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HAPPY HOUR FOR A CAUSE

Thursday, Jan. 23
5 to 7 p.m.

\$15 per person
at Cuyuna Brewing
Company in Crosby
• Appetizers
• Beer Samples

St. Vincent de Paul is a help-based organization that assists people in the area with basic needs such as food, shelter, utilities and transportation.



Please RSVP
by calling
Joan at
218-546-5554

Cuyuna Lakes Ice Fishing Contest/Scorpion Homecoming

Join hundreds of anglers and snowmobile enthusiasts at the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber's 16th Annual Ice Fishing Contest and Scorpion Homecoming on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 12 to 3 p.m. on Serpent Lake near Crosby's Memorial Park.

The tournament boasts more than \$1,000 in prizes for lucky or skilled anglers and prizes are awarded to fish of all sizes during the three-hour contest. Entry tickets are \$10 for each hole and include the chance to win five raffle prizes. 1st – Eskimo F1 Rocket 8" Ice auger; 2nd – Marcum M1 Flasher; 3rd – Marcum Recon 5 Underwater Camera; 4th - Eskimo Quickfish 3i Fish House; 5th – Grand Casino Mille Lacs One Night Stay and \$30 food credit. In addition, food and beverages will be sold in an ice-arming tent and there will be a raffle for numerous other prizes donated by the community.

Scorpion Homecoming dusts off those wonderful old machines and recalls a time when the Cuyuna Lakes was among the largest snowmobile producers in the world. Numerous Scorpions will be on display and a trail ride is planned. 2020 will celebrate

two feature sleds: 1) Range Whip, Scorpion's popular mid-size sports machine. The homegrown Range Whip featured a two-seat configuration and powerful Cuyuna engine. All Range Whip model years (1976-1978) and engine sizes will be featured at the Homecoming. 2) Teardrop Designs, from 1967-1971 Scorpion's stylish teardrop hood set the standard for style and function. Whether new or restored, all Scorpions are welcome! Special commemorative buttons will be sold at the tournament's on-ice warming tent.

The National Anthem will be performed on the ice, along with the Ironton American Legion Color Guard. All proceeds from the tournament and Scorpion merchandise sales benefit the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber and will be used for marketing to attract visitors to the area.

For Scorpion Homecoming details, visit <http://www.trailasled.com/hc-20200201>. Event logistical support provided by and the Sno-Serpents Snowmobile Club, <http://www.snoserpents.com/>

To volunteer, visit: <https://signup.com/go/yMDMGRZ>
Tournament tickets are

available at the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber office (in Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union in Crosby), CI Courier, Deerwood Bank, Mid-MN Federal

Credit Union, Oars-N-Mines and Spalding House. They will also be sold at the event. Eager anglers are encouraged to monitor the Cuyuna Lakes

Chamber Facebook page and www.cuyunalakes.com for more information including up-to-date reports on ice conditions.

Tree and plant sale open house



Six ounces (500 sq. ft.) of the Wild Meadow Seed Mix is \$37.



Six ounces (covers 1,500 sq. ft.) of the Wildlife/Buffer/Sep-tic Mound Seed Mix is \$37.



Conifers and deciduous trees and shrubs are available.

The deadline for ordering is Friday, February 28 or until sold out.

Plants, trees, and seeds must be picked up Thursday, May 7 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday, May 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For better planting success, Please plant within 2-3 days of pick up dates. (Always keep plants cool and damp.)

If you have any questions or would like to order via e-mail please contact us at tasha.lauer@crowwingswcd.org or call the SWCD at 218-828-6197.

Think Spring! — The annual SWCD Tree Sale Pre-Order Open House will be Friday, January 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Meeting Rooms 1 and 2, next door to The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (CW SWCD) office (which is in the Crow Wing County Land Services Building, 322 Laurel Street, Brainerd.)

Schedule and Features:

- 9:00 – 2:00 p.m. Displays and info. from Brock White, CWC, DNR Forestry, Master Gardeners, PRWA, Our Mississippi Our Future and more.

- 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Presentations

- Chance to win 2019 Plat Book, Native Flower Seeds, Photo Prints or a Hat

- Drawing for \$100.00 CW SWCD Gift Certificate

- Explore different County, State, and Federal conservation programs and grant opportunities

- Refreshments and snacks

If you can't make it to the open house, use their website to order online, www.crowwingswcd.org. You'll also find photos and descriptions of the trees, plants and seed mixes.



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Call Eric at 218-821-1393

OBITUARIES

CHARLES BRIDGWATER



Charles “Charlie” Jesse Bridgewater, 91, of Aitkin, died Saturday, January 11, 2020 in Riverwood Healthcare Center, Aitkin. Services were held Friday, January 17 at 11 a.m. in Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home, Aitkin. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Military Honors was provided by Aitkin American Legion Post #86 and Aitkin V.F.W. Post #1727. Interment was in Bennettville Cemetery, Hazelton Township.

He was born January 6, 1929 in Wealthwood to John and May (Plant) Bridgewater. Charlie was the fourth of ten children born to English immigrants on the family farm near Wealthwood at the start of the Great Depression. His father hitched a horse to the stoneboat, in 30 degree below zero weather, to bring back the neighborhood midwife who would attend his entry to the world. He was born in a one room house with no electricity or running water. By the time he was big enough to walk, he was assigned the chore of watering the cucumbers, carrying water in glass gallon milk jugs from a pond near the garden. By the time he was ten, he was doing field work with a horse and walking plow. Charlie attended a one-room country school through eighth grade. When he was in high school, he took on all the farm chores and field work single-handed due to his father’s extended illness, older brothers being off to the war, and younger brothers too small to be much help. That was a brutal time which took a severe toll on his scholarship. There was never any real money and times were tough, but thanks to a large garden, some milk cows, a few pigs, a flock of chickens and a team of work horses, the family never went hungry. After graduating from Aitkin High School in 1947, he continued to work the farm with draft horses for six years before serving in the US Army from 1953-1956. After his Basic Training in Fort Riley, Kansas, he was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado. He served with the Battery “A” 4th Field Artillery BN (Mule Pack). As part of his Artillery Assignments, he was shoeing the 350 mules and 100 horses that made up the outfit. His unit was called in to fight forest fires near Pikes Peak, Colorado and was part of a movie production titled “The Looters”. He was also a horse orderly for the commanding officer on base. He was honorably discharged

with the rank of E-4.

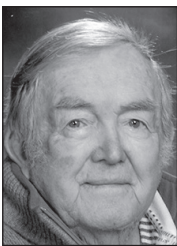
Upon returning home, Charlie worked the family farm for a short time and worked at Vern Tarr’s Feed Mill grinding, mixing and delivering feed to many local farmers, as well as doing farm chores for several neighbors. He then worked at Larry Quail’s Sinclair Gas Station followed by Arne Moore’s Direct Service Station, until he took on a lease for the Conoco Station located where the present-day Holiday stands. When Conoco ended their lease program, he was hired on as manager and continued in that capacity until Conoco sold the operation in 1983. Charlie married Adella May Dyrkopp on August 26, 1961 in Glen. In 1963, he purchased the farm where he would live the rest of his life, initially raising Arabian horses and Charolais cattle. After a car crash and escalating health issues arose, Charlie retired from active farming to enjoy his small herd of Percheron Draft Horses. Later, after the Percherons had all gotten old and died one by one, he transferred his affection for animals to a stub tailed stray cat that he named Bobbie. He had a lifelong interest in birds of all kinds. He enjoyed visiting with people at cafes and coffee shops and reminiscing about the old days and people he had known. It was not uncommon for him to strike up a conversation with a total stranger and learn that he knew some of their relatives, neighbors or friends. Charlie was generous and eager to help anyone in need and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Charlie is survived by his daughter, Mary Bridgewater of Aitkin; son and daughter-in-law, Dale and Melissa Bridgewater of Fulton, NY; grandchild, Stephen James; great grandchild, Isabella James; brother, Owen (Peggy) of Wichita, KS; sisters, Beatrice Richey of Boring, OR and Gwendolyn Lapp of Becker; sister-in-law, Dana (David) Siskind of Minneapolis; brother-in-law, David Alberts of Pennsylvania; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Charlie was preceded in death by his wife, Adella; parents; brothers: William, Alfred, Horace, Trevor and Douglas; sister, Avis; sisters-in-law: Jackie Alberts, Marjory Peterson, Blanche Bridgewater, Grace Bridgewater, Edith Bridgewater and Beth Dyrkopp; brothers-in-law: Donald Dyrkopp and Chuck Peterson and Howard Westman and Alvin Richey.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to sign the online guest register.

ARTHUR SLOTH



Arthur C. Sloth, 95, of Brainerd, and formerly of Glen and Anoka, died Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at Edgewood Vista Senior Living in Brainerd.

He was born to Niels and Anna Katrina (Jensen) Sloth on August 19, 1924 in Chicago, IL. He was a U.S. Army Veteran serving in WW II. He attending Junior College in Iowa, then moved to Minnesota to attend Hamline University in St. Paul and earned a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Minnesota. Arthur married Gladys I. Brumitt on August 12, 1951 in Kankakee, IL. He worked for Minneapolis Schools for 30 years mostly working for Lind Elementary School as a Phy Ed, 5th and 6th Grade teacher and eventually the schools principal for 20 years Arthur was a Master Gardener and after retirement he and his wife would run the nursery they started in Anoka. They eventually truly retired to their 120

acres near Glen, in Aitkin County. He continued growing Tomatoes, and planting trees, including many apple trees. He enjoyed fishing, raising pheasants and loved spending his time with family. As both a teacher and in the nursery, Arthur has a long history of helping things grow.

Arthur is survived by sons and daughters-in-law: Stephen, Alan, Gary (Sally), and Joel (Karen) Sloth; daughter, Christine “Kiki” Sloth; son-in-law, John Renniecke; 15 grandchildren: Amy, Andrew, Nicholas, Christopher, Angela, Matthew, Katie, Aaron, Erica, Rachel, Robert, Katherine, Margaret, Jennifer, and Casey; 25 great-grandchildren; many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Gladys, in 2006; daughter, Rebecca Renniecke; daughter-in-law, Judy; brother; Eric; and sister, Lillian.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to sign the online guest register.

BARBARA CARSTENS



Barbara Jean Carstens, 72, of Outing died peacefully with her family on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at her home.

A Memorial Service will be held at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 19, 2020 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Outing. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Sunday.

She was born on June 5, 1947 in St. Paul, MN to Glen and Patricia (Tallant) Mechelke. The family lived in St. Paul until they moved to Outing, MN in 1949 and started Birch Bay Lodge on Lake Washburn. She was a graduate of Northland High School Class of 1965. She married Larry Carstens on February 15, 1968 in Wassau, OR. She was a member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Outing. Barb was a devoted

wife and mother. She was a retired salesperson and bookkeeper for the International Wild Rice Association, Outing Lumber Yard and Land O’ Lakes Marine in Outing.

Barb is survived by her three children: Stacey (Shaun) McKinney, Sara Smith, and Scott Carstens; father, Glen Mechelke; nine grandchildren: Taylor Smith, Alexis Greene, Dakota Carstens, Zachary Greene, Madison Greene, Abigail Smith, McKinna McKinney, Brayden McKinney, and Bentley McKinney; sisters: Judy (Bob) Seidel, and Kim (Dave) Hughes. Barb was preceded in death by her grandparents, Harry and Jane Tallant, Ed and Alice Mechelke, her mother Pat Mechelke, and her beloved husband, Larry Carstens.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

LOUIS ANDERSON

Louis Martin Anderson, 97, of Tamarack died Monday, January 13, 2020 at his home near

Aitkin. Funeral arrangements are pending with McGregor Funeral Home in McGregor.

More Obituaries on page 4

READER RIBBETS

The financial bag

In a prepared statement, when Crosby was served the first of many lawsuits, the city administrator assured the residents all was well and the team of professionals representing Crosby did nothing wrong. Of those professionals, the police chief retired prematurely, the former lieutenant abruptly resigned, and now, the labor attorney involved has jumped ship.

At a recent hearing for one of the lawsuits, the plaintiff’s attorney was present, two attorneys for the defendant (city of Crosby) were present. The parties did not have to attend, the plaintiff was present. On the defendant’s side sat the former police chief who filed seven false criminal charges against the

plaintiff. Jurors found the plaintiff not guilty on some, others were dismissed. Arbitrators found the former police chief lies, distorts the truth, alters documents, conducts biased, flawed, prejudiced, investigations and makes documents disappear. Also seated was the collaborating to break data privacy laws, cost Crosby thousands of dollars by placing an officer on paid administrative leave, let’s stiff the sewer district out of \$120,000 in reserve funds, city administrator with another example of their willingness to waste taxpayers money and time. Absent was the award winning, look at me I’m on TV, and I can shoot deer with a bow and arrow, former lieutenant.

In the audience, the I won’t print the truth if I don’t agree with it, editor of the Courier, possibly there to make sure the court information fits their version of the truth. The team of professionals the city administrator assured Crosby they could count on, have dispersed. They’re now powerless civilians assembling on Crosby’s dollar pretending to be concerned when they’re simply covering their own assets, except for one. They’re not going to pretend they care anymore; they’re ok with the residents of Crosby holding the financial bag for their actions.

**Kelly Avelsgard,
Deerwood
Concerned Observer**

Mountain Bike Crew projects

As the calendar turns over to 2020, the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew (CREW) are happy to announce that construction on the Cuyuna Connection and Cuyuna Hills projects will be proceeding this spring.

These projects represent a milestone for the Crew, as well as the state of Minnesota, as these projects were 100% proposed by, designed by and funded by the Crew through private donations and grants.

The Crew has gone through a host of reviews for these projects. First, by Crow Wing County, whose land the majority of the trails are located on. Second, through the state’s Environmental Assessment Worksheet process, which included a review by the Army Corps of Engineers, the State Historical Preservation Office and the local Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act board. The Crew would like to thank all the local businesses and citizens who wrote letters of support for these projects as we navigated these processes.

Both these projects will bring significant benefits to the local community and its members. These trails are being built, not just for mountain bikers, but for the benefit

of hikers, dog-walkers, bird watchers, snowshoers and hunters by providing access to areas previously tough to get to on foot.

The first project, the Cuyuna Connection, will create a one-way loop trail, to be named the Cuyuna Conveyor, from the south side of the City of Cuyuna to the existing trails north of the City of Crosby, the Yawkey Unit trails, in local parlance. This trail will allow citizens of the City of Cuyuna to access the existing trails without having to use a roadway to do so. For those kids wanting to ride to school, with this trail and the tunnel under Highway No. 6, it is now possible to ride from Cuyuna to their classes in Crosby without having to ride on any roads.

The second project, the Cuyuna Hills, will create a one-way loop trail, to be named the Cuyuna Cruiser (pronounced “Cruiser”), within the county owned land parcel between Iron Hub Road and Lost Long Lake. This trail will bring a different experience to the riders: one of solitude and backcountry feeling, without any inter-sections or merging trails. Since this trail can only be accessed via Main Street/Iron

Hub Road, the result will be bike traffic through the heart of downtown Cuyuna, benefiting existing businesses and land owners, while hopefully encouraging new business and home owners to locate in the city.

The Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew is a non-profit organization that does not receive any taxpayer funds. Hence, achieving the goal of major trail expansion is something special for us and, we hope, something special for the entire Cuyuna community. We look forward to a productive 2020 building season and would like to thank all those that have supported the Crew.

**Sincerely,
The Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew**

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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
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.
Co-dependants Anonymous meeting. 332 1st Av. NE Aitkin. Wednesday evenings. 5:30.
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.
Emily Community Care N Share is serving meals on Wednesdays in the fellowship hall at the Wesleyan Church, Highway 6, Emily
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. only 1-5 pm, at 9541 Madison Street; Garrison. For emergency food, call 3320-433-9435 and state needs, name & phone number, or leave message of same if no answer.
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. 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
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.
January
23rd - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours at Bridge Tavern North of Crosby on Hwy. 6, 5-7 p.m. Chamber members and the general public are invited. Attendees are encouraged to bring door prizes for raffle drawings. As a courtesy to the host, advanced registration is recommended. To make your reservation, call the Chamber office at 218-546-8131.
23rd -Happy Hour for a Cause at Cuyuna Brewing Company in Crosby from 5-7 p.m., \$15. RSVP Joan at 218-546-5554.
23rd - Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew annual meeting, Cuyuna Range Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.
25th - Movie Day at Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library in Crosby starting at 11 a.m. "Pokémon Detective Pikachu" is the featured movie rated PG. Admission is free and popcorn and refreshments will be served.
26th - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours at the Bridge Tavern, north of Crosby on Hwy. 6, 5-7 p.m. Chamber members and the general public are invited. Attendees are encouraged to bring door prizes for raffle drawings. To make your reservation, call 218-546-8131.

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Have a Vision

The other evening, my wife and I were sitting down with our youngest six children, ages 18 down to 5, and talking to them about the coming year. We asked them about their goals for spiritual growth, physical/health goals, and their scholastic goals. They each were giving ideas like attending a daily mass, eating better, and improving study habits. Then came our 5-year-old.
It's helpful to know that we go to an all-saints party at Halloween each year where the kids dress up like a historical saint and talk a bit about them. So, when it came to him, he had a very clear idea what he wanted to do. He said he wanted to get to know Jesus so much better this year so that when he died someday, people would want to dress up like him.
That stopped me in my tracks because he had stated a clear vision that I could see. It also had me asking and evaluating, if I had that same clarity.
Perhaps one of the greatest things that we can do to help us reach our goals, live a more fulfilling life, and experience the happiness most of us hope for, is to have a vision for our life. The good news is, we each can have our own version of this. There is a 90-year-old couple I know who still working a small farm. They raise livestock, split wood (though, she would say "he isn't really splitting it since he uses a power splitter") and have maintained a joyful independence. They have lived a vision and it has paid off.
It doesn't matter what you do, you can have a

vision for your life. Start looking around at how you are spending your time, the way you interact with others, and the things you think about. Ask yourself if it helps you be a better version of you. It might be that you find a part of your job that you can improve on, or that you forgo an evening of TV to volunteer in the community. Perhaps it is to spend 10 minutes a day in uninterrupted silence, to be aware of all you've been given.
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Dr. Murray Smith DC, cAcu, CSCS, CCSP is a Board Certified Doctor of Chiropractic, Board Certified Acupuncturist, Clinical Nutritionist with a passion for helping people reclaim their health naturally and empowering them to keep it! He is the co-founder of SHIFT Integrative Medicine serving the Cuyuna Lakes and Brainerd Lakes areas of central Minnesota for over 25 years.
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