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# NEWSHOPPER

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James J. Hunter

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- ★ We need to lower taxes in Crosby. Crosby currently has the **HIGHEST TAX RATE in Crow Wing County!**
- ★ To fix these financial challenges we need strong leadership to monitor Crosby's spending priorities.

You can show your support by calling **218-545-0069** to request a sign. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and God Bless,  
*James J. Hunter*

Prepared and paid for in his own behalf: James J. Hunter, 310 3rd St. SW, Crosby, MN 56441

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New homes are under construction in the city of Aitkin on land that was once the Ripple River Clinic. Sandy Erickson and Scott and Cindy Sherman are listed as owners of the properties just south of Aitkin Health Services (the former hospital).

## We are halfway through 2020

By ANN SCHWARTZ

With lines of cars at our fast-food establishments and in and out of our small towns on July 4 weekend, you may think things are going as usual in Aitkin and Crow Wing counties.

Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, lakes were busy with boaters, swimmers and anglers. Many places in the lakes area cancelled fireworks while other places held events with new guidelines. And many private legal and illegal fireworks were lit.

Construction continues to boom in the area as people, at home and with extra money, are getting home improvement projects done. Some contractors are already booked for the whole year. And the Brainerd School District continues its multi-million-dollar building and remodeling project. In 2019, Aitkin County had 119 building permits and Crow

Wing County, 547.

As of July, Aitkin County had a 10.2 percent unemployment rate with Crow Wing County at 9.5 percent. Unemployment a year ago was 4.9 percent in Aitkin County and 3.3 percent in Crow Wing. The overall unemployment rate in the United States is 13 percent. A year ago it was 4 percent nationwide. Minnesota overall has a 9.4 percent unemployment rate, while a year ago it was at 3.2 percent.

Since March 15, 8,934 workers have filed for unemployment in Crow Wing County. That is about 27.2 percent of the workforce. In Aitkin County, 1,789 have filed, totaling 24.5 percent of the workforce.

Crow Wing County reports 106 Covid-19 cases while Aitkin County has 15.

It is indeed a strange world. Masks are common in the Brainerd area and less com-

mon in Aitkin. Some restaurants are open with sit-down meals, some are take-out and drive-through only and some have yet to reopen.

Some churches are back to holding services with proper distancing, masks and major disinfecting. Others are still holding parking lots and online services. Youth sports have started in a modified way. Clinics and hospitals are scheduling appointments again.

It is still not determined if the 2020 school year for k-12 will be on-site learning, distance learning or a combination of the two. Central Lakes College classes will start in August, it was announced. There will be a combination of face-to-face, real-time online and traditional online classes. Students will determine their comfort level for how they attend classes.

## Lakes Area Music Festival

As the Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) moves its performances online for the 2020 season, it has developed a new suite of world-class education programs for learners of all ages and levels of experience with classical music. Through interactive discussion sessions, lecture series, musician interviews, and children's programs, the Festival has seized the opportunity to expand its educational impact locally and nationwide through distance learning.



Allison Chu of Yale University

discussions every Tuesday from July 7 to 28 at 10 a.m. Featuring guests like Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw, Chu will guide in-depth explorations of topics like women composers through the centuries and the history and present of chamber music. Attendees will be invited to engage with their own questions and comments. Space is limited, and registration is required.

John Taylor Ward will also offer a series of video interviews with favorite LAMF personalities, where you can get to know what makes these artists tick – on and off stage. In "Backstage with John Taylor Ward," you will hear stories from artists around the world about their musical development, their fond memories of LAMF, and their extra-musical interests.

Explore Music!, LAMF's week-long day camp for elementary students, has long been one of the Festival's most popular education programs and, this year, it's going digi-

tal! Youth education director, Alexander Peña of Hawaii's Iolani School, has created a cutting-edge package of online activities that connect to the music being broadcast in this summer's Festival. With scavenger hunts, simple at-home musical projects, coloring pages, digital activities, and exclusive performances from LAMF musicians, kids and families won't want to miss this inspiring week of music, improvisation and storytelling. Registration is required.



Youth education director, Alexander Peña

The Lakes Area Music Festival will present eleven unique concerts, broadcast from July 31 to August 16, and before each of them, you are invited to a Q&A with one of the musicians who will be featured. Learn more about them and ask your questions... then tune in for their performance later that day.

For more information and registration for any of these programs, visit lakesarea-music.org or call (218) ASK-

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# Proposed \$56.6 million emergency child care grants

Governor Tim Walz visited a child care center in St. Paul and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan visited a family child care provider in Rochester to announce on Tuesday, July 7 their \$56.6 million Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) proposal to help support Minnesota child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal provides grants to family child care providers, child care centers, and certain eligible certified centers to support the increased costs and decreased revenue due to COVID-19.

“Child care providers have stepped up to serve emergency workers and ensure families across Minnesota have a safe and reliable place to send their children,” said Governor Walz. “We will continue to support the critical work they do to educate our next generation, support families, and strengthen our economy.”

The pandemic has led to significant costs for child care providers due to smaller group sizes, cleaning, and other staffing and workflow changes to keep children

healthy and safe. Additionally, child care access, especially for health care and other emergency workers, continues to be critical to the state’s public health response. It is estimated that 420,000 children are in households with one or two working parents in tier one and two critical sectors.

“Minnesota child care providers have gone above and beyond to support children and families during these unprecedented months,” said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. “To meet the great need, and despite great challenges, providers have stayed open, including 90% of family providers. Our response to COVID-19 could not have happened without their support. They care for our littlest Minnesotans, and we should support them in return.”

Eligible providers will receive a grant paid out over three months to help address the cost of adhering to public health guidance during a time of decreased revenue. Family providers will receive up to \$1,200 per month and licensed centers will receive up to \$8,500 per month,

scaled based on the number of eligible applicants. Eligibility requires:

Providers to have been open and caring for children as of June 15 and through the duration of the three-month grant period

Revenue losses or increased costs associated with COVID-19

Providing financial incentives for working staff

Having a license in good standing

These emergency grants follow a \$40 million, with \$30 million from the legislature, Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grants program that provided 5,400 awards over three months to ensure emergency worker access to child care during business closures. Child care provider needs have outpaced the dollars appropriated by more than three times. The Governor also advanced an additional \$10 million from the Child Care and Development Block Grant into the third round of these grants. Additionally, Minnesota worked to allocate other resources from the \$48.1 million from the Child Care and Development

Block Grant fund at the Department of Human Services (DHS) to help increase access to support to reduce child care costs and provide flexibility for child care providers.

In addition to this proposal and the Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grants, the Walz-Flanagan Administration continues to support providers through ongoing communication with state and federal agency partners; tailored information on available financial supports; distribution of cleaning supplies, masks, and other critical care supplies needed for public health response; and support accessing food and other supplies.

The request for \$56.6 million was submitted to the Legislative Advisory Commission for approval on July 1. Once funding is approved, DHS and the Children’s Cabinet will provide information about how childcare providers can apply for the grants. Families seeking care can call the Child Care Aware parent line at (888) 291-9811 or visit [mn.gov/childcare](https://mn.gov/childcare) for a map of open providers.

# Warrant executed in Pequot Lakes for internet crimes

On Tuesday, July 7, the Crow Wing County Sheriff’s Office assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the execution of a search warrant pertaining to internet related crime(s) against children. The search warrant was executed at a residence located on the 3000 block of Wildlife Trail in the City of Pequot Lakes.

Four adults were residing in the house at the time the search warrant was executed;

and all four people were interviewed.

A 19-year-old male was determined to be, likely, the sole suspect of the internet crime(s). Numerous items of evidence were seized and will be further processed by the FBI. Also assisting with the search warrant was the Clearwater County Sheriff’s Office.

Any further inquiries can be directed to the FBI.

# READER RIBBET I believe...

I believe our world is engaged in an epic battle between God and the Devil, and that every person is morally obligated to aid God’s cause.

Voting according to God’s values is one such opportunity. If Jesus voted in an election, He’d support candidates embodying His own values, which center on the dignity of each human person. The most indispensable value is the right to life. Abortion violates both Natural and Divine Laws, robbing the most vulnerable of their inalienable right to life. Another value is the protection of family and societal life as instituted by God, for ensuring the good of both.

Homosexual activity violates Nature; it’s therefore also destructive of God’s plan for the family upon, which society is based. Widespread/legalized homosexual activity has long been considered a hallmark of a collapsing society.

I believe Jesus would never support candidates favoring legalized abortion and/or homosexual unions, even if their other positions reflected Jesus’ values.

I believe Jesus would support candidates embodying His values regarding Human Dignity even if their other positions were undesirable.

I believe Jesus would support only a viable candidate, even if a third-party candidate embodied Jesus’ values better than the “top two.”

I believe Jesus would vote for the better of the two viable candidates, even if that meant voting for “the lesser of two evils.”

I believe Jesus would vote third-party (or entirely refrain) only if both major candidates completely denied the dignity of the human person by favoring legalized abortion and/or homosexual activity.

I believe Jesus would want even non-Christians to follow these voting principles, because they’re based on values whose indispensability can be proven by Natural Law alone — a law applying to all human, animal, and inanimate creation. Violation of Natural Law leads inevitably to destruction and chaos.

Jessica Schumacher, Emily  
More Ribbets on Page 5

# DNR EagleCam chick dies after flying into line

Hatched on March 15, the DNR EagleCam chick, designated E1, died after flying into a power line. One of the DNR photographers who monitors the nest reported a chick was dead and hanging from a near by power structure. He reported it to Nongame staff and Xcel Energy was contacted. Xcel Energy immediately responded and had a crew on site to retrieve the chick, which was identified as E1.



Thomas Demma captured this beautiful image E1 right after fledgling.

No one witnessed the event. Her wing caught a loop and she was found hanging. Once Xcel retrieved the remains, Nongame took possession of E1. It was determined that she was not electrocuted. It appears she hit the line and likely died on impact. It happened some time between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Friday, July 3. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for eagles to perish by hitting power lines.

The first year of an eagle’s life, particularly after fledgling, is the most dangerous. The mortality rate of eagle chicks during the first year of life is greater than 50 percent. Survival after the first year is much higher.

The DNR release reported, “We’ve witnessed dangers and mortality at our nest, yet

never really knowing for sure how many chicks survive past their first year. Power lines, vehicles and predators are all hazards for eagles and many will encounter dangerous situations, especially when they are nesting so close to urban areas. Because Minnesota’s eagle population is healthy, there is a higher percentage of eagle mortality. It is difficult to see mortality as a positive thing, but it does mean that our population as a whole is healthy.”

It is hoped that sibling, E2, will continue to thrive and survive until adulthood.

There is no way to protect birds from all of the environmental hazards, but escaping them will result in a stronger individual. E2 has, and will continue to visit the nest and the DNR will keep the camera on until at least the end of August.

The DNR relies on contributions Nongame Wildlife

Program

Visit the DNR EagleCam at [mndnr.gov/eaglecam](https://mndnr.gov/eaglecam)

Visit the DNR FalconCam at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/falconcam/index.html>

Visit the Mississippi headwaters webcam at [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/latasca/headwaters.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/latasca/headwaters.html)



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**Wednesday, July 29**  
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**GARAGE RELATED:** Various power hand tools, Sockets, wrenches & other related, Acetylene tank & torches, Long handled tools, Tool boxes, (2) Rear tire tillers, Extension cords & related, Collectible floor model drill press

**ITEMS OF INTEREST:** Large quantity of lumber, One cord cut and split red oak, Collectible Schwinn bicycles, Older travel trailer (needs work), Primitive hand tools, Horse harnes, Collectible lanterns, Climbing deer stands, Large quantity of scrap, Large bus w/misc. scrap inside. Plus household furniture and related items

Many unlisted items be certain to attend and bring a friend.

Thank you in advance, *Janzen Auctioneers*

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OBITUARIES

RICHARD ORR



Richard “Dick” Orr, 78, of Aitkin died peacefully on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at the Riverwood Health Care Hospital in Aitkin.

A celebration of life will be Saturday, July 11, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Lakeside-Malmo Community Center in Malmo with Reverend David Becker officiating. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, friends may make memorial contributions to St. John’s Lutheran Church, 324 3rd Street NW, Aitkin, MN 56431.

Dick was born May 14, 1941 in Granite Falls to Lance and Catherine (Carey) Orr and grew up in Boyd. Dick married his high school sweetheart, the late Barb Jensen, on April 26, 1958 and they had three children. His careers were diverse; he owned a mink ranch, was a proud foreman at Arcon Construction, owned and operated Orr’s Camping and Resort on Mille Lacs lake and eventually

farmed and raised cattle. In retirement he bought a lakeshore home on Fleming Lake in Aitkin known as “Dick’s Last Resort”. An avid, skilled fisherman and hunter, Dick was a true outdoorsman. He and Sharon, his loving partner of 28 years, gardened together and enjoyed winters in Texas in their RV. Dick will forever be remembered for his famously soft heart for animals and people of all walks of life. He left an imprint on every person he came across with his kind, giving soul, and was a loving father and loyal friend. Any kid who rode their bike past Dick’s knew he would be handing out ice cream bars by the dozen! A member of ASPCA, he always found time to care for stray animals. He faced life and any hardships head on by refusing to give up. “I can’t” was not in his vocabulary. Dick was a spiritual man and enjoyed being a member of St. Johns Lutheran Church in Aitkin.

Dick is survived by his loving partner Sharon Bradley; his children: Cindy Persson (Dan), Candy Suppelsa (Mark) and Lyle Orr; siblings: Jerry Orr, Judy Nelson, Shirley Wilson, Cathy Orr and Pam Siltman; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and his beloved pet “Kelly the Cat”.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife of 34 years, Barbara Orr; brother, Dennis Orr and nephew, Michael Orr.

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.

COREY CROASTON



Corey Scott Croaston, 62, of Aitkin, died Saturday, March 28, 2020 at his home.

A gathering of family and friends to celebrate Corey’s life will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at the American Legion Lee Post #86 in Aitkin.

He was born March 10, 1958 in Minneapolis to Raymond and Geri (Pregl) Croaston. He graduated from Park Center High School. Corey married Lori Jo (Cleys) on May 8, 1982 in Brooklyn Center. He worked as an engineer for Century Link. Corey enjoyed riding his Harley, pontooning on Sunset Lake, vacationing in Jamaica, and spending time at his home in Florida.

Corey is survived by his wife, Lori Croaston;

children: Daniel Croaston, Tucker Cleys, Chaz (Ashlee) Croaston, Jorden (Kellie) Croaston; fourgrandchildren: Cade and Jace Cleys, and Callen and Brooklynn Croaston; brothers: Ray (Ann) Croaston, Jr. and Craig (Theresa) Croaston; brothers-in-law: Jeff (Michelle) Cleys, Mike (Marcia) Cleys, Terry Cleys (Shelley Anonsen); sister-in-law: Lisa Cleys; special girls: Hailey, Ella, Hazlee and many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Todd Croaston; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Joseph and Patti Cleys.

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.

CAROL LAGERSTROM



Carol Ann Lagerstrom, 60, of Malmo, died Thursday, July 2, 2020 at Riverwood Health Care Center in Aitkin.

The Memorial service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at the Malmo/Lakeside Community Center in Malmo. Visitation will be 5 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday at Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin and will continue on hour prior to the service on Tuesday at the community center.

She was born June 3, 1960 in Red Wing to Lawrence “Bud” and Roberta “Pat” (McLeod) Bolster. She graduated from Virginia High School in 1978. Carol married to Michel Scott Lagerstrom on August 3, 1985 in McGrath. She enjoyed many years (since 1985) serving her customers at Mike’s Motors and Marine in Malmo. She was an avid book reader and loved spending time going for walks, planting, and gardening. Carol loved her grandchildren very much, Kaden, Kolton, and

Karly were a large and important part of her life. Carol is survived by her husband, Michel Scott Lagerstrom of Malmo; daughter, Jessica Lagerstrom (Wayne Maxwell) of Malmo; son: Craig Lagerstrom (Kayla Santema) of Malmo, three grandchildren: Kaden, Kolton, and Karly Kohlgraf; brother, Butch Bolster (Tanya Stephens) of Malmo; nieces and nephews: Rachael Largis (Ben), Kyle (Shawna) Lagerstrom, Eric (Elizabeth) Lagerstrom, Nicholas (Jennifer) Lagerstrom, Michael Lagerstrom, and Aleshia Lagerstrom; and many special friends.

She was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Donald Otto Lagerstrom, Sr.; mother-in-law, Lillian Victoria (Vicki) Lagerstrom; sisters-in-law: Orlanda Dawn (Lonnie) Lagerstrom and Natalie Maki; brother-in-law, Donald Otto Lagerstrom, Jr.; father, Lawrence Hugo Bolster and mother, Roberta Lorraine Santelli.

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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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 in the church building beginning on July 5th 10:15 am & 6:30 pm; youth group for 7th-12th graders Wed 6:15 pm; 112 - 1st Ave. SW 218-927-2823.  
Baxter\* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10; [www.pointway.org](http://www.pointway.org)  
Garrison\* — Pastor Michael H. Palkie; Worship 9; SS 10:30.  
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 — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; 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; [hilcityagchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hilcityagchurch@gmail.com); 218-697-2662  
Palisade — Pastor Ed Sornberger; 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: 30 and 11, [thejourneynorth.com](http://thejourneynorth.com)  
Baxter - The Journey North, Pastor Mark Bjorlo, 218-824-5617, Worship Saturday 5, Sunday 9, 10:30, 11:45, [thejourneynorth.com](http://thejourneynorth.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.; [fbcbainerd.com](http://fbcbainerd.com)  
Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 [www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org](http://www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org)  
Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Zach Broom 218-562-5252, Worship 10:30, 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 p.m.  
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. Francis Sunday 8:00.  
Brainerd — St. Matthias , 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.ihmstemilys.org](http://www.ihmstemilys.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; Kevin Haffner 218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10  
**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 Richie Bean; 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; 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. Lijja Behr; 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 Steve Anderson; Worship at 9 & 10:45; Wed for all ages 6:30 pm  
Crosslake — Pastor Mark Holmen; Call for Service Times at 218-692-4141, email [thelogchurch@crosslake.net](mailto: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 Reggie Denton, Pastor Jordan Gades; worship Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 8 am & 10 am, Wed. 5:30 pm w/supper; contemporary services 2nd & 4th Sun.; nursery staffed during 10 am Sun. service; Sunday service is live streamed on YouTube (First Lutheran Church Aitkin); broadcast on KKIN (94.3FM); community meal every Mon.

& Thu. 5 pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thu. 9:30 am-5 pm.  
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 Inglewood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. [www.christbaxter.com](http://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.pppbaxter.org](http://www.pppbaxter.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](http://www.goodshepherdfreelutheran.church)  
Brainerd - Laestadian Lutheran Church; 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 11 am. ([www.llchurch.org](http://www.llchurch.org))  
Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th Street Brainerd – Pastor Hans Anderson Worship times September through May are 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; Summer Worship time is 9:00 a.m. Phone: 218-829-5147 Website: [www.trinitybrainerd.org](http://www.trinitybrainerd.org) Email: [trinity@trinitybrainerd.org](mailto:trinity@trinitybrainerd.org)  
Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9  
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) Pastor Kristin Oltmann, Pastor Kurt Hagestuen, 218-692-3682, In-Car Outdoor Worship, Sundays at 10 am at 14019 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake View Worship online at [crosslakelutheran.com](http://crosslakelutheran.com)  
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](http://www.missionofthecross.org)  
Deerwood — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Michael Briggs; Worship 9; 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](http://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 9 am Alternating with Zion of Crosby; 218-534-3069  
Isle — Faith (ELCA), Interim Pastor Rev. Henry French; Worship 9:30; handicapped 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 Peter Rosenkvist, Worship 9.  
Palisade\* — Bethel (ELCA), Rev. Wm. J. Sass; Worship 9:30. Pequot Lakes\* - Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Stephen Blenkush Worship 9:00 a.m., SS 9:15 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m.  
Rossburg — Bethesda (ELCA); Comm. 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.  
Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210  
Thor — Zion, 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.

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
Brainerd—Oak Street Chapel, Pastor Todd Wooden, Worship service is Sunday at 9:30 am, 523 SE 11th Street, Brainerd, 218-454-0984

**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 Irondale 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 — Pastor Tony Oltmann, 218-692-4769; Worship 10; Fellowship 11:15; Bible study on Wednesdays at 10;14444 Daggett Pine Road just passed the Community Center; [www.crosslakepres.org](http://www.crosslakepres.org)  
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.visitlifespring.com](http://www.visitlifespring.com)

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**  
Aitkin — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 9:30 a.m., Bible Study 10:30 a.m.; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; [www.aitkinadventist.org](http://www.aitkinadventist.org); 423-805-0933

Brainerd — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 11:20 a.m., Bible Study 10:00 a.m.; Bible Study & Prayer Mtg. Wed. 6:30 p.m.; 2910 Oak Street, Brainerd, 218-829-1676

**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, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew at Block North Brew Pub.  
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\* — Pastors Luke and Bethany Nelson; Worship 8:30; fellowship follows.  
Fleming\* — (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship 10:30; fellowship follows.  
Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10  
McGregor\* — (Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45; fellowship follows.  
Onamia — Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship 10; 2 bks 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.

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To become a sponsor of the church directory contact Eric at 218-821-1393 or [hopper@crosbyironton.net](mailto:hopper@crosbyironton.net)

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READER RIBBETS

Incompetence needs to be stopped

Challenging survey results

“Good governance” in the eyes of the mayor of Crosby and his supporting council members is apparently letting a library sit for five months unattended, in a state of disrepair. I bet however, if any member of this administration actually owned this property themselves — as if it was one of the mayor’s rentals — it would have long been fixed.

But with the circus created when a fellow cohort — who was rewarded a position she had no business being offered— decides to shelter her emotions and takes a different job leaving our town high and dry, it just gives our remaining leadership even more opportunities to make excuses for why nothings getting done.

This “good governance” spewing alliance — that spent so much time patting each other

er on the back during council meetings for their accomplishments — is now going into this election with a serious overload of unsolved issues that were ironically caused by their own favoritisms and poor judgments. Trying to make us believe that they can move forward and continue to manage our city when they cant even get an essential city building fixed, isn’t laughable, its twisted.

Then when one thinks about all the other issues that have been put aside, such as acquiring the Croft Mine property for future development, or planning a workable strategy towards the 2021 road construction for our business district, one has to fear for our towns future.

Again, this administration’s arrogance, ignorance and defiance towards representing what’s best for the very tax

payers who pay not only their salaries, but the costs to clean up their incompetence needs to finally be stopped.

No matter what your friendship status is with one of these council members or our mayor, or how much money your business may make due to your relationship with the city, we as voters need to encourage others to stand together and make the brave choice of electing in NEW BLOOD to our cities leadership. Good ol’ boy, cousin marryin’ cousin, Boss Hogg style politics no longer work. That’s been proven here lately. The man who was elected on the idealisms of uniting our citizens may actually see this come true when the silent majority come together to vote him out, should he even decide to run again.

**Chris Ryan, Crosby**

Mask-mandates rebuttal

The July 4th edition of the NewsHopper ran an article titled, “Mask-mandates control mechanism”. The author uses her religious views to express her opposition to wearing a mask. Among her claims - government mandates to wear masks are the mark of the Beast foretold in the Apocalypse. That Jesus gave us the Ten Commandments and free will allows people to choose whether to obey those commandments. That government mandates are “anti-God”. That wearing a mask puts people’s health in jeopardy. That the virus spreads mostly from people congregating in bars, which she interprets as a message from God. These views seem at odds with biblical teachings.

First, Jesus did not give the

Ten Commandments, God did. Commandments are directives, not suggestions. Surgeons wear masks for hours and do not suffer from oxygen deprivation, (which is different from feeling claustrophobic). More are dying in nursing homes than from bars. Calling government mandate to wear masks a sign of Apocalypse and seeing a medical pandemic as a message from God to shut down all bars forever, is quite a stretch.

The virus kills indiscriminately, without regard for political affiliation or personal “rights”. Life is a gift from God. Doing what you can to save lives is not “anti-God”. Masks are a public safety issue, similar to wearing a safety belt while driving, (also mandated by the government). Health experts

advise the wearing of masks. Proverbs says, “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice”.

God does not desert the faithful for not going to church because it is unsafe. Jesus said, “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”. I’m not sure how willfully ignoring the dangers of passing on a potentially deadly virus is, “loving thy neighbor”. Wearing a mask is not be a moral issue, but a self-serving indifference to the safety of others is. You can choose not to wear a mask, but I seriously doubt that God condones using the Bible to justify getting your own way. Sometimes it is best to just close the Book and give some thought to the overall message.

**Dan Stiner, Crosby**

This letter is in response to the article published in the July 4th edition of NewsHopper, “Majority oppose defunding police.” The article, republished from the Center of the American Experiment website, used the phrase “overwhelming majority” to describe Minnesotans’ confidence in their local police departments and opposition to plans to disband the Minneapolis police department.

As a researcher with over 30 years of experience with surveys, I feel a responsibility to challenge the approach of the survey, the raw data, and the sweeping declarations contained in the article about what Minnesotans supposedly think and feel.

For the purpose of this letter I’ll focus on the obvious: the poll surveyed 500 registered voters. According to the office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, at this writing there are 3,402,412 registered voters in Minnesota. The survey polled a sample of 500, which means that 1 out of every 6,804 registered voters are represented in the survey.

Obviously we know that we cannot reasonably survey all 3.4 million registered voters, however, if far-reaching claims are made that encompass an “overwhelming majority” of Minnesotans, at the very least, we should have reasonable confidence that the sample of 500 responders is representative of the population, and is not biased in any way.

There is no way of knowing how closely the sample of responders in the survey aligns with Minnesota census data, but we do know that different demographic groups have widely ranging opinions on the matters addressed in the survey. Yet nowhere in the survey results do we find demographic information (race, age, gender,

etc.) on the responders. The only hint I could find (on the Center of the American Experiment website) is that 60% of the responders took the survey via a landline. That’s 300 people. Not to discredit landline users. But it’s easy to find credible data (i.e. National Center for Health Statistics) that says landlines are primarily used by the elderly.

It is also significant to note that the Center for the American Experiment is a conservative think tank that opposes affirmative action.

We are living in an era where folks are quick to decry “fake news!” As a researcher, it is tempting for me to categorize this survey as such. At minimum, I hope readers will think about how survey data is generated, no matter which side of the issue represents their opinion.

**Rosemary Sundin, Emily**

Lakes area fishing update

Overall, fishing has been very good. Most fish are gravitating toward cooler waters in the deeper holes and around structure. Lowlight hours are often best for locating active fish.

**Brainerd Area Lakes**

The fishing has really heated up in the Brainerd lakes area. Walleye are very active off the weed drops in 11-17 feet of water. A wide variety of presentations have been working well, but trolling

rattling crank baits that can nick the tops of the weeds has been the best way to get a reaction strike.

Largemouth and smallmouth bass action is in full swing. Try topwater lures early and late in the day for a strong bite. During midday hours, check under the docks and off the deep points.

Northern pike remain active throughout the day, with fish hitting muskie jerk baits and big spinner baits.

Bluegills and crappies are both in their mid-summer

patterns. Bluegills are biting throughout the day. Crappies are more active during low light periods.

**Isle/Onamia - Lake Mille Lacs**

The walleye season will be closed for the month of July on Lake Mille Lacs. Anglers will still enjoy all of the smallmouth bass action, as well as the active bite by many other species of fish. Check out current lake conditions at the Mille Lacs Lake Webcams web page [www.millelacs.com](http://www.millelacs.com).



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Nisswa Community Center - 25636 Main St, Nisswa  
Ideal Transfer Station - 33503 W Island Lake, Pequot Lakes  
Crow Wing Town Hall - 6930 Cuyuna Ave, Brainerd - Open 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Recycling is good for the environment and our community.  
**LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME!**  
To learn more about recycling in your area, you may call your local refuse hauler or Crow Wing County Land Services Solid Waste 218-824-1290. There are numerous recycling containers throughout Crow Wing County, check out our website [www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us)

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# RATE INCREASE NOTICE

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY MINNESOTA CUSTOMERS

CenterPoint Energy has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for permission to increase its natural gas rates for distribution service. The requested increase is for about 6.8 percent or \$62.0 million per year. The requested increase would add about \$4.79 to a typical residential customer’s monthly bill.

The MPUC may either approve or deny the requested changes, in whole or in part, and may approve a lesser or greater increase than was requested for any class or classes of service.

The MPUC will likely make its decision on our rate request in the first quarter of 2021. If final rates are lower than interim (temporary) rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

If you move before a refund is issued and we cannot find you, your refund may be treated as abandoned property and sent to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Unclaimed Property Unit. You can check for unclaimed property at [www.missingmoney.com](http://www.missingmoney.com). To make sure we can send you any refund owed, please provide a forwarding address when you stop service.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Administrative Law Judge Eric L. Lipman is holding public hearings on the company’s proposal. Any CenterPoint Energy customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings. You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of CenterPoint Energy’s service, the level of rates or other related matters. You do not need to be represented by an attorney to provide comments during the public hearings. To maintain appropriate physical distancing and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, public hearings will be held remotely (over the telephone for audio and over the internet for video). The hearings will begin at their scheduled time and adjourn after everyone has had an opportunity to share comments.

Bad weather? Find out if a hearing is canceled – call (toll free) 855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc). You can participate in the hearing over the telephone. Or you can watch the hearing (without sound) over the internet. To see the public hearing panelists, and hear what they are saying, you must join the public hearing using both the telephone connection and the internet link. The video on the internet does not include sound from the public hearing.

To listen to the hearing and to be able to provide your verbal comments, follow the directions below to access the hearing over the telephone.

If you are interested in providing verbal comments on the proposed rate increase during the public hearing, you must join the hearing by telephone.

Date	Time
Tuesday, July 28	1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 28	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 29	5:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 30	6:00 p.m.

### JOIN BY TELEPHONE

An operator will assist you. To watch the hearing over the internet on a computer or smartphone, follow the directions below (video only – no audio).

### JOIN BY INTERNET (video only – no audio)

Date	Time	Event Information
July 28, 2020	1 pm	Event Number: 146 794 5570 Event Password, if needed: RPeYSpt428
July 28, 2020	6 pm	Event Number: 146 887 5134 Event Password, if needed: eqHKA33BTN5
July 29, 2020	5 pm	Event Number: 146 550 7231 Event Password, if needed: fhQSC4e3uW6
July 30, 2020	6 pm	Event Number: 146 900 0371 Event Password, if needed: mtGbCcCF425

Navigate on your computer to: <https://minnesota.webex.com>

If you wish to watch the video stream with audio, you will need to join by both phone and internet. Written comments may also be submitted during the comment period after the hearing. Follow the instructions below in this notice.

Please contact Charley Bruce at 651-201-2251 or [charley.bruce@state.mn.us](mailto:charley.bruce@state.mn.us) if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public hearing using telephone or internet.

### YOU CAN SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**Comment Period**  
Comments accepted through August 21, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.  
• Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the close date.  
• Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.

**Online Comments**  
Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc) and select the Comments icon on the top menu to go to the Public Comment page, where you will find a list of ways to comment.

**U.S. Mail** Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Ste. 350, St. Paul, MN 55101  
For assistance in submitting comments, or if you have questions, contact the Commission’s Consumer Affairs Office at: **Phone:** 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782 **Email:** [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)  
**Be sure to reference Docket Number 19-524**

**Important:** Comments can be reviewed by the public on the MPUC’s website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information or any other information from comments received.

The table below shows the effect of both the interim and proposed rate changes on monthly bills for residential, commercial and industrial customers with average natural gas use.

Customer Type (usage in therms)	Avg monthly usage in therms	Avg monthly bill: current rates	Avg monthly bill: interim rates	Avg monthly bill: proposed rates
Residential				
	75	\$55	\$59	\$60
Commercial/Industrial				
- up to 1,500/year	69	\$57	\$61	\$63
- 1,500 to 5,000/year	249	\$164	\$172	\$174
- 5,000 or more/year	1,519	\$891	\$929	\$919
Small Volume Dual Fuel Sales Service				
- up to 120,000/year	3,896	\$1,709	\$1,783	\$1,752
- 120,000 or more/year	13,901	\$5,861	\$6,092	\$6,092
Large Volume Dual Fuel Sales Service				
	38,836	\$15,298	\$15,796	\$15,968
Large General Firm Sales Service				
	53,808	\$24,796	\$25,644	\$25,804
Demand charge (per Peak Day)				
	3,490			

Note: Figures above are rounded (to the nearest whole number).

### EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

Formal evidentiary hearings on CenterPoint Energy’s proposal start on September 9, 2020, and will be held online. The purpose of the evidentiary hearings is to allow CenterPoint Energy, the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources, the Minnesota Office of Attorney General – Residential Utilities and Antitrust Division, and parties who have formally joined the contested case to present testimony and to cross-examine each other’s witnesses on the proposed rate increase.

If you wish to formally intervene in this case, as a party to the litigation, please contact Administrative Law Judge Eric L. Lipman, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620.

### TO LEARN MORE

**CenterPoint Energy’s current and proposed rate schedules are available at:**  
**CenterPoint Energy**  
505 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Phone: 612-372-4727 or 800-245-2377  
Web: <http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com/RateCase>

**Minnesota Department of Commerce**  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: 651-539-1534  
Web: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>  
Select (19) in the year field, type (524) in the number field, select Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

**Questions about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission’s review process?**

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782  
Email: [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)

Anyone with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.









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