



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.

SCHOOLS

Three Days, a Holiday, and Then a Tuesday: The Strangest First Week Anybody Can Remember

Lakeside opened Wednesday before Labor Day for the first time in district history, ran three days, closed for the holiday, and started again this morning. Enrollment is 412. Nobody was late on Wednesday and eleven people were late today.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026



STUDENTS ARRIVE AT LAKESIDE ON TUESDAY MORNING FOR WHAT MANY FAMILIES DESCRIBED AS A SECOND FIRST DAY AFTER THE LABOR DAY BREAK. — PILOT-INDEPENDENT PHOTO

The first bell rang at 8:10 Wednesday morning, five days before Labor Day, and by every measure the district keeps, the day went the way first days go: 412 students, no bus later than nine minutes, one kindergartner who would not let go of a mother's sleeve until 8:40 and who was fine by 8:50.

Then the week did what this year's calendar made it do. Three days of school. A holiday. And then this morning, a Tuesday that a good

many people described as a second first day.

It is the first pre-Labor Day opening in district history, permitted by a temporary state-law exception the board voted in March to use, not unanimously. Minnesota has required a post-Labor Day start since 1985; because the holiday fell on September 7 this year, the Legislature allowed boards to open any day from September 1, this school year and next.

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IN BRIEF · ELSEWHERE IN NO. 36

City hall. A handwritten 8, read aloud as a 6. The adopted motion says sixteen, and the board voted 4–1 to leave it there. →

Big Pelican. Two on Saturday, one on Sunday. The log reads SEPT. 6 — ONE. →

4-H. Eleven came home with blues and reds and no purples. Christopher Jonson, 17, aged out. →

The ballot. Absentee voting opens Sept. 18. Three candidates for two council seats; one school board seat drew nobody. →

Sept. 25. Homecoming and the Spelldown landed on the same Friday and only one of them can have the gym. →

County 12. The sweet-corn stand closed Saturday at 2:20, its sixtieth season and its first without Arvid. →

“I would rather be right by accident than wrong on purpose.”

— Sherry Niskanen, who voted against eighteen and moved to keep the sixteen · [page one](#)

NEWS IN THIS EDITION



SCHOOLS

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THE HAGEN PASTURE



The Motion Says Sixteen: A Handwritten 8, Read Aloud as a 6, Is Now the Official Record

Clerk Donna Skoglund found the error herself while assembling the council packet. The planning board met Thursday to decide whether to correct it and voted 4–1 to leave it exactly as adopted.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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THE HAGEN PASTURE

What Sixteen Changes

Two lots, a redrawn plat, and one number the developer says he can live with. A plain accounting of the difference between what was proposed and what was adopted.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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STATE FAIR • 4-H

Eleven Came Home: The Delegation's Results, and One Member's Last Trip

Final placings for the Misquah 4-H delegation, posted at the extension office as they arrived. Nobody won a purple. Two came close, one came home annoyed, and Christopher Jonson aged out on a Sunday afternoon.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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LABOR DAY

The Town Came Home Monday Evening, Mostly in Order

Twelve days of State Fair ended at nine Monday night. The trailers were back by eleven, the campers by Tuesday noon, and one household is still missing a cooler.



BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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MILESTONES

The Roof Funds Enter Year Fifteen Today, Which Nobody Is Marking

Three separate roof funds — First Lutheran's basement, the pavilion, and the rec warming house — pass fourteen years today. One of them has a beer attached to it now.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

Absentee Voting Opens September 18, and There Are Two Contested Seats

The city clerk's office begins issuing absentee ballots a week from Friday. Two council seats drew three candidates; one school board seat drew none and will be filled by write-in or appointment.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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COUNTY FAIR

The Ice Machine Goes First on Tonight's Agenda

The fair board holds its postmortem at the grounds office at 7. Attendance was the best since 2016; the ice failed Thursday at noon; and there is a letter about the Forest Club building.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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COUNTY 12



The Stand Closed Saturday at Twenty Past Two

The Paulson sweet-corn stand finished its sixtieth season and its first without Arvid. Dale opened at six every morning it ran, as instructed.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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LAKES & OUTDOORS IN THIS EDITION



THE LOONS OF BIG PELICAN

One Went

Greta Solberg checked Saturday and found two. She checked Sunday and found one. The second bird is still on the water.

BY TIM BREVIK • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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THE FISHING REPORT

Sixty-Four Degrees and Climbing Out of Summer

Tim Brevik on the fall turn: walleye up on the breaks, the grouse opener Saturday, and a reminder that the ramp lip is still there and the county still knows.

BY TIM BREVIK • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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THE SEASON

Twenty-Two Guests, Nine Cabins Closed, and the Docks Come Out in Two Weeks

Loon Ridge got its Labor Day weekend bump, lost it Monday, and is now into the part of the season Renée Fontaine says she keeps the place open for.



BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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SPORTS IN THIS EDITION



PIKE FOOTBALL

Braham 21, Pike 14: A Good Loss, If There Is Such a Thing, and Sonny Says There Is

The Pike opener came down to a fourth-quarter drive that stalled at the Braham 12. Twenty-nine players dressed, nobody got hurt, and the line did what the coach said it would.

BY CURT “SONNY” HALVORSEN • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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FALL SPORTS

Volleyball Splits Its Scrimmage, and Cross Country Runs Eleven at Sandstone

A Saturday scrimmage that told the coach three things, and an invitational where the Pike runners finished in the middle and one of them finished in front.

BY CURT “SONNY” HALVORSEN • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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FALL SPORTS

Fall Schedules and Results, in Agate

Scores from the opening week and the schedule through the end of September, as of Monday.

BY CURT “SONNY” HALVORSEN • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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OUR VIEW

Our View: The Record Is the Record

A clerk found her own mistake, told everybody the same afternoon, and a board decided to live with the result. We think two of those three things were plainly right.

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter: Two Houses and a Loop

A. Lindgren of Third Avenue on the difference a pen makes.

BY A. LINDGREN, THIRD AVENUE • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter: I Will Take It

L. Sundquist of Loon Lake Road responds to the sixteen-lot record.

BY L. SUNDQUIST, LOON LAKE ROAD • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

Corrections & Amplifications

Two corrections this week, one a matter of wording and one a matter of fairness.

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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THE KLATCH • FROM EUNICE

The Table Read the Minutes Out Loud Again and This Time There Was Something in Them

Eunice on the week the town got busy again: children on the sidewalk, a clerk who told on herself, and the first cold morning that made anybody say anything.

BY EUNICE DAHLQUIST • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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SECOND AVENUE

The Brewery Turns One Month Old Saturday and Will Be Marking It by Opening at Noon

Mud Lake Brewing Co. has been open twenty-four days. The Holts have announced no event, no special release and no ceremony, and report that this has disappointed several people.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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THE DAYBREAK

The Ride Sheet Comes Down and the Hunting Sheet Goes Up

Pat Reinholt's legal pad matched fourteen drivers with twenty-six riders over twelve days. It came down Monday. Something else is already taped in its place.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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SCHOOLS





SCHOOLS

Thirty-One Kindergartners Went to Full Days This Morning, and the Rest Period Begins Today

Two sections, half days behind them, and the twenty hardest minutes of a September afternoon still ahead. Kara Lindvall, in her fourth year, has been counting down to it since Friday.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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SCHOOLS

Homecoming and the Spelldown Are Both on the Twenty-Fifth, and Only One of Them Can Have the Gym

The first Doris Knutson Spelldown and the homecoming football game landed on the same Friday. Nobody noticed until last week. Two committees are being polite about it.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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SCHOOLS

Two Empty Days, Three Desks Filled Friday

The Vekved triplets missed Wednesday and Thursday of seventh grade for the State Fair dairy shows, drove home Thursday night, and were in class Friday morning with the rest of them.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON • SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

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ALSO IN NO. 36

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