


Public & Legal Notices



MOBILE FOOD DROP

Date: Monday, December 29, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or until food runs out

Location: Great Northern Drive, Bagley, MN

Food will be available for drive through pickup.

Questions: Contact Kristin Osowski @ 218-399-7360

***Please make sure not to block driveways!!



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FOOD BANK, INC.
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United Way
United Way of Bemidji Area

In partnership with:

Clearwater County
Food Shelf



One of the wisdoms our grandparents is that “It’s an ill wind that blows no good.” Meaning that an event some might find unfortunate could be seen by others as positive, or even a blessing.

That expression could be applied to the recent snows that so recently swept across Minnesota in a swath from northwest to southeast. Minnesotans’ feelings about our winter weather can be as polarized as they are on political issues. Some look forward to and savor the dramatic seasonal changes and the alternative recreations that winter brings. Others passionately dislike the cold, the ice-covered sidewalks, and the snow that blankets the landscape, limits mobility, and makes driving treacherous.

Wild creatures may not have the powers of perception to anticipate and respond emotionally as we do, but the character of our winters most certainly affects them. All those that do not migrate to more temperate southward destinations face survival challenges. And, in one way or another, their hazard is determined by the nature and magnitude of the wintry elements.

This latest snow event, added to snow already on the ground, has left a substantial share of central and northern Minnesota with snow depths that range from 12 to 16 inches. The timing is certainly not unique, but this earlier-than-normal accumulation could set us up for what our grandparents

Early Snow Brings Both Cheers and Fears

might call “a good old-fashioned Minnesota winter.” Those whose livelihood is directly tied to this sort of winter are understandably enthusiastic. If you’re a snowmobile dealer, a retailer who sells cross-country ski or snowshoe gear, a hardware or big box store that sells snow-throwers and shovels, or if you operate a plowing and snow removal business, you’re excited about the look of winter thus far.

The enthusiasm will be mutual if you’re an avid snowmobiler, skier, or snowshoer. Groomed snowmobile and cross-country trails in those areas blessed by the abundant snowfall should be in great condition. Many downhill ski areas have snow making equipment, but for snowboarders and downhill skiers, there’s no such thing as too much snow.

Also anticipating hearing the “cha-ching” of their cash register are travel agents who sell getaway vacation packages to destinations like Arizona, the Gulf Coast, or the Bahamas. By February there will probably be a growing number of MINOs—Minnesotan In Name Only—who will eagerly trade their scarves and neck warmers for tee-shirts, shorts, and sunblock!

Ice fishermen are not enthusiastic about heavy snow events that occur early, before there is substantial ice thickness. On the lake where I do most of my open water fishing, the main portion achieved a covering of ice less than a week before heavy snow arrived the second week of December. The consequence of too much snow over too little

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION

~ Eden Township ~

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: To the qualified voter(s) of Eden Township, County of Polk, State of Minnesota, that the annual election of town officers and annual town meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday on March 17, 2026, and in case of inclement weather the election and meeting will be held March 24, 2026.

The election poll hours will be open from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at which time the voter will elect.

1 township supervisor for a 3 year term
1 clerk-treasurer for a 2 year term.

The annual meeting will commence at 8:00 pm to conduct all necessary business provided by law.

Filing for township office opens on December 27, 2025, and will continue until January 13, 2026, until 5:00 pm.

Affidavits of candidacy may be filled with the clerk-treasurer Dennis Erickson, 39741 320th St. SE Gully, MN 56646. Phone 218-268-4590. A \$2.00 filing fee is required by law.

~ Dennis Erickson Clerk-Treasurer

ice can be a slush layer on the surface—making on-ice travel difficult—and more time needed before the ice is uniformly solid enough to support the weight of vehicles, especially heavier ones pulling wheelhouse-type angling shelters.

Wildlife also absorbs the impacts and consequences of the weather that comes with a Minnesota winter. Coming immediately to mind are whitetail deer, big game that is still in-season through the end of December if you hunt with a bow.

Following two winters in a row with modest snow depths—widely believed to have led to better winter deer survival—the first two weeks of the 2025 general firearms deer season saw a harvest increase of roughly 9% over 2024. When the total deer harvest during all firearm and archery season frameworks is finally tallied, there’s little doubt that 2025 will be a plus over 2024.

But what the 2026 season will bring could be influenced by the Minnesota weather from now through spring. When snow reaches 15 inches it begins to impact deer movement and the effort they must expend in their travels between feeding and security areas; not to mention their efforts to escape a primary predator, the Eastern gray wolf. When deer movement is too greatly restricted for too long a period, starvation can be the outcome. As you might expect, the difficulty may be greatest for younger, smaller deer.

Our Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other wildlife agencies in the snow belt states use a measurement called the winter severity index, or WSI, to anticipate the likely

impact of deep snow and cold temperatures on deer survival. The WSI counts the number of days throughout the winter with 15 or more inches of snow on the ground, and days with temperatures of zero, or below, Fahrenheit. A total of 50 or fewer such days is considered a mild winter, 120 or more days severe, and WSI totals in between a moderate winter.



Based on 36 years of keeping this data, Minnesota DNR records show an average of about one out of every four winters to be severe in terms of deer survival. This doesn’t mean that severe winters can’t occur back-to-back, as did the last two moderate winters. The timing of thawing weather in late winter and spring has a direct bearing on how severe the winter will prove to be for deer survival. An early spring can be a boon to winter-stressed deer. That said, the earlier those deep snow and sub-zero days begin—like this year—the higher the probability of a deer-stressing winter.

While deep snow is generally the bane of Minnesota’s whitetail deer, it’s a boon to ruffed grouse, the most sought-after upland game bird in Central and

Clearbrook-Gonvick School Menu

December 22 - 26

Monday: Cook’s choice
SNACK: Assorted

Tuesday: Cook’s choice
SNACK: Assorted

Wednesday: No School - Christmas break

Thursday: No School - Christmas break

Friday: No School - Christmas break

Breakfast

Monday: Waffle sticks, syrup, yogurt, fruit, juice and milk

Tuesday: Biscuit with gravy, fruit, juice and milk

Wednesday: Breakfast sandwich, fruit, juice and milk

Thursday: French toast sticks with syrup, sausage links, fruit, juice and milk

Friday: Breakfast roll, string cheese, fruit, juice and milk

Northern Minnesota. When snow is deep enough—about 10 inches, give or take—grouse burrow under the surface, sheltered there from the wind and the coldest air, not to mention from roving predators, and leave this “snow roost” generally only to feed. Soft, fluffy snow’s insulation properties can keep a grouse many degrees warmer than if it is exposed to the elements.

Like whitetail deer, pheasants do best during mild

winters. Perhaps the best winter pheasant shelter is found in dense wetland cattail stands. Ideally these are not far from harvested crop fields and weedy fencerows and uncut ditches, where they feed on crop “leftovers” and weed seeds. But when deep snow covers farm fields and those weedy fencerows and ditches and fills those wetlands—diminishing their protective qualities, pheasants will suffer.

Despite the sophistication of modern forecasting, “unpredictable” is still a term that applies to weather in general, and a Minnesota winter in particular. About all we can do is prepare for what might be coming our way, and make the best of it, knowing that one size does not fit all.

Bagley Senior Center Menu

December 22 - 26

Monday: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables and cookie

Tuesday: Italian chicken breast, baked potato, California blend and Jell-o

Wednesday: Cook’s Choice

Thursday: Closed - Merry Christmas!!

Friday: Closed

- Low fat milk, margarine and Bread included with meals.
- Meals are subject to change.
- Reservations by 10 am
- Meals Served at 11:30 am

Call Kay 9:30-1:00
Mon-Fri 218-694-6873

Suggested Donation for Seniors is \$6.00. Under 60 is \$10.00

Senior Transportation Service

Clearwater County residents who are 60 & over. Rides are scheduled Monday-Friday. 48-hour notice required. Call 218-888-2320 to schedule.

****This project is made possible in part under the Federal Older Americans Act through an award from the Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging under an Area Plan approved by the Minnesota Board on Aging.**

Clearwater County Food Shelf Hours

Clearwater County Food Shelf is open every Wednesday from 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the basement of the Bagley American Legion (go to the back door).

Monetary contributions can be mailed to Clearwater County Food Shelf, PO Box 578, Bagley, MN 56621.

Food donations can be dropped off at the Food Shelf on Wednesdays. tf-psa

Bemidji DAV Van

The Bemidji DAV Van runs through Shevlin, Bagley, Fosston, Clearbrook, and Leonard at no cost to Veterans 5 days a week except on holidays.

Call **855-277-9787** for your free ride: Clearwater CVSO has our schedules with names and numbers.

PSA



Veterans

Are welcome to join their peers at the D&R Café in Bagley on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. for coffee and a chat.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources permanently protects nearly 16,000 acres, the agency’s largest acquisition in recent history

efforts made possible in partnership with The Conservation Fund (TCF), Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLTL), and multiple Minnesota counties.

These efforts began with TCF purchasing land from PotlatchDeltic Corporation between 2018 and 2022, with the intent of preserving large blocks of forest land. The DNR and counties then worked in collaboration to identify their respective acquisition priorities and secure funding.

“For the benefit of all Minnesotans and the state’s economy, we’re expanding recreational access, helping local wildlife thrive and ensuring that working forests can keep working,” said Kim Berns-Melhus, Minnesota State Director at TCF. “This outcome protects jobs in the forest industry, protects the lands we all need and love, and protects our shared heritage for future generations to enjoy.”

In one transaction, with funding from the Minnesota Legacy Outdoor Heritage Fund, the DNR collaborated with NWLTL and the counties

to strategically select 10,675 acres within Aitkin, Becker, Carlton, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, and Wadena counties. These lands will expand existing wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, and state forests.

“By keeping these forested lands forested, we are strengthening the ecological health of our region and creating new opportunities for people to explore and enjoy the outdoors,” said Annie Knight, Executive Director of Northern Waters Land Trust. “These lands will continue to support clean water, thriving wildlife habitat, and the connection communities feel to Minnesota’s natural places.”

In the second transaction, the DNR acquired 5,120 acres in St. Louis County using Reinvest in Minnesota dollars. These lands will expand and consolidate ownership in existing state forests, creating larger, contiguous blocks of DNR land.

“This project will benefit local economies, wildlife

habitat, and the public well into the future.” said Jason Meyer, St. Louis County Director of Land and Minerals. “The collaborative effort of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and St. Louis County proved successful in consolidating important and productive forestlands for wildlife habitat and sustainable forest products, while securing the land for public use. It is projects like these which help strengthen local communities by providing economic, environmental, and recreational opportunities for the good of the region.”

The newly acquired state public land belongs to all Minnesotans. As with all land the DNR manages, the mix of management purposes and allowable activities will vary based on the specific land designation. For example, wildlife management areas are managed for wildlife production and to provide hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching opportunities, whereas scientific and natural areas preserve some of the last remaining habitat for

Minnesota’s rarest plants and animals and are open to recreational activities that do not disturb natural conditions. State forests support multiple benefits including habitat, clean air and water, carbon sequestration and storage, sustainable forest products, and a variety of recreational activities.

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