkin and Matthew (Michelle) Dotzler of Clarissa; six grandchildren: Cassandra Jo (Jason) Larson, Jessica Dotzler, Marissa, Alexis, Jacob and Allison Dotzler; siblings: Steve Stofferahn of Wyoming, Marty (Ruth) Stofferahn of Tamarack and Linda Dotzler of Aitkin; brother-in-law, Gary Smith of Coon Rapids; many nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

Judy is preceded in death by her parents; sister, Peggy Smith; brothers-in-law, William Dotzler and Donald Dotzler.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com).

More Obituaries on Page 4

# READER RIBBETS

## Rep. Dale Lueck legislative update

Springtime brings the annual wild bird migration north to nest and rear their young. Unfortunately, with that migration also comes the potential for highly pathogenetic avian flu which can be deadly to domestic poultry. The last major outbreak in Minnesota was in 2015. About 9 million domestic birds were lost in Minnesota before the outbreak subsided.

Avian influenza does not pose a food safety risk to poultry products, they remain safe and nutritious.

However, the high-path strain of avian flu is typically fatal to domestic poultry flocks, large or small. Since 2015, the poultry industry, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health have instituted significant biosecurity measures to prevent its introduction and rapidly contain any outbreak.

If you raise poultry, even if it's only a small flock, it's important to be aware of those

biosecurity measures and the signs of this disease. For more info visit the Board of Animal Health website at: <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/hpai/>

Legislation championed by Sen. David Tomassoni (I-Chisholm) funding research to find a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, has passed both bodies. The bill includes \$20 million for research and \$5 million for ALS-specific respite care. The bill passed the Senate 67-0 and the House 121-9.

It was a bittersweet moment to cast a vote for this legislation in support of my friend Sen. Tomassoni's effort to help others in the future, as he continues to wage a heroic battle against this fatal disease.

The legislature tends to be Minnesota-focused, however not everything is local. The House recently fast-tracked legislation that directs the State Board of Investment to divest

from companies headquartered in Russia and Belarus. HF4165 passed 129-0 and is now in the Senate awaiting action.

I also co-authored a House Resolution "urging the President of the United States to consider the current geopolitical tensions and support policies and take measures to ensure America's long-term energy affordability, security, leadership and progress, including actions that result in the continued operation of existing oil and natural gas pipelines, the construction of new pipelines, and an end to restrictions on developing our nation's onshore and offshore oil and natural gas resources."

A reliable, domestically produced energy supply is fundamental to our nation's security in this time of major global instability.

**Representative Dale Lueck**  
Minnesota House  
District 10B

## Naïve and disconnected

As more and more citizens realize the gravity of the toxic environment at the Crow Wing County Sheriff's office,

they respond to a formal complaint through the county administrator Tim Houle. Houle claims complaints are taken very seriously as he grouped the complaint in with the various nature of complaints the county receives. Houle misled the public with partial truths, the employee (Galles) is not on administrative leave, nor forced leave of absence. Galles placed himself on a 60 Day Family Emergency Leave. Houle may not have been able to disclose that, but he showed support indicating the Sheriff's office was not responsible for

his absence, proving they're doing nothing.

Goddard deliberately embarrassed the Brainerd, Ironton, Deerwood police departments with no valid reasons, it was about his power. He has an out-of-control deputy chief who finds it appropriate to engage in intimate affairs with subordinates and creep on coffee shop employee's where they must request a police escort home from work. Goddard questions the newsworthiness of the complaint, even the validity of it, but not the behavior of Galles. Goddard insinuates predatory behavior of a high-ranking law enforcement official is not newsworthy. The intoxication of power will make one say,

and do, ridiculous things.

The mass exodus of deputies, the horrid county employee engagement survey where the Sheriff's office was obliterated by our deputies—unnewsworthy too? We are witnessing a massive lack of integrity, character, backbone, and concern for the residents of Crow Wing County. Our county commissioners, administrator, fail to act and remain silent. It's reasonable the county doesn't want to seem alarmed at the situation, showing how naïve, disconnected, and irresponsible our county commissioners and administrator are.

Goddard is the problem, and he needs to resign.

**Kelly Avelsgard, Deerwood**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

### April

- 7th - Central Lakes College's virtual Cultural Thursday presentation on the culture and resilience of the Ukrainian people. The event is at noon in the Chalberg Theatre or via Zoom. Pre-registration is required if attending via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/56ejut53>
- 7th - Aitkin Lions will be having a spaghetti dinner at the Aitkin American Legion serving from 4:30-6:30pm. Come and join us. Door Prizes and the proceeds go to the Riverwood Foundation for the Zach Johnson Children Cancer and the Reading program. Cost is \$10 and Kids under 5 are FREE.
- 7th - Ranger Made Open House, a new \$3.6 million state-of-the-art student managed manufacturing company located inside Crosby-Ironton High School, 5-7pm. The open house is a Cuyuna Lakes Chamber's Business After Hours Social hosted by C-I School District and Cuyuna Regional Medical Center and is open to the public. Guests are encouraged to bring business cards, network, and build relationships. Soda shoppe refreshments will be served, and door prizes awarded. There is no fee to attend, however, advance registration is requested by calling 218-546-8131 or sending a message to [courtney@cuyunalakes.com](mailto:courtney@cuyunalakes.com). Those attending should use the school's north entrance and park their vehicle in the student parking lot.

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Kimberly Township is looking for lawn maintenance to be performed at the Kimberly Township Garage and Cemetery by either an individual 18 or older with valid MN Drivers License or a landscaping contractor. Individuals have work history; contractors have costs to Kimberly Township 30854 Dam Lake Street, Aitkin, MN 56431 by 5:00 p.m. April 12, 2022. w13-15


Kimberly Township is looking for contractors to perform roadside mowing, brushing and miscellaneous work on their roads. Please have prices to Kimberly Township 30854 Dam Lake Street, Aitkin, MN 56431 by 5:00 p.m. April 12, 2022. w13-15

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Wanted: Step 2 or Little Tikes playground climber with ladder and slide(s). Text pic, description, price and location to 218-821-1393.  
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Add \$1.00 each for bold type and/or CAPITALIZED type, whether one word or all words in your classified ad.  
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## Permit violation during construction

According to a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) enforcement investigation, Fairview Township and Gladen Construction, Inc., failed to adequately prevent erosion and sediment runoff along a four-mile stretch during construction of the Gull Lake Trail project during fall 2021. Nearly 1,500 square feet of sediment, carried by stormwater runoff, was found to have flowed into four different wetlands and a stream that were all adjacent to the trail.

Additionally, thousands of square feet of soil were exposed and not stabilized, thousands of linear feet of sediment control devices were missing, and numerous existing erosion and sediment control devices were in disrepair. In total, agency staff observed eight different violations of the MPCA's

construction stormwater permit on site.

For violating the permit, Fairview Township and Gladen Construction have each paid \$16,710 in civil penalties to the MPCA. The parties have also completed a series of corrective actions to recover sediment from the wetlands and stream, and installed and maintained erosion prevention and sediment control best management practices, as required by the permit.

MPCA rules and regulations are designed to protect human health and the environment by limiting pollution emissions and discharges from facilities. When companies do not fully comply with regulatory requirements, the resulting pollution can be harmful to people and the environment.

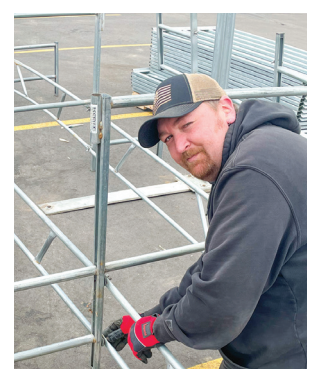
When calculating penal-

ties, the MPCA takes into account how seriously the violations affected or could have affected the environment, and whether they were first-time or repeat violations. The agency also attempts to recover the economic benefit the company gained by failing to promptly comply with environmental laws.

## Crow Wing County Landfill summer hours

Beginning April 1, the Crow Wing County Landfill will move to its summer hours of operation. The landfill will be open Monday through Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm and is located at 15732 State Highway 210, just east of Brainerd. During these expanded hours the landfill is open to accept household garbage, fiberglass boats, mattresses, furniture, mobile homes, and other items for

## Harbinger of warmer weather



As winter still seems to have a grip on the weather, one hopeful sign of spring is gardening. Simon, standing and Jacob, kneeling begin the construction of a greenhouse at Paulbeck's County Market in Aitkin. They are from the Twin Cities and work for Dan and Jerry's Nursery. Dan and Jerry's will also supply the live products soon.

Ann Schwartz photos

proper disposal.

Customers utilizing the landfill must stop at the landfill office and speak with the attendant to discuss the items to be disposed of, pay any fees, and receive directions to the proper drop-off locations. All loads coming to the landfill must be covered, and uncovered loads are subject to a \$5 fee.

The following items can be recycled or properly disposed of in the landfill for FREE:

- Household Hazardous Waste
- Lead-acid car/marine batteries \*Please keep batteries separated from other waste

- Oil, used oil filters, and anti-freeze is available at the landfill and several drop-off locations within the County.
- Residential recycling such as cardboard, paper, plastic, and glass
- For oil and recycling locations visit: Recycling | Crow Wing County, MN - Official Website
- Residential compost, lawn, and garden material \*Please separate brush and branches

For a nominal fee the following items can be recycled or properly disposed of in the landfill:

- Demolition materials
- Large appliances

- Electronics
- Tires with or without rims
- Scrap metals
- Mattresses

For the full fee schedule please visit [www.crowwing.us/727/Fee-Schedule](http://www.crowwing.us/727/Fee-Schedule)

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 Solid Waste Office at (218) 824-1010 or to visit <http://www.crowwing.us> for more information.

# RECYCLE MORE!

These Items may all be recycled in Crow Wing County:



**Plastic Water & Soda Bottles**



**Newspapers & Magazines**



**Glass All Colors**



**Milk Jugs**  
*(Please Crush)*



**Junk Mail**



**Corrugated Cardboard**  
*(Please cut and flatten)*



**Plastics with a neck**  
*Lids removed and thrown*  
\*No containers used for chemicals or automotive products (oil, antifreeze, etc)



**Metal Cans**  
*(Please wash)*

**- DROPOFF LOCATIONS -**

Crow Wing County Landfill - 15732 State Highway 210, Brainerd  
Nisswa Community Center - 25636 Main St, Nisswa  
Ideal Transfer Station - 33503 W Island Lake, Pequot Lakes

Recycling is good for the environment and our community.  
**LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME!**  
For more information on recycling in Crow Wing County please visit our website [www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us).



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