



THE VOICE OF THE CHAIN OF LAKES

The Misquah Pilot-Independent

“Where the coffee’s hot, the lakes are cold, and all the children are above average.” — Serving the Chain since 1897.

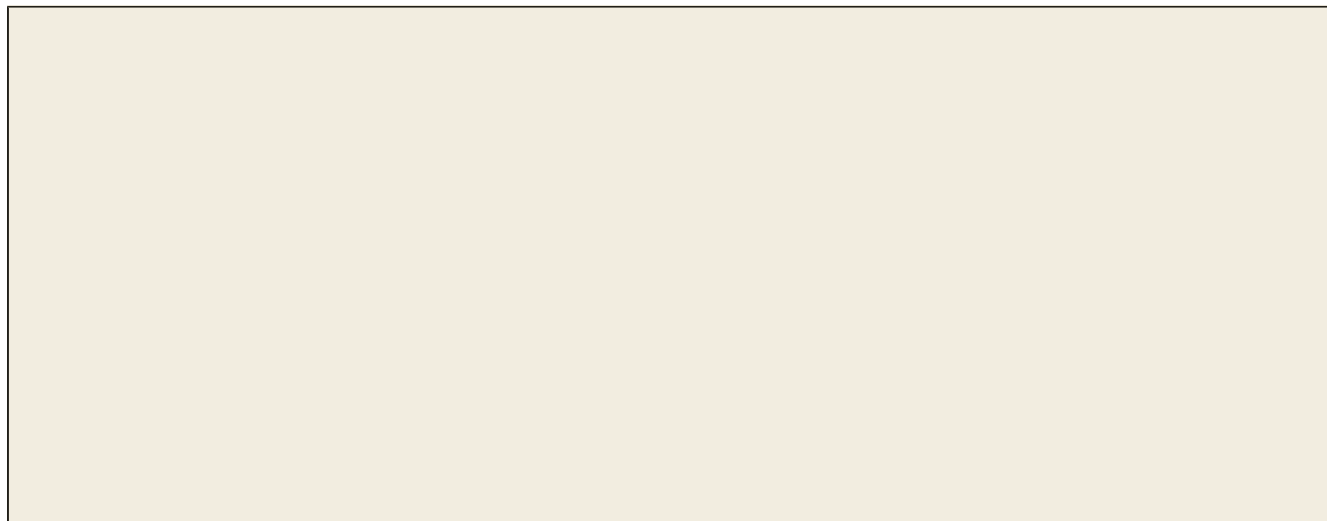
FROM THE ARCHIVE You are reading No. 28, July 14, 2026. Return to this week’s edition →

CITY COUNCIL

Council Approves Brewery, Sends Sign to Fall; the Hagen Hearing Is Tonight

Last Tuesday’s meeting granted a license and deferred a stop sign to October. The evening that matters comes tonight, when eighteen lots on the old Hagen pasture meet the planning board.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026





THE OLD HAGEN PASTURE AT DUSK: FORTY-ONE ACRES, EIGHTEEN PROPOSED LOTS, AND THE TOWN BEYOND IT, STEEPLE AND ALL. THE PLANNING BOARD TAKES IT UP TONIGHT. — PILOT-INDEPENDENT PHOTO

The City Council spent its July 7 meeting settling the questions it could settle and leaving the hard one for tonight. In a single evening the body granted the brewery a license, deferred the Birch-and-Second stop sign to October, and declined to do anything at all about a stain — a productive night, by the standards of a town that measures progress in decades.

The license for the taproom Annika and Jonas Holt intend to open in the

old Co-op creamery passed without drama and, as predicted, without opposition — including, notably, none from the Northern Tap. The council spent a dutiful three-quarters of an hour on parking, hours, and the question of whether anything good has ever come of change, and then approved the thing anyway, which observers had penciled in as the outcome before the first gavel.

The stop sign at Birch and Second, petitioned for since 1957, was deferred to October by the unanimous prediction of everyone who has ever watched the council watch the stop sign. Its own public hearing, once noticed for tonight, was quietly vacated — tonight

belongs to the pasture. “It’s waited sixty-nine years,” Mayor Gloria Vik observed. “It can wait until the weather turns.” Longtime observers are declining to believe in an October sign until one is standing in the ground.

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NEWS IN THIS EDITION



MAIN STREET



The Stain Stays, for Now: Council Splits the Difference by Doing Nothing

Alderman Hagen wanted a pressure washer. Alderman Bunde wanted a monument. The council, as this newspaper advised, chose neither.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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BUSINESS

License in Hand, the Creamery Brewery Aims for August

With Tuesday's approval, the Holts turn from paperwork to plumbing. Two tanks are in, a bar is rising, and a name is still, they insist, undecided.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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AROUND TOWN

Aune Home From Abbott, and Under Orders to Rest

The children's librarian is back on the Chain after her Fourth-of-July scare — recovering, forbidden to lift a returned book, and already asking about the reading numbers.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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LIBRARY

Summer Reading Hits a Record 41 as the Ladder Keeps Climbing

Enrollment in the library's summer tiers has passed every previous mark, substitute and all. The animal stickers are holding. The sticker budget is not.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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LAKES & OUTDOORS IN THIS EDITION





OUTDOORS

The Loon Chicks, Nearly Grown, Have Stopped Needing Anyone

Three-quarter grown and diving on their own, the two Big Pelican juveniles have entered the awkward adolescence of waterfowl. The parents seem relieved.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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FISHING REPORT

Midsummer Holds: Walleye Deep, Panfish Everywhere, Nobody Complaining

The pattern that set in after the Fourth hasn't budged. Fish early, fish deep, and mind the bass tournament rolling into Loon Lake on Saturday.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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SPORTS IN THIS EDITION





LEGION BASEBALL

Post 162 Reaches .500 and Keeps Climbing; the Light Tower Waits

A three-game week and two wins pushed the Legion nine over the midpoint. The scoreboard works fine. Half the outfield still plays in the dark.

BY CURT "SONNY" HALVORSEN, SPORTS • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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FISHING

Fifty Boats Expected Saturday for the Loon Lake Bass Tournament

Blastoff at first light, weigh-in at three, and the annual argument over whether largemouth from the pads should count the same as smallmouth from the rocks.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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OPINION COLUMNS & EDITORIALS





OUR VIEW • EDITORIAL

Our View: The Pasture, the Town, and the Question Under the Question

Tonight the planning board hears eighteen lots on the Hagen land. We won't tell you how to feel. We'll tell you what the argument is actually about.

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor: In Defense of Not Judging

A reply to last week's correspondent, who wanted ribbons on the boat parade. The writer notes that she has, in fact, been judged, and does not recommend it.

BY M. AAKRE, LOON LAKE • JULY 14, 2026

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LIVING FEATURES





THE KLATCH • FROM EUNICE

The Zucchini Cometh, and the Trombones Are Already Here

Eunice on the two sounds of mid-July — a beginner's brass off the school, and the soft thud of surplus squash left on a porch after dark.

BY EUNICE DAHLQUIST, THE KLATCH & LIVING • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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COUNTY FAIR

Entries Close August 1; the 4-H Barns Fill and the Pumpkins Sulk

With the fair three weeks out, the animals are being washed, the jams pre-judged by their makers, and the giant-pumpkin rivals, once again, not speaking.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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OBITUARIES





OBITUARY

Esther Nordby, 1934–2026: She Kept the Weather

For more than sixty years she wrote down the weather of Misquah every single morning, and never once said what she thought of it.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 14, 2026

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