

North Central SBDC offers no-cost consulting, training on Minnesota paid leave for employees

With Minnesota Paid Leave now in effect, the North Central Small Business Development Center at Central Lakes College is hosting a series of no-cost Lunch and Learn trainings to help businesses understand and implement the new law.

Each one-hour session covers Minnesota Paid Leave basics for employers, including key responsibilities, payroll contributions, reporting considerations and how the program may interact with existing leave policies.

The goal is to provide clear, practical guidance that business owners can immediately apply.

Lunch, learn trainings:

- March 17, noon in Pine River
- March 24, noon in Aitkin
- March 31, noon in Walker
- April 14, noon in Brainerd
- April 20, noon in Wadena

In addition to the trainings, one-on-one consulting is available for small businesses that want more individualized support. To register for a Lunch and Learn training or request consulting, visit www.northcen.tralsbdc.com/paid-leave.

Consulting and training are offered at no cost through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Paid Leave Outreach Grant.

The North Central Small Business Development Center provides no-cost, confidential business consulting, training and resources to entrepreneurs and small business owners across an 11-county region, as well as the Leech Lakes and Mille Lacs Bands.

Pioneer Corner: from the Cass County archives

Editor's note: Articles submitted by the Cass County Historical Society will appear in The Pilot-Independent on a recurring basis.

Martin J. Quam came to the US in 1870 and settled in Brainerd where he worked as a photographer. He moved to Walker in 1897, where in partnership with Mr. Drysdale, built a large two-story frame building and opened the Scandia Clothing company, a gents' furnishings store.

Mr. Drysdale opened an art gallery in connection with the store and a photography studio close to the May Creek outlet.

Quam was appointed registrar of deeds in 1901 and served in that capacity until 1910 when he opened a general/grocery store in Walker's first courthouse on the corner of Fifth Street and Minnesota Avenue, which he operated for 20 years. The building was built in 1896 and also served as our first school, the

sheriff's office in 1904, the post office, a dentist's and chiropractor's offices, Taylor & Company clothing store and the Turf Saloon in 1908.

Quam was forced to close his grocery store in 1928 because of his generosity in giving food on credit. Up to within a few days of his death in 1943, he operated a real estate business here.

Synva Thue, 23 years old, came to Walker in 1907, fresh from nurses training in North Dakota to take a job as head nurse with Doctor Wilcox at the hospital located on the corner of Fifth Street and Michigan Avenue. She passed Quam's store daily as she walked to her job at the hospital and he developed an interest in this young lady.

The dedication for Ah-Gwah-Ching was set for December of 1907 and Martin asked Synva to accompany him to the festivities, speakers, a banquet and dancing. The hour was late when they

returned to Walker, the horse knew the way, a tired girl rested her head on Martin's shoulder, and his hand found hers. He sang a popular song of the day while they traveled home.

Synva and Martin were married in October of 1908 in Fargo, and she retired from the nursing profession.

They adopted a baby girl Marguerite in 1917 who died in 1924 from scarlet fever. Synva went back to working at the Walker Hospital until 1934. When Martin died in 1943, she became an employee at Ah-Gwah-Ching until 1950 when she retired.

Synva was one of three persons who sold residential property for the site of Quam Court apartments which were named in her honor and are still operating today.

One of her favorite sayings was, "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, it scarcely

behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."

The Spaulding Hotel and Corner Saloon was among the first hotels built in 1895-96 in Walker. It was a three-story frame structure and had rooms for 40 boarders and a saloon on the ground floor at the corner of Fifth Street and Front Street. John King, born in Ireland, was the owner and was prominent in the political life of Cass County and served as commissioner of District 4 from 1901 to 1905.

John was also Walker village assessor for a number of years. In March of 1903 the hotel caught fire and was totally consumed. The burned-out building was burned to the ground in 1905 and an empty lot occupied the corner until Dave Brassard put up a brick building in 1922 which is presently home to the Jax on 5th restaurant.



DISABLED?
We've Helped Thousands Get Benefits

Contact Us Today For Free Advice

Long-Term Disability
Short-Term Disability
Social Security Disability

218-824-0093
www.GetFields.com


FIELDS LAW FIRM

Turn unwanted items around the house into extra cash!



The Pilot-Independent
P.O. Box 190
Walker, MN 56484
218-547-1000

DigiKey




Want more from where you live?

Join DigiKey in Thief River Falls, Minnesota — where you can work for a world-class global company and still see the stars from your backyard.

Best-in-class benefits include:

- Competitive compensation
- The region's best health plan
- Up to \$5,000 sign-on bonus
- Up to \$7,500 relocation bonus
- Opportunities for career advancement
- Generous paid time off

Enjoy outdoor recreation, a close-knit community, and the stability you deserve at DigiKey.



Find your more at digikeycareers.com

©2025 DigiKey, DigiKey is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

<p>HEALTH HAVE YOU USED hair relaxer and diagnosed with uterine cancer? You may be entitled to compensation. Contact Attorney Charles Johnson 800/535-5727</p>	<p>WANTED TO BUY WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall! Call Dan at 612/720-2142</p>	<p>MISCELLANEOUS SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882</p>
<p>EMPLOYMENT NOW HIRING: HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR Pennington County. Oversee department operations, budget, compliance, and staff. Bachelors required. Salary \$102,170-\$134,805. Apply by March 9, 2026: http://co.pennington.mn.us</p>	<p>WE BUY HOUSES for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683</p>	<p>GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!</p>
<p>Statewide Advertising ONLY \$279 Call Today! 612/332-8844</p>	<p>MISCELLANEOUS SATELLITE TV + INTERNET! Get Dish! Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 in gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309</p>	<p>DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506</p>

Northern Minnesota
The Best Local Providers

Business & Service Directory
Pilot Independent & Co Pilot





2 x 2 ad (3.2" wide x 2" tall)
4 Week Package ONLY \$100

Contact one of our Business & Service Directory Specialists for details on how to include your business in this dynamic program!

Package includes: 4 week print display ad every Wednesday in the Pilot and Saturday in the Co-Pilot
Online Directory listing PLUS a link to your Social Media or Website

Michaela Whitehead
mwhitehead@pilotindependent.com
218-214-7103



services@amm-nomn.com
218-312-1702
www.nomnservices.com