Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Newsletter June 2013



Theater & Event Photos Courtesy of Sarina Otaibi of CURE

Granite Falls was every water lovers' paradise the weekend of May 17th-19th! Folks from near and far were drawn to the Upper Minnesota River Valley for CURE's annual River History Weekend and a special DNR celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the Minnesota River being a designated water trail.

Event goers were treated to a one of a kind Paddling Theater performance featuring several local cast and crew members, guided voyager canoe trips down the Minnesota River, and for the daring - the chance to paddle the newly re-emerged class 3-4 rapids at the site of the former Minnesota Falls Dam!

Add in excellent local foods, wonderful musical entertainment at the Memorial Park, informational presentations and displays on Main Street Granite Falls, tremendous scenic beauty and NO RAIN - it was an amazing experience for all ages to enjoy!





For more on this event read on...

Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce 1st Annual Fishing Contest We Have a Winner!



Adam Savariego, winner of the flathead fishing contest and recipient of a handmade flathead decoy from local artist Curt Soine.

62 Dams Removed to Restore Rivers in 2012

Communities in 19 states, working in partnership with non-profit organizations and state and federal agencies, removed 62 dams in 2012, as announced by American Rivers.

Outdated or unsafe dams came out of rivers in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin, restoring 400 miles of streams for the benefit of fish, wildlife and people across the country.

American Rivers will add the information on these 62 dam removals to its database of nearly 1,100 dams that have been removed across the country since 1912. Most of those dams (nearly 800) were removed in the past 20 years.

American Rivers is the only organization maintaining a record of dam removals in the United States and uses the information to communicate the benefits of dam removal, which include restoring river health and clean water, revitalizing fish and wildlife, improving public safety and recreation, and enhancing local economies.

"The river restoration movement in our country is stronger than ever. Communities nationwide are removing outdated dams because they recognize that a healthy, free-flowing river is a tremendous asset," said Bob Irvin, President of American Rivers.

> The complete list of dam removals in 2012 is available at: http://www.americanrivers.org/2012damremovals

The removal of the Minnesota Falls Dam paves the way for increased and improved water recreational opportunities in the Granite Falls Area, which is something for this community to ponder, capitalize upon and benefit from both economically and spiritually.

To help promote this thinking, the first annual Chamber fishing contest was born (with help from local outdoors enthusiast Tom Cherveny) to highlight the new or returned migratory opportunities for Minnesota River aquatic species.



Therefore, the first flathead catfish to be caught from locations above the removal site was to mark the return of flatheads farther upstream.



Most interesting is that the winning flathead was caught right below the footbridge on Main Street Granite Falls.

The top three states for river restoration through dam removal in 2012 are:

- 1. Pennsylvania 11 dams removed
- 2. Massachusetts 9 dams removed
 - 3. Oregon 8 dams removed

OUTDOORS BY TOM CHERVENY

http://tomcherveny.areavoices.com/

Granite Falls Local Tom Cherveny has a wonderful site for outdoors enthusiasts. Please visit the link above for a range of outdoors information from Southwest Minnesota.

Below is a very interesting write up about the direction and trends of water recreation (paddling) in Minnesota.

Paddle sports continue to grow as state celebrates

water trail system's 50th anniversary



Paddle sports continue to grow in popularity in Minnesota, home to the first and largest water trails system in the nation. Paddlers here watched enjoyed a live theatrical production by paddling down the Minnesota River on Saturday, where scenes from a play were staged at points along the river bank and on an island.

By: Tom Cherveny

The results are in from 192 individuals who took the time to fill out a Paddling Theater Survey for PlaceBase productions following their voyage down the Minnesota River.

The Statistics Speak...

Age:

Under 18 - 12%

19-35 - 18%

36-59 - 27%

60+ - 30%

Unreported - 4%

Number of Zip Codes Represented:

72

Cities Represented:

46

States Represented:

SD, CO, WI, WV, MN

People for whom this was their first time on the Minnesota River:

54%

"You never know the consequences of a trip down the river," said Paul Ryberg, a playful smile on his lips before revealing that was how he met his bride-to-be. It was the trips that his parents made that have had tremendous consequences for all of us, starting with one well-publicized adventure. Clyde and Shirley Ryberg made a trip down the Minnesota River in 1957. Shirley told of their adventure in an article published in the Minnesota Conservation magazine.

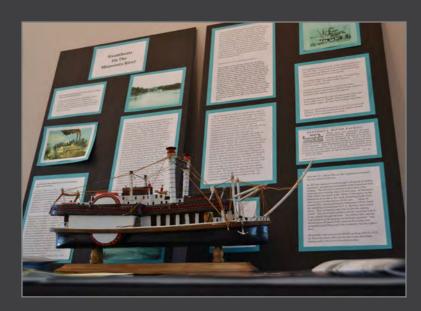
It was the start of work by the Rybergs that eventually led to the creation of the state's waterway system in 1963. The Minnesota, St. Croix, Big Fork and Little Fork Rivers were the first to be designated as boating and canoeing routes. Today, there are over 4,500 miles of mapped routes on 32 rivers and the shoreline of Lake Superior. Minnesota can boast of having the state's first and largest water trail system in the nation, according to Erik Wrede, who oversees the system with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Ryberg and Wrede told of the system's start last Friday in Granite Falls, where they were on hand to observe a celebration its 50th anniversary. Clyde Ryberg sold the idea of canoe routes as an economic opportunity. Governor Karl Rolvaag repeated his admonition "to rouse this sleeping recreational giant, canoeing."

The waterways system mirrors the mission values of the DNR to promote outdoor recreation, conservation and economic development, noted Wrede. It also helps us buck a nationwide trend. While most outdoor activities are on the decline across the country, paddle sports are seeing steady growth, particularly kayaking. Kayak registrations have increased by 56 percent in the last five years, according to Wrede. There are 180,000 canoes and kayaks registered in Minnesota.

Clyde and Shirley Ryberg devoted many years to promoting the opportunities we enjoy today, and they are recognized for it. Paul Ryberg, one of eight siblings, said his father would give the credit to all who paddle the waters. "He may have started something. You continue it when you take a paddle out on the river, whether it is a kayak or a canoe, when you take a friend out, every time you do that, you are continuing this," said Ryberg.

Minnesota DNR River History Display at the K.K. Berge Building / Chamber Office Thru May 31st...



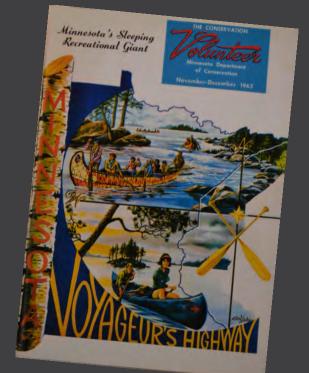


Mrs. Hinz 6th Grade class visited the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce to learn a bit about what the Chamber does and to check out the fantastic DNR River History display.



Folks Check out the DNR display during the River History Weekend and Minnesota State Water Trails 50th Anniversary celebration held in Granite Falls.







Informational display about Steamboats on the Minnesota River

Minnesota River History Weekend & State Water Trails 50th Anniversary Paddling Theater in Granite Falls...

JAN .

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Above Joe Whitehawk Jr. and at Right Gary Lentz perform in paddling theater scenes on the banks of the Minnesota River, two of many along the theater route that paddlers experienced & enjoyed!



The Paddling Theater production of "With the Future on the Line," written and directed by Andrew Gaylord and Ashley Hanson of PlaceBase Productions captivated event goers who took to the Minnesota River to take in the one of a kind performance!

PlaceBase Productions works with local communities and commissioning partners to create unforgettable works of theater performed in specific sites around Minnesota.

Their work begins with a place, its history, stories and physical environment, its significance to the local community and its potential futures.

From this place an original text is developed to bring the elements into play. A work of theater is created in collaboration with local actors, musicians and artisans.

Audiences are invited to rediscover the beauty and power of a place they may have known their entire life, and are free to explore the new theatrical environment in whatever way their imagination guides them.

For more information about PlaceBase Productions visit their website at www. Placebaseproductions.com or visit and like their Facebook page at www.facebook.com PlaceBaseProductions

Up and Coming at the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce...



What are "After Hours" Events?

These relaxed two hour gatherings are free and for the general public, the business community, and chamber members to enjoy!

This is one of the many benefits the Granite Falls Area Chamber offers to our Chamber Members.

"After Hours" events are a fun, relaxed, and effective way of bringing folks together while bringing about new networking opportunities amongst community members and our businesses and organizations that help to support this community and the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

If your business or organization is a Chamber Member and you have not yet taken advantage of this benefit, please contact the Chamber at 320.564.4039. The public is invited to help the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce welcome our two newest Chamber Members!

Please join us at these "After Hours" events.

On May 30th, have a look around a new business in Granite Falls - From The Ground Up - located on Hwy 212.

On June 5th please join us at the Chamber office / K.K. Berge Building and learn more about the efforts and the impact that the United Way of Southwest Minnesota in the Granite Falls Area.

Chamber After Hours Wed., June 5 K. K. Berge Building 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The Public is Invited to a

Enjoy food & beverage and good company

Highlighting... United Way of Southwest Minnesota and their many efforts in the Granite Falls Area United Way

It's That Time Again!!

Western Fest Stampede

Performances nightly at 7:30 (Gates open: 5:30pm) Ticket information 320-564-4070



TERSARY

2012 Comedy Act of the Year: John Harrison www.harrisonentertainment.com

FREE Bus rides Available nightly - starting @ 5pm Additional Parking on Hwy 212 West (Rockhaven Church parking lot)

Thanks to our major sponsor: Prairie's Edge CASINO RESORT

FREE Pony Rides Thursday & Friday 5:30 - 7:15 PM By the Valley Riders Saddle Club

Sweepstakes Tickets Win up to <u>\$10,000</u> Cash! S50 per ticket includes 2 adult admission to Street Dance Drawing held June 22nd! (need not be present to win)

STREET DANCE Sterns County 17 Friday & Saturday 9PM - 1 AM Richter Field Baseball Park Kid's Night Thursday, June 20 \$1 per child (with paid adult)

Mar Ranch

W. Granite Falls

Mutton Bustin' All three days! 6:45 nightly 35 youngsters ride sheep for 6 seconds To pre-register, call Dawn 320-226-1614



Friday, June 21 Wear pink & \$2 of your adult admission will be donated to the American Cancer Society for breast cancer awareness.

Concessions available on grounds. No Coolers please! www.granitefallsprcarodeo.com

May DNR Exhibit at K.K. Berge Gallery

Photos by Granite Falls Area Chamber of commerce

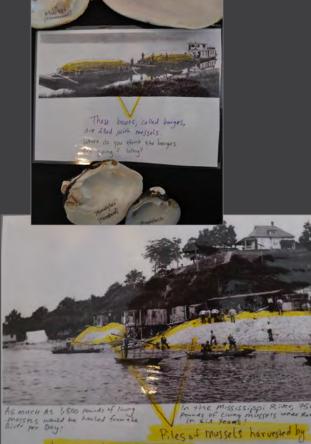


Mrs. Hinz 6th Grade class visited the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce to learn a bit about what the Chamber does and to check out the fantastic DNR River History display.



Learn about the diversity and status of freshwater mussels in Minnesota





1st Butter Factory Built in 1891 in Muscatine, Jours by German mangant, Johan Bockde

Recreation = Economic Giant

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The Outdoor Recreation Economy

TAKE IT OUTSIDE FOR MINNESOTA JOBS AND A STRONG ECONOMY

Outdoor recreation is essential to the American economy. Every year, Americans

spend \$646 billion on outdoor recreation - on gear, vehicles, trips, travel-related expenses and more. This creates jobs, supports communities, generates tax revenue and helps drive the economy. Throughout America, people recognize that outdoor recreation and open spaces attract and sustain families and businesses, create healthy communities and foster a high quality of life.



At least 69% of Minnesota residents participate in outdoor recreation each year.

Minnesota offers spectacular outdoor recreation opportunities at treasured destinations, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Chippewa National Forest and many others, bringing in dollars from residents and out-of-state visitors alike.

View all 50 states and learn more at: outdoorindustry.org/recreationeconomy

1 Participants in hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing were estimated separately and are not part of this figure. 2 Direct employment in the outdoor recreation sector — as opposed to indirect, implied, multiplier or ripple effects that include impacts of spending, jobs and wages as they circulate throughout the conomy.

Eccept as noted have, all seads are based on national aurous of outdoor sensation conducted for DIA in 2011 and 2012. Motorogde industry Council® and Nettonel Marine Manufactures Association® contributed for DIA in 2011 and 2012. Hunting-netation estimates were provided by the Nettonel Shooting Sports Franketters®. Felders, related estimates were provided by the American Sportfeiring Association®. Widdle viewing estimates were developed from date provided by the U.S. Feb and Widdle Service.

In Minnesota

OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES. 118K 511.6 BILLION n consumer spending \$3.4

BILLION in wages and salaries

\$815 MILLION state and local tax revenue

direct Minnesota

iobs?

Preserving access to

outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside.

Nationally



\$646 BILLION in consumer spending

MILLION diract American jobs⁷

\$39.9 BILLION in federal tax revenue

BILLION in state and local tax revenue

39.7





BOULDER, CO 80301 | 303.444.3353





Everything grows outside, including jobs and the economy. Americans want and deserve access to a variety of quality places to play and enjoy the great outdoors. Outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy if we manage and invest in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for America.

Nationally outdoor recreation is bigger than you might think and a significant economic driver in the U.S.

6.1 million

American livelihoods depend on outdoor recreation, making it a critical economic sector in the U.S.

PHARMACEUTICALS \$348B

MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS \$374B

OUTDOOR RECREATION \$646B

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND INSURANCE \$807B

OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE \$806B

GASOLINE AND OTHER FUELS \$428B

HOUSEHOLD UTILITIES \$307B

An Overlooked Economic Giant Annual Consumer Spending, in <u>Billions</u> OIL AND GAS2 2.2M

INFORMATION 2.5M

EDUCATION 3.5M

TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING 4.3M

CONSTRUCTION 5.5M

OUTDOOR RECREATION 36.1M

PROF, TECH & SCIENTIFIC SERVICES 7.7M

Outdoor Recreation Employs America Job Comparisons by Industry, in <u>Millions</u>

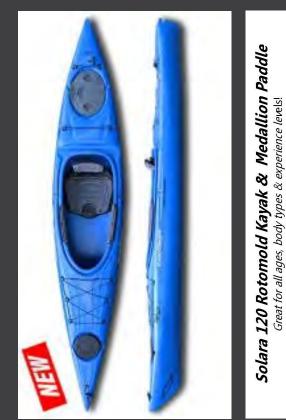
View All 50 States & Learn More At:

outdoorindustry.org/recreationeconomy



Ensuring the Growth and Success of the Outdoor Industry.

And The Winner Is....



Value \$875.00



Steve Virnig Chair of Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization (GFRR) gets a little help drawing the name of the Kayak raffle winner... Congratulations was in order for Kelly Nokleby of Granite Falls!

All GFRR raffle winners were drawn at the Memorial Park Shelter House during CURE's annual River History Weekend celebration.

All raffle proceeds will be put toward GFRR's mission of continued River Front Revitalization efforts in the Granite Falls area.

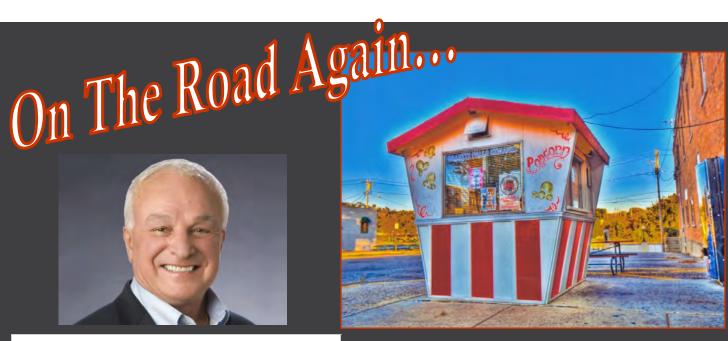
SAVE THE DATE! <u>River's Edge Disc Golf Course</u> will be celebrating their Grand Opening Event on Saturday, June 22nd, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come join us for some disc golf and lots of fun!

For more info please contact the Chamber at 320.564.4039

River's Edge Disc Golf Course located along Minnesota Avenue and the Minnesota River in Granite Falls is ready for play!

For more information about tournaments, free lessons, and all things Disc Golf - please visit and "Like" the River's Edge Disc Golf Course Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ RiversEdgeDiscGolfCourse





Jason Davis - Host "On The Road with Jason Davis"

On October 11, 2008, Jason was honored for his 32 years of service to the broadcasting industry in Minnesota by being inducted into the Minnesota Museum of Broadcasting Hall of Fame. He has been in television broadcasting for more than forty years, beginning in 1968.

From "On The Water" To "On The Road", Davis Has Covered The World

With over 40 years experience in broadcast journalism, Jason Davis has helped establish 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS' reputation for excellence. Jason was born in London, England, and spent his early years traveling "On The Water" as a British merchant seaman. He settled in Australia in 1964, where he began his career in television news four years later. Jason joined 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS in 1976, and he has been informing and captivating viewers ever since.



From "Land of 10,000 Stories" to the Kiwanis International publication to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, our famous little Popcorn Stand gets a little more love...

Looks like our Main Street gem has caught the attention of Jason Davis, of KSTP Channel 5 News, who was scheduled to come out on May 22nd, but due to wet weather, will be rescheduling his visit to Granite Falls.

Mr. Davis indicated that he would like to produce an "On the Road Again" segment about our little Popcorn Stand and the growing fascination that surrounds it.

Jason was well aware of Boyd Huppert's "Land of 10,000 Stories" segment about the Popcorn Stand from 2012.

Please watch for future announcements of a date and time when Jason Davis will be in Granite Falls and Please join us at the Popcorn Stand.

Check in on the Kiwanis Popcorn Stand Facebook page and "Like" us for all sorts of popcorn stand news and developments...we've gathered quite a following!

Visit https://www.facebook.com/

Remember....your popcorn purchases go toward a great cause ! The Granite Falls Kiwanis take the proceeds and put it right back into this lovely community and it helps to support some fantastic local programs, activities and out-reach efforts for area youth!

Minnesota Public Radio Coverage



Granite Falls, Minnesota, USA — Scott Tedrick, left, and Heather McDougall perform the opening scene during the paddling theater production "With the Future on the Line: Paddling Theater From Granite Falls to Yellow Medicine" on Saturday, May 18, 2013, along the Minnesota River in Granite Falls, Minn.



Granite Falls, Minnesota, USA — Audience members watch the second scene of the paddling theater production "With the Future on the Line: Paddling Theater From Granite Falls to Yellow Medicine" on Saturday, May 18, 2013, in Granite Falls, Minn.





Granite Falls, Minnesota, USA — Audience members watch the first scene of the paddling theater production "With the Future on the Line: Paddling Theater From Granite Falls to Yellow Medicine" on Saturday, May 18, 2013, in Granite Falls, Minn. Eighteen voyageur canoes, each holding nine audience members and a guide, paddled the 13-mile theater route. Audience members could choose to take part in the theatrical voyage by signing up for a spot on a guided voyageur canoe or by bringing their own canoe or kayak.



Granite Falls, Minnesota, USA — Captains from Twin Citiesbased Wilderness Inquiry guide audience members through the paddling theater production "With the Future on the Line: Paddling Theater From Granite Falls to Yellow Medicine" on Saturday, May 18, 2013, along the Minnesota River in Granite Falls, Minn. Eighteen voyageur canoes, each holding nine audience members and a guide, paddled the 13-mile theater route. Audience members could choose to take part in the theatrical voyage by signing up for a spot on a guided voyageur canoe or by bringing their own canoe or kayak.

Event Candids





Photos by Sarina Otaibi of CURE

CURE River History Event T-Shirts and CURE caps! They sold like hot cakes during the big event & there are still a few left. If you are interested in a shirt or cap they are 10.00 each and you can order from Dixie at the CURE office in Montevideo at 320.269.2984



Theater performer - Local Scott Tedrick - a humorous highlight in the production if I do say so!

Theater performer - Tom Watson of Appleton offered a splendid

Event Candids

Photos by Sarina Otaibi of CURE



A beautiful evening of folk and blue grass music at the Memorial Park shelter House!



Erick Wrede of the Minnesota DNR at right and a member of the Wilderness Inquiry staff enjoying the paddle down the river.



Wilderness Inquiry river guides offered guided paddles down the Minnesota River on the large ten person voyager canoes!





Volunteers and Theater director Ashley Hanson work on the many props for the various scenes in the production. Photo by the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Event Volunteers were treated to Jimmy's Pizza during a planning meeting held prior to Friday evenings festivities. Photo by the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Event Candids



The final act in the Paddling Theater production. Photo by Sarina Otaibi of CURE.



The K.K. Berge Building / Chamber Office was full of folks interested in the DNR River History Display. Photo by Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.



Paddlers enjoyed this scene along the Minnesota River Banks. Photo by Sarina Otaibi of CURE.

The longing in their eyes...this is the Solara 120 Rotomold Kayak and Medallion Paddle - the Grand Prize in the GFRR Raffle.



The Granite Falls City Hall was packed on Friday night for some wonderful informational presentations and movies. Erick Wrede of the MN DNR did a wonderful "MC" job for the evening!



https:://www.facebook.com/ GraniteFallsAreaChamberOfCommerce

Please Visit and "Like" us on Facebook

2013 Chamber Membership Listing

Advocate Tribune Affiliated Community Medical Centers American Legion Club Aus Floors & More, Inc. BeMobile Verizon Wireless **Bennett & Bennett Transportation** Books By Kelly, LLC. **Bootlegger's Supper Club Bursch Travel Agency** Carl's Bakery, Inc. Casey's General Store Casualty Assurance Century Link Citizens Alliance Bank City of Granite Falls **Culligan Water Conditioning** Clean Up the River Environment Dairy Queen Dave's Electric Motor Co & Bottled Water Service Fconomart **Economic Development Authority** Fagen, Inc. Family Dentistry Farmers Union Co-op Elevator F&M Insurance Agency Frogs on the Footbridge From The Ground Up Frozen in Time Photography **Gene Stukel Photography** Granite Area Arts Council Granite Family Eye Care Granite Floral & Greenhouse Great Plains Natural Gas Company Granite Run Golf Course Granite True Value Granite Falls Area Community Foundation



Become a Member Today

Granite Falls Energy, LLC.

Granite Falls Historical Society Granite Falls Municipal Hospital & Manor Granite Falls Lions Club Granite Falls Lutheran Church Granite Falls Super Motel Hardees Heather's Book Nook & Sew Much More Henry Hill Apartments Hoff Chiropractic Hoffman & Brobst PLLP Holmstrom & Kvam PLLP Holt House Bed & Breakfast Jims Clothing & Sporting Goods KDMA/KKRC/KMGM Kibble Equipment Kiwanis International Korthuis Jewelry & Gifts Kramer Law Office Kuhlman Real Estate Ladyslipper Garden Club Lavin Family Chiropractic Len Worsech & Company Lee Mar Ranch Equine Center Living At Home Block Nurse Program Mediacom MAJSDAC Greenhouse Marr Valve Company Mary Kay Consultant - Tanya Friese Martin Marietta Aggregates Minnesota's Machinery Museum Hanley Falls Minnesota Heartland Preserve Minnesota West Community & Technical College **MVTV** Wireless National Independent Health Club Association **Olson Sanitation** PACT 4 Families Collaborative Pathways of West Central Minnesota Picht's Auto Body & Glass

Prairie's Edge Casino Resort

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Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Located in the Historic K.K. Berge Building 807 Prentice Street Granite Falls, MN 56241

> 320.564.4039 ph www.granitefallschamber.com