



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.

NEWS

Four Votes, Five Conditions, and Eighteen Lots Still on the Map: Hagen Plan Moves to the Council

After six weeks, sixty-six written comments, two file drawers, one full public hearing and a special meeting that used almost every chair again, the planning board recommended conditional approval of the Hagen-pasture subdivision. It is not a final approval, and everybody in the room knew the difference.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026



THE PLANNING BOARD WORKS THROUGH THE HAGEN RECORD TUESDAY NIGHT AS RESIDENTS FILL THE FOLDING CHAIRS BEHIND IT. THE RECOMMENDATION ADVANCED 4-1 WITH FIVE CONDITIONS. — PILOT-INDEPENDENT PHOTO

MISQUAH — The planning board voted 4-1 Tuesday night to recommend conditional approval of North Pine Land & Homes' proposed eighteen-lot subdivision on the former Hagen pasture, sending the matter to the City Council after a summer in which the file acquired a second drawer, sixty-six written comments, nineteen pages of hearing minutes and a reputation larger than the forty-one acres themselves. At 9:18 p.m., after two

hours and eleven minutes of discussion, Commissioner Hovde moved to recommend conditional approval of the eighteen-lot preliminary plat subject to five conditions. Commissioner Ellefson seconded. Chairman Ross Vig restated the motion, asked Clerk Donna Skoglund to read the conditions back once, and then called the roll. The recommendation keeps all eighteen lots in the preliminary plat but attaches five

conditions before a final plat could be considered: a single common shoreline-access plan in place of eighteen individual dock locations; county-engineer approval of a widened entrance shoulder and turning area; site-specific septic and well review before any building permit; a seventy-five-foot vegetated shoreline buffer except for approved access corridors; and a final stormwater plan acceptable to the city engineer. Those five conditions are not decorative language. Under the recommendation, North Pine would have to submit revised drawings showing the common-access area and shoreline corridor

before staff would place a final plat on a council agenda. Individual lots would still be sold separately, but shoreline use would be governed through the common plan. The county-road work would have to be approved before the city signs off on the development agreement, and septic and well approvals would happen lot by lot rather than by assumption on the preliminary map. “The word tonight is recommendation,” Vig said after the vote. “Not approval, not construction, not somebody showing up with a backhoe Thursday. We are telling the council what we think can work and under what conditions.”

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NEWS IN THIS EDITION

NEWS

Mrs. Aune Came Back, Drew a Loon Above the Eagle, and Forty-One Children Stood Up

The summer reading finale ended with certificates, melting ice cream, one green pen and the answer to a blank space the library had been guarding for three weeks.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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NEWS

Eight Hundred Ninety-Four Pounds Looked Smaller in St. Paul, Which Was the Point

The county-record pumpkin did not place at the State Fair. C. Bjornstad stood beside pumpkins that made his look reasonable, filled three notebook pages, and came home pleased to have been made small.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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NEWS

Three Vekved Girls Took Three Ribbons South and Are Missing the First Two Days of School

The dairy-barn sweep from Pine County became a State Fair week of long classes, respectable placings and homework on an aunt's kitchen table in Roseville.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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NEWS

The “Chain of Lakes” Quilt Is Hanging Straight, and the Ladies’ Aid Has Inspected the Lighting

Seven women drove south to see the quilt they spent roughly four hundred hours making. It is not in competition. This did not prevent a complete evaluation of the display.

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NEWS



Loon Ridge Went from About One Hundred Forty Guests to Thirty-One Before Lunch

The Sunday after the county fair did what it always does: emptied the resort faster than housekeeping could turn the rooms, even with Labor Day still a week away.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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NEWS

Tomorrow's First Bell Is Five Days Before Labor Day, and the Buses Are Still Running at the Same Time

Lakeside opens Wednesday under the Legislature's temporary waiver, becoming the first pre-Labor Day start in district history. Thirty-one kindergartners begin in two sections; eleven 4-H students begin from St. Paul.

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NEWS

The Fairgrounds Are Empty Again Except for Mud, Stakes and One Picnic Table Nobody Will Admit Owning

The midway left overnight, the livestock barns were swept by Wednesday, and the new shade fly has been folded into the pavilion inventory. Eleven borrowed tables have gone home. Number twelve remains under discussion.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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NEWS



Mud Lake Brewing Is Seventeen Days Old, and Somebody Finally Sat Down Without Waiting

The opening-day line is gone, the Friday taco-truck arrangement is now routine, and the Holts have reached the stage of a new business where the town has started complaining about ordinary things.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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LAKES & OUTDOORS IN THIS EDITION



LAKES & OUTDOORS

The Young Loons Are Still Here, and Now Nobody Is Leading Them

The adults left during fair week. Both juveniles remain on Big Pelican, flying every morning and feeding on their own. Greta Solberg's LEAVING page has room left on it.

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LAKES & OUTDOORS

Sixty-Six Degrees, Crawlers Slow, and the First Honest Fall Bite Starting to Show

Fair week gave the lake a rest. This week gave it people back. The water is cooling, the deep-summer pattern is loosening and Tim Brevik has stopped pretending a jacket at dawn is optional.

BY TIM BREVIK • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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LAKES & OUTDOORS



The Last Big Weekend Is Coming, and the Lake Will Be Full One More Time

Labor Day closes the State Fair, the family-vacation season and, unofficially, the part of summer when somebody is always backing a trailer down the landing.

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SPORTS IN THIS EDITION



SPORTS

Pike Opens Friday on the Road, With Twenty-Nine Players and No More Zipper Training

Coach Ryan Mattox got through two-a-days and the fair scrimmage healthy. The first game counts Friday, which is why the week has become noticeably less funny.

BY CURT “SONNY” HALVORSEN • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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SPORTS

Volleyball Has Twenty-Two Out, Cross Country Has Eleven, and Everybody Gets a Real Schedule Now

The rest of the fall season begins as school begins: volleyball at home Thursday, runners next week, and Denny Dahl says the copier is cooperating under observation.

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OPINION

Our View: A Recommendation Is Work, Not Victory

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OPINION

Letter: The Calendar Has Two Ends

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OPINION

Letter: On Seeing the Real Ones

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OPINION

Letter: It Should Have Been Zero

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OPINION

Letter: Eighteen Should Have Meant Eighteen

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THE KLATCH & LIVING

The State Fair Ride Sheet at the Daybreak Has Become a Small Transportation Department

Twenty-seven names, nine vehicles, four different departure times and one note reading “NOT THE 6 A.M. GROUP.” Pat Reinholt says everybody will get there.

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THE KLATCH & LIVING

State Fair Coffee Costs Enough That the Daybreak Has Heard About It Forty-Two Times

The town has now established the St. Paul price of coffee to within twenty-five cents, despite nobody being asked to conduct the survey.

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THE KLATCH & LIVING

The Week After the Fair Is Laundry Week, Whether You Exhibited Anything or Not

Red mud came home on boots, quilts came home in garbage bags, livestock shirts came home in plastic tubs and somebody is still finding mini-donut sugar in a truck seat.

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SCHOOLS

Barb Nyberg Put One Book on Every Desk, and Room 6 Is Ready Again

Twenty-three Septembers taught, a twenty-fourth beginning tomorrow, and the third-grade room still gets walked once at child height before the name tags go down.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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SCHOOLS

Doris's Word Lists Have Been Copied, and "Onomatopoeia" Survived the First Cut

The first Doris Knutson Spelldown is still three weeks away, but the six manila folders are now a working document and Phil Brekke has begun pronouncing at walls.

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