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Aitkin pulls together drive-in and drive around Easter celebration



Mayor Gary Tibbitts greets carloads at an outdoor drive-in Easter service in Aitkin. Ann Schwartz photos

By ANN SCHWARTZ

Mayor Gary Tibbitts greeted the cars that were parked by Police Chief Tim Catlin, Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida and others.

The occasion? The first-ever drive-in outdoor Easter Service in Paulbeck's County Market parking lot in Aitkin.

With so many people un-

able to visit family and friends due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people were feeling a need to attend religious services. According to Tibbitts, over 300 worshipers showed up on Easter morning.

With a cold wind blowing the flags out straight, pastors from Heritage and the Aitkin United Methodist Church mounted a platform of a flat-bed trailer and mightily pushed out an Easter service that was also broadcast on KKIN.

Most sat in their cars, some with masks on and some without. Although there was a sound system, the wind kept it from reaching the cars.

There was a reading about the empty tomb and then Pastor Dawn Houser declared: "He is Risen, Indeed!"

She talked about how Jesus' disciples were also locked up on the first Easter, as we have

been, as they feared capture.

She said other ministers who were defying government orders and holding in-person church services were exhibiting reckless behavior and "tempting God."

"We cannot live our lives in fear," Houser encouraged.

She said scripture admonishes at least 365 times not to be afraid. "At this moment, in this time, we are gathered

together in unity for Easter Sunday and that is what God

asks of us."

Prayers were said for those



Cars and trucks paraded around Aitkin to cheer staff and residents at senior living centers and the Aitkin hospital.

who were alone, wisdom for leaders on all levels, hope for families and health care professionals.

Penny Fanamel, in an a cappella soprano, sang: "He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today."

The service ended with a honking of horns and everyone exited the parking lot to finish a very strange Easter

Continued on Page 3

Gov. Tim Walz extends Peacetime Emergency

Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order 20-35 on Monday, April 13, extending the peacetime emergency in Minnesota for 30 days.

Not an extension of Stay at Home Order

The Governor clarified that the peacetime emergency extension through May 13 is separate from the Stay Home Order. The peacetime emergency order provides

the Governor with certain tools to respond to the threat of COVID-19, such as providing economic relief to those impacted by the crisis and activating the National Guard to assist in relief efforts.

The Stay Home Order, which lasts through May 3, directs Minnesotans to limit movements outside of their homes beyond essential needs.

"If there was any confusion, there was not an extension of the Stay at Home order to May 13," said Governor Walz

Minnesota Public Health Director Infectious Disease Epidemiology Kristen R. Ehresmann, RN said that of those that have died 98.5% had pre-existing or underlying health conditions with a median age of 87 in long-

term care facilities.

"We are seeing deaths in individuals who are older with underlying health conditions, who are in congregate care settings," said Ehresmann. "That is where we are putting our energies, in terms of trying to be proactive in reaching out to these facilities, offering assistance and providing training and guidance."

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READER RIBBETS

Crosby mayor's empty wagon

Instead of addressing any of the issues that us letter writers have brought forward, the mayor of Crosby in last week's *Courier* has made another plea for us to work together and remain positive. Apparently then he assumes we will just ignore his questionable actions.

I noticed he did not specifically open any venues for our residents to work with his waning administration. Instead of giving us explanations or some real answers, we are treated instead with poetry. Yes. Poetry.

I am a bit concerned with the mental state of this man considering the dire circumstances our town currently is in, combined with the eventual consequences our city is going to face for some of this administrations actions—he is pushing poetry, as a way to insult others. For

this man who holds steadfast at holding his precious title of mayor to continue to try to discredit not only me, but anyone who dares challenge him, while hiding himself and his cohorts from any accountability, is simply pathetic, narcissistic and alarming. But this seems to be the liberal thing to do — to preach. We as a community need to pull together is so very true, but so hypocritical coming from this man! To think that during these trying times, when our cities leader could be doing so much to guide our residents through this storm, he instead focuses his attentions on belittling a couple of letter writers. That in itself shows that Crosby is not his top priority and honestly he should not be anyone's mayor.

Now with the city administrator's soon to be departure, it would be a good time

for our council to separate the city clerk's/ treasurer's position away from the administrator's — as we have clearly seen one person can't do it all. With the economic challenges ahead, it would be wise to now invest in someone who could work full time towards building a stronger, more diverse economy here.

It is sad and ironic that this administration's very own actions cost us a once great city clerk/ treasurer, but some aggressive changes are still needed. Next needs to be voting out this mayor, as his actions are the true source of any animosity and negativity that is so often written about. Afterwards, I will provide an empty wagon for him, his politics and the many piles of pigeon poop he has help create so that HE can hit the trail.

Chris Ryan, Crosby

Business and churches "Non-Essential"

After reading Deb's *Brainerd Dispatch* April 3rd Letter to the Editor, it is flawed.

"It's exciting to be here, especially at this time, to be able to be unified with our community," Pelosi said on Feb. 24, 2020. "We want to be vigilant about what is out there in other places. We want to be careful about how we deal with it, but we do want to say to people 'Come to Chinatown, here we are — we're, again, careful, safe — and come join us.'"

Can you please tell me who made the statement? [It] was covered in all the main newspapers and it Wasn't Trump.

Do you think we lost precious weeks because Trump was "golfing" — or was it Nancy and friends didn't have a grip to help with the Coronavirus?

Our Forefathers would be rolling over in their graves seeing our Government making Churches hit the "NON-ES-

SENTIAL" list...while abortion clinics, liquor stores, and Walmart, are open for business as usual.

I applaud the Ministers who bring hope to a hopeless world, and keep bringing it to their Congregations by keeping their doors open like Walmart. Common sense tells us if you are sick-stay home from Walmart and Church.

[In] 2009 we had the H1N1 Virus kill over 12,000 people in the USA — where was the news media then? Not to mention over the last few years: Asian Flu, Swine Flu, Bird Flu, which each took between 12-16,000 American lives — Where was the news media?

So people tell me this is a "fast" moving virus...we all saw the nine people in California under quarantine a month ago, in literally two days the entire United States was covered. Really two days? My wife went in to Urgent Care during Christmas Break,

she was down for two weeks, after being tested at the clinic for Influenza A and B. The Nurse said, "We do not know what you have, but it is not A or B".

From the description of Coronavirus, I would lay money on a bet she had it in late December. So in all reality, I believe it wasn't spread in two days like we were told by the media...the same media that told us "Hillary is going to win in a Landslide" don't you know=).

Wonder if there will be a study on suicide and depression coming after we recover from the flu report and private business's being categorized as "Non-Essential,"

Churches bring Hope in Jesus Christ, a thriving Economy brings Jobs.

P.S. Deb, yes we know you hate what you don't understand and don't forget to wash your hands.

Doug Kern, Brainerd

Deserve to wait

The Crosby city administrator has resigned. The proof they colluded to break data privacy laws is in the hands of attorneys who will see it's used properly. Crosby's not out of the woods yet, checks for the nefarious, deliberate, calculated, possibly criminal acts, have yet to be written.

When personal agendas and interests of employees and elected officials get in the way of a city's growth, future, stability, success, and taxpayer's money is wasted on the agendas, those people need to be terminated and are not trustworthy. Council members

and mayors, past and present, who allowed the residents to be victimized are negligent in their duties, which is why Crosby residents have been served the second of many potential lawsuits.

Crosby needs people who are willing to work with State, County, and other officials, without sacrificing the residents and business owner's interests. Work with the sewer district board, surrounding communities, and stand for the safety of those who live here year-round and stop the narrowing of traffic lanes on Hwy 6/210.

Having been called a liar, accused of ghostwriting, ridiculed in papers, threatened with a cease and desist letter, people attended Crosby

council meetings just to say they're disgusted with me, the pursuit of justice for the massive violation of public trust, has been worth every minute. A bright spot in this, the family members who have never had a single valuable or intelligent opinion in their lives, desperate for attention, felt the need to make a public statement.

The mayor may now understand the value of empty wagons making noise, they run the snakes off.

Elected officials who lack the fortitude to do their job, deserve to wait a long time before they get another chance. Why? They've proven they won't represent the residents.

Kelly Avelsgard, Deerwood Concerned Observer

Aitkin Easter Parade | Continued from Page 1

Sunday celebration.

At 11 a.m. about 30 vehicles from New Life Church had a car parade around Aitkin. They waved signs and beeped horns and rang bells to bring cheer to residents, patients and staff at River's Edge Assisted Living, Aicota, Golden Horizons and Riverwood Healthcare Center.

Staff and residents stood in the windows and doorways,

waving. Some were crying and one staff member made a heart sign with her hands. Hearts were pasted on a lot of the windows as a symbol for getting through this tough time.

The little caravan also cruised through downtown Aitkin and altered a few surprised shoppers. A police escort was provided by the sheriff and Aitkin police.

askdrsmith.com featuring Dr. Murray Smith Instructions for a better week

Most of us have burned up the vault full of funny cat videos and people doing silly/dangerous/other stuff videos. This week, we are going to hopefully upgrade our use of time with some ideas and activities that may help us.

Be creative. For the past several days my children have been taking turns playing the Easter bunny and hiding eggs around the house and yard. The prizes inside the eggs have been their least favorite candy, pocket change, and booby trap goodies. I love this. Highly reusable and can be conducted over days. Though this may be hard to do if you live alone, your list can be as big as your imagination.

Color or doodle. Find a coloring book locally or online that has fairly complex patterns. (You can also check Google Images) Then get that set of coloring pencils that you always wanted in 2nd grade. Research has shown that coloring can be a great

tool in relieving anxiety. Don't worry about perfection as the treasure is in the process. If you would like, you can also create your own patterns!

Go for a walk. Go for a social distance walk. This will give you some much needed exercise but can help with your mental wellbeing as well. This activity can make you more creative, help you feel happier, and decrease boredom and gloominess. The fresh air also might be nice break from our long-closed up abodes.

Listen to or play music. Playing music can greatly improve your mental health. It can also give you a sense of belonging. Music lessons not pay off? No worries! Studies have shown that listening to music can help people faced with something scary or stressful. This has been seen even with cancer patients. They experienced less pain and anxiety and felt an uplifted spirit after listening to select music.

Try to work these into your busy quarantine schedule and

look for amazing results. Make the SHIFT today!



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For more information, log on to www.askdrsmith.com, call or text 218-851-9626.

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., April 11 & 18, 2020)

WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION PLUS ROAD REVIEW NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Wealthwood in Aitkin County, Minnesota, will meet at the Wealthwood Town Hall on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment of said Township for the year 2020.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the Township has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after conferring with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization.

The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Road Review to follow the meeting.

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LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk
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