

Minneota icon Gislason dead

Ex-teacher had passion for books, nature, history

Scott Thoma
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Daren Gislason had three passions in his life and attacked each one with fervor — reading, gardening, and Minneota history.

Gislason passed away at age 95 on Friday, Oct. 2, leaving behind a legacy.

“Daren was an essential figure to Minneota’s heritage, both its history and its culture,” said Minneota native Dana Yost. “His institutional knowledge was invaluable. In addition, he was a fabulous teacher who enriched the minds of countless students.”

After graduating from Minneota High School, Gislason left the family farm and enrolled at the University of Minnesota; majoring in horticulture. After that, he decided to obtain his teaching license, which at that time only took one year. He then taught fourth grade in Wood Lake for four years, and then as a sixth-grade teacher in Marshall for six years.

He left Marshall in 1963 and got a job teaching at the University of Minnesota as an experimental College of Education Elementary School program for kindergarten through sixth grade. There were 25 students in each class there. Gislason taught fourth grade there for one year and then sixth grade for two years.

The school closed in 1966 and he returned to his parents’ farm in Minneota in 1966. Around that same time, it became abundantly clear to Minneota school administrators that their students were sorely lacking in reading skills. So, they came up with the idea to initiate a “Right to



Gislason could often be seen reading a book on a sunny day from the second-story landing of his house on East Lyon Street. Mascot file photo by Scott Thoma

“His love for nature and reading definitely instilled values in my life that remain today.”

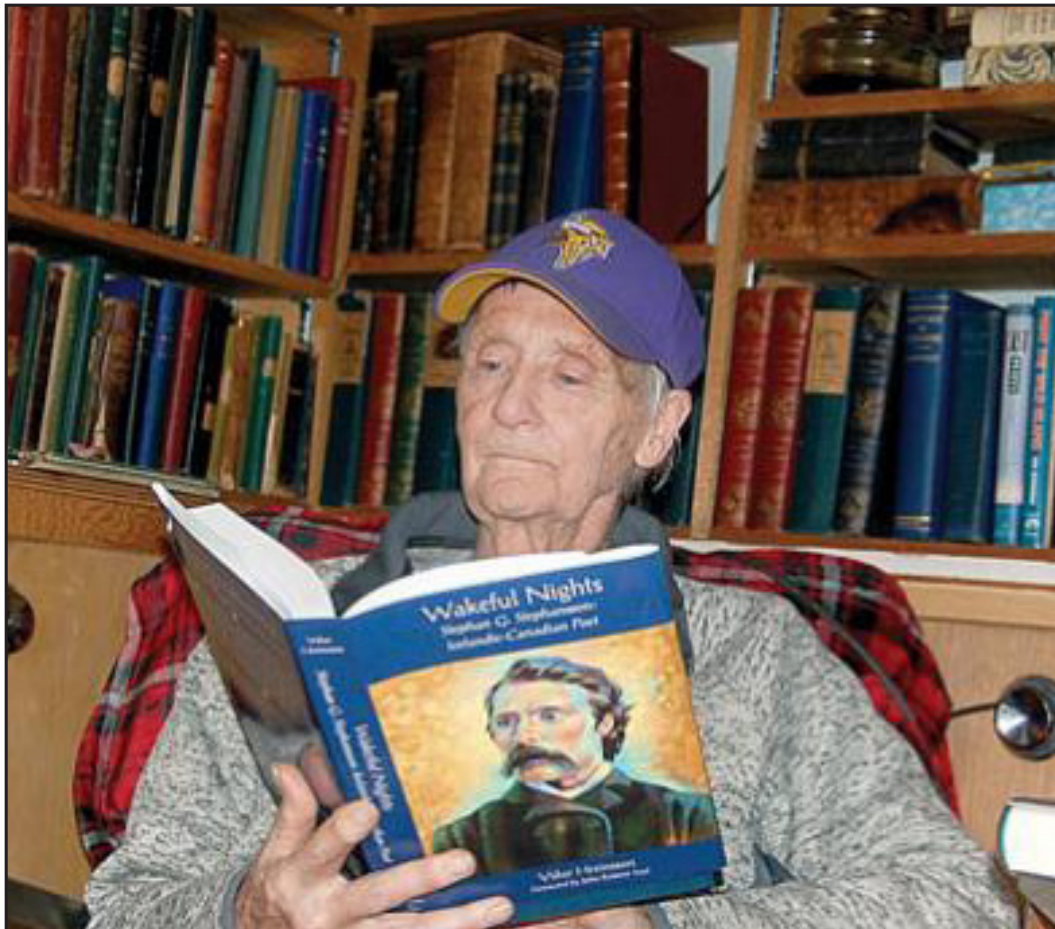
- J.D. Pesch

Read” program.

Ralph Larson, the school superintendent at the time, asked Daren to come in and talk with him and informed him that he had already been hired for the job before ever meeting with him.

Gislason’s explanation for accepting the position without even being asked was simple: “I’m a good old boy and I do what I’m told,” he said.

It was a perfect match, however, as Gislason



Daren Gislason was an avid reader and kept records of the books he read each year. In 2018, he read 204 books. Mascot file photo by Scott Thoma

stayed on for 30 years until retiring in 1996.

With Gislason’s help, the Minneota elementary students were soon achieving much better results with their reading skills. Many of the older elementary school students were scoring well into the junior high level.

“I’ve known Daren since he returned to Minneota in 1966, where he had a profound impact on students getting them excited about reading at the Minneota school,” said Wendy Sarazyn, President of Society of the Preservation of Minneota’s Heritage (SPMH) in which Daren was

formerly a big part of. “The SPMH is grateful to Daren and his part in founding, along with other members, the organization that had the vision to preserve the Big Store and begin collecting historical Minneota area items. For many years Daren carried on the SPMH mission as the sole member until 2020, at age 88, he took on the role of historical consultant and left active management to a new generation of members.”

Gislason Continued on Page 8

NHS Blood Drive collects 66 units at school Sept. 30

The Minneota National Honor Society chapter held their first blood drive of the 2026-2027 school year on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at the high school.

A total of 66 units were collected for this drive through donations from students, staff, parents, and community members.

The Minneota NHS and the American Red Cross would like to thank everyone who came out and donated. These donations help many people in the community and will also help support this year’s seniors with scholarship opportunities.

Thanks also goes out to Lynn’s Woodworking for sponsoring the food for the Red Cross workers.

The next community blood drive will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at the American Legion. The school’s next blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 20 in the Viking Gym.

See photos on Page 8.



“Summer Bounty”, a quilt made by Cheryl Guacci, hung in the Visions Museum in San Diego. Contributed photo

Quilting artist Guacci to give presentation at Senior Center

Worthington native to appear Oct. 15

By Scott Thoma
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The Minneota Senior Center will be hosting a quilt presentation at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15 by Cheryl Guacci.

Guacci, a Worthington native, now lives six months of the year in Mountain Lake, MN, and six months in Long Beach, CA. She is a quilt artist known for her vibrant, technique-rich designs and contributions to quilting challenges and exhibitions.

Many of Guacci’s pieces travel all over the country to be shown.

“I will bring 30-40 quilts with me to show (in Minneota), but many of them are art quilts, which are like paintings that tell a story about how I got to this point in my life,” she said.

Guacci belongs to two Quilt Guilds in California — the Orange Grove Quilting Guild which has over 200 members, and Quilts on the Wall Guild.



Guacci’s “Sea Creatures” quilt was on display at the National Quilt Museum in Kentucky. Contributed photo

The latter is entirely about art quilts and offers members a challenge three times a year to produce an art piece based on a theme.

Guacci’s work has appeared five or six times in Quilting Arts magazine, which also offers challenges to quilters who then submit their entries.

“I am very much inspired by a challenge,” she said.

One of her quilts was displayed in the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY. That one was a 24” x 40” challenge

with the theme “Food, Glorious Food.” Her quilt entitled “Summer Bounty” features nine summer fruits.

She also had one of her quilts, “Sea Creatures”, displayed in the Visions Museum in San Diego, CA.

“I don’t have a Fine Arts degree like many art quilters do,” Guacci said. “But I do enjoy what I do.”

Guacci made her first quilt in 1997 and estimates that she has made around 90 quilts in all.



Harvest time

Farmers have been busy the past few weeks harvesting crops in and around the Minneota area. Rain hasn’t been a problem lately as evidenced by farmers north of Minneota creating a dust storm last week. Mascot photo by Scott Thoma

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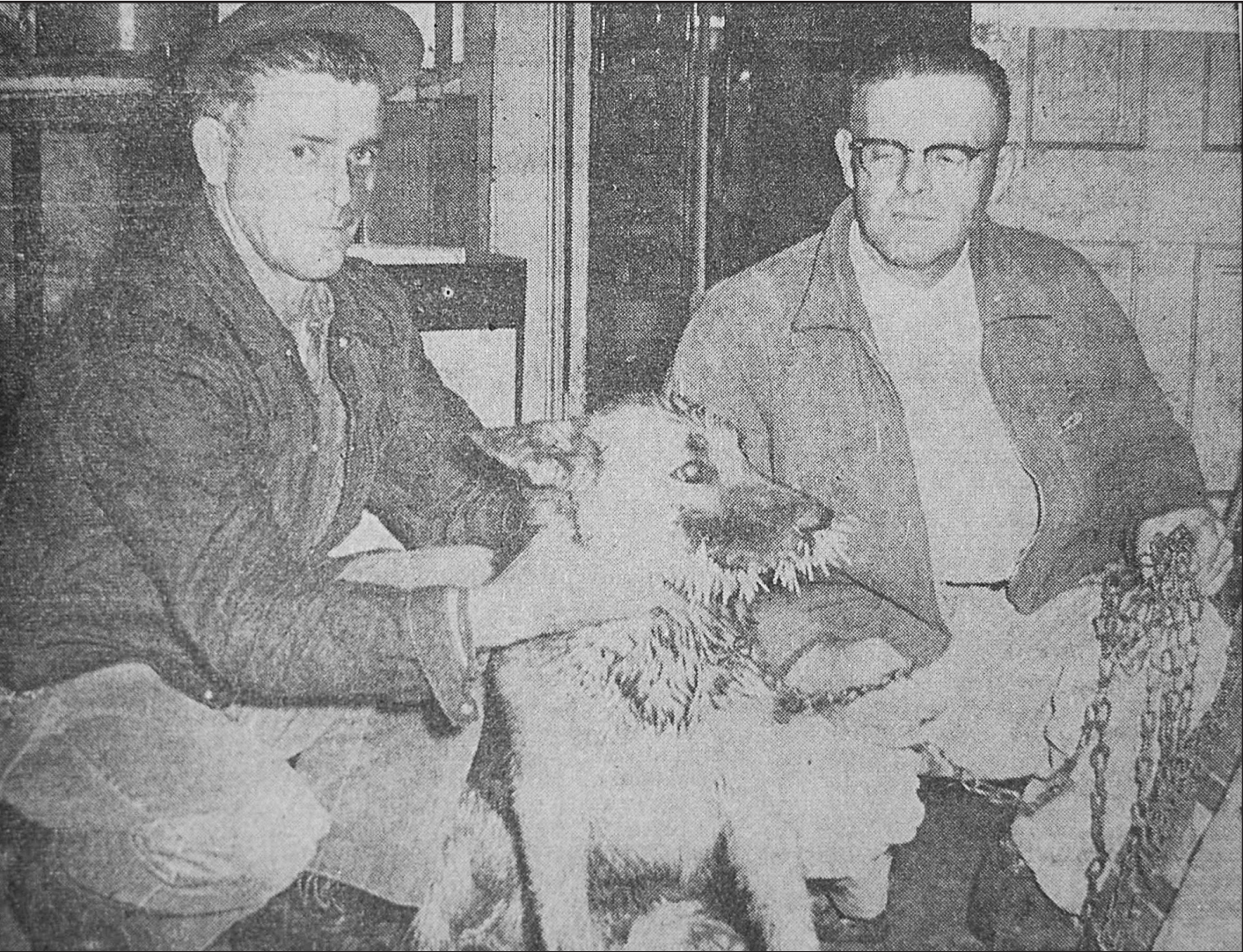
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Minneota Memory

Rex, a police dog belonging to Elmer Thompson of rural Porter, had a painful experience on June 4, 1962 when he met up with a porcupine and received a mouthful of quills in the encounter. Shown here with Thompson, left, and veterinarian Dr. W.W. Merritt, Rex was sedated and the quills removed. The dog’s nose and lower lip were covered with quills and there were also a few inside his mouth. Although Thompson had not seen any porcupines on his farm, he figures one must have been in the woods by his home. Rex made a full recovery.

Outside Looking In

Scott Thoma



Rooftop reader gone

In early March of 2019, I ran into Daren Gislason in the Opera Hall above the Minneota Public Library, a place that had become his second home. He was seated next to an old piano in the middle of the room reading a book on Iceland, of course. I didn’t know at the time that Daren had a voracious appetite for reading.

“I usually sit on my roof and read, but it’s too cold today,” he said back then.

“You sit on your roof and read books?” I asked, not knowing he had a landing with lawn chairs outside his upstairs window.

When I asked if he read a lot, he looked at me like I was the only one in town that didn’t know about his reading background and the enormous collection of books he had in his home.

Daren then agreed that I could stop over to his house and talk to him about his collection of books when the weather was nice.

Two days later, we had a beautiful sunny warm early March day. When I pulled up to Daren’s house on East Lyon Street, there he was sitting on a lawn chair on his roof (which was actually a second-level landing). The door to the upstairs was left open so his cats could come outside and enjoy the mild day, too.

As I wrote in my story back then, anyone arriving in Minneota and asking for directions to Daren’s house would likely not be told the number of the house he lives in. Rather, they would be told to “look for a man reading on his roof”.

Gislason’s life was built around opening a book; from learning to read at an early age, to teaching a reading program in Minneota for many years, to his later years spent reading incessantly at his home with his many cats always by his side.

Daren Kent Gislason passed away at age 95 under hospice care on Friday, Oct. 2 at Prairie Senior Cottages in Willmar, about four blocks from where I live.

As we sat and talked that day in 2019, Daren took out a sheet of paper that contained the names of the books and magazines he had read each month, neatly printed in chronological order.

The numbers were staggering — 204 books that totaled 53,031 pages and 160 magazines that totaled 12,065 pages. These are not the total books and magazines in his lifetime; this was just his total for 2018.

“I don’t have my garden anymore and I don’t trust my driving anymore,” he explained. “I don’t watch TV either. So, what else is left but to read?”

Daren also told that when he would sit on his roof to read, people going by his house, either driving or walking, would wave to him.

Gislason grew up on a farm northeast of Minneota. He was able to read when he was five years old; an age when most other kids at that time weren’t yet able to.

“I started out with ‘See Dick,’ he laughed. “Then I turned the page and it was ‘See Dick Run.’ Then Jane came along; and then Spot. That’s how I learned to read. I still have those books, too. I don’t throw anything away.”

The infamous Dick and Jane books are hardly the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Daren’s collection of books. Every room in his house was filled with books of all kinds on shelves, tables and window sills.

“I like non-fiction the best,” he said, “but I read all kinds of books.”

And what is his favorite book and/or favorite author? “There are too many good books out there to pick just one,” he told me. “It depends on what I feel like reading on a particular day. I like Bill Holm’s books, or I might just feel like easy reading like Louis Lamour where I could read three of his books in one day.”

Gislason had an abundance of Icelandic books he has accumulated over the years to reflect his heritage. But he also read just about any book you can name; the Laura Ingalls Wilder collection, the Harry Potter series, Lord of the Rings, biographies and autobiographies, fiction, non-fiction, historical and much more.

He then swung open the doors of a large cabinet in his home, revealing hundreds of National Geographic magazines.

Reading and gardening had defined Gislason’s life. Gislason gave me a tour of some of his favorite reading spots throughout his home. It included every room where a comfortable chair was positioned in front of a window.

“Wherever the sun is shining, that’s where I like to sit and read,” he explained. And one of his favorite places to read was at his five-acre garden north of town where his horticulture skills shined as brightly as the sun that nourished his plants.

“There are a number of places out there that I used to just sit and read,” he said. “But I gave up the garden in June of 2017.”

He was one of a kind. I’m glad I got to know him and talk about his interesting life ... from cover to cover.

Subscription expiring?

After next month, the Mascot will not be mailing out postcards to remind subscribers that their subscription is expiring.

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Subscriptions rates and the Mascot’s address are at the bottom of this page.

Yesteryear

From the Mascot files 100, 75, 50 & 25 years ago

100 Years Ago (October 8, 1926)

Legion hosting ball at Minneota Opera House

The Minneota American Legion Post is staging the opening ball of the season at the Opera House here this Friday evening. The Blue Chasers of Spencer, Iowa, will be providing the music for the evening. This is the first of a series of dances to be put on by the Legion every other Friday.

2,000 people participate in naming Dovre’s Herd Boar

Knute Dove, of the northwest’s most prominent Duroc Jersey hog breeders staged an unusual contest recently - advertising in the Duroc Journal-Bulletin for suggested names for a herd boar he has raised. Out of 2,000 suggestions, the judges picked the name “The Viking.” This name was submitted by Mrs. J.M. Willis of Eskay, Montana, and her prize will be the pick of Mr. Dove’s fall boar crop from his place two miles north of Minneota. People from 25 different states and also from Canada, sent in suggestions.

Roberts appointed Trustee of Minneota Village Council

Floyd E. Roberts was appointed Trustee of the Village Council to fill the vacancy in its membership caused by the recent resignation off Mayor Geiwitz. The appointment was made at the Village Council meeting on Monday evening. The naming of Mr. Roberts as councilman will meet with the approval of the townsfolk generally, and this energetic, wide-awake merchant will, we are sure, prove a most capable official.

75 Years Ago (October 12, 1951)

Father Albert Loosen dies in St. Paul hospital

Father Albert Loosen, pastor of St. Edward’s Catholic Church in Minneota since the death of Father Philip Casey in 1949, died Tuesday afternoon in St. Joseph’s Hospital in St. Paul. He had been suffering

from high blood pressure for some time. Father Looosen, who was 48 years old, was ordained in 1931. All Minneota businesses will be closed during the services on Saturday, officers of the Minneota Businessmen’s Association confirmed.

Main Street resurfacing project resumes following rain delays

Minneota’s Main Street, which along with other streets in the business section and which has long been cursed by motorists, was receiving its initial phase of beauty treatment Wednesday by crews resurfacing Highway 68. Workmen were busy spreading the first light coat of tar on the street in preparation for the final blanket that will be laid over the roadway. These same crews, hampered all season by heavy rains, have been covering the roadway between here and Ghent while others are busy on the highway near Marshall.

Moorse to leave bank here, lands new job in Montana

Joseph H. Moorse, who has been an official on the staff of Farmers and Merchants State Bank since returning from military service in 1946, has accepted a promotion to position of cashier with the Chouteau County Bank at Fort Benton, Montana. Mr. Moorse will assume his new duties as soon as suitable housing can be obtained for him at Fort Benton.

50 Years Ago (October 7, 1976)

Transceiver radios installed in Minneota school buses

Transceiver radios were recently installed in all of the public school’s buses and the yellow van. The transceivers are of the industrial type and operate on an FM frequency and are to be used as contact between the buses and the base station which will be located in the main office at the school.

Bourgeois Village Furniture purchased by Rehkamp

From her on, Minneota’s furniture store will be called Bourgeois Village Furniture,

instead of Nordquist and Bourgeois Furniture. The business has been bought by Paul and Jack Rehkamp. Mr. and Mrs. Bourgeois will be associated with the business until Nov. 1.

Six file for city office positions in Minneota

The Minneota City Office reported that six persons had filed for city offices when the filing period closed on Oct. 5. Those seeking office are: Jack Rehkamp, mayor; Gary Gould, Gary Swensrud, Art Bergeth and Paul Larson, councilmen; and Leon Ousman, justice of the peace. Two councilmen, Jon Guttormsson and E.E. Nordquist, are not seeking office his term. Mayor Byron Rafnson is also no seeking re-election.

25 Years Ago (October 10, 2001)

Minneota man, 57, killed in motorcycle accident

A 57-year-old Minneota man driving a motorcycle was killed in a two-vehicle accident on the afternoon of Oct. 6. According to a Minnesota State Police report, a 2001 Harley Davidson driven by Thomas Bretschneider of Minneota was involved in a broadside accident with a 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier driven by 16-year-old Thomas Hinckley of Cottonwood.

Local football booster club gets organized, fundraiser set

The Minneota Football Booster Club, comprised of parents of the team members and fans, is sponsoring a fundraiser that will benefit everyone in the community. Parents, team members, and others are selling books of tickets that are good at the local Farmers Cooperative Association Convenience Store in Minneota.

Final days of soybeans harvest underway in area

According to employees of the elevators in the area, the soybean crop averaged approximately 40 to 45 bushels per acre, which considering the weather conditions last spring, and the shortage of moisture during the summer, is a pretty decent crop.

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Monday & Tuesday — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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FOOTBALL

Vikings turn back MACCRAY, 57-0

Sussner throws for 255 yards, 3 TDs; Sorensen scores 3 times

By Scott Thoma
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Minneota recorded its second shutout of the season, scoring in all four quarters, en route to a 57-0 rout of MACCRAY Friday night in Maynard.

Tristen Sussner completed 19 of 27 passes for 255 yards and three touchdowns to spark an explosive offense that compiled 478 yards of total offense. Landon Esping had eight receptions for 85 yards, RJ Sorensen had two catches for 60 yards, Owen Myrvik two for 34, Kaden Christensen three for 31, and Sam Myhre two for 31.

Sorensen also ran for two scores and hauled in a 28-yard touchdown pass for Vikings. He finished with 73 yards on the ground in 12 carries, and two receptions for 60 yards. Quinton Anderson gained eight yards in only four attempts, including a five-yard touchdown run.

Minneota (5-0) opened the scoring with a nine-play, 86-yard drive that was capped by a five-yard touchdown run by Anderson.

The Vikings then managed to scored four times in the second quarter on a 24-yard touchdown pass from Sussner to Owen Myrvik, TD runs of 4 and 5 yards by Sorensen, and then the TD toss from Sussner to Sorensen, making it 36-0 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Gage Johnston scored on a 3-yard run and Sam Myhre caught a 23-yard touchdown pass from Sussner.

Evan Jerzak's 11-yard TD run was the lone scoring in the fourth quarter.

Jerzak with 13 tackles and Myrvik with 11 paced the defensive shutout. The Vikings also amassed seven tackles for loss by seven different players.

Minneota 57, MACCRAY 0

Minneota.....	7	29	14	7	-	57
MACCRAY.....	0	0	0	0	-	0

Scoring Plays

- Min - Quinton Anderson 5 run (Ian Myhre kick)
- Min - Owen Myrvik 24 pass from Tristen Sussner (I.Myhre kick)
- Min - RJ Sorensen 4 run (Anderson run)
- Min - Sorensen 5 run (Myhre kick)
- Min - Sorensen 28 pass from Sussner (I.Myhre kick)
- Min - Gage Johnston 3 run (I.Myhre kick)
- Min - Sam Myhre 23 pass from Sussner (I.Myhre kick)



Minneota quarterback Tristen Sussner (5) completes a pass to Kaden Christensen against MACCRAY 1st Friday night. Mascot photo by Emma Lipinski

Min - Evan Jerzak 11 run (I.Myhre kick)

Team Statistics

TOTAL YARDS: Minneota 478, MACCRAY 104 ... **PASSING YARDS:** Minneota 284, MACCRAY 54 ... **RUSHING YARDS:** Minneota 194, MACCRAY 50 ... **FIRST DOWNS:** Minneota 26, MACCRAY 5 ... **TURNOVERS:** Minneota 1, MACCRAY 2 ... **PENALTIES:** Minneota 4-21, MACCRAY 0-0

Minneota Individual Statistics

PASSING (com-att-yds-td-int): Tristen Sussner 19-27-255-3-1, Owen Myrvik 2-2-29-0-0
RUSHING (att-yds): RJ Sorensen 12-73, Quinton Anderson 4-48, Gage Johnston 6-30, Kaden Christensen 2-15, Evan Jerzak 1-11, Owen Myrvik 1-5, Quinn Pohlen 1-4, Eli Faris 1-4, Derek Fier 1-2, Sawyer Bradley 1-1, Tristen Sussner 1-1

RECEIVING (rec-yds): Landon Esping 8-85, RJ Sorensen 2-60, Owen Myrvik 2-34, Kaden Christensen 3-31, Sam Myhre 2-31, Gage Johnston 1-19, Ian Myhre 2-14, Evan Jerzak 1-10

TACKLES (solo-assist-total): Evan Jerzak 1-12-13, Owen Myrvik 3-8-11, Brody Anderson 1-6-7, RJ Sorensen 1-5-6, Noah Jerzak 2-3-5, Quinton Anderson 2-2-4, Tristen Sussner 0-4-4, Bryce Gorecki 1-2-3, Eli Faris 0-3-3, Colton Bitker 0-3-3, Derek Fier 1-1-2, Bryce Becker 1-1-2, Ian Myhre 1-1-2, Hunter Thostenson 0-2-2, Logan Esping 0-1-1, Gage Johnston 0-1-1, Simon Gruenes 0-1-1

TACKLES FOR LOSS: Owen Myrvik, RJ Sorensen, Bryce Becker, Tim DeSmet, Sam Myhre, Tristen Sussner

FUMBLE RECOVERY: Noah Jerzak

INTERCEPTION: Evan Jerzak

PUNTING: None

CROSS COUNTRY

Canby/Minneota girls third at Redwood Valley Invite

By Scott Thoma
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In the Redwood Valley Invitational last Thursday against some of the top teams in the section, the Canby/Minneota girls finished third behind perennial powers Redwood Valley and Luverne.

Mya Pesek and Taylor Ourada both posted season-best times, while five others had personal-best times — Adri Christianson, Finley VanOverbeke, Cayleigh Bordewyk Sophie Becker and Anna Briggs.

Pesek finished in fifth place and Ourada came in 10th.

“Seeing those times continue to drop this late in the season is a great indication of the work these kids are putting in every day,” said Canby/Minneota coach Allyson Pesek. “With the season moving quickly, it was great to see our runners step into some strong competition and come away with so many fun highlights and personal bests.”

Tallen Merritt cracked the top 20 in the boys’ race, finishing in 20th place, in a personal-best time of 17:38.5. Kendon Knutson, Seth Paluch, Tate Frazeur, Henry Vidoloff, and Jasper Pochardt all posted personal-best times for Canby/Minneota.

“Those are some really fun improvements to see as we enter the most important parts of our season,” said Coach Pesek.

BOYS TEAM SCORES

(1) Redwood Valley 43 (2) Marshall 59 (3) Windom Area 73 (4) Montevideo 113 (5) Minnesota Valley Lutheran 133 (6) Luverne 147 (7) Canby/Minneota 170 (8) Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove 205 (9) Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City 263 (10) BOLD/Bufalo Lake-Hector 265

BOYS INDIVIDUAL TOP 10

(1) Tyler Robinson, RV, 16:22.3 (2) Titus Kohls, MVL, 16:45.0 (3) Charles Mueller-Thompson, Mar, 16:45.5 (4) Zach Malecek, R, 16:46.6 (5) Noland Munson, Mar, 16:47.1 (6) Nolan Ourada, RV, 16:49.5 (7) Bryce Green, Win, 16:56.6 (8) Jaxon Berg, RV, 17:02.2 (9) Adam VanBinsbergen, Mon, 17:05.3 (10) Marcus Papik, Luv, 17:07.7

CANBY/MINNEOTA BOYS

(20) Tallen Merritt 17:38.5 (30) Kendon Knutson 18:08.3 (33) Seth Paluch 18:22.9 (45) Tate Frazeur 19:16.3 (46) Henry Vidoloff 19:17.4 (51)

Jasper Pochardt 19:44.1 (55) Jaxon Ruether 19:59.9

GIRLS TEAM SCORES

(1) Redwood Valley 46 (2) Luverne 64 (3) Canby/Minneota 71 (4) Montevideo 100 (5) Wabasso 131 (6) Minnesota Valley Lutheran 157 (7) Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove 176 (8) Windom Area 178

CANBY/MINNEOTA GIRLS

(5) Pesek (10) Ourada (12) Adri Christianson 21:09.4 (21) Finley VanOverbeke 22:15.1 (23) Cayleigh Bordewyk 22:22.8 (33) Sophie Becker 23:04.0 (37) Anna Briggs 23:18.1

C/M boys, girls 2nd at Granite

(Results Monday, Sept. 28)

The Canby/Minneota boys and girls both finished second in the Granite Falls meet.

Ortonville won the boys’ meet with 57 points and Canby/Minneota was second with 71. Tallen Merritt led C/M with a fifth-place finish in 18:01.6. Kendon Knutson was eighth in 18:17.4

Montevideo came in first in the girls’ race with 43 points, with Canby/Minneota close behind with 48 points. Mya Pesek was C/M’s top runner, finishing second in 20:13.2. Adri Christianson came in eighth in 22:07.6.

BOYS TEAM SCORES

(1) Ortonville 57 (2) Canby/Minneota 71 (3) Lac qui Parle Valley/Dawson-Boyd 95 (4) MACCRAY/Renville County West 114 (5) Montevideo 126 (6) Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove 138 (7) Lakeview 148 (8) Yellow Medicine East 189 (9) BOLD/Bufalo Lake-Hector 234 (10) Border West 248

BOYS INDIVIDUAL TOP 10

(1) Tate Remiger, Lake, 17:04.4 (2) Connor Iverson, MRCW, 17:22.7

(3) Collin Rosendahl, LQPVDB, 17:36.0 (4) Abram Heck, Ort, 17:54.9 (5) Tallen Merritt, CM, 18:01.8 (6) Yefferson Xiquin, Ort, 18:08.5 (7) Titus Van Beck, CMCS, 18:10.0 (8) Kendon Knutson, CM, 18:17.4 (9) Milton Xiquin, Ort, 18:20.9 (10) Kolden Heinecke, LQPVDB, 18:33.8

CANBY/MINNEOTA BOYS

(5) Merritt (8) Knutson (12) Seth Paluch 18:39.0 (22) Henry Vidoloff 19:33.4 (28) Jaxon Ruether 19:50.9 (31) Jasper Pochardt 20:00.5 (34) Tate Frazeur 20:21.4 (35) Zeyan Anderson 20:23.6 (39) Nolan Van Keulen 20:41.7

GIRLS TEAM SCORES

(1) Montevideo 43 (2) Canby/Minneota 48 (3) Lac qui Parle Valley/Dawson-Boyd 74 (4) Central Minnesota Christian School 104 (5) Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove 117 (6) Lakeview 134

GIRLS INDIVIDUAL TOP 10

(1) Karissa Anderson, Mon, 18:16.9 (2) Mya Pesek, CM, 20:13.2 (3) Lilly Lovgren, Ort, 20:29.0 (4) Laura Schreiber, LQPVDB, 20:51.0 (5) Lainey Jackels, TMBWWG, 21:08.1 (6) Tahlia Hensom, LQPVDB, 21:41.7 (7) Alexia Williamson, Mon, 21:44.6 (8) Adri Cchristianson, CM, 22:07.6 (9) Aubrey Williamson, Mon, 22:16.9 (10) Nora Williamson, Mon, 22:19.5

CANBY/MINNEOTA GIRLS

(2) Pesek (8) Christianson (14) Jonna Briggs 23:13.0 (16) Sophie Becker 23:21.2 (18) Charlotte Brunsvig 23:28.9 (27) Anna Briggs 24:40.4 (30) Ella Cleveland 25:03.2 (33) Addison Full 25:31.4 (52) Willow Brunsvig 28:16.3 (61) Anaceli Maldonado 31:14.1

This Day in History - October 8

1871 - The Great Chicago Fire erupts; fires also break out in Peshtigo, Wis., and in several communities in Michigan.

1934 - Bruno Hauptmann is indicted by a grand jury in New Jersey for murder in the death of the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

1944 - "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet," starring Ozzie and Harriet Nelson, makes its debut on CBS Radio.

1956 - Don Larsen pitches the only perfect game in a World Series to date as the New York Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in Game 5, 2-0.

1998 - The House of Representatives triggers an open-ended impeachment inquiry against President Bill Clinton in a 258-176 vote; 31 Democrats join majority Republicans in opening the way for nationally televised impeachment hearings.

2002 - A federal judge approves President George W. Bush's request to reopen West Coast ports, ending a 10-day labor lockout costing the U.S. economy an estimated \$1 to \$2 billion a day.

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Athlete of the Week

Owen Myrvik Junior

Owen, a tight end/defensive back, helped lead the Vikings' 57-0 shutout on Friday with 11 tackles, a 24-yard TD reception, and he completed both of his pass attempts for 29 yards.

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FARMWARD COOPERATIVE

Top-ranked Vikings sweep MACCRAY, LQPV

Minneota riding 12-match winning streak

By Scott Thoma
scott@thomabooks.com

Jaylyn Coeuyt swatted down 15 kills and Leah Coeuyt added 11 as Minneota increased its winning streak to 12 with a 25-13, 25-22, 25-8 sweep of MACCRAY in a Camden Conference match Thursday night in Clara City.

The Vikings (6-0, 17-2), the top-ranked team in Class A, also had a strong defensive performance with Autum Anderson compiling a team-high 19 digs and Eden Meagher amassing 11 digs to go along with her seven kills.

Sophie Gillund finished the night with 24 assists, while Libby Sussner had 19 assists, three digs and an ace serve. Brek Fier had seven kills and a team-high 2 ace serves.

CLASS A RANKINGS (Volleyball Coaches Assn.)

(1) Minneota (2) Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (3) Kenyon-Wanamingo (4) Fillmore Central (5) Mayer Lutheran (6) Cleveland (7) Central MN Christian (8) Sacred Heart (9) Ely (10) Mabel-Canton

Minneota 3, MACCRAY 0

Minneota.....	25	25	25
MACCRAAY.....	13	22	8

Minnesota Individual Statistics

SERVING (aces): Brek Fier 2, Libby Sussner 1, Brynn Rost 1, Sophie Gillund 1

SETTING (aces): Sophie Gillund 24, Libby Sussner

ATTACKING (kills): Jaylyn Coequyt 15, Leah Coequyt 11, Brek Fier 7, Eden Meagher 7, Ava Bost 3

BLOCKING (aces): Leah Coequyt 1, Sophie Gil-
lund 1
DIGS: Autumn Anderson 19, Eden Meagher 11,
Brynn Rost 3, Libby Sussner 3

Vikings extend win streak

Minneota, the top-ranked team in Class A, wrapped up its 11th straight win with a 25-7, 25-10, 25-6 sweep of Lac qui Parle Valley in a Camden Conference match Tuesday night in Minneota.

The Viking (5-0 in conference, 16-2 overall) got a match-high 12 kills from senior middle Leah Coequyt, while Jaylyn Coequyt and Ava Rost had five kills apiece, and Brek Fier and Eden Meagher added four kills each.

The Vikings also amassed 14 aces, led by Brynn Rost with five. Libby Sussner had four aces to go along with 17 assists and three digs. Brek Fier also notched three aces and two blocks.

Autum Anderson managed a team-high eight digs. Sophie Gillund had nine assists and five digs.

Minneota 3, Lac qui Parle Valley 0

Lac qui Parle Valley.....	7	10	6
Minnesota.....	25	25	25

Minnesota Individual Statistics

SERVING (aces): Brynn Rost 5, Libby Sussner 4, Brek Fier 3, Eden Meagher 2

SETTING (assists): Libby Sussner 17, Sophie Gilmund 9

ATTACKING (kills): Leah Coequyt 12, Jaylyn Coequyt 5, Ava Bost 5, Brek Fier 4, Eden Meagher 4

BLOCKING (aces): Brek Fier 2, Leah Coequyt 1
DIGS: Autumn Anderson 8, Sophie Gillund 5, Libby

Digs: Autumn Anderson 8, Sophie Gillund 5, Libby Sussner 3, Brynn Rost 2



Minneota's Leah Coequyt, left, and Jaylyn Coequyt team up to block an attack by Lac qui Parle Valley last Tuesday in Minneota. Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason

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COMMUNITY

events

October

Thursday, October 8

10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Bingo" at Senior Center
4:30 p.m. - Cross Country: Canby/Minneota at Pipestone
7:15 p.m. - Volleyball: Tracy-Milroy-Balaton at Minneota

Friday, October 9

12:45 p.m. - "Bien" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "500" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Quilting" at Senior Center
5 p.m. - Volleyball: Minneota at Lakeville Invite
7 p.m. - Football: Minneota at Lac qui Parle Valley

Saturday, October 10

9 a.m. - Volleyball: Minneota at Lakeville Invite

Monday, October 12

1 p.m. - "Mahjong" at Senior Center
4:30 p.m. - Cross Country: Canby/Minneota atCMCS, Raymond Golf Course
6:30 p.m. - Minneota City Council meeting

Tuesday, October 13

10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
12:45 p.m. - "Bien" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "500" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Quilting" at Senior Center
5:45 p.m. - Minneota EDA meeting
7:115 p.m. - Volleyball: Canby at Minneota

Wednesday, October 14

1 p.m. - "Hand, Knee & Foot" at Senior Center
5:30 p.m. - Minneota School Board meeting

Thursday, October 15

10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
2 p.m. - Quilting Trunk Show at Senior Center
5:30 p.m. - Minneota School Board meeting
7 p.m. - Football: Yellow Medicine East at Minneota

Friday, October 16

12:45 p.m. - "Bien" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "500" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Quilting" at Senior Center

Monday, October 19

1 p.m. - "Mahjong" at Senior Center
7:15 p.m. - Volleyball: Lakeview at Minneota

Tuesday, October 20

10 a.m. - Lyon County Board meeting
10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
12:45 p.m. - "Bien" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "500" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Quilting" at Senior Center
4 p.m. - Cross Country: Camden Conference meet, Madison
7:15 p.m. - Volleyball: Minneota at Yellow Medicine East

Wednesday, October 21

1 p.m. - "Hand, Knee & Foot" at Senior Center
7 p.m. - Football: Minneota at Dawson-Boyd

Thursday, October 22

10 a.m. - "Exercise" at Senior Center
1 p.m. - "Bingo" at Senior Center



5 generations

In this five-generation photo, left to right: Briar Brunner poses with her mother, Brooke Brunner; her grandmother, Janice Sorensen; her great-grandmother, Mary Myhre; and her great-great grandmother, Corky DeCock. *Contributed photo*

LYON COUNTY MUSEUM

Fall Reflections Series at the LCM

All programs are free will donation and open to the public. Programs are sponsored by Lyon County Historical Society members. For more information, contact the Lyon County Museum at 507-537-6580.

Wong presents on Japanese in Minnesota

Tuesday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.

Ka Wong will present, "Enmity and Empathy: Japanese Americans in Minnesota During World War II" at the Lyon County Museum, 301 West Lyon Street, Marshall on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m.

The forced eviction and confinement of Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor in 1941 was one of the worst civil rights violations of the twentieth century. In Minnesota, the impact was dramatic: the state's Japanese American population grew from just 51 in 1940 to several thousand by war's end.

Drawing on personal interviews, archival sources, and historical literature, Professor Ka Wong explores the courageous struggles of trailblazers who left incarceration camps to rebuild their lives in Minnesota.

Ohman to present on Historic Courthouses

Tuesday, October 27: 6:30 p.m.

Doug Ohman will present, "Civic Pride: Historic Courthouses of Minnesota" at the Lyon County Museum on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Visit many of Minnesota's 87 counties through the eyes of the lens. Doug has photographed every courthouse in the state and has learned many interesting stories that are quickly being lost to time. Enjoy the beauty and elegance of our most treasured civic buildings.

Doug Ohman has spent the past 30 + years photographing historic architecture and landscapes in Minnesota. His work has been featured in books, magazines and calendars. Doug has spent the last 20 years selling photography art at local art & craft shows.

Along with being an independent photographer, Doug is also a historian and public speaker.

– Minneota Area Community Churches –

Healing Waters Parish

Augustana, Clarkfield; Bergen, Clarkfield; St. Lucas Lutheran, Cottonwood

Worship Times:
St. Lucas: Sunday Worship at 9 a.m.
Augustana: Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.
Bergen: Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.

Pastor Mort Meyenburg

Church Contact No. 320-841-1085

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

PO Box 119, 101 Main Street, Hanley Falls
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

Worship Time: All Sunday services are in-person and also live-streamed at 10:30 a.m. Sundays on Facebook (visit Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church). Please watch the website and Facebook for more information.
Sunday, October 11: Worship at 11 a.m.

Church Contact No. 507-768-3417
Pastor Steve Quist: 507-337-0068
Tim Velde, Lay Minister: 507-828-5343

St. Leo Catholic Church

St. Leo, MN

Mass Time: Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Fr. Brendan Rolling & Fr. Keith Salisbury
Church Contact No. 507-224-2289

Bethany-Elim Lutheran, Ivanhoe

Worship Time: Sundays at 9 a.m. with Sunday School

Bethany Lutheran, Arco

Worship Time: Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Church Contact No. 507-694-1238
windsministry@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church

Minneota
www.hopeminneota.org

Worship Time:
Sunday, October 11: Worship at 9 a.m.

Minister: Jennifer Warnock: 320-305-4955
Church Secretary, Chris Pesch:
hopelutheran87@gmail.com
Church Contact No. 507-872-6446

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Minneota

Worship Time: Sunday, October 11: 10:30 a.m.

Minister: Jennifer Warnock: 320-305-4955
Church Secretary: Chris Pesch
hopelutheran87@gmail.com
Church Contact No. 507-872-6446

St. Eloï Catholic Church

Ghent

Mass Times:
Thursday, October 8: No Convent Mass
Friday, October 9: No Convent Mass
Saturday, October 10: No Convent Mass
Sunday, October 11: Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Father Todd Petersen

Church Contact No. 507-428-3285

Hemnes Lutheran Church

Rural Minneota

Worship Time: Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Pastor Ellen Munter

Bethel Fellowship Church

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Ephesians 2:8 - By grace you are saved.

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School 8:50-9:45 a.m.
Wednesdays: Kids' Zone 6-7:20 p.m.; Prayer and Devotional 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Thomas Nomeland

Contact No. 507-828-1637

St. Edward Catholic Church

Minneota

Mass Time:
Thursday, October 8: Mass at 7 a.m.. Adoration 5-7 p.m.
Friday, October 9: Mass at 7 a.m.
Saturday, October 10: Mass at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 411 Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Father Todd Petersen

Church Contact No. 507-872-6346

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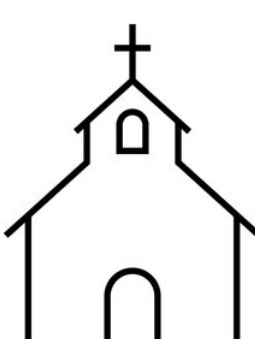
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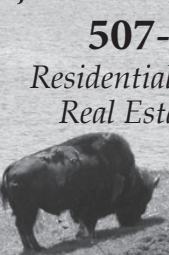
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Public Notice

Notice of Public Sale of Tax-Forfeited Lands

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the parcels of land described in the List of Tax-Forfeited Land for Public Sale #2026-02, which is contained herein, shall be sold to the highest bidder at an online public sale beginning at 10:00 AM on November 4, 2026. The auction link can be found at www.lyoncountymn.gov.

The sale will be governed by the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 282.01, Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 113, Tax Forfeited Lands Settlement, and by the resolution of the Lyon County Board of Commissioners authorizing said sale. All property is sold “as is” and may not conform to local building and zoning ordinances. Lyon County makes no warranty that the land is “buildable.”

The minimum bid acceptable will not be lower than the appraised value. Other charges to be collected at the sale include a 3% surcharge for the State Assurance Account, a recording fee of \$46, a state deed fee of \$25, and the state deed tax. The balances of special assessments subject to reassessment shown below are amounts that were levied before and canceled at forfeiture and are not included in the basic sale price but may be reassessed by the municipality. The approved County resolution included the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of tax-forfeited land listed on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land #2026-02 be classified as non-conservation land; that the appraised value of each parcel on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land #2026-02, which is on file with the Lyon County Auditor/Treasurer, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 282.01 and Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 113; that the sale will begin at 10:00 AM on November 4, 2026, via an online auction at www.mnbid.mn.gov.

Other information about the sale of tax-forfeited land, including additional terms and conditions, can be found on the Lyon County website at www.lyonco.org/land4sale or at the Auditor/Treasurer’s Office, Lyon County Government Center, 607 West Main Street, Marshall. Telephone: (507) 537-6724.

List of Tax-Forfeited Land #2026-02
for Public Sale

(Contact the City/Town clerk for unpaid assessments)

ADDRESS	PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	APPRAISED VALUE
(CUSTER TOWNSHIP)		
SECT-27 TWP -109 RANT 41 PT SE4 NE 4(500’ X 200’) FORMERLY RR PROPERTY EX .24 A PT SE4 NE4	04-027007-0	\$3,400.00
(CITY OF BALATON)		
110 Maple St N	21-114007-0	\$56,900.00
SHILL’S ADDITION S2 LOT 3	21-114009-0	\$1,700.00
(CITY OF LYND)		
301 Railroad St W	26-114009-0	\$36,900.00
(CITY OF MARSHALL)		
HAR-MAR FOODS ADDN OUTLOA A 15’ X 250’ EX 15/150’ MARSHALL MN	27-320004-0	\$25,900.00
(CITY OF TRACY)		
75 Rowland St	31-100029-0	\$20,800.00
LOT-22 BLK -4 ORIGINAL PLAT TRACY MN	31-100057-1	\$1,700.00
157 3rd St	31-100121-0	\$10,200.00
372 3rd St	31-102014-0	\$120,800.00
424 Rowland St	31-102034-0	\$28,800.00
550 Morgan St		
31-104007-0		
\$39,100.00		
LOT-4 BLK-13 2ND RAILWAY ADDITION TO TRACY MN 56175	31-104047-0	\$3,900.00
336 Harvey St	31-104048-0	\$37,100.00
437 3rd St	31-104049-0	\$32,600.00
285 8th St	31-104274-0	\$25,500.00
200 State St	31-112024-0	\$68,400.00
200 Union St	31-122010-0	\$7,000.00

John Xiong
Lyon County Auditor Treasurer

Mascot website - www.minneotamascot.com

HELP WANTED

Paraprofessional, Minneota Public School

Start Date: October 23, 2026

(POSTING WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL FILLED)

Description:

Minneota Public School is seeking a paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year. We are looking for a candidate who acts with honor, shows respect, and meets high expectations!

Job Duties:

- Work collaboratively with the classroom teachers to provide students on an IEP with a rich educational experience
- Provide lunch supervision and support
- Support the student during classroom activities
- There may be times when the paraprofessional will be asked to guide an activity or administer an assessment independently that the lead teacher has developed
- The days of service include Monday – Friday.

Requirements:

- HS diploma or GED
 - Must be 18 years of age
- Preferred Credentials, but not required:
- An associate’s degree OR
 - Two years of post-secondary education (65 or more college credits) OR
 - Para Pro certified
- **Experience in working with children preferred**

Application Process:
Please email the following

- Resume
- Minneota Public Schools Application
- 1-2 letters of recommendation to the following:

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Miscellaneous



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American Red Cross Blood Drive

Save a Life, Give Blood

Minneota National Honor Society members hosted a blood drive on Sept. 28 at the high school. Top left: Landon Pohlen gives a thumbs-up while donating blood. Top right: NHS members, left to right: Addysen Kiley, Leah Coequyt, Jaylyn Coequyt, and Natalie Ratajczak gather around Mr. Winter after he donated blood. *Contributed photos*



FUN FACTS

Bangkok is the world's most visited city: With 22.78 million international visitors, Bangkok has been named the most visited city in the world for the fourth year in a row – beating Paris, London, Dubai, and Singapore.

Typing keyboards used to be arranged alphabetically: The uniform QWERTY keys we use were chosen at random. Before PC's and laptops, the typewriter was man's first typing experience. The earliest typewriters had alphabetic keys, but people typed so fast that the mechanical arms got jammed and tangled up. To solve this, the keys were randomly positioned to slow down typing and prevent key jamming.

Baked beans are not actually baked: Canned baked beans are cooked through a steaming process. Bottom line? "Baked" beans are rarely ever baked.

Antarctica is the only continent without any reptiles or snakes: Not only does the elusive continent of Antarctica lack McDonald's joints – but it also doesn't have any of our lizard friends. Why? Well – we all know that reptiles are cold-blooded – so they can't produce their own heat. Meaning, they'd get turned into popsicles in the frosty Arctic.

Tomato ketchup was used as medicine for 16 years: Ketchup only had tomatoes in it starting 1834. Before, ketchup was made with a mix of fish and mushrooms. When Dr. John Cooke Bennet added tomatoes to the mix, he claimed that the antioxidants gave it a medicinal property. He had a pill salesman turn his tomato ketchup into pills and claimed it could treat diarrhea, indigestion, jaundice, and rheumatism.

A snail can sleep for three years: Aside from their shocking number of teeth, these small critters have some more astonishing tricks up their sleeve. Nap time for a snail can last from a few hours up to three years.

A musician named Jim Sullivan mysteriously disappeared 6 years after recording an album called "U.F.O.": The 1969 album featured strange lyrics about leaving his family and being abducted by aliens. Sullivan disappeared six years later with only his abandoned car found on a desert road in New Mexico as evidence.

People don't sneeze in their sleep: While asleep, humans are actually more prone to sneezing because the mucous membranes swell when lying down. However, the brain shuts down the neuroreceptors that stimulate our sneezing reflex. That way, only very strong stimuli can wake one to sneeze.

Eating polar bear liver can kill a human being: If eaten in one meal, 30-90 g of polar bear liver can be fatal. Its high concentration of Vitamin A is toxic to humans.

Schwan's commits \$5.5M to SMSU indoor sports & rec dome project

Southwest Minnesota State University has received a historic \$5.5 million leadership gift from the Schwan's Corporate Giving Foundation to support the development of the Southwest Minnesota Indoor Sports and Recreation Dome. The gift represents the largest single gift in the university's history.

The transformational commitment moves the dome project significantly closer to reality and reflects a shared vision of expanding opportunities for wellness, recreation, athletics, and community engagement across Southwest Minnesota.

Announced by SMSU President David Jones at the State of the University address on Friday, Oct. 2, the gift represents a major investment in both the university and the region the institution serves.

"Today, we celebrate a truly transformational investment in the future of Southwest Minnesota State University and our region," Jones said. "Through this generous leadership commitment from the Schwan's Corporate Giving Foundation, we are taking a major step toward making the Southwest Minnesota Indoor Sports and Recreation Dome a reality. This extraordinary gift reflects a shared belief in the power of education, wellness, and community and

represents not only a remarkable investment in Southwest Minnesota, but also the largest gift in the history of our university."

The Schwan's Corporate Giving Foundation has a longstanding history of supporting initiatives that strengthen communities and create opportunities for people of all ages. Its leadership investment in the dome project reflects a commitment to enhancing quality of life throughout Southwest Minnesota.

"Knowing this is the largest gift in the history of Southwest Minnesota State University carries a certain weight," said Theresa Zaske, Community Relations Manager at CJ Schwan's Company and secretary of the Schwan's Corporate Giving Foundation. "We do not take that responsibility lightly. We believe in the impact this facility can have on the region, and we're proud to invest in something that will serve people of all ages while strengthening the future of Southwest Minnesota."

Once completed, the Southwest Minnesota Indoor Sports and Recreation Dome will provide expanded opportunities for SMSU students through recreation, health and wellness programs, athletic development, and campus engagement. The facility

will also serve as a regional asset, offering year-round space for youth sports, camps, tournaments, community walking programs, fitness activities, and special events.

"This is a transformational moment for SMSU and the region," said Nathan Polfliet, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the SMSU Foundation. "The Schwan's Corporate Giving Foundation has demonstrated extraordinary leadership through this historic commitment. Their investment will create opportunities that extend far beyond our campus, benefiting students, families, and communities throughout Southwest Minnesota."

The indoor dome project is envisioned as a regional destination that will enhance recreational opportunities, support economic activity, and strengthen connections among communities across Southwest Minnesota.

"Simply put, this is a game-changer for our region, community, SMSU, and all Mustangs! Tremendous alignment has been evident at every step, with an emphasis on how impactful this will be," said Travis Whipple, vice president for athletics at SMSU.

Gislason

Continued from Page 1

Never married, Gislason's children were the many students he has taught over the years.

"He was a distant relative of mine," said J. D. Pesch, one of Daren's former students. "I was always very proud to say I was related to him because I thought he was an amazing person. His love for nature and reading definitely instilled values in my life that remain today. I spent a lot of time at 'Daren's Park' as a child and even now I have trails and interesting things in the woods along the Yellow Medicine River behind our house. His passion for reading was amazing. I run into so many Minneota students who grew up inspired by Daren's love of reading. I can't imagine

all the Minneota Vikings here in our little Icelandic Village who were inspired by him."

"He loved nature and being a part of it, maintaining his garden along the river on my grandfather's farm for many years," said Sandy Josephson, a current member of the SPMH. "My mom's parents and Daren's parents were long-time friends and neighbors in Westerheim township. My mom made Daren fudge every year as he dearly loved chocolate--and would savor each piece to make it last longer. Daren and my dad were classmates from MHS in the class of 1949."

Gislason was also a very generous man, although he would sometimes get frustrated if word leaked out about his generosity.

"He was such a close family friend

to us. Each Christmas we would get a large gift-wrapped box in our yard," said Pesch. "It always showed up after midnight on Christmas Eve and was usually placed outside by a tree in the snow. The outside of the package read, 'From The Icelandic Snow King.' It was filled with different candies and goodies and usually a book or two. I never knew who it was from until I got older, but it was always very exciting to look for the gift on Christmas morning. Years later, when we moved back to Minneota, I thought I would return the favor. On Christmas Eve, we would leave a box of goodies on his doorstep, from 'The Icelandic Snow King.'"

He was one of a kind.

"Daren was loved much and will be missed by many," said Sarazyn.

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HAPPY Retirement

Jerzak retiring from Minneota Building Materials after 23 years

(A daughter's tribute)

To the man behind the counter, we want to say thank you for your dedication, service, and commitment to the community of Minneota and the surrounding areas for the past 23 years.

For 23 years, you have poured your heart into that business, going far beyond the extra mile and always doing whatever it took to get the job done right. You have been a loyal and trusted partner to so many vendors, contractors, and customers throughout countless projects, seeing things through every phase, giving honest feedback, and enduring all the trials and tribulations that inevitably come along the way. Through it all, you always showed up with a service-first mindset and made sure things were done right.

I think I can speak for many people who have had the opportunity to work with you over the years when I say that you have always had their best interests at the forefront of every decision. You have always believed in supporting small-town businesses, and you have poured so much back into the community of Minneota through sponsorships, donations, fundraisers, and your generosity with the use of equipment. Your impact goes far beyond the business itself, and I know there are countless people who are grateful for everything you have done.

I am proud to call you my dad, but I am even more proud of the service you have given to this community and the people in it.

There will definitely be a void, but as always, all good things must come to an end and there will never be a perfect time to step away. Most people never see the hardships, long days, short staffing issues throughout the years, or difficult conversations that come with managing and operating a business. You've always been the one to carry those things on your shoulders, handle what needed to be handled, and move forward.

As hard as it will be to step away from a good thing, you've never been one to leave a half-finished job behind without seeing it fully through, so you may still see him around here and there as he finishes up some of those outstanding projects.

I'm excited to see what you decide to do with this next chapter. I know this will be a huge moment in your life, and I hope someday you look back on these 23 years with nothing but pride and gratitude for everything you built and everyone you helped along the way.

It's time for the next generation to step in and take care of the business.

So, if you find yourself going through Minneota, make sure you swing in and give Kevin some well wishes on his semi-retirement. I'm sure he'll still find plenty of odds and ends jobs to keep himself busy.

You've done an amazing job. Now it's time to slow down a little, enjoy life, and figure out what this next chapter looks like.

Love you, Dad

