



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.

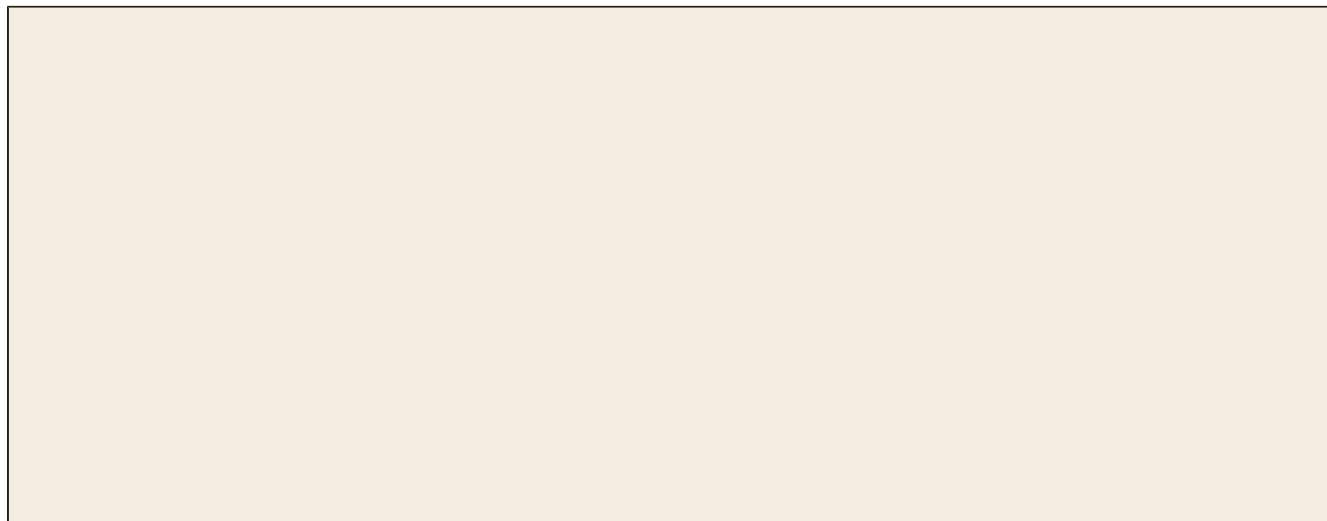
FROM THE ARCHIVE You are reading No. 29, July 21, 2026. Return to this week’s edition →

THE HAGEN PASTURE

Full House, Forty Speakers, No Vote: Pasture Question Goes Under Advisement

The biggest hearing in a generation ran two and a half hours, required more chairs than the city owns, and ended as promised — with the board taking the eighteen lots home to think about. A decision is expected in late August.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026





THE ROOM BY A QUARTER TO SEVEN TUESDAY: EVERY CHAIR THE CITY OWNS, SEVERAL IT BORROWED, AND FORTY SPEAKERS STILL TO COME. — PILOT-INDEPENDENT PHOTO

The planning board heard the town out Tuesday night, and the town, it turns out, had a good deal to say. The public hearing on the proposed eighteen-lot development on the old Hagen pasture ran two and a half hours, drew the largest crowd the city hall has held since anyone started counting, and ended precisely the way the board said it would: with no vote, no decision, and the whole forty-one acres taken under advisement.

The room filled by a quarter to seven. The extra chairs set out along the wall — photographed by this newspaper the week prior, in what now looks like understatement — were gone by ten of, and Clerk Donna Skoglund was seen carrying in the folding chairs from the fire hall, which is technically a loan and will technically be returned. Late arrivals stood three deep at the back, and the coffee urn, pressed beyond its design capacity, was retired

empty before the first speaker finished.

Forty people spoke. The count is exact, because Mrs. Skoglund kept the sign-up sheet, and this newspaper has learned not to round numbers in this town. They spoke for the houses, and against them, and — in what became the evening's honest pattern — frequently both, sometimes within the same three minutes. A man who described the

pasture view as “the reason I never left” closed by saying his son commutes forty minutes from Two Rivers because there is nothing here to buy. A woman who spoke in favor of the lots asked, on her way back to her seat, whether the fence line at least might be kept. Nobody in the room appeared to find any of this contradictory, because nobody in this town is.

[READ THE FULL STORY →](#)

NEWS IN THIS EDITION





BUSINESS

First Test Batch Brews on Second Avenue; Building Smells Like Bread Again

Thirty-nine years after the Co-op closed, something is warm in the old creamery — and a covered sign out front bears a name the Holts confirm exists and decline to reveal.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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AROUND TOWN

Mrs. Aune Drops By the Library, Inspects the Ladder, Is Gently Sent Home

Her first public appearance since coming home: ten minutes, one shelving correction — the one Megan left unfixed on purpose — and a verdict of “very satisfactory.”

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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COUNTY 9

The Turtle Is Back on County 9; Crew Paints Around It Again, Now by Policy

What was improvisation in June is procedure in July: “Paint around wildlife when practicable” is now in the county binder, and the bend has a bulge again.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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COUNTY FAIR

Final Call: Fair Entries Close a Week Saturday

Two dollars, all categories, ribbons as merited — and a plea from the fair board: enter the pickles. “They’re wrong roughly half the time, and the only way to find out which half is the two dollars.”

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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LAKES & OUTDOORS IN THIS EDITION





OUTDOORS

The Juveniles Have Discovered Their Wings; Results So Far Mixed

Flight training has begun on Big Pelican — long, loud, splashing runs that end, for now, exactly where they start. Greta's log: "The brave one crashes farther."

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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FISHING REPORT

After the Tournament: the Walleye Don't Notice, and the Bass Are Educated

Fifty boats will teach a lake's bass a few things. Everything else proceeds as scheduled, which in late July means early, deep, and worth it.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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SPORTS IN THIS EDITION





FISHING

Smallmouth Bag Wins the Tournament at 19-4; the Annual Argument Reverses Course

The Pederson brothers took the blue off the south rocks — and for the first time in memory, it's the largemouth camp complaining that a pound is a pound.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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LEGION BASEBALL

Post 162 Climbs Above .500 for the First Time This Deep in a Summer Since 2018

A two-win week — Lindholm went seven Wednesday under the working light — puts the nine on the sunny side of even with three weeks to play.

BY CURT "SONNY" HALVORSEN, SPORTS • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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OPINION COLUMNS & EDITORIALS





OUR VIEW • EDITORIAL

Our View: What the Room Got Right

We declined to tell the town what to think about the pasture. This week we report what it did instead, which was better than thinking. It listened.

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor: On Graciousness, Briefly

A correspondent writes to say she will not be responding to last week's letter, and takes four paragraphs to not do so. She closes with a horticultural report.

BY C. BJORNSTAD, RURAL MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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LIVING FEATURES





THE KLATCH • FROM EUNICE

Vern Was Surprised, the Zucchini Has Landed, and the Dishes Are Migrating Home

Eunice on a birthday performed to a full house, the season's first anonymous squash drop, and the July current carrying casserole dishes back where they came from.

BY EUNICE DAHLQUIST, THE KLATCH & LIVING • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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MILESTONES

Forty Years of “Open Most Days”: The Sorensens Approach a Rare Early Close

They married August 1, 1986, and closed the hardware store early exactly once — that day. On their fortieth, they’ll do it again. The secret, per Walt: “Separate key rings.”

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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THE KLATCH • STARS OVER THE CHAIN

Yes, She Is Real: A Call on Sigrid Pelto, Who Reads the Stars From the End of Her Dock

Summer readers keep writing to ask whether the horoscope lady exists. She does. She was home, the coffee was on, and there is exactly one prediction she will release out of turn.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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SCHOOLS





SCHOOLS

Week Two at Band Camp: A Melody Is Positively Identified

The breakthrough came Wednesday at 10:40 a.m., when a passerby recognized the tune unprompted. The lawn concert is set: Thursday, August 13.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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SCHOOLS

The Spelldown Has Its Pronouncer: Brekke Steps Up Where Teachers Feared to Tread

The retired band director accepted in one sentence: “I have stood in front of children holding trombones. Words hold no terror.”

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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SCHOOLS • OAKVIEW

Six Weeks Out, Oakview Is Waxed and Mrs. Nyberg Is In

The first teacher in the building every year has arrived on schedule — hers. One book per desk in Room 6, tape cut for names that are still August's business, and a standard quietly set for the fall's new hires.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 21, 2026

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