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**Cummings new director of Aitkin's rebranded HOPE**

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
To celebrate life, Megan (pronounced Mee gan) Cummings turned 40 and celebrated her 19th wedding anniversary at the end of September with a gathering of family and friends at the Green Lantern, owned by her cousin Carl Larson.  
"It's time to celebrate life," she noted.  
Cummings is the new director for Aitkin's HOPE. Healing Opportunities Provided Equally is the former

Advocates Against Domestic Abuse in Aitkin.  
Cummings has been on board throughout 2018. "We don't want to focus on what we're working against, domestic violence," she explained in an interview. "We want to bring positive healing and hope to everyone who comes through our door. If they can find a tiny bit of hope in their situation we can help them through it."  
Also the director of the Cuyuna Range Youth Center,



self-care," she explained. "I cannot provide any services without them so my staff is my top priority. Their top priority is our clients."  
HOPE provides advocacy, assisting with legal matters and navigating the judicial system; supervised family visitation, support groups at the local jail and at the HOPE headquarters and a crisis line that is answered 24/7. They also provide secure temporary and transitional housing for families in crisis and can furnish such items as toiletries, diapers, clothing, food and gasoline. "Some families come to us with nothing," she noted.

Megan Cummings is the new director of Aitkin's Hope, an organization that assists victims of domestic violence. She stands by shelves with a positive message and a brochure featuring their new name and logo. They were formerly Advocates Against Domestic Abuse.  
Ann Schwartz photo

Cummings and her husband Tony, who works for Anderson Brothers Construction, are raising four offspring aged 11, 13, 15 and 17.

She had an old-fashioned upbringing in the Pine Center area where she could ride her bike to her grandparents' dairy farm and her relatives, the Kraklaus and Larson families, surrounded them. Her children have the same experience, living close to extended family out in the country.

Cummings organizes the bloodmobile for the Pine Center area and is a coach and president of the Pierz Youth Fastpitch Softball League for girls aged third through 12th grades.

About HOPE's programs Cummings has the challenging task of raising funds to pay salaries for herself and two full-time advocates as well as keeping up two buildings.

Darla Belgen is the legal advocate with eight years of experience in Aitkin. Amanda Johnson, advocate, has been on board since April.

"We are a very close-knit, like minded team – working very well together," Cummings said of the staff.

The advocates do direct client services, prevention and youth programs and Cummings oversees operations, staff training and support. "It's very important that I support my staff and they practice

Cummings said she is very excited about two recent happenings. One is that the playground at HOPE was completely refurbished top to bottom thanks to an anonymous donation from a family. Another is that there are starting up a supervised family visitation program again and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Aitkin County for safe parent-child visitations.

HOPE has rebranded the program inside and out. They have a new name and logo and have fixed up and refurbished their physical space with help from Habitat for Humanity, Pearl Crisis Center team, HOPE board of directors and staff and Aitkin County Sentence to Serve.

"We worked really hard to change the environment to reflect calmness and a

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# Photo club and writers groups join forces at Crossing Arts in Brainerd



Bragg Farm Pumpkins by Charlie Johnson of Focalpoint Photography Club

Photographers from the Focalpoint photo club of Brainerd and members of the Brainerd Writers Alliance and the Heartland Poets have joined forces to present a

project entitled PHOTOWRITE, to be exhibited at the Crossing Arts Alliance (711 Laurel Street) beginning on Oct. 9 through Nov. 3.

Several images from mem-

bers of Focalpoint were offered to writers from the two writing groups, asking them to write an original poem or a short prose piece inspired by those images. Within six weeks, all the writing was completed and sent to the photo club, who then mounted each photo and text on foam board. The photos, ranging in size from 8 inches x 10 inches to 16 inches x 20 inches, include such themes as patriotism, wildlife, water, memorials, still life, and architecture. The writers responded in kind with poems and prose stories that followed those ideas. Poems

were limited to 40 lines, and any prose could be no more than a single page of text. A People's Choice Award will be given at the conclusion of the exhibit.

A reception will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at The Crossing Arts Alliance. A program will be presented at 3 p.m. in which the writers will read

their works as the photos are projected.

A book containing the entire project is being developed that will be available to the public. Profits from the book will be shared by all participating organizations.

The Crossing Arts Alliance is open Tuesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Focalpoint Photo Club meets every third Tuesday of the month at the Northland Arboretum, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Brainerd Writers Alliance meets on the third Saturday of the month at the Brainerd Library, starting at 10 a.m. The Heartland Poets meet the first Saturday of each month at the Brainerd Library, starting at 10 a.m.

## Pumpkin reality by Brian Carlson

As a pumpkin I was "seeded" in a lovely little field not far from farmer Jones' house. I grew up there with my parents, brothers, and sisters. We had a pretty good life compared to other folks around us. We bathed in the sun, soaked up the glorious rain that fell (and smelled so fresh). We dried off in the wind and shared our life with the world by creating our own colors of green, yellow, and orange. People came from miles around to look at us. Some were even astounded as to how large brother Billy got...900 lbs!. Yes, it really was a good life.

Then one day, in the cool of the Fall, our lives were shattered. Young children came rushing through the field as if they were being chased by a fire. They kicked us, pounded on our hearts and backs, and ripped us away from our families! Our family tree was stripped of all semblance of our joyous life. Only the barren umbilical cord, our tree of life, was left behind.

We were taken hostage to buildings unfamiliar to us. Knives were stabbed into our heads and large chunks of our inner bodies were cut out and thrown away! The cutting continued for nearly an hour as if we were some kind of game food at Thanksgiving. The pain was

unbearable. My children, still seedlings within me were torn from the safety and secureness of my bowels...oh, what have I done to deserve this unspeakable torment... why has my family been sacrificed?

Notwithstanding all the torture that we had to endure these human creatures cut holes in our bodies then placed a lighted wax object in the center of our bodies and skipped away laughing as they went. How can they be so cruel? How can they just step into our lives and take away everything we knew as peaceful, loving, and home...how can they?

## Winter wear and costume collection

Clear Lake Grange is collecting winter outerwear and costumes. Collection boxes are out for new or gently-used coats, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and Halloween costumes.

This annual collection is going on until October 14. Boxes are located at Paul-

beck's County Market and Aitkin Village Laundromat, our co-sponsors. Winter gear is always needed and in all sizes from infant to adult.

Distribution will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on October 18 at the Operation Community Connect held at Ripplside Elementary

School, Aitkin. Anyone who has a need is welcome. Items not distributed will be kept and/or donated to DAC Mart, Aitkin Area Food Shelf, and/or Operation Christmas.

Any questions, please contact Clear Lake Grange member, Roxy Wigton, at 218-927-4558.

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### Cummings new director of Aitkin's rebranded HOPE | Continued from Page 1

positive energy," Cummings explained. "It is important that when clients come to us in crisis that they have a calming environment."

Donations are still accepted

but all items must be new, not used, and all are carefully organized.

Cummings is working hard to network and build community partnerships, hosting an open

house this spring and reaching out to local law enforcement. She will launch a fundraising campaign this fall and apply for several grants this year with the hopes of keeping the program

sustainable into the future.

"We want to build up and support our clients and offer them options. Whatever they chose to do we will support them," she summed up.

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Ongoing Events:

**AA - Aitkin** - 322 1st Ave. NE 218-927-6240 Sun. Women's Meeting 5:30 pm, Tue. Open Meeting 8 pm, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tues. Big Book Discussion Open Meeting 6:30 pm., Wed. Women's Meeting 6 pm, Thu. Sober Sailors Open 9 am.

**AA Garrison:** Monday Night AA (open) 7:30 PM and Wednesday 7:30 PM at Community Alliance Church, 9475 Jefferson St.

**ALANON** - 322 1st Ave NE, Aitkin 6:30 pm Thursday evenings.

**ALANON Garrison:** Wednesday 7:30 PM at Community Alliance Church, 9475 Jefferson St.

**Aitkin Friends of the Library** meet 4th Tue. each month, 1 pm, Aitkin Public Library.

**Aitkin IOOF 164** meeting every 4th Monday at 2 pm

**Aitkin Rebekah lodge. 151.** Meets the 1st and the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Come join us. We meet at the IOOF hall. 22 2nd st. Above the Napa auto parts store. The 1st tues. is a business meeting. The 3rd one is a social meeting

**Aitkin Women of Today** meet 2nd Mon. of month, 6:30 pm, Mille Lacs Energy Coop, info call 218-927-4558. Evening care is available and free. All are welcome!

**Alzheimer's Support group** meetings at ANGELS in McGregor meets the 1st Thurs. every month at 1 pm.

**American Legion Aitkin Lee #86 & Unit 86,** meets the 2nd Thurs. of each month at 7 p.m.

**Art Club** meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Jaques Art Center in Aitkin, 1-3 pm 'Ask an Attorney,' Aitkin Co. Sheriff's conference room, 4th Tues. of month at noon.

**Blow-Hards,** a lung disease support group, meets the 4th Thu. of each month, Kanabec Hospital in Mora. Contact Carol, 320-225-3646.

**Buddhism-Nichiren** meetings held at the Brainerd Public Library conference room on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 1 pm. For information contact Mike Engblom-Bradley 936-525-7843.

**Care N Share Community Cafe Community Meal,** Wednesdays Located in the fellowship hall in the Wesleyan Church on Highway #6 in Emily. Please call Sharon - 612 669-3295

**Caregiver/Memory Loss Support Group.** Meets the first Wed., 1-2 p.m. at Birchstreet Center, downtown Aitkin. 218-927-1383.

**Circles of Support** meets every Tue., 6-8 pm If you are living paycheck to paycheck and are ready for a change, Circles may be right for you, call Brandi, 800-997-5723.

**Clear Lake Grange** meets second Tue. each month, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting. Meets at the Aitkin Library Community Center. More info call Bonnie 218-927-3485 or Roxy 218-927-4558.

**Clothes Closet** offers free clothing to men and women in need, open the fourth Saturdays of each month from 8 a.m. - noon. Located at 6297 Woods Bay Drive NE, just north of the Hwy. 6 bridge in Outing. For more information call 320-857-0182. Donations of clean, repair free clothing accepted that time also.

**Co-dependants Anonymous** meeting. 332 1st Av. NE Aitkin. Wednesday evenings. 5:30.

**Cooks Night Out - 3rd** Wed of month, McGregor Comm. Ctr., 5:30 p.m., no restrictions, donations welcome.

**Cuyuna Rock Gem & Mineral Club,** meet 2nd Sat. each month, 2:30 at the lower level of the Franklin Arts Center at 1001 Kingwood St, Brainerd.

**Dance every second Tuesday** at Moose in Grand Rapids.

**Dance at VFW** in McGregor every 1st Monday of the month, except holidays which will be on the following Monday

**Dance at Waukenabo** the second and last Wednesday of the month.

**Deerwood Lakes Lions** meet the 2nd Monday of each month at the Heartwood Senior Living Complex. Social begins at 5:30pm followed by Dinner/Meeting at 6:00pm. We are very involved in community events and would love to have you join us. If you would like to come to a meeting and see what we do or going to be doing, please call Lion Nancy at 218-678-4165 and let me know by the Thursday before our meeting.

**Dyed in the Wool Spinners** meeting 1st Tuesday of the month 1-4 p.m. If you knit, crochet, spin, weave or do any other fiber arts please join us in the Club Room at the Security State Bank, 402 Minnesota Ave. N., Aitkin.

**Emily Community Care N Share** is serving meals on Wednesdays in the fellowship hall at the Wesleyan Church, Highway 6, Emily

**Evergreen P.A.C. ATV Club** meetings 1st Thu. each month, 7 pm, Jackson Hole, Lawler, open to public.

**FASD Caregiver Support Group** - For caregivers of individuals with a diagnosed or suspected Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Meet with other caregivers (adults only please) for support, understanding, and networking. Meetings are 9 am the second Saturday of each month at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 418 8th Ave. NE, Brainerd. For more information, please contact Sheila York at 218-820-5903 or syork@mofas.org

**Friends of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge** meet 3rd Wed. each month, at 1 pm. at the Visitor Center at 36289 State Hwy. 65, McGregor 218-768-2402

**Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Meeting** Tuesday evenings, 6:30 pm small conference room at Aitkin Library, No dues, fees or weigh ins. For more information call: 217-248-6434. www.foodaddicts.org

**Food Shelf (Aitkin)** Open every Wednesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm. 102 4th St. NW, Aitkin

**Food Shelf (Aitkin)** at First Lutheran Church open on 2nd and 4th Thurs, 9:30 am-5 pm, at 107 2nd St SE, Aitkin. Must register by 4:45 pm to be served.

**Food Shelf (Aitkin) Emergency Food Shelf** at St. James Catholic Church, Aitkin. Hours are Tuesday from 12 to 3 pm. To enter the food shelf go to the South side of the building, go to the 4th door and look for signs.

**Food Shelf (Emily) First Wednesday** of the month for produce and bakery only, 9:30 - 11:00 am. Third Wednesday distribution 9:30 - 11:00 am, followed by Thursday distribution 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Enter from south door.

**Food Shelf (Garrison) Open Tue. & Thu. 1-5 pm,** at 9541 Madison Street; Garrison. For emergency Food Shelf, call 320-692-5399 and leave a message.

**Food Shelf (Hill City) Trinity Lutheran Church** 3rd Saturday 8 am - Noon or by Appt.

**Food Shelf (Jacobson) Carmel Lutheran Church** 60346 240th Ave, 1st and 3rd Thursday, 4 - 6 pm

**Food Shelf (McGregor) 45898 Hwy 65 2nd and 4th** Wednesday of Month 9 am - Noon

**Garrison Fire Auxiliary** meets 2nd Thu. 7:30 pm, Garrison Fire Hall.

**Garrison Thrift Store,** Thurs. - Fri. 10-4, Sat. 11-4.

**Gamblers Anonymous** 7 pm Thurs.

days at the Heritage Church on College Drive in Brainerd. This is a closed meeting. Anyone who has a desire to stop gambling is welcome. For more info call 715-821-1749.

**Heart to Heart Support Group,** 4th Tue. of month, 2 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.

**Jacobson Seniors** meets every Thu., 10-2 pm at Jacobson Comm. Ctr. Potluck at noon. Beverage provided. All are welcome. For more info., 752-1515.

**Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club,** Mon. 5:30 pm in Pequot Lakes, for more info call Brett 651-270-5648 or facebook/Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club

**McGrath City Council,** first Thu. of the month, 6:30 pm at fire station hall.

**McGrath Senior Center** meets every Mon. 1-4 pm, cards & games, all are welcome.

**McGregor Community Meal** sponsored by ANGELS served at the Community Center on Highway 65 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month serving from 5:30 - 6:00 pm.

**McGregor TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly)** meets Thu., 4 pm weigh in, 4:30 meeting, Minnewawa Sportsman's Club, Goshawk St. (Co. Rd. 6). 218-768-2340 for more info.

**McGregor VFW** hosts a dance the 1st Monday every month at 1pm.

**MS Support Group,** meets the 1st Thu. of the month at 7 pm, 606 NW 5th St, Brainerd, 218-824-5228.

**Mystic Masonic Lodge** meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm except June, July & August meet only 1st Tuesday at 7 pm over the Eye Care Center in Aitkin.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness** meet Fri., 2:30, Community Presbyterian Church, 703 Pokegama Ave., room 105, Grand Rapids, Call Terrence at 218-327-1347.

**North Central MN Farm & Antique Assn.** meet 1st Wed. of month, Blackberry Town Hall. Info: Bruce 218-752-6592.

**ORDER OF EASTERN STAR,** Woodland Chapter #122 in Aitkin meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month at 7PM, EXCEPT January, February and July which are dark. 4th Tuesday in June and 2nd Tuesday in August also are dark. Meetings are held on 2nd floor of the EyeCare Center 312 Minnesota Ave No. Aitkin

**Operation Minnesota Nice** meets 3rd Monday each month at 6 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hill City. For info call Tina Harcey at 218-697-8144. www.operationminnesotanic.com.

**Overeaters Anonymous Open Meeting,** Sat. 9:35am, Aitkin Library. Everyone welcome, especially newcomers. OA is a 12-step fellowship of people recovering from compulsive eating. OA is not a diet club. We are dedicated to helping individuals recovering from compulsive eating, anorexia, bulimia, food addiction and obesity. If you are struggling, you are not alone any more. For more info: OA.org, or call Cheryl,

meeting contact, 770-576-5984.

**Praise & Worship Services,** 101 S. Maddy St., McGregor, Intercessory prayer Wed 6-7 p.m.; Praise & Worship Services Sat. 2 pm, Sun 10 am.

**Recovery Worship Service,** Cascade United Methodist Church, Crosby/Deerwood, 1st Sat., 5 pm. Everyone is welcome.

**Rosary** is ongoing the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm at the Big Fish, Garrison, contact Jean at 218-764-2665 for more info.

**RSVP Bone Builders (Osteoporosis exercise program)** Mon.: 10 Glory Baptist Church; Tue & Thu: 10-11 First Lutheran Church, Aitkin; 11:30-12:30 Blackrock Terrace, Aitkin; 12:45-1:45 Journey North Church, Aitkin; Wed: 10-11 Malmo Evangelical Free Church, Malmo & Fri: 10-11 Bethesda Lutheran Church, Malmo. Free of charge. Info call 218-927-1383.

**Second Tuesday Card Party,** Deerwood American Legion. Open to public, 1 pm social, card playing 1:30-3:30 pm. Cost \$3 per person. Refreshments.

**Senior Dance** at Deerwood Legion, 1-4 pm, 1st and 3rd Fri. each month.

**TOPS Aitkin (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** Every Tues at East Entrance, First Lutheran Church, 101 2nd St SE, Aitkin Weigh in at 4:30pm and meeting at 5pm

**TOPS Ironton (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** meet Monday, 4 pm weigh-in, 4:30 pm meeting at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crosby. Call Mabel Semler 218-546-6523 for information.

**Weight Watchers** meets every Wednesday at 5:45 pm at the Deerwood VFW. Weigh in begins at 5:15 pm. For more information, call 218-820-9725.

### JANZEN AUCTIONEERS

**AITKIN/BENNETTVILLE AREA AUCTION**  
**Saturday, Oct. 6 • 10 a.m.**  
 45238 260th Lane, Aitkin, MN

Directions from Aitkin: Head south on Hwy. #169 for 8.5 miles, then Right on Tame Fish Lake Road, then watch for signs

**LAWN & GARDEN:** Husqvarna YTH 22V42 Riding lawn tractor (very nice), Huskee log splitter on wheels (very good condition), Vector XLC power wagon DR style, 5x8 Utility trailer w/ramp, (2) Rear engine snapper riding lawn tractors, Husqvarna 455 Rancher chainsaw, Still weed trimmer, Lawn furniture & Related • **SHOP TOOLS & RELATED:** Snap On tool cabinet on wheels, Black & Decker table saw newer model, Ridgid compound miter saw w/dust collector, Heavy Duty metal cutting bandsaw, Tool shop drill press, Solar battery charger on wheels, Various hand power tools Dewalt Makita & Milwaukee, Large garage tool cabinets, Various hand tools, wrenches, pliers, sockets drill bits & more

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Plus much more! This is a surface listing, be certain to attend.

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## Order pasties now

The annual pasty marathon sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby will start on Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Orders are now being taken for pasties available on the following Wednesdays: Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17 and 24.

The pasties sell for \$6 each and are made following a recipe for the pastry-enfolded meat and vegetable treat that dates back to the days when iron miners on the Cuyuna Range and tin miners in England took them to work in the mines. Each

pasty is large enough to serve as a full meal for one or two people. Gravy is also available (12 oz. for \$1). Orders for gravy can be placed with your pasty order. To place your order, call Kay at 218-545-2306. If necessary, leave a message. Your call will be returned.

Pasties are picked up on the Wednesday they are baked. Pick one or more of the above Wednesdays and remember, you may want to order extra to freeze for later meals.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is located at 619 Poplar Street in Crosby.



**Roberts-Glad VFW 1727**  
 1/2 mile North of the stop lights in Aitkin

**FREE Meat Raffle Giveaway**  
 Every Wednesday Starting at 5:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**

**3rd Friday Dinner**  
 Mark Your Calendar!

**BBQ Rib Dinner**  
 with Mashed Potatoes & Dessert  
**Friday, October 19** 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
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# Crosby citizen Randolph rails against free speech at council meeting

At the Crosby council meeting on Monday September 24, the council was one short. Council-member Paul Heglund was not in attendance.

Kevin Randolph, dressed in street clothing, identified himself as a private citizen and was the only individual to present for the public comment portion of the meeting. Following is a complete transcript of what Randolph said.

"My comments tonight," said Randolph, "are about a subject that's not new, but this is the first time I've kind of chimed in on the subject. And that's the ongoing attacks against the City of Crosby and the Crosby Police Department and the Crosby City Council by Kelly Avelsgard, resident of Deerwood. Um, I've chosen to stay out of this debate for a long time even though, I am frequently one of the primary subjects of those attacks. Um, I'd like to start off just briefly thanking Linda Peeples, of the Courier, for her editorial that she put in the paper this week, um, explaining several of the problems and obvious falsehoods of these attacks and

declaring that the Courier is no longer going to print any more letters from Kelly Avelsgard. In this several month long continuous attack, um, one of the primary reasons that I've decided to speak out tonight, is that, ah, over the last several months, we have had a number of complaints against individual officers that have come in to me that I have investigated. I've found the complaints, after thorough investigation, to be completely unfounded. And when I tell the complainants and present my facts to them, they always seem to make the same comment, well your just a bunch of corrupt cops anyway. Ah, that's a very dangerous belief. That's not only untrue, but it puts the officers at risk and it puts the citizens of Crosby at risk. This, ah, person, Kelly Avelsgard, claims that he is interested in the safety of Crosby, but he is in fact not. Um, it's very obvious that this is a political campaign that he is running for a particular candidates. And it is a very dangerous way to run a political campaign. It is become so egregious and

has attracted several state agencies, um, the Bureau of Mediation Services, who is in charge of arbitrations has expressed their concerns and is looking into the situation. The State Auditor Rebecca Otto called Linda Peeples, after her article after her editorial appeared, and thanked her for putting in the facts and clarifying some of the things that have been printed in there. And the League of Minnesota Cities, which carries Crosby's insurance, as well as insurance for cities around the state, contacted the City of Crosby and urged the targets of this attack campaign to consult with private attorneys and investigate the possibility for liable, for a liable suit against the author.

"Last council meeting, we sat in here and council member Paul Heglund engaged in a spirited debate with Mr. Eric Heglund, um, the owner and publisher of the NewsHopper. And, um, basically, Eric Heglund's defense against these letters was that he was only the messenger. He doesn't participate; he prints all letters that get submitted to the

Courier. We know in fact that he doesn't print all letters because. ah, Marylee Abrams."

Mayor Bob Novak corrected private citizen Randolph "get submitted to the NewsHopper."

Private citizen Randolph continued, "Oh, I'm sorry, to the NewsHopper, thank you.

"He doesn't print them all, because the city's attorney printed a very succinct and very in depth counter to the attacks by Kelly Avelsgard and it went unprinted in the Hopper for over a month, despite several phone calls and emails, and it finally had to be resubmitted before it was printed. And that's just one example of letters we know that have been sent in, that don't get printed.

"Um, in this weeks NewsHopper, ah there is another letter from Kelly Avelsgard, um, but first off, I'd like to point out that right next to the letter from Kelly Avelsgard. There's a big bold block that says. 'NewsHopper deadlines are Monday at noon.'

"Not too long ago the City of Crosby tried to submit a news article on an award that I had won, a very prestigious award, and we submitted it to the NewsHopper on Monday afternoon and were told that it would not be in for another additional week. The reason being was that we had missed the noon deadline. It was pointed out that this wasn't the letter to the editor that this was a press release from the city, an official press release. We were told, well, news actually has to be submitted the Friday before. This Monday deadline only counts for ads and letters to the editor. And so it's right

there next to Kelly Avelsgard's letter. And let me read you the first paragraph of Kelly Avelsgard's letter entitled, 'Shining Endorsement'.

"The letter from an employee of the Courier and the City of Crosby stating they will no longer publish my letters, is a shining endorsement that I am telling the truth.'

"He is referring to the, obviously, the article that Linda wrote, saying that the Courier would no longer be publishing his articles. That newspaper hit the stands Wednesday morning about 36 hours before this would have to go to press. So not only was that deadline waived for Mr. Avelsgard. If you look above Councilman Heglund's letter has the little tail end of it 'sent via Linda Peeples email'. Paul Heglund asked, submitted his letter to the Courier. Asked Linda, if she would use her personal email to email it over to the NewsHopper. The NewsHopper didn't need to put on that it came from Linda Peeples private email. But it nicely ties in the fact that, ah, Paul has an association with Linda who is immediately attacked in the next paragraph of Mr. Avelsgard's, um, thing. So either Mr. Avelsgard is psychic, which I haven't met him, and most of the people that I know have not met this man, ah, or Mr. Heglund is actively participating with Mr. Avelsgard in this attack campaign. And again, I repeat dangerous attack campaign against the City of Crosby.

"I know that I have consulted a private attorney to investigate the possibility of liable. I would suspect that the other people that work for the City

of Crosby may investigate the same thing. Um, I would suggest in their conversations with their attorney, they, ah, look into the possibility of a publisher who is actively participating in an attack campaign and what the ramifications for that might be."

### Other meeting happenings

Council approved going forward with an overhead door for the Fire Department paid for by a donation from the Fire Relief Association of \$8,026. City Building Inspector Scott Sadusky waived his fee and would inspect the specs of the door to make sure it meets with the state building code.

Council approved the renew the annual contract for postage metering with Neopost. Mayor Novak indicated the cost is \$55 per month.

Council approved the event proposal and gambling permit for the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Fishing Contest and Scorpion Snowmobile Homecoming set for February 2, 2019.

Council approved the contract between the city and the General Local Teamsters 346 for the Public Works and Working Foreman Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2021.

Council accepted donation from the Fire Relief Association to pay for the overhead door.

Council talked about a request to erect a Jeff Stirewalt bench memorial.

Councilperson Robyn Wolf talked about a resident requested light post removal.

Irondale fire protection contract proposal for 2019 suggested \$40,000 or a reduction of \$4,000 from what the formula would have called

Continued on Page 7

## READER RIBBETS

### Riveted to their chairs

The city council of Crosby was riveted to their chairs Monday night by the story of a private citizen who has set a stage. The citizen claims to have knowledge that my letters are damaging to the safety of Crosby police officers and he is a primary subject of them, not true. I am exposing the egregious acts of the police leadership which are found in BMS Case No 17-PA-0260 and BMS Case No 13-PA-0659, 13-PA-0660.

He also states he has investigated complaints against officers, this indicates he is misrepresenting his position

as a private citizen or he has an agenda.

The arbitration report finds the Crosby police leadership lied, misled the council, distorted the truth, and made it virtually impossible for the council and Mayor to pass fair judgment.

This private citizen, for some reason needs to seek legal advice and is encouraging council members to do the same for liable, and he states he has never met me, nor knows anyone who does.

The citizen addresses the editorial in the Courier, if the Courier was a viable newspa-

per, it would have been the entity to discover and disclose this information and take the lead.

It appears this citizen uses the same investigative techniques of the Crosby police leadership, by jumping to conclusions that my letters are politically motivated, not true. My motivation is solely to uncover the violation of the public trust.

It is a good thing this citizen is not an investigator by trade, jumping to conclusions is not a characteristic of professional law enforcement investigators.

**Kelly Avelsgard, Deerwood Concerned Observer**

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# Aitkin First Street project progresses

Locals in Aitkin have seen traffic backed up on Hwy. 169 as First St. NW is reconstructed near the post office and behind the courthouse, as well as a leg of First Avenue by the city hall. According to the Aitkin City Administrator Kathleen Ryan, "The construction crew is on the final push to complete the First Street Project. All the ground work such as the storm sewer is completed. Curb is going in with the plan for paving to start the week of October 1."



## Crosby city council meeting | Continued from Page 5

for. The council approved this proposed rate to be presented to Irondale Township for their review.

Mayor Novak talked about all the cities of the area creating a fire district. Novak said he would talk to the cities Mayors and Fire Chiefs.

Chief of Police Kim Coughlin talked about a school shooting drill they just had.

Justin Burslie Planning and Zoning Specialist. Council ap-

proved the rezoning 3.2 acre from light industrial to highway business. The preliminary business is for a campground with platforms tents.

City Building Inspector addressed the council and spoke about the CRM construction.

City Engineer talked about a fifth option for Cross Avenue Improvements and the Highway 6 Multi-use Tunnel project.

City Administrator/Clerk/

Treasurer Lisa Sova talked about the proposed preliminary 2019 levy increase of \$41,000 or 3% from 2018. Council approved this proposal.

Council approved the Truth in Taxation Hearing Nov 26, 2018 at 6 p.m.

Council approved resolution to Authorize the City of Crosby to Make Application and Accept Funds from the IRRRB Regional Trails Grant Program.

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## Lammers Appliance Repair

Appliance Service & Repair  
Servicing all major appliances. Residential & Commercial  
Jay Lammers 218-851-1455

# Tanner Motors

## Brainerd Lakes Area's Pre-owned GIANT

• OVER 130 PRE-OWNED VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM •

**2015 FORD TAURUS SHO AWD**

**\$24,973** #280384

BRAND NEW TIRES, COMPLETELY LOADED!  
HEATED/COOLED LEATHER SEATS, NAV

**2012 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING**

**\$6,972** #280404

GREAT MPG'S, BLUETOOTH, 98K MILES, CLEAN!

**2011 CHRYSLER TOWN AND COUNTRY TOURING**

**\$10,986** #390206

IMMACULATE CONDITION, 84K MILES, BACK UP CAMERA AND MUCH MORE!

**2016 DODGE CHARGER WITH R/T PACKAGE**

**\$27,983** #390027

EXCELLENT CONDITION, GREAT MILES 11,403! NAVIGATION, SUNROOF, HEATED SEATS, REMOTE ENGINE START

**2013 INFINITI G37X AWD**

**\$15,976** #380498

LOADED! MOON ROOF, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, MUST SEE!

**2016 CHRYSLER TOWN AND COUNTRY TOURING**

**\$18,983** #185047

SUPERB CONDITION. LEATHER, THIRD ROW SEAT, ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM, BACK-UP CAMERA, REAR AIR

**2016 NISSAN JUKE SL AWD**

**\$16,984** #380403

EXCELLENT CONDITION, ONLY 26,912 MILES! NAVIGATION, SUNROOF, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, SATELLITE RADIO AND MORE!

**2003 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS LS PREMIUM**

**\$5,487** #385092

ONLY 73K MILES, LEATHER SEATS, CLEAN!

**2013 FORD TAURUS LIMITED**

**\$11,987** #280250

SUPERB CONDITION. SUNROOF, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, LOADED!

**2015 TOYOTA RAV4 LE AWD**

**\$17,966** #1280131

ONLY 35K MILES, SUPER CLEAN, BACK UP CAMERA, PRICED BELOW BOOK!

**2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB LONGHORN**

**\$36,971** #290051

EXTREMELY CLEAN, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER SEATS, NAV, 4X4, HEATED REAR SEAT, HEATED STEERING WHEEL

**2016 NISSAN ROUGE S AWD**

**\$18,483** #1270532

ONLY ONE OWNER! EXCELLENT CONDITION, LOW MILES - 18,807, BACK-UP CAMERA

**2014 SUBARU OUTBACK PREMIUM**

**\$15,486** #290102

ALL WHEEL DRIVE, HEATED SEATS, CLEAN, PRICED BELOW BOOK!

**2014 DODGE CARAVAN SXT**

**\$13,984** #280600

REAR DVD, POWER LIFTGATE, EXCELLENT CONDITION!

**2015 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED**

**\$23,974** #1186075

HEATED LEATHER FRONT AND REAR SEATS, NAVIGATION, POWER LIFTGATE, HEATED REAR SEAT

**2015 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE**

**\$24,986** #1185100

IMMACULATE CONDITION, MOONROOF, HEATED SEATS, 20INCH RIMS AND MUCH MORE

**2007 GMC YUKON SLT 4WD**

**\$12,973** #1380282

LEATHER SEATS, 3RD SEATING, NEW MICHELIN TIRES, MUCH MORE

**2016 TOYOTA COROLLA S**

**\$17,982** #780620

INCREDIBLE MPG'S, ONLY 12K MILES, SAFETY SENSE, BACK UP CAMERA AND MUCH MORE!

**2016 JEEP RENEGADE TRAILHAWK 4X4**

**\$21,987** #280617

EXCELLENT CONDITION, LOW MILES - 18,484! HEATED LEATHER SEATS, BACK-UP CAMERA

**2016 JEEP CHEROKEE AWD**

**\$19,971** #290011

EXCELLENT CONDITION, ONLY 21,233 MILES! HEATED SEATS AND STEERING WHEEL, BACK-UP CAMERA

**2011 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB**

**\$14,986** #380543

5.3 LITER V8, 4WD, LIFT WITH UPGRADED RIMS AND TIRES, BRUSH GUARD, DROP IN TOOL BOX

**2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB 4WD**

**\$25,974** #270835

5.7 HEMI, TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, DUAL EXHAUST

**2016 RAM 1500 CREW CAB LARAMIE**

**\$35,974** #290167

4WD, 5.7 LITER HEMI, GREAT MILES 24,158! NAV, HEATED/COOLED LEATHER SEATS, LOADED!

**2016 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW 4X4**

**\$32,973** #370826

3.5L ECO BOOST! IMMACULATE CONDITION! TONNEAU COVER, SPRAY IN LINER, RUNNING BOARDS

**2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB SPORT 4WD**

**\$39,974** #290107

SHOWROOM CONDITION, LOW MILES - 10,602! HEATED LEATHER SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, BACK-UP CAMERA, TONNEAU COVER

**3-MONTH • 3,000 MILE LIMITED WARRANTY\*** \* on qualifying vehicles

**John Tanner's TANNER MOTORS**

**620 West Washington Street, Brainerd, MN 56401**

**218-829-3597 / 800-222-0434**  
[www.tannerauto.com](http://www.tannerauto.com)



# THE ALL NEW NISSAN KICKS AVAILABLE AT TANNER NISSAN



## NEW 2018 Nissan Sentra SV

Backup Camera, Satellite Radio, Bluetooth, iPod/MP3 Input, 16" Alloy Wheels!



## NEW 2018 Nissan Rogue S AWD

Blind Spot Sensor, Backup Camera, Bluetooth, iPod/MP3 Input, Satellite Radio, Much More!



**SIGN & DRIVE**  
**\$229/MO** **ZERO DOWN**  
 36 mo. 36,000 mile  
 Lease Sale Price: \$19,707

MSRP \$20,240  
 -\$2,325 NMAC LEASE CUSTOMER CASH  
 -\$200 NMAC LEASE CASH  
 -\$500 NISSAN SENTRA HOLIDAY BONUS CASH  
 Stock No. N180280  
 Model No. 12118  
 VIN: 3N1AB7APXJL661805  
 Includes tax, title, license & first payment

**Tanner Price**  
**\$22,495**

MSRP \$27,560  
 -\$500 NMAC CAPTIVE CASH  
 -\$3,000 NISSAN ROGUE CUSTOMER CASH  
 Stock No. N18-0125  
 Model No. 22018  
 VIN: KNMAT2MV0JP561191

## NEW 2018 Nissan Altima 2.5 S

Backup Camera, Bluetooth, iPod/MP3 Input, Remote Start, Automatic Headlights, and Much More!



## NEW 2018 Nissan Murano S AWD

260-hp, 3.5-Liter V6 Engine, Intelligent All-Wheel Drive, Intelligent Forward Collision Warning, Automatic Emergency Braking, Nissan Navigation System, Hands-Free Text Messaging, Bluetooth Hands-free Phone System and Streaming Audio, Streaming Audio, RearView Monitor & Much More!



**Tanner Price**  
**\$17,995**

MSRP \$25,090  
 -\$4,000 NISSAN CUSTOMER CASH  
 -\$500 NMAC CAPTIVE CASH  
 -\$1,000 NISSAN ALTIMA LOYALTY CASH (Conditional Must Own NISSAN to Qualify)  
 Stock No. N18-0238  
 Model No. 13018  
 VIN: 1N4AL3AP0JC265192

**LEASE FOR ONLY**  
**\$329\*/MO** **ZERO DOWN**  
 Lease Sale Price: \$32,291  
 Includes tax, title, license & first payment

MSRP \$33,790  
 -\$2,000 NISSAN BONUS CASH  
 -\$1,700 NMAC LEASE CUSTOMER CASH  
 Stock No. N18-0354  
 Model No. 23018  
 VIN: 5N1AZ2MH9JN177846

620 West Washington Street, Brainerd

# TANNER NISSAN

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**WWW.TANNERAUTO.COM**



# Deal Hunting?

Options Are Endless at Tanner Motors!

**ON SALE**

**POWER DAYS**

## NEW 2018 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4X4

2.4 L I4, Popular Equipment Group, much More!

Stock #18-0008

MSRP \$28,780



## NEW 2019 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4

3.2 L-6 Cyl, Leather, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Plus a Whole Lot Much More!

Stock #19-0104

MSRP \$35,180



## NEW 2019 RAM CREW CAB BIGHORN 4X4

5.7 Hemi, 18" Aluminum Wheels, 8.4" U-Connect Screen, Heated Seats & Steering Wheel, Too Much To List!

Stock #19-0032

MSRP \$48,520



### CHOOSE YOUR PAYMENT!

**ZERO DOWN!**  
**\$300\***<sup>^A</sup>  
 PER MONTH

OR

**\$199\***  
 PER MONTH  
 \$1,799 Down  
 Plus Tax, Title,  
 License &  
 1st Payment

### CHOOSE YOUR PAYMENT!

**ZERO DOWN!**  
**\$350\***<sup>^A</sup>  
 PER MONTH  
**SIGN & DRIVE**

OR

**\$289\***  
 PER MONTH  
 Plus  
 Tax, Title,  
 License &  
 1st Payment

### CHOOSE YOUR PAYMENT!

**ZERO DOWN!**  
**\$425\***<sup>^A</sup>  
 PER MONTH  
**SIGN & DRIVE**

OR

**\$299\***  
 PER MONTH  
 \$3,999 Down  
 Plus Tax, Title,  
 License &  
 1st Payment

<sup>^</sup>Plus Tax, Title, License & 1st Payment additional down

\* All leases 36 mo 30,000 miles. All rebates to dealer.

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