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Sat., September 5, 2020

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Three bluegrass bands entertain at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge



Bluegrass lovers rejoice! Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge will be hosting the Second Annual Bluegrass Festival from 5 - 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 5. The one-day festival is limited to the first 250 guests.

The event will feature three bluegrass bands, including Minnesota-based quartet The Barley Jacks, fronted by

renowned fiddler and Minnesota bluegrass icon Brian Wicklund. The band features fiddle, guitar, bass and drums and is a mix of traditional and modern folk bluegrass. Bro-



The Barley Jacks will show off their talents as masters of the fiddle, guitar, bass and drum from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Broken Heartland String Band will take the stage at 6 p.m. Broken Heartland String Band, and Jenna & Martin open for the Barley Jacks.

Broken Heartland String Band, hailing from the Twin

Cities, plays music that is wholly American with roots in blues, old-time, bluegrass, and honky-tonk. Jenna &

Continued on Page 8



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Crosby chamber to help businesses navigate road construction in 2021



By ANN SCHWARTZ
It is coming!
Hwy. 210 will be constructed through Ironton and Crosby in the summer of 2021 and local entities are planning for it.

A recent meeting was over zoom to discuss the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce role in helping the local business through the construction.
MnDOT's website can be accessed for details info at <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/crosby-ironton/index.html>
Brielle Bredsten, chamber director, said that the website is great for information and she is in touch with the project managers.
According to MnDOT, the project will include:
Reconstruction from 2nd St. SW to east of 3rd Ave. NE in Crosby, includes new road surface, side street connections, curbs/gutters and sidewalks
Resurfacing from 2nd St.

SW in Crosby to west of 6th Ave. SW in Ironton, includes other repairs as needed
Improving pedestrian accessibility, includes sidewalks and approach ramps
Replace overhead street lights
Repair or replace drainage

Stage 1: East of Cross Ave. in spring
Work - Reconstruct Hwy. 210/6 from east of Cross Ave. to east of 3rd Ave. E at the Cuyuna Hospital, includes sidewalks.

Hwy. 210 open - Both directions of traffic shifted onto either side of the road. Plan on narrow lanes, flaggers.
• 3rd Ave. E will remain open at all times for Hospital Emergency access.
• Replace pipe beneath road east of 3rd Ave. E

Stage 2: West of Cross Ave. in early summer
Work - Reconstruct west of Cross Ave. to the Hwy. 210/6 intersection, includes sidewalks.

Hwy. 210 closed - Use downtown Crosby detour via 2nd St. SW and Cross Ave. E.
Hwy. 210/Hwy. 6 intersection open to north/south traffic
Stage 3: Intersection in late summer
Hwy. 210 work - Reconstruct the Hwy. 210/6 intersection to 2nd St. SW, includes sidewalks.

Hwy. 210 intersection closed - Use downtown Crosby detour via 2nd St. SW and Cross Ave. E.
Access Hwy. 6 north of Crosby:
Crosby/Deerwood to Hwy. 6 north of Crosby use Co. Rd. 31 and Co. Rd. 30
Ironton/Brainerd to Hwy. 6 north of Crosby use Co. Rd. 30/Alice Ave.

Stage 4: Through Ironton in fall
Hwy. 210 work - Resurface Hwy. 210 from 7th Ave. in Ironton to 2nd St. SW in Crosby, update sidewalks and

underground utility pipes.
Hwy. 210 open - Alternate one-way traffic with use of flaggers and pilot car.
Hwy. 210 closes for about four weeks from Co. Rd. 30/Alice Ave. in Ironton to 3rd St./Co. Rd. 33 to replace underground pipes and reconstruct segments of road.
Hwy. 210 detour uses Co. Rd. 30/Alice Ave. in Ironton back to Hwy. 6 north of Crosby
Full duration of this project Access to businesses and residences will be open, however expect changes
Pedestrian sidewalk closures with detours
Parking restrictions along Hwy. 210 and detours
Hospital Emergency access will remain open at all times.
Commercial truck route (Deerwood)

"While some segments of Hwy. 210/Hwy. 6 will be closed and detoured, or reduced to a single lane at times, all businesses and residences will be maintained and open, however expect changes. Learn more, visit the traffic plan page," according to MnDOT.

Bredsten encourages locals to sign up for email updates from MnDOT and to get on the chamber's update list and facebook page.
The chamber will narrow its focus to getting shoppers to businesses and coordinating

with the cities and MnDOT. A chamber marketing effort will include signs and billboards. Different sign options were discussed and it was noted that the latest information will be needed to direct consumers through detours to get to businesses.
"We had the Little Falls chamber director talk to us and they made it through construction there during their big craft show," said Bredsten. Marketing efforts there included naming it "The Big Dig" and having dress-up themes and children's activities. Little Falls wishes they had used more and larger signs.

Crosby will likely have a street party kickoff at the beginning and a celebration at the end. Most of the work will take place after the July 4 parade.
Items to plan for now include:
Making your back door

entrance beautiful as that is where customers will enter.
Adding informational kiosks.
Adding parking and safety for bikes.
Adding a parking area for shoppers -- perhaps at the high school or Lutheran Church
Investigating a system to order and place signs to lead customers around construction and to businesses.
"MnDOT will do a general business district sign but they won't do individual business signs because if they left anyone out they would be upset," said Bredsten

Investigate getting a grant to provide a shuttle bus and hosting Park and Shop days..
Name the marketing effort connected with the construction, such as "The Road Less Traveled."

For more information, you may reach Bredsten at brille@cuyunalakes.com.

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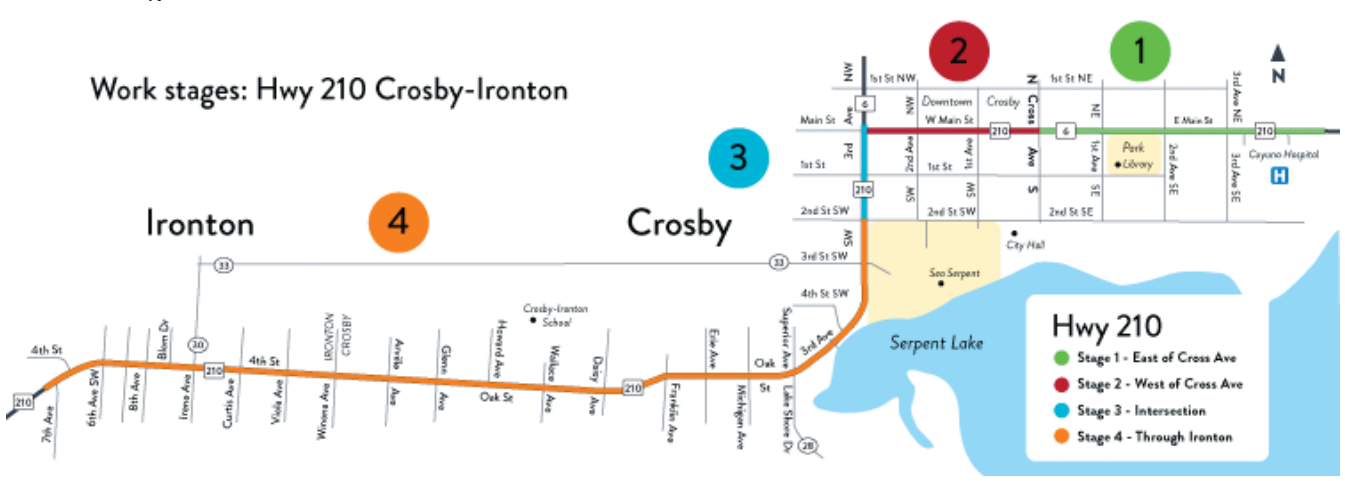
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Aitkin New Life Church



Larry Burg, pastor of New Life Church of Aitkin, prays for the land off Bunker Hill Drive, near the Riverwood Healthcare Center and North Ambulance. The church bought this land and also sold land, it previously owned at the corner of Hwy. 47 and CR 12, to Steve-os Lawn, Landscaping, Dock and Lift. The congregation is raising money for a new building to include a gym and youth area. The church currently owns the former Lutheran Brethren building near the Aitkin City Park. Ann Schwartz photo



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READER RIBBETS

Governor Walz displays his contempt for rural Minnesota in deferring to Metro area

In a move pandering to Metro area legislators and environmental zealots, tone-deaf Governor Tim Walz and the Minnesota Department of Commerce, appealed, for the second time, the Public Utilities Commission's decision approving Enbridge's \$2.9 billion Line 3 replacement pipeline. In a letter supporting Walz and Commerce, 16 Metro area DFL lawmakers said the decision was based upon a finding that oil demand "is not sufficient to justify a project that will contribute significantly to climate change, usurp Indigenous treaty rights and imperil Minnesota's waters."

Joining in the appeal to the courts, were Honor the Earth, the Sierra Club, the Red Lake and White Earth bands of Ojibwe, Friends of the Headwaters, and Youth Climate Interveners. The tactics employed by Line 3 pipeline opponents replicate those that are being used to block PolyMet and Twin Metals Minnesota's copper-nickel mining projects in Northeastern Minnesota. Contest the science based findings - bring suit in the courts - appeal adverse decisions, and delay, delay, delay.

In March 2018, the Minnesota PUC first approved the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and granted a Certificate of Need for the Enbridge Line 3 replacement pipeline. The

Dayton administration appealed the PUC's decision. In February 2019 Commerce and Governor Walz announced that his administration would continue the court challenge begun under the Dayton administration.

In response to Governor Dayton's appeal, the *Star Tribune* weighed in with their support for the replacement pipeline in a March 10, 2019 editorial. "For safety's sake, let Enbridge build." The arguments made by those opposing the pipeline, the paper noted, included the risk of pipeline spills to arguments that the pipeline will wed the state even further to fossil fuels. Further, the *Strib* wrote, the delay will mean even higher rail shipments of oil that "travels some of the most densely populated areas of the state, posing a potential environmental disaster should there be a derailment." "Walz and the commerce Department should drop the court challenge and allow the project to proceed."

In June 2019 the Minnesota Court of Appeals found that the EIS was inadequate in that it didn't properly address the effect of an oil spill in the Lake Superior watershed. A new study was conducted, confirming that in the unlikely case of a spill, the Line 3 replacement segment did not introduce risk to Lake Superior.

In February 2020, the PUC approved Line 3 for a second time, the result of six years of public hearings (70), and a 13,500 page EIS. Yet, last week, the Governor and the Department of Commerce announced they would appeal the latest decision by the PUC granting a Certificate of Need and approving Enbridge's plan to replace its Line 3 pipeline.

In a post-election appearance in Mountain Iron, MN last year before a large audience of union officials as well as federal, state and local elected officials, Governor Walz spoke of his support for jobs and his conviction that "We are one Minnesota." Regrettably, the Governor's words are contrary to his post-election actions that speak louder than his hollow campaign rhetoric.

Three projects are presently being proposed that will enormously benefit Northern Minnesota. The Enbridge Line 3 replacement pipeline is a \$2.9 billion project that will generate 4,200 well-paying union jobs. Crossing 13 Minnesota counties before terminating in Superior, WI, it is estimated that Enbridge will pay an additional \$20 million dollars in annual Minnesota property taxes in addition to the millions it already pays annually on the existing pipeline.

Copper-nickel mines PolyMet's mine, a \$1.0 billion project located near Hoyt Lakes and Twin Metals Minnesota's mine, a \$2.0 billion project to be located near Ely, will enormously benefit Northeastern Minnesota's economy. Studies prepared by the U of Minnesota/Duluth found that mining jobs pay \$70,000 or more. The two copper-nickel mines will create 1760 union mining jobs and 2,000 spin-off jobs in related industries. Each will pay millions of dollars in annual production taxes on the ore they mine that will go to support the state's 336 school districts serving its 845,000 students. Yet, Governor Walz has failed to support these mining projects that will provide desperately needed jobs for "One Minnesota".

Once again, the Governor has displayed his contempt for rural Minnesota in deferring to Metro area special inter-

ests. Our advice to Governor Walz: Ask for the resignation of Commerce Commissioner Steve Kelly. If he doesn't resign,

he should be fired. Lastly, end your opposition to the Line 3 pipeline by withdrawing the appeal made to the Minnesota

Court of Appeals.
**Gerald M. Tyler, Chairman
Up North Jobs Inc., Ely**
More on Page 7



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OBITUARIES

ROSE BACKSTROM



Rose Charlotte Backstrom, 92, of Aitkin, died Saturday, August 29, 2020 at her home surrounded by her family. Visitation was Thursday, September 3, from 5-7 p.m. in Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and will continue Friday, September 4, from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. service at the funeral home with Pastor Jordan Gades officiating. Interment was in Bennettville Cemetery, Hazelton Township, Aitkin County. She was born July 2, 1928 in Palisade to Jonas and Betty (Olson) Anderson. Rose married John Backstrom on May 26, 1951 in Palisade. She worked at Land O' Lakes Turkey Plant and later at the Aitkin Hospital. Rose was a member of First Lutheran Church of Aitkin. She enjoyed bird watching, fishing, canning, cooking, making

popcorn balls for trick or treaters, going to the casino, having company for cookies and coffee and especially spending time with her family. Rose is survived by her son, Mike (Nancy) Backstrom of St. Cloud; 2 sisters-in-law, Donna Anderson of Hill City and Lucille Anderson of Aitkin; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Rose was preceded in death by her husband, John; son, Patrick; her parents; siblings, Mae Benson, Mildred Bacon, John Anderson, Herbert Anderson, Betty Strand, Florence Probst, Clara "Margaret" Fosnock, Helen Hicks, Selma Strom, Erick "Bing" Anderson, Hazel Gottula and Carl "Harry" Anderson and her dog, Susy. Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to leave online condolences.

FRANK ROBINSON



Frank Elling Robinson, 96, born in Ely, died Saturday, August 26, 2020, peacefully, at the Providence Place in Minneapolis. Due to COVID-19, the family wishes to have a private ceremony and celebration of Frank's life at a future time. Any donations towards his cremation would be greatly appreciated. He was born in 1924 to Henry and Irene Robinson, and was raised in Glen. After high school, he served in the Navy as a radio man during WW2 at Okinawa. After his service in the Navy, he married Patricia Joan Dolan for 27 years. Frank worked in St. Paul in construction with stucco and plaster, where he finished building his home and raised his family in Little Canada. He eventually moved up to Isle, where he was self-employed. He had a great

love for the outdoors and worked on his land tirelessly. Frank also had a passion for archery, bowling, horseshoes, and especially playing cards with anyone who would dare play with him! Frank is survived by his sons: Richard, James (Ronda), Eric (Thelma Jean); and daughter, Linda; niece, Susie; and grandchildren; great-grandchildren; cousins, nieces and nephews. Frank was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Lucille; and oldest son, Frank Jr.

ROBERT PATNODE



Robert "Bob" Paul Patnode, 74, died on Friday, August 28, 2020. Services for Bob were held on Tuesday September 1, 2020 at the Lakewood Evangelical Free Church in Baxter. Please send memorials to samaritanspurse.org. He was born on October 25, 1945 to Paul and Eleanor and he grew up in Bemidji. Bob joined the United States Navy where he served as a Hospital Corpsman. He then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy. He went on to work in that field until his retirement in 2012. Bob married the love of his life, Marilyn Kummer on June 3, 1972. Together they moved to the Brainerd Lakes

Area where they started a family and raised his most proud achievement, their four children. He enjoyed helping others, gardening, hunting, fishing, cribbage, reading, and above all he loved his family. His Grandchildren brought the greatest smile to his face and joy to his heart. He was a beloved husband, family man, and a man of great faith and prayer. His legacy lives on in the example he set for all of us. Bob is survived by his wife Marilyn; his four children: Jenna Spaulding, Sarah (Rob Merrell) Patnode, Amy (Robert) Wangerin, and Rudy (Rachel) Patnode; sister Dianne Seyler; brothers: Fr. Michael Patnode and Charles Patnode; five grandchildren: Clain, Grady, Leo, Atlas, and Max. Bob is preceded in death by his sister Mary Patnode. Arrangements were with Brenny Family Funeral Chapel-Baxter.

CHARLENE TELLOCK

Charlene Louise Tellock ("Char"), 77, of Breezy Point formerly of Wayzata died peacefully on Monday, August 24, 2020 at Senior Class Community in Pequot Lakes. A celebration of Char's life with interment at Pelican Woods Cemetery, Breezy Point. She was born to Henry and Elaine (Rakow) DeChaine on May 29, 1943 in Brainerd. She was one of seven children and a 1961 graduate of Washington High School in Brainerd. She married her high school sweetheart Leonard ("Lenny") Tellock on August 12, 1961. She enjoyed a long career in the hospitality industry, working

and managing restaurants for more than 30 years between the Twin Cities and Breezy Point. She is survived by Lenny, her devoted husband of 59 years; loving daughter Tamera Anderson (Jeffrey) and their daughter Kendall; son Randy - Dana and their children Travis and Anna; brothers Terry (Patricia), Gerald, and Daniel (Darlene) DeChaine; sister Gayle (Dave); Borg and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Sharon DeChaine and Marilyn Ramacher. Arrangements with Brenny Family Funeral Chapel.

CECIL ELWESS

Cecil Elwess, 89, of Aitkin died Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at Golden Horizons in Aitkin. There will be no services at this time. He was born November 16, 1930. He was preceded in death by his wife Alice in 2011.

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

RALPH SMUDE



Ralph David Smude, 88, died peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on August 28, 2020, from complications of COPD. Visitation for Ralph was held on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at Halvorson Taylor Life Events Center (512 S 8th St, Brainerd). Memorial services for Ralph will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to St. Croix hospice. Ralph was born in Pine Center on July 19, 1932 to Frank and Lena (Marohn) Smude. He married the love of his life, LaVonne "Bonnie" Hoskins on September 26, 1953. In 1955, they moved to their current home, where they raised their six children. Ralph worked at Meadow Gold Dairy in Brainerd for 20 years, until they closed in the early 70's. After that, he bought feeder pigs from area farmers and hauled them

to Lamberton sale barn for the next 10 years. He pursued his passion for farming as his next full-time job, that he continued until he passed. Ralph was always happiest when he was working, driving tractors, baling hay, and caring for his cows. He enjoyed hunting, trapping, cutting wood, blowing up beaver dams, and visiting with family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Bonnie; daughters: Dianne Wold, Connie (Earl) Cooley, Peggy Maxe; sons: Tony (Teresa) Smude, Chad (Ron Sterbenz) Smude; sisters: Dorothy Lockwood, Maxine Debler, and Joanne Martin; 9 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; 8 great-great grandchildren. Ralph is preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Carol; son-in-law, Darrell "Chip" Wold; grandson, Darrell "George" Wold; half-brother, Tom Smude; stepsister, Shirley Zebroski. Arrangements were with Halvorson Taylor Funeral Home www.halvorsontaylor.com

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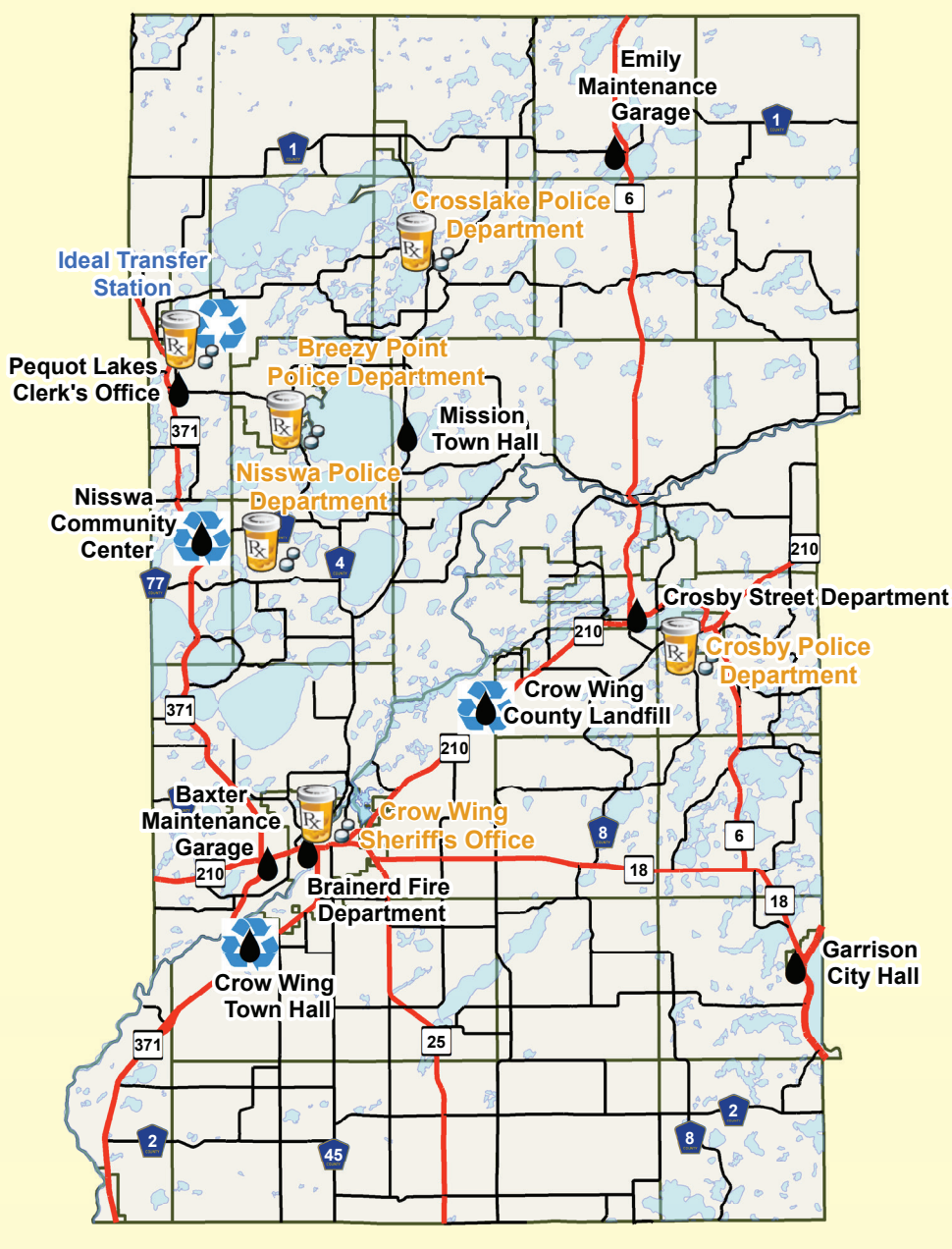
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Ladies Golf Association



Pictured left are the Rally for the Cure winners: (left to right) Sandy Arcand, Wendy Christenson, Joan Hasskamp

Cuyuna Rolling Hills Ladies Golf Association held a 9 hole Rally for the Cure Tournament and a 9 hole Memorial Tournament on August 19. Money raised benefits the Susan G Komen organization. Rally for the Cure winners were: 1st place—Wendy Christensen, 2nd place—Sandy Arcand, 3rd place—Joan Hasskamp. Low gross was

Joan Hasskamp with a 37. Memorial winners were: 1st place—Cathy Wierzbicki, 2nd place—Jan Hermanson, 3rd place—Judy Franks. Low gross was Hasskamp with a 40. Proximity winners were, Hasskamp, Franks, Shirley Huxford, Arcand, Rita Pierce, and Wierzbicki.



Pictured above are the Memorial winners: (left to right) Cathy Wierzbicki, Judy Franks, Joan Hasskamp (Not pictured-Jan Hermanson)

Three bluegrass bands at Ruttger's | Continued from Page 1



Jenna & Martin with classic country sounds with bluegrass techniques at Ruttger's Bay Lodge at 5 p.m.

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Beware of invasive jumping worms in soil and gardening mulch



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is cautioning gardeners and anglers to be on the lookout for invasive jumping worms. These destructive worms can quickly degrade soils and damage garden plants and lawns.

"Jumping worms are a relatively new invasive species in Minnesota and they are a threat to gardens and forests," said Laura Van Riper, DNR terrestrial invasive species coordinator. "They make rich soil more like coffee grounds. They eat plant roots, damaging garden plants and sod."

Jumping worms are a type of earthworm that looks similar to other common earthworms such as nightcrawlers.

They are called "jumping worms" because they wiggle intensely when disturbed and sometimes appear to be jumping. Native to Asia, jumping worms have been confirmed in limited areas of Minnesota since 2006, mainly in the Twin Cities and western suburbs and in Rochester. It's believed that they were spread throughout North America by people moving potted plants, soil, compost, mulch and fishing bait.

Jumping worms cannot be legally introduced into the environment in Minnesota and are also a poor choice for bait because they break into segments when handled.

"The good news is, jumping worms are not well es-

tablished in Minnesota and there are actions people can take to prevent their spread. We need gardeners and anglers to be vigilant and to contact the DNR when they think they've found jumping worms," Van Riper said.

Other steps that help:

Don't buy worms advertised as jumping worms, "snake worms," "Alabama jumpers" or "crazy worms" for any purpose.

Anglers should dispose of any unwanted bait worms in the trash.

Gardeners should inspect incoming mulch or plants for jumping worms and if swapping plants with friends, wash off the soil and share the plants as bare root plants.

Recreationists should

brush the mud off their boots and equipment.

To help Minnesotans identify and report jumping worms, the DNR has produced two short videos. One video features Dr. Lee Frelich, director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology, talking about how jumping worms are sometimes found in garden soils and packaged

garden mulch products. Another video focuses on why jumping worms should not be purchased or used for fishing bait.

If people think they've found jumping worms, they should take high resolution photos showing the ring around the worm's body in relation to its head and report jumping earthworms using www.eddmaps.org, or

contact the DNR Information Center at 888-646-6367 or info.dnr@state.mn.us.

The videos and more information about jumping worms and other terrestrial invasive species are available on the DNR website at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/jumping-worm/index.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Rotary Riverside Park utilizing goats to manage invasive Buckthorn



The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in partnership with the City of Brainerd Parks

Department and the Brainerd Rotary Club, will be utilizing goats to manage invasive species at the Rotary Riverside Park with funds from a MN Conservation Partners Legacy grant. The goats are being contracted through Minnesota Native Landscapes, a native restoration company based out of Otsego, MN.

In an effort to reduce the amount of herbicide used to control invasive species, goats will be grazing for the management of European Buckthorn. Over the past four years, the SWCD and the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa have been managing Buckthorn using a cut and spray method to remove seed trees as well

as thickets that would be too tall for grazing. Now, targeted areas on the property are lush with Buckthorn seedlings and will be grazed by the goats in place of foliar spraying the invasive.

Using goats will open up the entire understory of these targeted areas that will allow us to plant other species that will take the place of the encroaching Buckthorn. Returning these areas back to a natural state will increase the forest health as well as provide better habitat for wildlife and better recreational experiences for park-goers.

For more info contact: Clayton Lenk, 218-828-6197, clayton.lenk@crowwing-swcd.org

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John Tanner's

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