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# NEWSHOPPER

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

COMMUNITY EVENTS  
Page 3

OBITUARIES  
Pages 4

LEGALS  
Pages 5

CLASSIFIEDS  
Page 6

EVERYONE is welcome!

**GET REFRESHED!**  
**RECOVERY**  
**Worship Service**  
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## Staff at Chappy's Golden Shores face 76 criminal charges



Chappy's Golden Shores of Hill City former owner, Theresa Lee Olson, was arrested Tuesday and alone faces 25 charges, including one count of manslaughter for her conduct in the death of a resident.

Ten people associated with Chappy's Golden Shores of Hill City were criminally charged in Aitkin County District Court on Monday, Sept. 23. Charges included manslaughter, assault, neglect, racketeering, theft, operating an comprehensive

home-care facility without a license, concealing the proceeds of these crimes, perjury, and obstructing the State's criminal investigation.

The assisted-living facility had its license revoked early this year after an investigation by the Minnesota Department of Health found multiple violations of state regulations. Authorities continued their examination of the assisted-living facility following allegations that a 58-year-old resident with dementia died from brain injuries after being severely beaten by caregivers at the facility.

Attorney General Keith Ellison's office filed 76 criminal counts against the former owner, managers and staff of the senior home, following a extensive investigation that included a review of more than one million pages of evidence.

Chappy's former owner,

Theresa Lee Olson, was arrested Tuesday and alone faces 25 charges, including one count of manslaughter for her conduct in the death of a resident.

In addition to Olson, the defendants are Benjiman Howard Swanson (with whom Olson shares an infant child); Olson's sister, Lisa Michelle Anderson; Olson's daughter, Monika Lynn Olson; Alexcis Elizabeth Hines; Christina Michelle Meagher; Kristin Marie Davis; and Susan Joyce Ellis, all of Hill City; Olson's niece, Janiece Frelove Mattson-Olson and Georgia Louise Salomonson, both of Grand Rapids.

The defendants have all been charged in Aitkin County District Court. The charges contained in the complaints are accusations; the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. "Every Minnesotan de-

serves to live with dignity and respect. This does not exclude the sick and the vulnerable — it includes everyone. This means that every Minnesotan who needs care deserves care, not abuse," Attorney General Ellison said. "My office is holding these defendants accountable for what we believe we can prove is systematic, intolerable abuse and neglect that in one case led to death, not to mention widespread fraud, theft, and other charges that hurt everyone."

In early 2019, the Attorney General's Office opened a criminal investigation into Chappy's upon referral from the Aitkin County Attorney's Office and found the following:

- Olson and certain Chappy's employees subjected multiple residents to neglect by failing to provide them with proper health care, su-

pervision, food or shelter. For instance, R.M., a 72-year-old Marine Corps veteran who resided at Chappy's beginning October 2017, died in October 2018 of septic shock, an untreated urinary tract infection, and dysphasia and pneumonia complications, which resulted from improper medical care and neglect. The medical providers who treated R.M. just before his death described R.M.'s catheter as filthy and characterized his 25 x 25 cm pressure sore as "[one of] the worst [they] had ever seen," and the result of "utter, complete neglect." (Complaint pp. 25-29)

- From February 2017 to February 2019, Olson, with the assistance of the facility's manager and several employees, bilked the State of Minnesota's Medicaid program of over \$2.1 million by billing for health care services that

Continued on Page 5

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Ongoing Events:**  
AA - Aitkin - 322 1st Ave. NE 218-927-6240 Sun. Women's Meeting 5:30, Mon. Step Study 7:00pm Open, Tue. Big Book Discussion Meeting 6:30pm Open, Open Meeting 8:00pm, Wed. Women's Meeting 6pm, Thu. Sober Sailors Open 9am.  
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 Lions meet on the 3rd Tuesday at 6 pm at the Aitkin Forty Club restaurant. Call 218-839-3954 for more info.  
Aitkin Rebekah lodge. 151. Meets the 1 st 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" Workforce Center - 20-3rd St. NE, Aitkin, 4th Tuesday of month at noon  
Pre-registration required call 218-723-4005  
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 Roxxy 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.operationminnesotanic.com.  
Overeaters Anonymous 9:30am at Aitkin Library, 7:00pm at 112 1st Ave SW - house next to New Life Church. Everyone is welcome, especially newcomers. OA is a 12 step program fashioned after AA. Not a diet club, no dues

or fees or weigh-ins. For more info: OA.org, or call meeting contact Cheryl at 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) 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 (now called WW) meets at Hallett Center in Crosby every Wednesday at 5:45 pm. 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.

**September**  
28th - The movie "Spiderman: Into the Spider-verse", Rated PG. 11 a.m. showing at the Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library.  
28th - Nails N Nosh: Thrivent and Habitat build to fight hunger, 1-3 p.m. at The Journey North Church, Aitkin. Fun stations, snacks, free t-shirts, donate a food shelf or birthday bag item.  
**October**  
2nd - The Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library presents Pre-school Story Hour, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fun.  
5th - Fall Bazaar at Carmel Lutheran Church, Jacobson 10 am - 2 pm. Lunch: chicken salad croissant sandwiches, sloppy joe sandwiches, soups, and desserts, will be available. There will be baked goods,

canned goods, garden produce, soup mixes, cleaning products, craft and gift items, quilts, rugs, afghans, embroidered dish towels and pillowcases, dryer balls, knitted dishcloths, baby sweater sets, hats, scarves, Christmas items, and white elephant items.  
9th - The Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library presents Pre-school Story Hour, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fun.  
11th - David Huckfelt will perform at the Live Well Nightclub and Coffee Bar in the Journey Church, 5459 Lakers Lane (next to the Nisswa school) at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 and admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12 with listening attention when accompanied by an adult. Seating is first-come, first-served  
12th - Teravall Oremageddon, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Trails.  
12th - Cascade UMC Deerwood Pumpkin Palooza festivities for all ages, 1 - 4 p.m.  
18th - 20th - Rutgger's 34th Annual Oktoberfest. Enjoy tradition live German music, beer and entertainment tents, 150+ arts and crafts booth, fabulous food and lots of beer, games and activities for all ages. Call 218-678-2885 for more information.  
25th - Pre-school Story Hour at the Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library at 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fun.  
25th - Antje Duvekot will perform at the Live Well Nightclub and Coffee Bar in the Journey Church, 5459 Lakers Lane (next to the Nisswa school) at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 and admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12 with listening attention when accompanied by an adult. Seating is first-come, first-served.  
26th - Rutgger's 2nd Annual Zombie Apocalypse 5K Insane Brain Terror Run (or walk). Call 678-2885 or visit ruttgers.com/ for more information.

Send the **NEWSHOPPER** Your Photos and Events!  
Got an interesting photo and story to share? Just send it to hopper@crosbyironnton.net, along with your name, city and a description of the photo. We also accept news and community events. And who knows, you may see your submission next week in the **NEWSHOPPER**!

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# READER RIBBETS

## Making use of my 1st Amendment

I look forward to reading the NewsHopper's weekly publication, as I feel they have the ability to tell it as it is. [I] admire Kelly Avelsgard and a couple others that have that same ability and the Hopper publishes. Thank you.

I feel the city of Aitkin has many of the issues that have or still are plaguing Crosby, MN. We have a mayor and his nearly hand-picked City Council. This mayor/council is in charge of our local police department, picking and choosing who gets on our payroll. I feel one of his/their most recent pickings is a person currently on this cities law enforcement, he was promoted to, an assistant to an assistant in Aitkin's police department.

I feel once he and his council are in place, they can do anything they want, just because they can! I feel they fail to do their jobs like keeping trashy places cleaned up, not seeing the grass is being mowed here and there or sidewalks not shoveled in the winter just to name a few. I say shame on them, and they are on our payroll. They have favorites who get away with many infractions. Just a reminder these rules/ordinances are on our books and they put them there

and are not following their own rules and regulations.

It appears to me, they seem to forget the very large percentage of elderly seniors and vulnerable, living on fixed incomes struggling to just get by in this city and perhaps county of Aitkin, MN. Many living alone perhaps not feeling safe in their own homes? All of us living here or anywhere are paying for safety. What do we do if we feel our safety is in question? A suggestion, I feel we too could use a criminal investigation!

Now consider this: It is almost impossible to get a permit to carry concealed, as many living here fear for their lives, as I feel our safely by law enforcement is questionable. First you have to take a course, which last I checked cost was \$100.00. Now I agree there is a need to know how to handle any weapon. Next is you pass that; you need to go to this sheriff. He can deny even if you pass, or he will charge the outrageous charge to do a background check, last I checked he charges \$100.00. We all know it does not cost anywhere near that much to do a background check. I feel, he and others are collaborating at keeping the cost high, therefore

keeping many of us unarmed who need it for our own protection. I feel our safety is questionable and it is left up to us due to insufficient or ineffective safety protecting and serving that should be provided by the current law enforcement on our payroll in the city and county of Aitkin, MN.

A recent article about an attack that apparently happened right here in this city of Aitkin. The cops are recommending a device called. SAFE PERSONAL ALARM. Do your own research, I feel, after my research a number of reasons to avoid it! Instead use a taser, pepper jell, and see about getting a permit to carry concealed if your county leadership allows you to without overcharging for classes and a background check, therefore again I feel a plan to keep us unarmed.

Once again, if you tell the truth, which not many can handle, remember you may also become a target for retaliation.

Adding a bit of humor, yet I find it so true:

A person about to speak the truth should always have one foot in the stirrup!

**Georgia J. Johnson**  
*Concerned Citizen/Taxpayer, City of Aitkin*

## “I can sleep at night”

On Friday September 13, 2019 the Crosby chief of police retired. Walking away after 15 years of service and announcing to the residents of Crosby; “I can sleep at night”.

- Eight failed attempts to criminally prosecute two former mayors.
- Two failed wrongful termination lawsuits. BMS Case No 17-PA-0260, BMS Case No 13-PA-0659,13-PA-0660 where arbitrators found the former chief lies, alters documents, makes three ring binders disappear, distorts the truth, conducts biased, prejudiced, flawed investigations.

The second of many potential lawsuits has been filed against the former chief and the City of Crosby, because of the egregious acts.

Crosby is the highest taxed city in Crow Wing County. Using the property tax calculator from the League of Minnesota cites website, lmc.org, comparing similar \$200,000 property's: in Crosby, taxes are \$3,162 with the city portion being \$2,104, in Crosslake they're \$1,571, the city portion is \$500. It costs 4X more to live in Crosby than it does Crosslake.

Crosby is living beyond its means. The city administrator,

former chief of police, and mayor are responsible. With millions of dollars in reserves, the council and mayor — from the advice of the city administrator, with a salary close to, or over one hundred thousand dollars a year — will vote to raise your taxes, to raise their salaries and to pay for these lawsuits.

Willingly and with malice, the former chief and city administrator broke data privacy laws and libeled the city by setting up, and conducting a “briefing” for incoming council person on their version of the facts that were expunged from the records.

The council and mayor have acted negligently. They did not investigate, charge, or discipline the former chief to clear the city of, or reduce liability. That failure has vicariously libeled the city. They chose to protect the former chief over the residents and the citizens will pay. They will not protect the city by investigating the city administrator either.

YOU ARE BEING SUED is how the first paragraph of a summons begins. The city and former chief have read those twice recently with many more opportunities to come. Those words mean Crosby

and all the residents are being sued and the council, mayor, and former chief don't care. It's not their money. They will walk away unscathed, resign, or choose not to run in the next election. The pieces will be left to the next administration, because this one has not taken a single step to protect the residents. Crosby will be paying for the 15-year tenure of the former chief for years to come. The council and mayor must act today to minimize the losses of that fiasco of police work. The city administrator should be immediately suspended and criminally investigated for their role in the briefing—protecting the residents from liability of misconduct, criminal acts, and making sure the city administrator has not harmed the city.

When the new Crosby council and mayor attempt to solve the financial crisis — and residents are in an uproar about the limited options — raising taxes on the highest taxed city in Crow Wing County, every citizen can find “comfort” in the former chief's words, “I can sleep at night.”

**Kelly Avelsgard**  
*Concerned Observer Deerwood*

### Staff at Chappy's Golden Shores face 76 criminal charges| Continued from Page 1

did not occur or were not by the Medicaid program because:

- Chappy's had no registered nurse on staff to assess and oversee the services provided to Chappy's residents, some of whom required around the clock care. To hide this fact, the defendants submitted fraudulent licensing applications using the identity of a registered nurse who no longer worked at Chappy's and forged the nurse's signature on medical records, including the records of resident R.M. who died from neglect. (Complaint, pp. 15-17, 36)
- Chappy's housed residents at unlicensed, unapproved facilities. Conditions at one of the facilities included “holes in the closet leading to the exterior of the

home, a broken window and door, visible water damage, and rodent nests and feces.” (Complaint pp. 17-18, 23-24, 32)

- Chappy's billed for services provided by home health aides who had not passed required background checks. Some of the aides had convictions that would have disqualified them from providing direct care to vulnerable adults, such as assault and electronic solicitation of a minor. To conceal this from the State, Chappy's listed these aides as “maintenance” or “custodians” and made sure they were not present for State licensing reviews. For instance, on November 6, 2018, defendant Monika Olson messaged aide B.W.: “[S]tate is in the house and will be at time of night shift as well. Please come in and

go directly to the basement so they don't see you until they are gone.” B.W. had not undergone a background study and would not have passed a background study due to prior felony burglary and domestic assault convictions. (Complaint pp. 17-20, 38)

- Chappy's billed for services that could not have occurred as the residents were not at Chappy's on the dates billed. For instance, Chappy's billed and received Medicaid funds for services resident T.F. could not have received because according to Chappy's own records, T.F. was hospitalized at the time. (Complaint pp. 20-21)
- Shortly after Chappy's license was suspended by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) due to substantiated allegations of abuse and neglect, Olson sold Chappy's

to her daughter, Monika Lynn Olson, for \$1. The Olsons renamed the facility “Mont Royal” and attempted to obtain licensure from MDH. When MDH rejected Mont Royal's license applications, the Olsons and other employees continued to house former Chappy's residents and provide them with unlicensed health care services. (Complaint pp. 22-24)

- The defendants engaged in an extensive and coordinated effort to conceal evidence of fraud and maltreatment, falsify records in response to State investigations and convince potential witnesses to provide false or misleading answers to State investigators. A notebook seized during a search warrant at Olson's home included a section titled “debunk [K.P.]” and a list of reasons that 911 was not

called when neglect victim K.P. fell on ice at Chappy's and broke her hip. A whiteboard seized from Chappy's appeared to be a script for employees to follow when answering State investigators' questions about neglect victim E.W. (Complaint pp. 30-32, 35-38)

- After MDH began inves-

tigating Chappy's, Olson and her husband withdrew over \$1.7 million from Chappy's bank account. When Chappy's comprehensive home-care license was suspended by MDH, Olson sold two of Chappy's buildings to co-defendants Monika Lynn Olson and Benjiman Howard Swanson for \$1. (Complaint p. 38)

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Sept. 28, 2019)

**CITY OF CUYUNA**

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON VARIANCE**

A Public Hearing will be held on October 14, 2019, at 6:45 p.m. in the City Hall in the City of Cuyuna, to consider the application for variance by Richard Jeub, 21883 Cotton-tail Dr, to allow him to

Construct a 20' by 20' garage at a setback of 10' from the right of way, which is 10' at variance with the required setback of 20'.

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Dated this 13th day of September, 2019,

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Cuyuna City Clerk

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# Former mayor sues City of Crosby and former police administration

A defamation complaint was filed by former Crosby Mayor James Hunter in Crow Wing County Court on Thursday, Sept. 19 against former Police Chief Kim Coughlin, former Lt. Kevin Randolph and the City of Crosby.

In a statement, attorney for Hunter, Edward R. Shaw said they were taking the action in an effort to hold Coughlin, Randolph and the leadership of the City of Crosby responsible for their systematic harassment and the prosecution of former Mayor Hunter, which were based on accusations that they knew were false.

Shaw contends that Coughlin, Randolph, and the leaders of the City of Crosby used public resources to engage in a campaign to prevent Hunter from becoming mayor, and after Hunter became elected, to remove him from office and discredit him by using false accusations against him.

According to a statement from Shaw, this crusade began in 2016, and lasted into this year, when the last charges against Hunter were dismissed by Crow Wing County Attorney Don Ryan.

Shaw also believes that Coughlin and Randolph acted in their official capacity using thousands of dollars of taxpayer staff time to attack Hunter for their own personal gain.

Shaw said Hunter endured over two years of defending himself against serious crimes, some of which could have sent him to prison.

"No citizen should have to go through what Mr. Hunter went through," Shaw said in a statement. "It is our hope that this action will achieve justice for Mr. Hunter, hold the responsible parties accountable, and allow the citizens of Crosby to finally move forward with new leadership that they can trust.

"In taking this action, Mr. Hunter and I understand that many citizens of Crosby, and

many employees of the city and police department, have lived in fear over the last several years and may have seen, or even been forced to, participate in, inappropriate and illegal activities. It is our hope that with Ms. Coughlin and Mr. Randolph no longer at the police department, and other leadership changes coming in the near future, residents and city employees, and police officers will now feel free to come forward and speak the truth about what they have seen happen."

At a press conference held on Friday September 20, Shaw and Hunter added details and answered questions about the complaint filed against former Chief of Police Kim Coughlin, former Lt. Kevin Randolph and City of Crosby.

Talking about the history of the case Shaw said, "In March of 2017 Mr. Hunter, 68, at the time, [with] no criminal history, never seen a jail cell, never committed a crime, was arrested by, I think, about a dozen officers in his business in Crosby, minding his own business. And suddenly a high profile arrest, cuffed and put in back of a squad car, taken to jail. Out of the blue. His home, his business, his vehicle searched top to bottom. All of his business records, virtually everything taken and seized by the Crosby Police Department and a criminal complaint filed against him with a supporting probable cause statement but. Frankly belonged in a bad detective novel not a court pleading with every accusation you could think of. Accusing Mr. Hunter of threatening witnesses, possibly fleeing to Mexico. Complete fantasy."

Shaw spoke about motivation for the charges, "What we now know is that Mr. Randolph and Ms. Coughlin, the Lieutenant and the Chief of the police department, Mr.

Hunter had been critical of the leadership of the police department when he ran for Mayor in 2016 — and then after he was elected and after he took office. He was concerned about inefficiency in the department. A small department with two admin staff that weren't doing that much police work as you could see. He was concerned about the cost of litigation the department was involved in against Jesse Smith a former officer costing over \$200,000 which the city lost...Mr. Hunter as a candidate for office has a right to do criticize the government, proposed alternative to how a local government should be let. And in response Mr. Randolph, Ms. Coughlin starting in the summer of 2016 as Mr. Hunter announce for Mayor and was known as a candidate. Began a campaign to try to pin charges on him, to try to pin an accusation on him. To prevent him from becoming mayor. And then once he got elected mayor to force him to resign. And they were successful, he had to resign in the summer of 2017. Shortly after the charges were filed, the pressure was just to much and the damage done to his business and reputation. Having your name drug through the mud.

"Mr. Randolph contacted media outlets to maximize visibility of the arrest, to do as much damage to Mr. Hunter," said Shaw. "If this were happening in another country, it would be called a coup d'etat... you can not have the police or public officials undermining elected representatives, people have the right to choose the government in this country."

"We are taking this action in an effort to hold Ms. Coughlin, Mr. Randolph and the leadership of the City of Crosby responsible for their systematic harassment of Mr.

Hunter and the prosecution of Mr. Hunter based on accusations that they knew were false."

Jim Hunter tried to explain the toll the ordeal of the last two years have caused him

"It's very emotional, Hunter said. "I feel like every citizen should be able to stand up for what they believe in; it's been terrible."

"It's not about me, it's about the people. It's hard, it's very hard, it's very costly, it's been very, very hard on my health. All of the people need to be represented fairly... there's been an injustice and it needs to be addressed. I think that God will prevail."

Shaw added, "I think Jim deserves a lot of credit, life would have been a lot easier if he hadn't run for mayor."

When asked about a timetable Shaw responded, "Once served the defense will have time to file a response. Then there will be discovery. In about two or three months a scheduling conference is called. The court picks dates for the trial. Probably six to eight months after the scheduling conference depending on the courts calendar. It takes a while probably close to a year. The city has a lot of experience with litigation in the past and currently. Jesse Smith is currently involved in a defamation suit that was filed three or four months ago."

When asked who is paying for the former chief's and lieutenant's legal costs, Shaw responded, "That is obviously between them and the city and how their insurance is structured. And the city will pay for it. Something I don't have any control over obviously I think they should be personally responsible, but how the city's insurance works is up to them."

Attorney for the City of Crosby Joseph Flynn when asked for

In a statement, Attorney for the City of Crosby Joseph Flynn of Jardine, Logan and O'Brien, P.L.L.P. responded,

"We do not believe these allegations have merit and intend to fight them in court rather than through the press."



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