

**REMEMBERING 9/11:**  
Area folks recall where they were on that fateful day | **8B**



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# BRAINERD DISPATCH

Sunday, September 11, 2011

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## He was close enough to hear whine of the second plane

By SARAH NELSON  
Staff Writer

Sept. 11. It's a date that conjures all kinds of memories and feelings for all Americans. Everyone has a story of where they were the day terrorists attacked on American soil.

Some heard the news from family or friends. Most watched from the safety of their homes or workplaces in horror and disbelief as newscasters tried to make sense of the chaos.

For Brainerd native Judson Weaver, the terror unfolded not on TV, but a couple hundred feet from his office in New York City.

"Someone said the building was falling," Weaver said in a 2001 interview with the Brainerd Dispatch. "That was the point I thought I might be checking out of this world."

Ten years later, Weaver joins the rest of the world in remembering 9/11. "I think it's like any life event. It's like marriage or if you survived a car crash or something like that," he said



Judson Weaver in 2001.

in a phone interview. "It's just sort of changes the way you look at stuff."

Weaver said his most vivid memories of that fateful day include the sound of the second plane's engine whining overhead before hitting the south tower, running down 36 flights of stairs and getting to the edge of the Hudson River not knowing which direction the building would fall.

"I was trying to calculate in my head whether or not I was far enough away in case it fell my direction," he said.

Weaver said a friend later reminded him of his own words when the first plane hit: "I think we're going to get the rest of the day off."

Weaver, who was operations manager for a global investment firm, said

he returned to work two days after 9/11, but never to the same building. "We had to be at work the next day at a disaster recovery site in order to confirm foreign currency and foreign securities trades from the day before," he said.

Weaver's former office, the Deutsche Bank building made infamous by the deadly fire that occurred there in 2007, was never again occupied and Weaver only returned once two months after the attacks. His return required environmental hazard suits and police escort.

"It was like a time capsule," he said. "There were newspapers still on people's desks with their coffee and rotating bagels from that day."

Weaver said only 20 or 30 people were ever allowed back in the Deutsche Bank Tower in the months that followed 9/11. The building's final demolition was completed

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## REMEMBERING 9/11



Associated Press File Photo/Carmen Taylor

In this Sept. 11, 2001 file photo, United Airlines Flight 175 approached the south tower of the World Trade Center in New York shortly before collision as smoke billows from the north tower.

## CROW WING COUNTY BOARD Budget decisions expected Tuesday

By RENEE RICHARDSON  
Senior Reporter

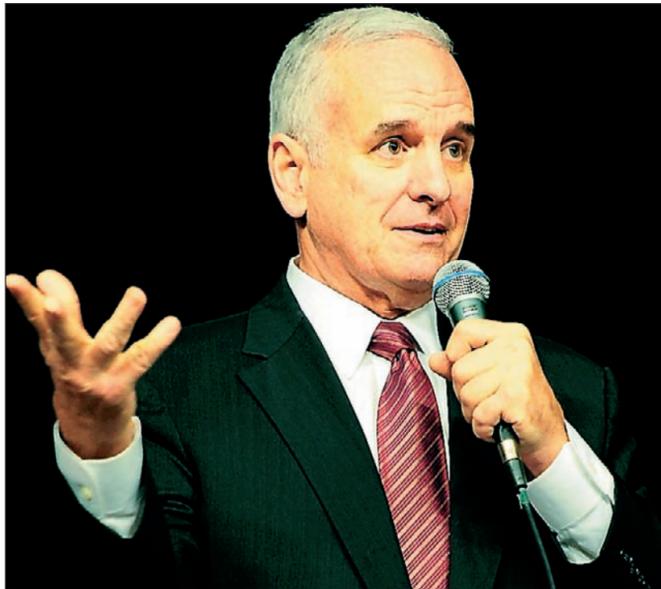
Budget decisions will be the prime topic Tuesday when Crow Wing County Board commissioners look at the county's preliminary budget and levy.

In an earlier meeting this week, commissioners questioned how the blow of a Legislative tax shift could be softened for area businesses.

Tim Houle, county administrator, said the only thing the board can do is reduce spending, but he said savings cannot be directed to specific areas for relief. The tax shift will occur, Houle said, unless the taxing entities — county, cities and school districts — all reduce budgets in significant ways.

The county board must decide how to handle the budget. Should money be

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Gov. Mark Dayton told the audience at Friday's economic summit at Central Lakes College that he was there to listen and learn.

## Dayton hears woes, promises action

By MIKE O'ROURKE  
Associate Editor

Gov. Mark Dayton, as part of a 12-member panel, focused on economic development Friday and listened to Brainerd area leaders identify obstacles and solutions.

His third economic summit, conducted in the John Chalberg Theatre at Central Lakes College, was set in a city that has often led the state in unemployment among cities with 10,000 or more population. In July, the city's jobless rate jumped to 15 percent, up from 12.9 percent in June. The Brainerd micropolitan area, which covers Cass and Crow Wing counties, had a July jobless rate of 8.9 percent.

Panelist Mark Ronnei, general manager of Grand View Lodge, said educated young people were leaving the area and noted those who remained in Brainerd were struggling to find work.

"We're creating a central Minnesota ghetto," he said. Ronnei said talented young people were not returning to Brainerd because they did not see a future here. He also said state employees were shackled by anti-

See DAYTON, Page 3A

## Center to offer courses to enhance the elder population's lives

By JENNIFER STOCKINGER  
Staff Writer

What am I going to do with my life after I retire? This is a question that many baby boomers wonder when they enter the next stage of their life. Will they take a different job or volunteer? Start a new hobby?

Central Lakes College in Brainerd is offering people 50 or older one more option to enhance their life by opening the Center for Lifelong Learning that will offer programming beginning in October.

An open house will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at the college cafeteria for people to learn more about the center and to provide feedback to the college about what type of programming they'd like to see.

The center is something that has been a passion of Brainerd lakes area resident Bill Brekken, the center coordinator, who has been working on the venture for some

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## RURAL BRAINERD BLAZE



About 20 Brainerd firefighters battled a house fire Friday on Racine Road near St. Mathias. The fire appeared to have started on the back deck. The house was a total loss. Story on Page 5A; video at brainerddispatch.com.

### A TIME FOR SOMBER REFLECTION

#### Abby's message

Column, Page 6E

### Overheard

"We're creating a central Minnesota ghetto."

— Mark Ronnei, Grand View GM, commenting on Brainerd's high unemployment.

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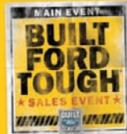


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