

Natural connections

A closer look at bird banding.

in Northland Outdoors, Page A10



SUPERIOR Telegram

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

The 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.



Above: Rain drips off 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 voted “overwhelmingly” 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 hospital 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 nurses 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 contract negotiations. Rubesch said the 15 hospitals involved in the vote are in discussions for when a strike could happen and what the strike would entail.

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 administration, including unsafe staffing levels and low retention rates.

NURSES: Page A3

Superior man sentenced to 48 years in prison

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 consecutive sentences for a total



Kimmes

of 48 years in prison and 14 years of extended supervision. The attempted homicide charge yielded the longest stretch of the sentence — 25 years of confinement and five years extended supervision — for a vehicle-to-vehicle shooting that occurred before 6 a.m. April 21, 2021, along U.S. Highway 2 in Maple. Kimmes will serve an additional seven years in prison and two years of extended super-

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

The victim and passenger were heading to work in Wentworth when the victim heard two loud bangs and realized his truck had been shot at after a vehicle pulled up next to him in the passing lane, according to the criminal complaint. A Douglas County deputy found one bullet lodged

in the rear driver’s side 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 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

GET HOME DELIVERY
(715) 395-5050
or (715) 395-5000

CONTACT US
Send news tips to
editorial@
superioretelegram.com
or call 715-395-5000

**VOL. 131
NO. 35**



\$2.00

Get the newspaper format you love EVERY DAY.



Open your phone or tablet’s camera and point it at the code below any time after 6 a.m. each day to access that day’s print replica.

SCAN ME



Available even on days your print paper is not delivered!