Natural connections

A closer look at bird banding.

in Northland Outdoors, Page A10



SUPERIOR Tele

Covering Northwest Wisconsin since 1890

Friday, August 19, 2022



Photos by Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram

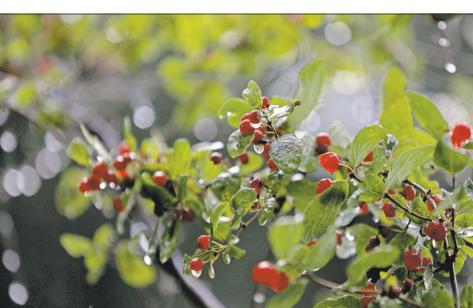
A chipmunk stays dry as it takes cover in the trees off a trail in Billings Park as another rain shower moved into Superior on Wednesday.

STILLNESS IN THE AIR

Superior he trails around Billings Park had a different look to them Wednesday, Aug. 17, between rain showers.

The sounds of rain dripping from leaves sounded like distant packs of firecrackers going off as it interrupted the quiet and stillness in the park after a soaking rain went through.

Some animals in the park tried to keep their fur or feathers dry as others paid no attention and went about their day. For a moment, the sun peeked out from around the clouds before hiding as more rain chased it away.





berries along a path near the St. Louis River at Billings Park on Wednesday. Left: The sun reflects in the puddle of a leaf on the ground on the trail around Billings Park in Superior on Wednesday.



Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram Chris Rubesch, registered nurse at Essentia

Health, talks about moving forward after the Minnesota Nurses Association voted to authorize a strike during a news conference at the Duluth Labor Temple on Tuesday morning.

Minnesota nurses vote in favor of strike

By Laura Butterbrodt **Duluth News Tribune**

DULUTH — Nurses in the Minnesota Nurses Association, including those in the Twin Ports, have voted to authorize a strike, the MNA announced late Monday night.

The 15,000 MNA members in the Twin Ports and Twin Cities "overwhelmvoted ingly" in favor of the strike, according to the news release from MNA. The vote was taken among nurses at 15 hospitals under seven hospital systems. Nurse negotiation leaders are now authorized to call a strike following a 10-day notice to hospi tal employers.

Chris Rubesch, first vice president of MNA and a registered nurse at Essentia Health, said he couldn't release specific vote tallies, but it was very clear nurs-es were in favor of the strike.

"I cannot use enough descriptor words to emphasize how overwhelming both turnout and the vote was," Rubesch said. "I mean, this was not even close."

The strike would be the first time Twin Cities and Twin Ports nurses took such an action together in connegotiations. tract Rubesch said the 15 hospitals involved in the vote are in discussions for when a strike could happen and what the strike would entail. NURSES: Page A3

He said if the notice for a strike is given, all participating MNA bodies would strike at the same time. Hospitals affected by the strike would be announced at the time the 10-day notice is given.

In statements, Essentia Health and St. Luke's said they are creating contingency plans in anticipation of MNA-member nurses going on strike to ensure there will still be patient care available.

"We are disappointed

by the vote because we believe no one wins in a strike — and we have a shared responsibility to provide quality care to the patients and communities we are privileged to serve," Essentia said in the statement. "Please note, however, that this vote does not mean a strike is imminent."

Nurses have been in contract negotiations across the state since March, and have been working without contracts since July 1. The nurses recently took a vote of no confidence in several Minnesota hospital executives, including St. Luke's co-CEOs Eric Lohn and Nick Van Deelen.

MNA members have spoken out several times about their frustrations with adminincluding istration, unsafe staffing levels and low retention rates.

GET HOME DELIVERY

(715) 395-5050 or (715) 395-5000

CONTACT US

Send news tips to editorial@ superiortelegram.com or call 715-395-5000

> **VOL. 131** NO. 35



\$2.00



Above: Rain drips off

Get the newspaper format you love **EVERY DAY.**



time after 6 a.m. that day's print



Superior man sentenced to 48 years in prison

serve an additional seven the criminal complaint.

years in prison and two A Douglas County deputy

years of extended super- found one bullet lodged

By Shelley Nelson Superior Telegram

SUPERIOR — A Superior man will spend 48 years in prison on multiple charges, the most serious of which was attempted first-degree homicide, for an April 2021 incident.

Billy John Kimmes, 48, was sentenced Monday, Aug. 15, after being convicted by a jury in April of shooting into a truck occupied by two people traveling along U.S. Highway 2 in Maple. Douglas County Circuit Court Judge Kelly Thimm

handed down consecu-

tive sentences for a total

supervision. T h e attempt-

homicide charge longest yielded the stretch of the sentence — 25 years of confinement and five years extended supervision shooting that occurred before 6 a.m. April 21, 2021, along U.S. Highway 2 in Maple. Kimmes will ing lane, according to

of 48 years vision for first-degree prison recklessly endangering and 14 years safety by use of a dangerous weapon, and five of extended years in prison with two years of extended supervision for discharging a firearm from a vehicle toward a vehicle stem-

ming from the shooting. The victim and passenger were heading to work in Wentworth when the victim heard two loud for a vehicle-to-vehicle bangs and realized his truck had been shot at

after a vehicle pulled up

next to him in the pass-

door. The other bullet passed through the front door and went through the driver's seat, leaving fragments on the rear floorboard area. The owner of the truck

in the rear driver's side

told the deputy he had a run-in with Kimmes at the victim's home eight or nine months prior to the shooting, but hadn't seen Kimmes since.

The sheriff's office was able to tie Kimmes to the shooting using the GPS data from his cell phone and a description of the vehicle, according to the criminal complaint.

KIMMES: Page A3