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## Operation Christmas Child boxes hit the road for distribution



Rick and Ardelle Kotke in the trailer that will be filled with boxes when it leaves Aitkin.

Glory Baptist, individuals, Iron Range Christian Center, Journey North, Hilltop Chapel Sunday School, Malmö Evangelical Free Church, Oakridge Homes, Palisade Assembly of God and Shelley Ackley.

Church. About 22 shoeboxes are packed into cardboard cartons and labeled and loaded into the trailer. From there, they go to the Lakewood Evangelical Church in Brainerd, where four semi-loads full of cardboard cartons (full

of shoeboxes) will make their way to Minneapolis.

There, at a vast warehouse that is a processing center, each box is opened. The postage money is removed (it costs \$9 to send each box)

**Continued on Page 5**

## TOYS FOR KIDS DONATIONS NEEDED

Toy donations will be accepted at over 50 drop-off sites in the area until Thursday, December 13 OR please mail tax deductible monetary gifts to: Brainerd Community Action, 213 S 5th St., Brainerd, MN 56401, Attn: Toys For Kids. Make checks payable to Toys for Kids. Call 218-838-1640 for more information.

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
It is hard to imagine, with the cold wind and snow swirling around us this November, that children all over the world, including those in very hot climates, will receive a box of love next spring.

With Operation Christmas Child, families and groups pack shoebox-sized prize boxes full of toys and necessities that Christian missionaries bring all over the world. The boxes also contain a book that spells out the Christian message.

Although the holiday season is the best time to collect the boxes in the United

States, it takes a herculean effort to distribute boxes from small towns, such as Aitkin, Minnesota, to processing centers in larger cities and then on planes, trains, autos, ships and more to distribute boxes to children around the world.

New Life Alliance Church in Aitkin is the collection center for boxes in the Aitkin County and Cuyuna Range areas. By the time this goes to press, over 1,000 boxes will be collected. Churches and organizations who contributed this year include New Life Alliance, Bethesda Lutheran of Malmö, Big Sandy area;

churches have participated in past years.

Boxes contain one "wow" or signature toy, along with smaller toys and necessary items such as soap and washcloths, toothbrushes, socks, paper and pencils and more. Soccer balls can be deflated to go in the boxes and are wildly popular, as are balls of all types, dolls and stuffed animals. For most of these children, this goody box contains the only possessions that they have in the world that is theirs and theirs alone.

Dennis Thompson Trucking of Aitkin loaned a large packing trailer parked at New Life

## Fourplex fire in Crosby



A fire burned in a two-story fourplex located at 2nd Avenue and 1st Street NW in Crosby on Friday, Nov. 16. The Crosby Fire Department responded and called both the Deerwood and Brainerd fire departments to assist in battling the blaze.

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<b>2010 Chevy Impala</b>  <b>\$5,500</b>	<b>Chevy Avalanche</b>  <b>\$5,500</b>	<b>Ford F-150</b>  4x4 <b>\$5,500</b>	<b>2005 Chevy Equinox LS</b>  AWD <b>\$5,500</b>	<b>Ford Ranger</b>  4x4 Hard to Find <b>\$5,450</b>
<b>Chevy Colorado</b>  4x4 <b>\$4,500</b>	<b>PT Cruiser</b>  <b>\$2,500</b>	<b>Mercury Sable</b>  86k miles <b>\$2,450</b>	<b>Chevy Suburban</b>  4x4 hard to find <b>\$2,250</b>	<b>Ford F-150</b>  4x4 60k miles <b>\$1,950</b>

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# Council of Catholic Women in Crosby donate \$8,000 to area charities

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby recently donated \$8,000 to area charities. The money

was raised during the pasty marathon that concluded in October.

For twenty four years the CCW has made and sold pas-

ties for five weeks in October (and some years one of those weeks falls in September.) From those humble begin-

nings an October tradition was born which is now called the Pasty Marathon. In thanks for the support from home-

town friends and neighbors and those in the surrounding communities, the CCW along with the pasty crew elected to give back by donating to four area charities.

Checks in the amount of

\$2,000 were presented to: Care 'N Share n Emily, Interfaith Volunteers, New Pathways and Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen.

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Heartwood Senior Living

# A CUYUNA CHRISTMAS

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(Left to right) - front row: Annette Bonin from New Pathways, Ann Bergin from Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, Avis Puchreiter Council of Catholic Women (CCW), Nancy Rees from Care 'N Share in Emily and Kent Rees from Care 'N Share in Emily. Back row: Cheryl Plude, Diane Grochowski, Honey Olin, Kay Chismar and Barb Neprud, all CCW members.



(Left to right): Diane Grochowski, CCW; Avis Puchreiter, CCW; Ann Silgen, Director of Interfaith Volunteers; Kay Chismar, CCW; and Barb Neprud, CCW.

Tell 'em you read the NEWSHOPPER

## FELLOWSHIP

Things that the Odd Fellows Support:

- Education Foundation Scholarships
- Camp for Kids
- Visual Services
- Rose Bowl Float
- Pilgrimage for Youth Tour
- Arthritis Foundation
- Three Links Care Center
- Dollars for Scholars

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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. 218-9271383.

**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 Thursdays 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, MN

**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.operationminnesotanice.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, con-

tact Jean at 218-764-2665 for more info.

**RSVP Bone Builders (Osteoporosis exercise program)** 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 meeting location 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.

**White Pine Riders ATV Club** meet 2nd Sat. each month (Feb. - Oct.) at McGrath Fire Hall, 10 am, open to public.

## November

**16th** - Tree of Love Lighting and Dedication Ceremony, 4:15 p.m. at Heartwood Senior Living Community in Crosby. Contact Cuyuna Regional Medical Center at 218-546-2311 for more information.

**28th** - Memory Loss Support Group for the caregivers of those with Alzheimer's Disease will meet at 9:30 a.m. in Crosby at Heartwood Senior Living Community. The group is free and open to the public; no reservations are necessary. Light refreshments and beverages will be served. For more information, call 218-545-8522.

## December

**1st** - Free holiday program featuring traditional Irish and Scottish music by Laura MacKenzie 10:30 a.m. at the McGregor Public Library.

**1st** - Kids Lunch with Santa - The Bay Lake Area Lions are pleased to invite children (infants - 12 years old) and parents/grandparents from the Cuyuna Range Elementary School (CRES), to enjoy a puppet show, face painting, lunch with Santa and a special gift on 11 am - 2 pm at the Deerwood Auditorium. (parents are encouraged to take photos) Reservations must be made by November 21 through CRES or The Deerstand, Deerwood; call or send a text reservation to 218-330-7804.

**2nd** - Annual Christmas Tea Aitkin Public Library Annual Christmas Tea, 2-4 p.m. at the library. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Sign up today on the East Central Regional Library events calendar at eclib.org. For more information, ask for the Aitkin Public Library at 218-927-2339 or drop by 110 1st Ave. NE in the downtown area.

## Toys needed for area children

This year the the local Toys for Kids program officially began on Friday, Nov. 23 with the annual kickoff event in the parking lot of the Brainerd Chamber of Commerce and Ace Hardware, (west of the Mississippi River). Donations were received by the Heartland Detachment of the Marine Corps League, who has sponsored this program since the beginning.

This year marks the 37th year of the local Toys for Kids program that provides Christmas gifts for Southern Crow Wing County families.

Toy donations will also then be accepted at over

50 drop-off sites in the area until Thursday, December 13, the day toy distribution will be made to families at the Brainerd Armory.

Please mail tax deductible monetary gifts to: Brainerd Community Action, 213 S5th St., Brainerd. MN 56401, Attn: Toys For Kids. Make checks payable to Toys for Kids!

Toys For Kids has no affiliation with the national "Toys For Tots" program. All monies donated to the local Toys For Kids program are spent locally. Last year the economic impact of the area was about \$60,000.

Approximately 100 businesses and organiza-

tions support this program through collection of toys and financial donations.

In 2017, through the generosity of this local community, more than 1,200 boys and girls through 15 years of age from about 515 families residing in Southern Crow Wing County were able to receive Christmas gifts. This year the program may again have a larger number of recipients, meaning a higher demand for community donations & volunteers.

The Toys For Kids program is administered in cooperation with the local Salvation Army. It is supported solely by financial and toy donations from the community.

## Memory loss support group

A memory loss support group for the caregivers of those with Alzheimer's Disease will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 9:30 a.m. in Crosby at Heartwood Senior Living Community.

The group's facilitators are

Karen Ford and Pam Wachholz who have been trained through the Alzheimer's Association to lead memory loss support groups. Both women have loved ones in their lives with Alzheimer's, a disease that attacks the

brain.

The group is free and open to the public; no reservations are necessary. Light refreshments and beverages will be served. For more information, call 218-545-8522.

## A Cuyuna Christmas replaces Christmas in the Park Dec. 5

Celebrate the fellowship of the holiday season at A Cuyuna Christmas on Wednesday, Dec. 5, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Heartwood Senior Living Community in Crosby.

The magical evening will include both indoor and outdoor activities including horse-drawn sleigh rides, live reindeer, entertainment, caroling, craft projects for children and ice skating. Performing on the stage will be the Crosby-Ironton Chamber Singers, Lifespring

Church Bell Choir, Just for Kix and the Cuyuna Community Band. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be on hand, so bring cameras and have wish lists ready. Free soup, cookies, popcorn, hot chocolate and hot apple cider will be served.

Formerly named Christmas in the Park, the event was moved to a new location after numerous years of inclement weather. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors for many of the

activities but they will also be able to warm up indoors.

Those attending are encouraged to park their vehicle in Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's employee parking lot across Highway 210 from the hospital's main entrance. A free shuttle service will be provided to the event's entrance.

This free community event sponsored by Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber and the City of Crosby.



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# OBITUARIES

## VELMA MADESON



Velma Anne (Sidlo) Madeson, 88, of McGregor, died Thursday, November 15, 2018 at her home.

Services will be Saturday, November 24 at 11:00 a.m. in McGregor at the United Methodist Church. Visitation will be one hour prior at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to McGregor United Methodist Church or St. Croix Hospice.

She was born September 17, 1930 at her farm home in Menahga to Edward Roy and Gladys (Etter) Sidlo. She lived on the farm and attended a one room Country School. When she was in the 7th grade her family moved to Duluth. She attended Washington Jr. High School and Duluth Central High School and Hurst Business College. She worked for Graybar Electric Co. She married Robert Madeson on February 11, 1950 in First Methodist Church, Duluth. In 1956, they moved to St. Cloud. When her children were all in school, she worked for the St. Cloud public schools for 18 years. She held several positions before becoming a living skills aid for handicapped children which she did for 15 years. In 1983, she received lay person of the year award. They retired in 1985 and moved to their lake home on Round Lake north of McGre-

gor. She was a member of United Methodist Church. She taught Sunday School and held various offices in St. Cloud and McGregor. She was a member of United Methodist Women and held a District Office in United Methodist Women for 12 years. Velma and Bob attended weekly bible study till 2010. She was also a member of the Tamarack Golden Age. She enjoyed sewing, embroidering, quilting, reading, working with her flowers and being with family and friends. Velma and Bob enjoyed traveling and camping. They especially enjoyed the Hill Country in Texas. She worked with Bob on many of his building projects as well as building furniture. After Bob did the staining, she did all the sanding and varnishing.

Velma is survived by her children, Rob (Jackie) of Bemidji, Harlan (Cindy) of Rockville, Celeste Madeson of Dover, PA; grandchildren, Amie (Jon Jarvis) Madeson, Martin Ingraham, Mitta (Robbie) Russell and Anne Madeson; great grandchildren, Anika Madeson and Paislie Ingraham; sister Betty Parrish and a niece.

Velma was preceded in death by her husband, Bob; her parents; nephew, Larry and daughter-in-law, Sheila.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service in McGregor. Go to [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com) to sign the online guest register.

## BERNICE OTTERSON



Bernice A. Otterson, 83, of Brainerd formerly of Aitkin died Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at the Edgewood Senior Living Center in Brainerd.

Funeral services was held Wednesday, November 21, 2018 from the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin with Pastor Peter Emig officiating. Burial was in the Rabbit Lake Cemetery, rural Aitkin.

Bernice was born July 11, 1935 at Paynesville to Ernest and Alice (Johnson) Shoultz. At the age of 11, Bernice was one of the first successful open heart surgery patients and was only expected to live to the age of 21. She moved with her family to Minneapolis where she attended school and graduated from Patrick Henry High School. She attended a Vo-Tech for a time and then started raising her family. She met the love of her life in the fall of 1975 and married David Kent Otterson on August 7, 1976 in Crystal. They lived in Crystal for a short time and then moved up to the Aitkin area and lived on the north side of Mille Lacs Lake. She did Adult Foster Care for over 25 years.

She was a member of the Aitkin Seventh Day Adventist Church. She loved to sew, crochet, and do ceramics. She also enjoyed gardening flowers and vegetables. In her younger years, she was an avid fisherman in both summer and winter. She had a great sense of humor, loved animals, and was a very loving and caring person who loved her children and grandchildren very much.

She is survived by children: Rick Otterson of Crosby, Douglas Miller, Brainerd; Randy Otterson, Archbold, OH; Larry (Carol) Miller, Brooklyn Park; Lance Otterson, Archbold, OH; Rita Miller, Brainerd; and Laura Miller, Brainerd; 16 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; sister, Linda Keesling, Shakopee; brother, William (Marty) Shoultz, Brownsville, TX.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 31 years, David Kent Otterson on January 19, 2008; parents: Ernest and Alice (Johnson) Shoultz; son Thaddeus (Tad), 4 brothers: Louis, Charlie, Fred, Leroy and 3 sisters: Mary, Alice and Susan.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Go to [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com) to sign the online guest register.

## ILEANA PETERSON

Ileana Katherine Peterson, 67, of Aitkin died Friday, November 16, 2018 at Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin.

Memorial service will be 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin. Burial will be in Forest Cemetery, Kimberly Township, Aitkin County.

She was born November 18, 1950 in Negaunee, Michigan to Eugene and Sylvia (Sari) LaCosse. She graduated High School in Michigan. Ileana married Louis Carl Peterson on December

15, 1970 in Aitkin. She was a homemaker and helped on the family farm.

Ileana is survived by her husband Louis of Aitkin, brothers: Stan, Gene, and Robert LaCosse of Michigan, and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Go to [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com) to sign the online guest register.

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**EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES:**

- The deadline for the Dec. 29th NEWSHOPPER issue (after Christmas) will be Fri., Dec. 14
- The deadline for the Jan. 5th NEWSHOPPER issue (after the New Year) will be Fri., Dec. 28

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

\* Indicates handicap accessible. NOTE: All times are Sunday morning (a.m.) unless indicated otherwise.

### ALLIANCE

Aitkin\* — New Life; Larry Burg & John Baker, pastors; Worship 10:15 am & 5:30 pm; Adult Sunday School 9 am; "Elevate" youth group for 7th-12th graders, Wed 6:15 pm; 112 - 1st Ave. SW 218-927-2823.  
Garrison\* — Pastor Michael H. Palkie; Worship 9; SS 10:30.  
McGregor/Big Sandy — Rev. S. DeMars, 426-3408; E. of Sather's Store; Worship 9:30; Children's Church 10  
Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Aitkin — Heritage Church, Rev. Hayden Loven; Sunday Morning Service 10:45  
Crosby — Interim Pastor Greg Kalyvas; Worship 10:30  
Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30; Worship at 10:45  
Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; hillcityyagchurch@gmail.com; 218-697-2662  
Palisade — Pastor Ed Soroberger; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

### BAPTIST

Aitkin - The Journey North, Pastor Lynfield Hines, 218-824-5617, Worship 9 and 10:30, thejournenorth.com  
Baxter - The Journey North, Pastor Mark Bjorlo, 218-824-5617, Worship Saturday 5, Sunday 9, 10:30, 11:45, thejournenorth.com  
Brainerd\* - Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Chris Erickson, 218-829-3191; SS 9:00, Worship 10:30 and 6 p.m., Wed. Classes and Clubs 6:30 p.m.; fbcbrainerd.com  
Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Terry Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org  
Brainerd — Eagles Nest, Pastor Bob Stockland 218-829-4673, Worship 11, SS 9:45.  
Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Bob Stockland 218-562-5252, Worship 9:30, SS 9:30.  
Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor G. Fisher; SS 9:45; Service 10:45 and 6 p.m., Bible Study and Our Kids for Christ Wed. 7 pm  
Deerwood\* — Pastor W. Skog; SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.  
Glory\* — Pastor Chris Meirose; 927-3678; SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 am.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12.  
Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.  
Isle — Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 pm.  
Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

### CATHOLIC

Aitkin — St. James, Fr. David Forsman, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10 AM. Confession Sat. 10:10:45 am and 4-4:45 pm.  
Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Daniel Weiske, Sat.4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00.  
Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Anthony Wroblewski, Sat. 5:00; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.  
Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.  
Crosby — St. Joseph's, Mass: Sat. 4:30 pm; Sun 10:30.  
Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.ihmstemils.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm.  
Emily — St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101.  
Garrison — Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Elias Gieske, Mass Sun. 8 am. Confession Sun 7:15-7:45 am.  
Grand Rapids — St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 8 & 10:30. 218-326-2483  
Hillman — Holy Family, Sun. 10 to Mass Sat. 6:30 pm (only through Labor Day) w/ confession before or by appt.  
McGregor — Holy Family, Fr. David Forsman, 218-927-6581; Mass Sun. 8 am. Confession 7:15-7:45 am.  
Vineland — St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

Baxter, Lakes Area — Nondenominational; 7001 Highland Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-11:30. 218-828-1362  
Tamarack — Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship 9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Aitkin — Co. Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Gentz Franz 217-371-4977; Sacrament Mtg. 10, SS 11; 10 Priesthood/Relief Society noon

### COMMUNITY

Aitkin — Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE., Aitkin, Services Sun. 10, 218-927-6959  
Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene- Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10:45, SS 9:30 -16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005  
Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9 May-Oct.  
Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God, Pastor Robert Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30, Worship 10:30; Wed. BS 6:30 pm  
Jacobson — Jacobson Community Church, Pastor George Collins, 218-252-5938, Sun. SS (All ages) 9:30, Worship 10:30; Family Time 2nd & 4th Sundays; Wed. BS 7 pm  
Kimberly — Nature Ave. Rev. Rick Perry; Worship 9; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256.  
McGregor — Amazing Grace Christian Church; Worship 10; 99 South 1st Street (at the McGregor United Methodist church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel Seibel.

McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.  
Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.  
Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.  
Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Dave Uhrich; Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10  
Outing\* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Stanley Mikles, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; Children's Sunday School 9:30; Clothes Closet 8 am - noon 4th Saturday, 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge  
Palisade/Waukenabo Twp. — Hilltop Chapel, Pastor B. Hite; Service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; between Esquagama & Round Lake. Handicap Accessible.  
Tamarack — Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.

### CONGREGATIONAL

Aitkin — First (UCC) Rev. Susan Cline; Sun. 10; Comm. 1st Sun; Council Mtg. 2nd Sun. Spiritual fellowship, Sun. 9.

### EPISCOPAL

Aitkin — St. John's, Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 9 \*Brainerd - St. Paul's, Holy Communion Sunday 10

### EVANGELICAL FREE

Baxter — Lakewood EFC, Pastor Brian Erickson; Worship at 9 & 10:45; Wed for all ages 6:45 pm  
Crosslake — Interim Pastor Mark Holmen; Call for Service Times at 218-692-4141, email thelogchurch@crosslake.net  
Isle — Pastor Kerry Johnston; Worship 9; SS 10:15; Wed. Youth Group 6 pm; Adult Prayer 6:30 pm  
Malmo — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15  
Wright — Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

### HEBREW/MESSIANIC

Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, Rabi Frank Dell, for information 320-684-2804

### LUTHERAN

Aitkin — Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Rebecca Hinz; Worship 9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month.  
Aitkin—First\* (ELCA) Pastor Darrell Pedersen, Pastor Jordan Gades; worship Sat. 5pm, Sun. 10am (coffee fellowship at 9am); communion every Sat. and 1st & 3rd Sun.;

contemporary service 2nd & 5th Sun.; staffed nursery for Sun. service. Sun. service broadcast live on KLIN (94.3FM) and on TV cable channel 181 at 9am on Wed.; community meal every Mon. & Thurs. 5pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thurs. each month 9:30am- 5pm.

Aitkin — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor D. Becker; Worship Sun. 9, SS 10

Baxter — Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool (WELS). Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter. (Corner of Ingelwood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com.

Baxter — Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.pobpaxter.org  
Beaver Township — Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st & 3rd Sun., 10:30.

Brainerd — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church, AFLC, Sunday School 9, Worship 10 coffee fellowship 11, Wednesday evening 7 pm adult Bible study. Located at 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052. www.goodshepherdfreelutheran.church

Brainerd - Laestadian Lutheran Church; 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 11 am. (www.llchurch.org)

Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th Street Brainerd — Pastor David P. Holte and Pastor Hans Anderson - Summer Sunday Worship Time is 9 a.m. and Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. - Phone: 218-829-5147 Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org

Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9 Breezy Point\* - Eagles Nest, Pastor Jonathan Lemaster, 218-562-5252, Worship 10:30 a.m. SS 9:30 a.m.  
Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct. Cedarbrook — St. John's (ELCA); Worship 8:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun.

Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC, NALC) Rev. Paul Mattson; Sun. 9 & 10:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:40.  
Crosby — Zion (LC-MS) Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 8:30; SS 10; Bible Study Wed. 7 pm; handicap accessible. 218-546-6910

Crosslake — (ELCA), Indoor worship 8:30; Coffee Fellowship 9:30; outdoor worship 10. 218-692-3682.  
Crosslake — Mission of the Cross (LCMS), Pastor Leslie Uhrinak; Worship 9:30 with every Sunday Communion, Fellowship 10:30, Adult Bible Class 11, 218-692-4228, www.missionofthecross.org

Deerwood — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Michael Briggs; Worship: 8:15 (traditional) & 10 (contemporary); Sunday School 9:15.

Garrison — Light of the Cross (ELCA), Pastor Juli Sutton-Deem; Worship 9 SS 9; 320-692-4773 or 877-406-9101.

Garrison — Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Tom Petersen. Worship 10 with Communion Every Sunday. Adult Bible Study 8:30am, Sunday School Sept-May, 8:30am. Fellowship 11am. 320-692-4581. www.shepherdofthelake.org.

Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovaas; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month 8:45.

Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.  
Hillman — Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 9:30, SS 10. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)  
Iron Hub — Immanuel (LC-MS), Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 10:30; 218-534-3069.

Isle — Faith (ELCA), Interim Pastor Rev. Henry French; Worship 9:30; handicap accessible.  
Isle — Holden (ELCA), SS 9:30; Worship 10:30.  
Isle — Trinity (Missouri Synod), Rev. Mark Maunula; Worship 8:30; Fellowship follows; SS 9:45; Adult Bible 10.  
Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner; SS 1st & 3rd Sun. 10, Service 11, fellowship follows.

Lake Shore — Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8327 Interlachen Rd.; Worship 9:00 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N) Malmo — Bethesda (ELCA) Sun. Worship 9 (winter) 8:30 & 10 (summer); Fellowship after first service; Comm. 1st

& 3rd Sun.  
McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.

McGrath — Zion (ELCA), Pastor Elliott Malm; Worship 9; SS 9.  
McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (ELCA), Pastor Ericka Foss; Worship 9, Fellowship follows, SS 10.

McGregor — Our Savior's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm  
Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Michael Gustafson, Worship 9.

Palisade\* — Bethel (ELCA), Rev. Wm. J. Sass; Worship 9:30; Wed. School classes 4:15 p.m.  
Pequot Lakes\* - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Peter Rosenkvist, Worship 9:00 a.m. SS 9:15 am. Adult Ed — 10:15 am. Wed. Worship 5:45 pm. Free Community Supper Wednesdays at 5 pm.

Rossburg — Bethesda (ELCA); Comm. 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.  
Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210

Thor — Zion, Pastor G. Salmonson; Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.  
Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.

Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.

### PENTECOSTAL

Emily — Cornerstone Church; Pastor Earl Ready; Worship 10, 41536 Birchwood Drive, Emily; 218-763-2939.  
Ironton — Iron Range Christian Center; Pastor Dwight Semler; 218-546-6523; meeting at Ironton Town Hall, Co. Rd. 12, (Deerwood Shortcut); Worship 10 & Wed. 7 pm.  
Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Ministry, Pastors Ken and Ron Fairbanks, Sat. 11. 218-768-3585

### PRESBYTERIAN

Crosslake — Rev. Mark Ford from 1st Presbyterian Church of Brainerd will be preaching at the 9:00 service; Bible study on Wednesdays at 10; 14444 Daggett Pine Road; 218-692-4769

McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9. McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm. Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11.

### REFORMED

Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave NE 218-545-5433, www.vitalifespring.com

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Aitkin — Pastor Peter Emig; Worship Sat. 9:30 a.m., Bible Study 10:30 a.m.; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30 1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476

### UNITED METHODIST

Aitkin — Pastor Dawn Houser; high school & adult SS 9; Worship 10:30; fellowship follows; handicapped accessible.  
Crosby/Deerwood — Cascade, Reverend Dr. Genia Garrett ; Worship 9:45; fellowship follows.  
Cutler — Pine Lake Chapel, Rev. Laurence Foote; Worship 9.  
Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9  
Emily — Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 8:45; fellowship follows; handicapped accessible.  
Fleming—(Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship 10:30; fellowship follows; handicapped accessible.  
Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10  
McGregor—(Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45; fellowship follows; handicapped accessible.  
Onamia — Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship 10; 2 blks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947

### WESLEYAN

Emily — Pastor Ryan Fish; Worship 9; Friendship Time 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

We ask you to support these sponsors of the church directory:

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# Felony charge against former Crosby Mayor James Hunter dismissed

Former Crosby Mayor James Hunter has had a felony charge against him dismissed.

A felony charge of receiving stolen property—a

firearm—was dismissed on Monday, Nov. 19. A hearing had been scheduled, but it was canceled when the prosecutor dismissed the charge.

“This was a case that never

should have been charged,” said Ed Shaw, attorney for Hunter. “There was no reason Mr. Hunter could have known that a gun he recently purchased was stolen over 20 years ago from a house in Oakdale, a suburb of the Twin Cities.”

After an investigation by the Crosby Police Department, Hunter was arrested and charged in March of 2017 with four felonies. Two of the felonies — theft by swindle and second-degree assault went to trial and Hunter was found not guilty on both counts. Now the third felony has been dismissed.

“Three charges have been dismissed, said Shaw — “two by not guilty verdicts, the third by dismissal shortly before trial. The accusations in the complaint, as to those three charges— have been shown to be groundless, and flat out wrong. They are three charges that should never

have been brought against Mr. Hunter. It is disturbing that a local police department would bring serious, unfounded charges against

a citizen, and equally disturbing that they would be prosecuted by our County Attorney’s Office.”

Hunter still faces a felony

for unlawful gambling, gross misdemeanor for selling vehicle financing without a license and a misdemeanor false report of a crime.

## Man dies in hunting accident

A 56-year-old man is dead following a gunshot wound while deer hunting in Aitkin County on Saturday, November 17.

The victim has been identified as Gregory J. Nase of Columbus, Minnesota. The cause of death a gunshot wound. Nase was pronounced dead at the scene.

Nase was hunting with family on family-owned land in Milward Township about six miles northeast

of McGrath. The 911 calls were received by the Aitkin County Sheriff’s Office at 12:51 p.m. on that date.

It was reported that the family group was hunting together making a deer “drive” for a wounded deer while others were standing. A shot or shots were reported to have been fired at a moving deer and believed to have struck the Nase.

The incident is under investigation by the Aitkin

County Sheriff’s Office and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Also assisting at the scene were the Minnesota State Patrol and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Enforcement.

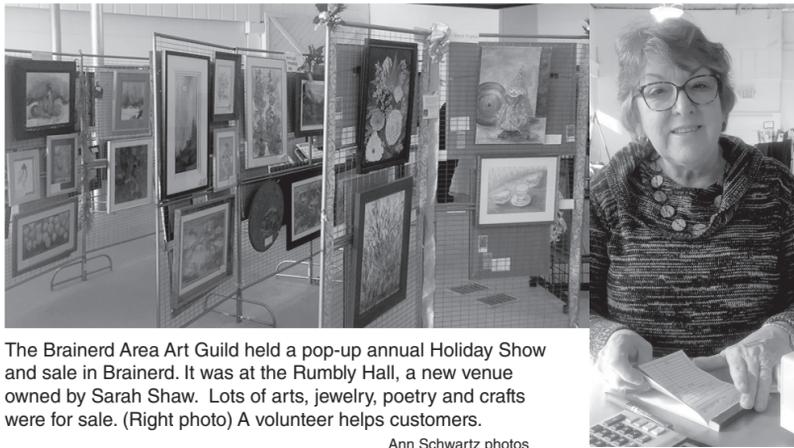
Also responding to the scene were the McGrath Fire Department and First Responders, Isle Ambulance, Isle Fire Department and North Memorial Air Care.

## Scandinavian Market



The Laestadian Lutheran Church, located in south Brainerd in the old Edison Elementary School, has a Scandinavian market each year. It features pasties, cardamom bread, tarts, cookies, handcrafted items and Christmas decorations. Working at the bazaar, from left; Hannah, Joyce, Jackie and Susan from Brainerd, with Samantha in the front.

## Brainerd Area Art Guild sale



The Brainerd Area Art Guild held a pop-up annual Holiday Show and sale in Brainerd. It was at the Rumbly Hall, a new venue owned by Sarah Shaw. Lots of arts, jewelry, poetry and crafts were for sale. (Right photo) A volunteer helps customers.

Ann Schwartz photos

# READER RIBBETS

## Local fake news

The Crosby police leadership recently cited the below statute to intimidate and bully a newspaper owner. Their interpretation of statutes is disturbing, they attempt to manipulate information to their needs and shift the focus from their egregious acts onto someone else. **609.77 FALSE INFORMATION TO NEWS MEDIA:** Whoever, with intent that it be published or disseminated and that it defame another person, communicates to any newspaper, magazine or other news media, any statement, knowing it to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The *Courier* runs a huge editorial riddle with inaccuracies, they don’t get attacked in

public meetings or detained by the police leadership.

The editorial author either intentionally misrepresented BMS Case No 17-PA-0260, or is completely incompetent, the report indicates the police leadership lie, distort the truth, conduct biased and prejudiced investigations, read online at [www.newshopper.net](http://www.newshopper.net), click the link provided. To confuse you, the editorial uses BMS Case No 13-PA-0659, 13-PA-0660 where you will find a flawed investigation was discovered also, but not the statements attributed in the editorial.

The police leadership has now affected the citizens of Crow Wing county with their

failed attempts at creating a criminal of a local prominent citizen. The Crosby police leadership are untruthful, their honesty and integrity shall forever be called into question, their continued employment is destructive. The author of the editorial in the *Courier* should be charged with a misdemeanor, it won’t happen. Maybe exposing they ruined their own reputation by distorting the information and destroying their own credibility might be enough. The *Courier* didn’t take the time to do the necessary research, instead, opted to print local fake news.

**Kelly Avelsgard**  
*Concerned Observer*  
*Deerwood*

## Operation Christmas Child | Continued from Page 1



Pat Perrine and grandson Owen pack shoeboxes into cardboard cartons.

and boxes are checked for items that won’t travel well such as toothpaste, candy or any liquid or perishable items. Scant boxes are supplemented with more items.

New Life Church sent a whole carton full of what are called “in-kind” items. People who are crafty can work throughout the year on extra items such as hats, slippers, belts that tie, purses, or whatever items they can knit, crochet, sew or craft. Just remember, that many of these children are in Africa and other hot nations and they don’t need wool hats and mittens like Minnesota’s children do.

From Minneapolis, airplanes full of boxes make their way around the world where they are offloaded to

vans, ships and other conveyances. They arrive in far-off villages in the spring and early summer. In a video about the program, it showed workers hand-carrying boxes to a remote village by walking them over a rope bridge.

The best part of the whole project is the excitement of the children when they receive their boxes.

“A mother who can barely feed or clothe her child over there, can find the hope of Christ in a box,” one worker in a video observed.

“It’s exciting to get people to heaven but it’s also exciting to get heaven to people,” another worker stated. “These boxes make a huge difference in the lives of children.”

“When the children open their boxes, there is an explosion of happiness and

about five minutes of excited screaming,” said one woman.

Project for family, group or church

There are many ways families and groups can help with Operation Christmas Child. You can pack your own box for a boy or a girl aged 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. You can make or donate small items throughout the year that can be used to fill up boxes. You can donate cash that is used to pay for postage and purchasing small toys. One local church gave \$200 for postage as its contribution.

Ardelle and Rick Kotke ran

the collection center in Aitkin this year. Adelle would like to see more families, civic groups, clubs and organizations involved in Operation Christmas Child.

“Maybe we could double the amount of boxes we send from the Aitkin County and Cuyuna Range areas,” said

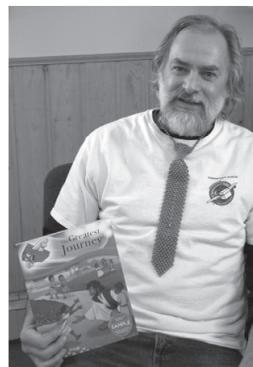
Adelle.

Donors are encouraged to put a letter to the child or photo of themselves into the box.

A story is shared about a young girl who challenged herself to double the amount of boxes she gives and she reached 192 boxes. She trac-

es her hand on each box and encloses a note telling them to put their hand on her handprint and she will pray for them. This giving child named Ellie is an inspiration for others.

For more information, call Ardelle Kotke at 541-378-1696.



Rick Kotke with the book that is given to children in the shoeboxes. If they chose to, they can participate in a 12-week course based on the book and be rewarded with a graduation party with caps and gowns and receive a Bible written in their own language. Since many children can’t afford to attend school overseas, this graduation is a huge milestone for them. Ann Schwartz photos

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