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## Rollin' on the Range — Growth and changes in Cuyuna County Part One



Gretchen Hinchley and Luke Lundquist are the owners of newly opened, Cykel, a bike repair shop in Ironton.

By ANN SCHWARTZ

As our quirky pandemic economy has led to misfortune for some and opportunities for others, the Cuyuna Range cities continue to grow and prosper.

### Bike shop opens

Due to a lack of other activities, bicycling has surged hugely nationwide, leading to lots of visitors to Crosby-Ironton this summer.

New owners took advantage of the increased interest in bicycling, refurbishing a historical building and opening a new Cykel (pronounced sik l) bike repair shop under the water tower in Ironton, on Curtis

Avenue.

Owner Luke Lundquist grew up here and he and Gretchen Hinchley are medical device engineers in the Twin Cities. The bike shop employs four full-timers and several floating staff.



Taylor Lundquist and part-time helper, Nakita Finnerty at the store.

Luke's daughter, Taylor, runs the storefront in the summer. She is also studying hospitality at college. "She is a triathlete — an incredibly gifted athlete," said Matt Postier, shop manager.

Luke's granddaughter, Simone, in her senior year of high school in the Cities, also is a track, cross country skiing and triathlete.

Jason Finnerty, Luke's lifetime friend, managed the remodeling of the building, including a total gut of the main floor. Postier is also a mechanic as is Mark Johnson, who also is a groomer for the Sno Serpents Snowmobile Club.

The 100-year old building was once used for coal storage and they kept as many elements of its history as they could. The hardwood floors were restored. The storefront was given a facelift, with dusty brick cleaned up and new windows and signs installed. In the back is the service garage and the upstairs and basement remain unfinished.

"We are a full service bike shop."

Just blocks from the Cuyuna Recreation Area, they stock all types of mountain bikes, fat bikes for winter, high-end children and youth bikes, bikes for gravel and they can order townie bikes for paved road usage. They also have electric bikes, from fat bikes to mountain,



Matt Postier is the shop manager and expert mechanic.

paved trail and townie models, and assisted and non-assisted trikes.

Inside the store, cyclists will find apparel of all sorts. "Our cycling apparel is really

affordable," stressed Matt. They carry padded shorts, active wear, sweatshirts and T shirts including the local Cuyuna Brand, along with jackets and gloves.

"We rent everything we own," he explained.

Just opening in June 2020, they weren't able to compile both rental and purchase bike fleets. So you can rent and/or buy all the bikes now in stock.

They will try to stay open all winter with the full line of fat bikes and Hok short, wide cross country skis for trails, and snowshoes.

In the future, they hope to be involved in races and other local activities.

"The bicycle industry has exploded," Matt emphasized. "Covid has been the biggest blessing for the shop. The bike industry has quadrupled

Continued on Page 3

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# OBITUARIES

## DOUGLAS BROWER



Douglas Raymond Brower, 29, of Fort Collins, CO died on May 13, 2020 due to injuries from an automobile accident.

A Memorial Service will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 19, 2020 at St. Emily's Catholic Church in Emily. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Due to Covid there will be restriction on attending. If you are planning on attending please contact Sharon Brower or Dan Schmidt on Facebook, Messenger or on the memorial page for Doug on koopfuneralhome.com. Please bring a mask to wear. A live Facebook stream for the service can be found at St. Emily's Catholic Church page. Attendees are asked to wear camo, crazy patterned Hawaiian shirts or a plaid flannel shirt. A reception will follow at the Kristy and Art Larson home, 4234 12th Ave. SW, Jenkins, MN 56474 (please bring a chair and beverages). Douglas will be interred on September 23, 2020 at the Estes Valley Memorial Gardens, Estes, Colorado.



Douglas was born on July 19, 1990 at the Whidbey Island Naval Hospital in Oak Harbor, WA to Sharon (Rhode) and Charles "Chuck" Brower Jr. Doug attended the K-4 Emily Charter School, 5-12 at the Pequot Lakes Schools. He Gradu-

ated from the Pequot Lakes High School, class of 2008. He attended CLC in Brainerd, playing football in 2008. Doug joined the Navy in September 2009 and was discharged in December of 2010. He lived in Minnesota until 2017, moving to Fort Collins, CO, where he resided until his death. Doug was employed as a gutter installer until 2018, then started working at Foothills Expert Tree Service. He loved this job and was so happy to have found a type of job he wanted to do forever. Doug was an avid outdoorsman, loving fishing, hunting, shooting his collection of guns and camping up in the mountains. He loved being up in the mountains more than anything.

Douglas is survived by his mother, Sharon Brower; father and stepmother, Chuck and Terry Brower; brother, Charles "Chad" Brower III; maternal grandmother, Bea (Loew) Rhode; paternal grandmother, Joyce Brower; aunts: Peggy Lachermeier and Penny Restine; uncles, Tony Lachermeier, and Scott Brower; many cousins and friends.

Preceding Doug in death are his namesake maternal grandfather, Douglas Rhode; maternal great grandfather, Raymond Loew; paternal great-grandfather, Charles "Charlie" Brower; maternal great-grandmothers, Zoa (Loew) Fashing and Frances Rhode; uncle, PJ Restine and a cousin, Jake Rhode.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

## HELEN SWEDBERG



Helen Swedberg, 81, of Aitkin, died Monday, September 7, 2020 at Harmony House in Brainerd.

A Celebration of Helen's life will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at the 40 Club Convention Center in Aitkin.

She was born July 11, 1939 in McGregor to Matt and Mamie (Oja) Rinta. She was the youngest of seven children; five brothers and one sister. She graduated from McGregor High School, class of 1957. Helen married Marvin L. Swedberg on January 19, 1957 in Grand Rapids. They had four children: Scott, Jeffrey, Kari Jo, and Launi. They moved to Aitkin where Helen worked for Aicota Health Care Center as an activities director for 16 years. This position gave her the opportunity to speak Finnish to many of the Finnish speaking residents. Helen along with Marvin became co-owners of the Village Laundromat in Aitkin where she enjoyed visiting with the customers and kept in touch with many of the seasonal customers when they left and looked forward to their return each summer.

She was a member of the Legion Auxiliary. Helen enjoyed spending time with her family, as well as traveling, camping, house boating, canning and gardening. She loved to shop, fresh flowers, music, she took pride in being nicely dressed, and had a talent for decorating.

Helen will be greatly missed by her husband of 63 years Marvin L. Swedberg; son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Patty Swedberg of Elk River; daughters and sons-in-law: Kari and Dale Dragovich of Aitkin; and Launi and Joe Shapiro of Auburndale, FL; seven grandchildren: Jacob Dragovich (fiancée Molly Laudenbach), Matthew Dragovich, Jenna (Ben) Little, Alyssa Swedberg, Hailey Swedberg, Scott Wendt, and Alexandra Wendt; three great-grandchildren: Addison Theiler, Jaxon Dragovich, and Sawyer Little; many nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Scott; brothers: Ernest, Arvid, Eugene, Harold, and Hank Rinta; sister, Viena (Vivi) Santos.

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

## GARY FERDELMAN



Gary John Ferdelman, 74, of Aitkin, formerly of New Brighton, died Monday, September 7, 2020 at his home surrounded by family.

Services will be Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 11 a.m. in Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home, Aitkin with

Father David Forsman officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Interment will be at a later date.

He was born April 29, 1946 in Minneapolis to John "Jack" and Mathilda "Tillie" (Slatoski) Ferdelman. Gary married Beatrice "Bea" (Wiener) Leners on November 16, 1988 in Dallas, TX. Gary was a proud 50+ year member of the Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers Local Union #1. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, 4 wheeling, tinkering and fixing things. He thoroughly loved spending time with family and friends. His grandchildren were his pride and joy. Gary had a heart of gold, always ready to give a helping hand. He was fun loving and a jokester at heart. He loved to play jokes on you and couldn't wait to see your reaction. He always said: "I might not be here for a long time, but I'm here for a good time". If you

were a friend of Gary's, you were a friend forever.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, Bea Ferdelman of Aitkin; sons: Troy Ferdelman of North Branch and Mike (Angela) Leners of St. Francis; daughter, Tammy (Wes) Slagle of Longville; seven grandchildren: Eryn Slagle, Jack Slagle, Alyssa Stuart-Ferdelman, Ericka Stuart-Ferdelman, Kaisa Stuart, Elliot Leners and Henry Leners; siblings: Robert (Bonnie) Ferdelman of Aitkin, Thomas (Linda) Ferdelman of Emily, Mary Young of Sauk Centre, Pat (Glenn) Modjeski of Roseville, Sharyn Johannes of Fridley, Judy (Mike) Faymerville of Eustace, Texas and Kathy (Dean) Jensen and family, Curt, Neal, Glenn, James, Kristin and Tom; brothers-in-law, Jerry Wiener, Roy Wiener and Bob Kopka; sister-in-law, Julie Wiener; many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents; mother-in-law, Marie Wiener; siblings and spouses: Jackie Borg, Colleen Kopka, Janet (Jerry) Germundson, Carol (John) DeLuce, John Johannes, Larry Young, Karen Rentz and Kathy Wiener; special aunts and uncles: Agnes and Ray Livgard and Bev and Lornie Ferdelman.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and

## WILLIAM CUMMINGS



William "Scott" Cummings, 61 of Aitkin died Saturday, September 12, 2020 at his home, surrounded by his family and friends.

Funeral Service were held 11 a.m. on Friday, September 18, 2020 at St. James Catholic Church in Aitkin with

Father David Forsman officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the church. A celebration luncheon was held at the Landing in Aitkin following the services.

He was born September 17, 1958 in Aitkin to William John and Patricia Joan (Mickley) Cummings. He graduated from Aitkin High School, class of 1976. Scott married Karen Lee (Bohlin) on October 31, 1981 in Aitkin. He was an avid

hunter and outdoorsman, adored his grandchildren and loved spending time at the farm. Scott was a member of the Ruffed Grouse Society, NRA, and Saint James Catholic Church.

Scott is survived by his wife, Karen Cummings; children: Billy Cummings, Kelly Cummings (Cole Gustin), and Kristi Cummings (Anil Kermally); three grandchildren: Morgan Ruschmeier, Brooke Ruschmeier, and Greyson Kermally; brother and sister-in-law: Kent (Jane) Cummings and sister, Laurie Tibbetts; many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sisters: Leslie and Lisa.

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

## Kids coats and costume collection

Clear Lake Grange #692 is collecting new or gently used coats, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and Halloween costumes for kids.

This annual collection is going on until Monday, October 12. Boxes are located at Aitkin

Village Laundromat and Paulbeck's County Market, event co-sponsors. Winter gear is always needed and in all sizes from infant through adult.

Distribution will take place on Saturday, October 17 at Westside Church Building,

Highway 210, Aitkin from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. Anyone who has a need is welcome to our distribution. Contact Clear Lake Grange members, Roxy Wigton, 218-927-4885 or Bonnie Mickelson 218-927-3485.



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**Fresh 93% Extra Lean Ground Beef**  
sold in a 3 lb flavor seal pkg for \$11.97

**3<sup>99</sup> lb**

# September is Family Meals Month



**USDA ORGANIC**  
Wild Harvest Organic Salad Blends  
5 oz, select varieties  
**2\$6 for 6**

**Fresh Baked!**  
Garlic or Twin French Bread  
16 oz

**1<sup>99</sup>**

**Barilla Pasta**  
12-16 oz, select varieties

**4\$5 for 5**

**Essential Everyday Pasta Sauce**  
24 oz, select varieties

**2\$3 for 3**

**Roma Tomatoes**

**1<sup>49</sup> lb**

**Essential Everyday Cream Cheese**  
8 oz

**1<sup>49</sup> -50¢ MFG BONUS Digital Offer**

**99¢**

**Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Mtn Dew or Sierra Mist**  
24 pk, 12 oz cans, select varieties

**6<sup>49</sup>**

**Country Hearth Dakota 12 Grain Bread**  
24 oz

**BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!**  
Save up to \$4.29 on 2

**Old Dutch Family Pack Potato Chips**  
8-10 oz

**BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!**  
Save up to \$4.19 on 2



**Better fresh. Better value.**

417 - 8th Ave. NE, Brainerd and 1413 Edgewood Drive, Baxter

Offer is good Sunday, September 20 through Saturday, September 26

**PRICES GUARANTEED AT BAXTER & BRAINERD CUB STORES.**

We reserve the right to limit quantities. No sales to dealers. Some items may not be available in all stores. See service desk or visit cub.com for rain check & coupon policy.

**myCub** Sign up. Sign on. Save more! at cub.com

**Holiday**

**Cub pickup** shop.cub.com

We are **OPEN**

# Brainerd Lakes Area's PRE-OWNED GIANT

**2019 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK ELITE**  
#201531



TOP-OF-LINE JEEP WITH HEATED LEATHER, MOONROOF, NAVIGATION, TRAILER PKG PLUS MUCH MORE!  
TRAIL RATED!

**\$28,997**

**2018 NISSAN ARMADA SL AWD**  
#N205047



**\$33,987**

BEAUTIFUL FULL SIZE SUV WITH 3 ROWS OF SEATS, HEATED LEATHER, SUNROOF, NAVIGATION PLUS MUCH MORE! LOADED! PREMIUM PACKAGE!

**2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED**  
#N205050



**\$27,884**

LOW MILES! FACTORY TOWING PACKAGE, ONE OWNER, MOONROOF, HEATED LEATHER & BLUETOOTH! SEVERAL JEEPS TO CHOOSE FROM!

**2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE AWD**  
#201134



**\$26,987**

HARD TO FIND PRE-OWNED HIGHLANDER WITH HEATED LEATHER, NAVIGATION, MOONROOF AND ONLY 63,XXX MILES! CALL TANNERS TODAY!

**2017 NISSAN PATHFINDER PLATINUM**  
#201466



**\$26,555**

FLAGSHIP PATHFINDER WITH NAVIGATION, MOONROOF, HEATED LEATHER & MORE! LOW MILES!

**2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD**  
#N205041



**\$19,977**

SOUGHT AFTER MIDNIGHT EDITION WITH HEATED SEATS, REMOTE START & BLUETOOTH! ALL WHEEL DRIVE!

**2017 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT S AWD**  
#N201269



**\$16,997**

FRESH TRADE WITH ALL WHEEL DRIVE & LOW MILES! GREAT IN SNOW AND GETS 30 MPG HWY!

**2015 NISSAN ROGUE SL AWD**  
#N390456



**\$15,555**

FANTASTIC SUV WITH HEATED LEATHER, NAVIGATION, SATTELITE RADIO, BLUETOOTH PLUS MORE! NOT MANY IN THIS PRICE RANGE!

**2011 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT**  
#390414



**\$7,990**

REDUCED! PRICED TO SELL! FANTASTIC SUV WITH LOW PAYMENTS AVAILABLE! CALL TANNER'S TODAY!

**2019 RAM 1500 LARAMIE CREW CAB**  
#201437



**\$44,994**

FRESH TRADE WITH LOW MILES! LOADED HEMI, HEATED/COOLED SEATS PLUS MORE! PRICED WAY BELOW BOOK VALUE!

**2018 RAM 1500 EXPRESS 4X4**  
#201520



**\$28,988**

ONE OWNER NEW RAM TRADE IN! BOUGHT NEW HERE AT TANNERS! ONLY 26,XXX LOW MILES AND PRICED TO SELL!

**2017 NISSAN FRONTIER SV V6**  
#N201287



**\$23,994**

HARD TO FIND LONG BOX! CREW CAB WITH LOW MILES, SATTELITE RADIO, HEATED SEATS & MORE! READY FOR WINTER!

**2015 RAM 1500 BIG HORN CREW CAB**  
#202420



**\$17,987**

NEW RAM TRADE IN MAXIMUM STEEL METALLIC! PRICED WAY BELOW BOOK VALUE! SEVERAL PRE-OWNED TO CHOOSE FROM AT TANNERS!

**2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN GT**  
#205045



**\$19,574**

ABOVE AVERAGE CONDITION CARAVAN WITH HEATED LEATHER, STOW & GO SEATING, NAVIGATION & PREMIUM SOUND!

**2013 TOYOTA SIENNA LE AWD**  
#N201200



**\$13,994**

ALL WHEEL DRIVE! PERFECT SAFE FAMILY VEHICLE WITH BLUETOOTH, ALLOYS, SATTELITE RADIO & MORE!

**2019 DODGE CHALLENGER R/T**  
#195077



**\$36,990**

DEMO WITH ONLY 5,XXX MILES! LOADED! 5.7L HEMI! PERFORMANCE PACKAGE PLUS PACKAGE, PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**2019 SUBARU LEGACY LIMITED AWD**  
#201227



**\$25,488**

ONLY 5,XXX MILES! LIKE NEW WITH HEATED LEATHER, ALL WHEEL DRIVE, MOONROOF PLUS MUCH MORE!

**2015 HONDA ACCORD EXL**  
#280833



**\$16,490**

REDUCED! GREAT CAR WITH ONLY 52,XXX MILES! HEATED LEATHER & MOONROOF!

**2016 HONDA CIVIC COUPE EX-T**  
#201454



**\$15,993**

AWESOME FUEL ECONOMY! MOON ROOF! SHARP & CLEAN! CALL TANNER'S TODAY!

**2017 FORD FUSION SE**  
#202056



**\$14,997**

LOW MILES! 32 MPG HWY! SEVERAL SEDANS IN STOCK AT TANNER NISSAN TO CHOOSE FROM!

**2017 NISSAN SENTRA SV**  
#N201184



**\$12,991**

FANTASTIC FUEL ECONOMY! SEVERAL PRE-OWNED SENTRAS IN STOCK AT TANNER NISSAN! CALL TODAY!

**2014 FORD FOCUS SE SEDAN**  
#204435



**\$7,787**

LOOK AT THIS SHARP COLOR! 36 MPG HWY! GREAT CAR WITH LOW PAYMENTS AVAILABLE!

**John Tanner's TANNER MOTORS**

**620 West Washington Street, Brainerd, MN 56401**

**218-829-3597 / 800-222-0434**  
[www.tannermotors.com](http://www.tannermotors.com)