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WHAT'S INSIDE

GOVERNOR WALZ
LOOSENS RESTRICTIONS
Page 2

READER'S RIBBETS
Page 3

OBITUARIES
Pages 4, 5 & 6

CLASSIFIEDS
Page 6

CROSBY COUNCIL
Page 7

Skaters use first phase of Make Your Mark, Support Our Park

By ANN SCHWARTZ
Mild temperature and cold nights led to great ice on the new rink in Aitkin's City Park.

Families are out and skating at the new hockey rink, which will double in the summer as a pickleball court.

The project, which will cost about \$450,000, will also include a new warming house and parking lot. Those items were not completed in the fall of 2020.

The new hockey rink is surrounded by new boards and fencing with places for teams to sit.

After the hockey rink/pickleball areas are com-

plete, the next thing is to update walking trails and make them handicapped accessible, renew the park's playground and begin developing Tibbitts Park.



Olivia Boyd, 9, of Eagan, practices hockey with her dad in the new rink at Aitkin's City Park. Adam Boyd, who grew up in Aitkin, is impressed with the new rink. They were here visiting dad Mike in the Farm Island Lake Area.

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As COVID-19 situation improves, Governor Walz loosens restrictions



Jarod Packet, Aitkin, owner of Rosalinis, dishes up some pizza. Customers are Timothy Schwietz and Sam Turner of Aitkin. Packer said Monday night, January 11, was busy for wings, pizza and pasta. Ann Schwartz photo

On January 6, Governor Tim Walz signaled that he would loosen COVID-19 restrictions across by “adjusting the dials” and opening more activities and sectors of the economy. “The situation in Minnesota is undeniably better than it was last month,” Governor Walz said. “We have reasons to be optimistic, and Minnesotans’ sacrifice and commitment to their communities helped change the pandemic’s trajectory and saved lives. But we need to protect the progress we’ve made.”

As of January 11:

- Indoor dining at bars

and restaurants can open at 50 percent capacity, with a maximum of 150 people. Parties of no more than six people must remain six feet from other parties; bar seating is open to parties of two; reservations are required; and establishments must close dine-in service by 10 p.m.

- Gym capacity remains capped at 25 percent but maximum capacity increases to 150 and classes can increase to 25 people, assuming distancing can be observed. Machines and people must maintain 9 feet of distance.
- Outdoor events and en-

tertainment continue at 25 percent capacity, but maximum capacity increases to 250 people. Social distancing is required.

- Indoor events and entertainment – like bowling alleys, movie theaters, and museums – may open at 25 percent, with no more than 150 people in each area of the venue. Face coverings are required, and they may not offer food service after 10 p.m.
- Youth and adult organized sports have resumed practice as of January 4 and games resumed January 14 with spectators, following the

appropriate capacity limits for indoor or outdoor venues. Inter-region tournaments and out of state play are discouraged.

- Pools opened on January 4 for some activity and may now open, like gyms, at 25 percent capacity.
- Wedding receptions and other private parties may resume with limits. If food and drink are served at the event, then they are limited to two households or 10 people indoors and 3 households or 15 people outdoors. If there is no food or drink, they are covered by event venue guidelines. Any related ceremony – like a wedding or funeral ceremony – is guided by rules for ceremonies and places of worship.
- Places of worship remain open at 50 percent capacity but without an overall maximum capacity.

“We have a lot to be thankful for as the COVID-19 situation improves and many of our students head back to school,” said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. “Because Minnesotans have made sacrifices to protect their neighbors, we are able to return to some of the activities we love. But COVID is still a threat, and we must remain cautious.”

“We can be cautiously optimistic about the progress Minnesotans have made in slowing the spread of COVID-19,” said Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Grove. “I am thankful for the work and sacrifices the hospitality industry has made to keep their employees, neighbors and communities safe. These efforts pave the way for loosened guidelines, allowing more jobs and more business growth. To keep our economy moving, it’s critical that we all remain vigilant in fighting COVID-19 by masking up and staying safe.”

As the weather gets colder and Minnesotans move indoors, gatherings occur more often in settings that allow the virus to spread more easily. “Minnesotans have worked hard and done their part to get us back from the edge of the cliff, and now they can help keep things on the right track,” Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said. “One year into this pandemic, we know that improvements are tenuous. If we let our guard down, COVID-19 finds a way to surge back in terrifying ways. That means it’s still very important to wear a mask and stay 6 feet from others when you are out in the community. As we look for vaccines to

become more widely available for all of us, these basic protections can serve as a bridge to better days ahead.”

According to the Minnesotans should continue to take precautions to combat the spread of the virus in their community – wear a mask, practice social distancing, and stay outside when possible.

Last month Governor Walz announced that every elementary school may return to in-person learning, recognizing that kids being in school is an important public health priority. The state has learned more about how to reduce the potential for spread in schools from success in other settings, and with additional mitigation strategies, giving the youngest learners the chance to be in person helps our kids get the high-quality education they need and helps bring relief to many families. Elementary schools may begin in-person learning on January 18.

Also last month, Governor Walz also signed into law \$216 million in direct support for small businesses and workers affected by the pandemic, which has provided targeted aid to keep small businesses afloat, extended unemployment benefits for workers struggling to get by.

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Eight arrested in protests over Enbridge Line 3 pipeline project

Eight people were arrested in a protest opposing construction of the Enbridge Energy Line 3 oil pipeline replacement, according to a news release from the Northern Lights Task Force.

More than 150 people gathered in Aitkin County on Saturday, Jan. 9 to protest the project.

They were met by the Aitkin County Sheriff's Department deputies who took the time to explain to them the areas clearly marked as the First Amendment rights area. This is a large area where people can exercise their First

Amendment rights while remaining safe from traffic and machinery.

The protesters ignored this instruction and took over a section of Great River Road and refused to move. For the safety of the protesters, traffic on that roadway was stopped and diverted by law enforcement personnel. Further conversations attempting to remove the people from the roadway failed.

While at this area, a sign-up sheet was present for people to sign up to be arrested, along with a phone number for who to contact after arrest. It is

unknown how many people actually signed this document.

At approximately 1:40 p.m., the protesters got back onto buses and into their cars and left the area. They proceeded to travel to Hwy. 169 just south of Hill City to another construction area. They got out again and interfered with construction personnel.

Law enforcement staff spoke with protesters in hopes of having them move away from the work area and the equipment for their safety. They refused to do this and blocked Hwy 169. After several attempts to speak

with them, dispersal orders were given. Many people followed that directive, but many stayed.

Eight adults — six males

and two females — subsequently arrested and transported to the Aitkin County Jail where they were booked. Seven were booked for Gross

Misdemeanor Trespass on Critical Infrastructure and onwas cited and released for Failing to Leave an Unlawful Assembly.

Senator Ruud IRRRB re-appointment

Senator Carrie Ruud (R-Breezy Point) has again been appointed to the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

The IRRRB consists of nine elected Senators and Representatives, of which Senator Ruud has been a member since 2017.

"I look forward to continuing my role in representing

Senate District 10 on the IRRRB," said Senator Ruud.

The IRRRB encompasses 13,000 square miles in northeastern and central Minnesota, 53 cities, and 134 townships. Its mission is to invest resources to foster growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota.

The Board's role is to re-

view and oversee expenditures and recommend approval or disapproval or modification of the expenditures and projects. The Department reinvests local tax-onite production taxes back into northeastern Minnesota businesses and communities to strengthen and diversify the economy.

READER RIBBETS

Rep. Dale Lueck legislative update

Despite the turmoil that took place this week in Washington DC, here in Saint Paul the 92nd Minnesota Legislature got underway without incident.

With respect to the recent violence that took place at the U.S. Capitol, rioting and mayhem is equally unacceptable whether it takes place in Washington, D.C., or the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

As is usual when new a legislature convenes, the first week is focused on organizational details, including formalizing committee structures, adopting procedural rules, and officially notifying both the Senate and the governor that the Minnesota House is organized and now in session.

Because of COVID-19 precautions we conducted floor sessions with most legislators working online from their offices in the state office building. We spent significant time testing some unique identification technology that protects the integrity of each member's electronic vote. Voting is still a bit clumsy and time consuming, but its working much better than the remote

special sessions, that required lengthy 134-member individual voice roll call votes.

Effective Monday January 11, 2021 Gov. Walz relaxed some of the COVID-19 restrictions again allowing limited indoor dining and other adjustments to various activities. That emergency order can be found here. That action was welcome news and will get us about back to where we were before the Thanksgiving/Christmas restrictions were imposed.

This week I received a significant number of questions and concerns about progress on the COVID-19 vaccination program. Those issues were raised with the governor's office and the MN Department of Health. MDA Commissioner Malcom and her staff provided a briefing to legislators at the end of the week clearing up some of the concerns.

Probably the most relevant point made is that when MDA posts the number of vaccine doses on their website that are "allocated" to Minnesota, - that does not mean those allocated doses are actually sitting in Minnesota. Vaccines are shipped to Minnesota on a weekly basis and

remains limited to the amount produced and our states' fair share based on population.

Minnesota's vaccination priorities and overall plan can be found at this link. While we remain justifiably impatient as to the progress of vaccination program, MDA indicated that two additional vaccine producers are nearing completion of the trial/approval process, which will significantly increase the number of doses available.

**Representative Dale Lueck
Minnesota House
District 10B**

Decry statutes for temporary issues

Our Minnesota Mistake, Tim Walz, has outlined to legislative leaders an end to his executive powers. He is trying to negotiate his orders into statute.

Walz allowed Minneapolis to burn with 500 million dollars in damages. He gave his adult daughter access to confidential information which she shared with the public and rioters. His actions are crimes against humanity, and he needs to resign.

We the People do not need nor should we support per-

manent statutes for temporary issues, including pandemics with 99% plus survival rates.

Walz states: "With a light at the end of the tunnel, I encourage you to begin the work of enacting into law the core provisions of the emergency response that have been keeping Minnesotans safe."

If there is a light at the end of the tunnel, there is no reason to proceed and not a single core provision worked.

His failed executive orders added to the problem and politicians are demanding an

audit of the virus deaths. The information has never been accurate, the CDC reports only 6% of the deaths in U.S were from the virus and that gets shut down as false information.

It's simple, We the People must fix the Minnesota Mistake and demand he resign.

Our Rep's and Sen's lack the intestinal fortitude because they are part of the system which is the problem.


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OBITUARIES

TRAVIS TURNER



Travis Arlen Turner, 29, of Aitkin, passed away unexpectedly, Monday, January 4, 2021 at his home. A celebration of Travis' life will be held at a later date. He was born May 8, 1991 in Crosby to Larry and Lilly (Johnson) Turner. Travis loved working on anything with an engine from dirt bikes to trucks. Travis will be missed by all who

knew him. Travis is survived by his parents, Larry and Lilly Turner; siblings: Angie (Jay) Fort, Jody Turner, Jeffrey Turner, Misty Dale, Holly (Andrew) Christensen and Amber Turner; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. To leave an online condolence, go to: www.srtfuneral.com. Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Aitkin.

ERIC DOBSON



Eric Dobson, 51, of Bacliff, TX died on Monday, January 4, 2021 in Houston, TX. Services were held on January 12, 2021 at Crowder Funeral Home with Pastor Brian Gigea officiating. View at https://youtu.be/OO9Kc_RvoIM. He was interred at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Houston. A celebration of Eric's life will be held at a later date. He was born in Crosby on October 2, 1969 and raised in Riverton. Upon graduation from Crosby High School, Eric joined

the US Army. He was stationed in Germany, the Middle East, Missouri, and Texas for 12 years before his discharge. Eric then began employment at Pepsi in Houston, TX, until illness forced his retirement. He fought cancer with determination, grace, and gentle tolerance for close to two decades.

Eric leaves behind his wife Bridgette, three children: Leo, Tara, and Nate, all of Houston, TX; parents Brian and Pam Dobson of Riverton; siblings: Brandon (Kathy) Dobson and children; and Penny (Brian) Grimsley, all of Pillager; cousins: Mike, Leah, and SaShanna.

Arrangements by Crowder Funeral Homes, Houston, TX.

DOLORES GRAGERT



Dolores J. "Dee" Gragert, 88, of Emily died on Friday, January 8, 2021 at the St. Cloud Hospital. Services are going to be held at a later date. She was born in Minneapolis on January 6, 1933 to George and Caroline (La-Count) Sandhoff. Dee was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Outing.

Dee is survived by her two sons: Larry (Carol) Gragert of Elk River and Mike Gragert of Apple Valley; granddaughter, Rachel Dahlheimer and two great-grandchildren: Destiny Campbell and Brody Dahlheimer.

Preceding Dee in death are her parents; husband, Lloyd in 2013; grandson, Blake Gragert and sister, Sharon Anderson.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

VERNON SKRIVSETH

Vernon L. Skrivseth, 99, of Bay Lake Township died on January 9, 2021 at his home.

Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

KENNETH MADDUX



Kenneth Eugene Maddux, 100, of Irondale Township died on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at the Cuyuna Regional Care Center in Crosby.

A family service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, January 16, 2021 at the Cascade United Methodist Church in Deerwood. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church (open to the public). If desired friends may tune into the service in the church parking lot on radio 88.1. Friends are welcome to attend the burial at 2:00 p.m. following the service at Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby. Full military honors will be presented by the Myrin-James American Legion Post #443 of Ironton.

He was born on December 29, 1920, in Mora to Fred Eugene and Alice Amelia (Nystrom) Maddux. His childhood was spent in Iowa where he attended country school and graduated in 1939 from Bayard High School, Bayard, IA. There he was scouted as a pitcher by the St. Louis Cardinals during his senior year. Later he took up fast-pitch softball during the war and pitched until the age of 50. A WWII Army Air Force Veteran, he was stationed on the island of Saipan in the Pacific, as an aircraft sheet metal mechanic, where he repaired B-29's. He did his basic training at Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, TX, and gunnery school in Laredo, TX. Additional technical training was coursework in sheet metal mechanics at Redondo Beach H.S., Redondo Beach, CA, and Bell Aircraft in Marietta, GA. Following the war, he attended Coyne Electrical School in Chicago, training to become an electrician. On August 12, 1947, he married Julia Jelencich in Crosby. After his marriage, he wired farms in South Dakota for REA. He and Julia lived briefly in Crosby before settling in St. Paul, around 1949, and eventually in Newport, MN, in 1955, where they raised their family before moving to Cuyuna in 1967. While in the Twin Cities, he worked as an airplane sheet metal mechanic at

Northwest Airlines. Following the family's move in 1967, he owned and operated the Bungalow Supper Club in Emily in 1967-68. In 1967, he also worked in general maintenance at Scorpion in Crosby until it ceased operations. He then went to work in Plant Operations at the hospital in Crosby (now CRMC) until his retirement in 1990. He built a home with Julia on Carlson Road in Irondale Township in 1976. After Julia's passing in August 1988, Ken's son Greg came to live with him remaining by his side until Ken's last days at the Cuyuna Regional Care Center. Active in retirement, he volunteered at the Brainerd State Hospital, repairing wheel chairs; on hurricane cleanup crews for Hurricane Hugo (Charlotte, NC) and Hurricane Andrew (Homestead, FL); and at the Care Center in Crosby, where he volunteered for 30 years. He was a member of the Emily United Methodist Church; the Myrin-James American Legion Post #443 of Ironton, and a former member of the Cuyuna Fire Department. He enjoyed sports, dancing, and playing cards. He loved to fish, making several trips to Ontario for walleye and northern, and watching birds at his homemade feeders just outside the kitchen window. He made rag rugs on his loom in the basement. He loved working with his chainsaw and handling firewood—from cutting, chunking, splitting, stacking and finally, to burning it in the basement stove where he spent many hours.

He is survived by his three sons and their partners: Ken Jr. (Diane Wells) of Eagen, MN; Greg of Irondale Township; and Tim (Barb Zbacnik) of LaJolla, CA; four grandchildren and spouses: Nate (Megan); Nick; Alicia (Andrew) Hamilton; and Amy; two great grandchildren, Phoebe and Phaeren; cousins, Bob Lindroth and Alden Jenison; a brother-in-law, David Brown, Sr.; two sisters-in-law, Hazel Magdich and Marsha Jelencich; many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

Preceding Ken in death are his parents; Julia, his wife of 41 years; and two sisters: Margaret Jordan and Elaine Gordon.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

TOBY ROWAN



Toby Lee Rowan, 47, of Fifty Lakes died on Thursday, January 7, 2021 while working as a Medic in the Mille Lacs area. A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at the Log Church in Crosslake. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday. EMS rights will be given by the Minnesota EMS Honor Guard. He was born on September 30, 1973 in Hastings to Michael and Debra (Siebenaler) Rowan. He married Darcy King on July 27, 2018 in Breezy Point. Toby worked as an EMT serving the communities of Hastings, Deer River, Grand Rapids and Crosby. Currently he was employed with the CRMC and the Mille Lacs Health System

as a Medic. He was a former fireman with the Hastings Fire Department, was an Emily First Responder, was a member of the Fifty Lakes Fire and Rescue Department and was a member of the Log Church in Crosslake.

Toby is survived by his wife, Darcy; two sons:-Nick (Kristin) Rowan of Inver Grove Heights, Tyler (Megan) Rowan of Pillager; two daughters: Devyn (Jacob) Robbins of Colorado Springs, CO and Lauren (Chris) Rohwedder of Fort Morgan, CO; two grandchildren; mother and stepfather, Deb and Jim Halter of Hastings; and two brothers: Pat (Jen) Rowan of Max, MN and Mike (Christine) Rowan of Milltown, WI.

Preceding Toby in death are his father, Michael Rowan and a granddaughter, Scarlett Robbins.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

LOUIS MARKETON



Louis "Louie" Henry Marketon, 84, of Aitkin died Tuesday, January 6, 2021 from Pneumonia complications at Riverwood Health Care Center in Aitkin.

To allow for safe traveling for family and friends, Louie will be laid to rest in Waverly, MN later this spring. At that time, the family will host a life celebration ceremony in his honor.

He was born to Thomas and Agnes Marketon on July 6, 1936 in Howard Lake, MN. Louie was raised on the family farm in Howard Lake. After graduating high school in 1954, he completed two years of service with the United States Army as a tank operator. Upon his return he spent many weekends enjoying the nightlife with his brother Walt. Those weekends created a lifelong friendship. There was seldom a day that would go by that Walt and Louie did not talk. On one of these weekends out, he met and eventually married Elizabeth Libor. The two of them raised their family in Delano, MN. Louie excelled in mechanics and welding. Those skills

led him to a successful career eventually retiring from Herc U Lift in Maple Plain, MN. After retirement, Louie moved to Blind Lake in Aitkin. He was able to fulfill his retirement dreams fishing and being active with the Blind Lake ATV club. The BBQ would always be fired up when Dan would come to visit. They spent many weekends riding ATVs and being outside. Louie was able to fish in Canada several times with his sons and grandsons. Those trips created lasting memories for all. Next time you get your line wet, take a moment to reflect and remember the great times spent with and conversations you had with Louie.

He is survived by his four children: Daniel Marketon of Sioux Falls, SD, William (Christy) Marketon of Hartford, SD, Diane Sorum of Elk River, and James (Andia) Marketon of Monte Vista, CO; four grandchildren: Jackson (Kyrie) Marketon of Oakland, CA, Seth Sorum of Elk River, Tyler (Chaundra) Marketon of Yelm, WA, and Isabelle Marketon of Boise, ID; and a great grandchild, Theodore Marketon of Yelm, WA.

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

DONALD CARLSON



Donald Clarence Carlson, 95, of Aitkin died Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at Rivers Edge Assisted Living in Aitkin.

Graveside service was held Friday, January 8, 2021 at Diamond Lake Cemetery, Farm Island Township, Aitkin County, MN with Pastor Reggie Denton officiating. Military honors were accorded by the Aitkin American Legion Lee Post #86 and Aitkin VFW Roberts-Glad Post #1727.

Pallbearers were: Ed Burgstaler, Fred Burgstaler, Larry Carlson, Donald Carlson, David Burgstaler, and Wendy Burgstaler.

He was born October 13, 1925 on the family farm near Aitkin to Albin and Emma (Pearson) Carlson. He grew up on the farm that was settled by his paternal grandparents from Sweden. He served in the Army joining the Guards in the early 1940's. Donald married Marjory Ann (Griffith) on September 30, 1948 in Aitkin. He operated the family farm for many years until he was forced to

sell the Dairy cattle when the local creamery closed in the early 1980's. Since he was a child, Donald attended church at the Maria Chapel. He and his wife were active in the Maria Chapel community functions for much of their adult life. He was always up for a game of cards, especially cribbage. He enjoyed carpentry, woodworking, ice fishing, deer hunting, blueberry picking, and beekeeping (for approximately 40 years).

Donald is survived by his children: Kathryn (Fred) Daigle of Lansing, NC and Lawrence "Larry" (Bonnie) Carlson of Aitkin; three grandchildren: Donald Carlson (Angie) of Brainerd, Jason Daigle (Amy) of Taylorsville, NC, Sarah Van Horn (Earl) of Hillsborough, NC; four great-grandchildren: Aiden and Ryley Daigle and Crosby and Finnley Van Horn.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, Marjory, in 2019; son Arnold, siblings: Elmer Carlson, Mildred (Oliver) Nyman, Mabel (Arthur) Oliver, and his parents Albin and Emma (Pearson) Carlson.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin.

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OBITUARIES

DONNA GARTLAND



Donna L. (Fuller) Gartland, 88, Sartell, died Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020.

Private Family funeral services were held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at Atonement Lutheran Church. Burial was at the Minnesota State Veteran's Cemetery in Little Falls. Memorials are preferred to Atonement Lutheran Church in St. Cloud or to the donor's choice.

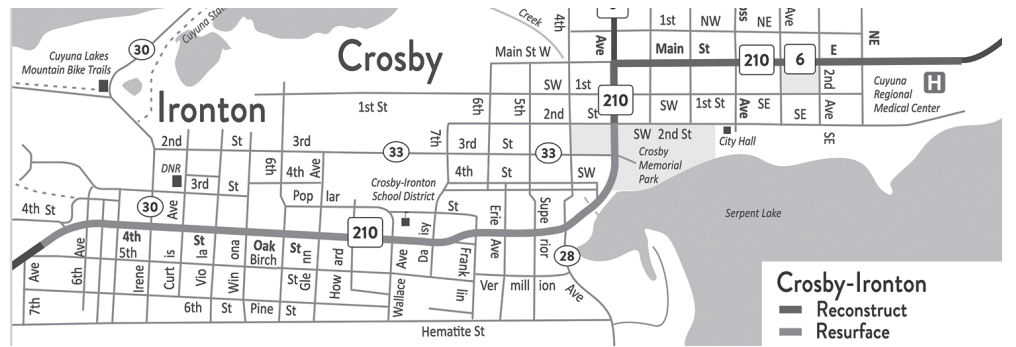
She was born Aug. 27, 1932 in Red Wing to Ernest and Nellie (Nelson) Fuller, the fourth of five children. Her family moved back to northern Minnesota, having homes in Riverton, Bay Lake and Crosby. She graduated from Crosby-Ironton, class of 1950. She attained a clerical degree from Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis. On July 26, 1952 she married her

high school sweetheart, Harold Gartland (C-1 '49), after which she moved to San Antonio, TX to join her husband who was in the Air Force, stationed at Lackland Air Force Base. She worked for the American Red Cross while living in Texas. They settled in St. Cloud in 1970. She began working for Northland Electric Supply in 1972, retiring in 1987.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law: Steve and Merlajan of Plymouth; Bob and Patti of St. Cloud; and Howard and Terri of Janesville, WI; daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Tony Russell of St. Cloud; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; siblings Donald; Warren "Bud"; Betty Skillings and Harriet Lundgren.

Arrangements were with Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud.



Downtown Committee Meeting

The Cuyuna Lakes Chamber's Downtown Committee will meet Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/94315458186#>.

The mission of the committee is to provide a platform for business members and

community leaders to discuss upcoming events and issues in the Cuyuna Lakes and implement projects to promote a healthy local economy during these times.

Our current focus is to help area businesses prepare for, and withstand, the upcoming construction season. Infor-

mation is available on the MnDOT website regarding the 2021 Hwy. 210 project.

Interested business members and other stakeholders are encouraged to contact Executive Director Brielle Bredsten at brielle@cuyunakes.com or 218-546-8131 to learn more.

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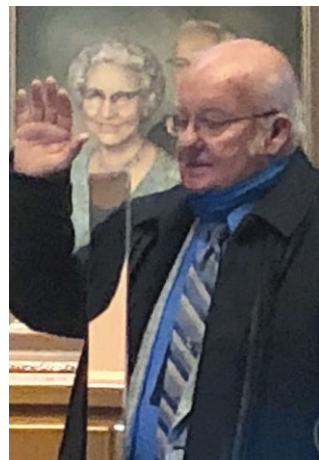
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Day of Remembrance Proclamation for Rowan issued by Crosby Council

At the Crosby Council meeting on Monday, Jan. 11, Mayor Jim Hunter was sworn in, along with Council Members Paul Heglund and Shawn Jarvela.



Jim Hunter was sworn in as Mayor at City of Crosby Council meeting.

Hunter read a proclamation of tribute for Toby Rowan brought forward by the Crosby Police Department. Toby died while working as a Medic in the Mille Lacs area on January 7. A moment of silence was observed and on January 15 flags will be flown at half staff in remembrance.

Cash updated the council that three 2020 Chamber events were canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. According to Cash the sponsorships from these canceled events was \$6,750 or \$2,250 per event. The City had paid a total of \$12,500 for 2020. In August of 2020, the Chamber had requested an additional \$12,500 for 2021 from the City of Crosby. The Chamber was told that they would need to wait until the new budget cycle. The first event of 2021 is A virtual fishing contest using FishDonkey app is planned for Saturday, Feb. 6 (noon-3 p.m.) It was decided to request the Chamber attend the workshop on January 20 at 11 a.m. to discuss the sponsorships.

The Council Unanimously approved the Consent Agenda that included:

- Approval of Minutes from the December 28, 2020 Regular Meeting.

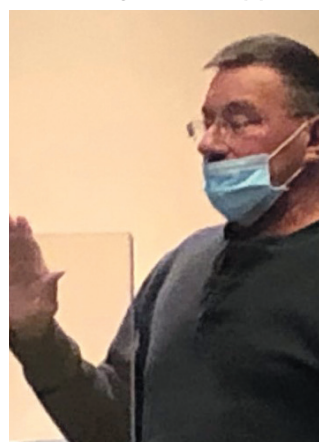
- Approval of the Claims
- Adopting a resolution accepting donations
 - Hallett Trust grant \$48,400 for Library roof expenses
 - Hallett Trust grant \$50,000 for Library general operations
 - JFHML Friends Foundation \$29,473.46 for Library Friends book donation
 - Hallett Trust grant \$55,000 for Fire Department ladder truck

Crosby Fire Relief Assoc. \$5,000 for Fire Department ladder truck

Anonymous Donation \$100 for Police Department K9

Mileage Reimbursement Rate change to 56 cents per mile (a decrease of 1.5 cents from the 2020 rate).

Discussion about appointment to Public Works committee. Originally, Cash and Hunter were listed. After Heglund expressed an interest in being on the committee, Hunter agreed to appoint



Paul Heglund was sworn in as a Council Member.

Heglund in place of himself. Hunter asked if there was anything else.

Cash said, "I have a quick question for Matthew. We had talked last year about some meetings with you for these committees. Rather than just like Paul and I meeting with Public works. Is this still something in your game plan



Shawn Jarvela was sworn in as a Council Member in 2021?"

Admin. Matt Hill responded, "So these meetings will comprise of the department heads and any other staff members in that department that the department head would like. I will be at a lot of the initial ones at the beginning of the year. The Library has a very good functioning board already. So that one could be quarterly. I will work out a schedule."

Hunter then said, "Matthew is the Administrator and we have a chain of command, anything a councilman has a problem with or what ever should be brought to Matthew. And anything of great importance he will consult me."

2021 City Council appointments and organizational assignments include the following: The depositories are the Unity Bank and Northland Securities. Acting Mayor is Diane Cash. City Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer is Matthew Hill. The Deputy Registrar Kay Nephew. Police Chief is Andrew Rooney. City Attorney is Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney. City Engineer is Bolton & Menk. Fire Chief Jis ay DeCent. Assistant Fire Chief is Brian Nelson. Librarian is Abby Smith. Health Officer Crow Wing County Emergency Services Coordinator is Andrew Rooney. Building Inspector is Scott Sadusky. Planning and Zoning Administrator is Sourcewell. Official

Newspapers are Crosby Iron-ton Courier-#1 and Brainerd Daily Dispatch-#2. Council meeting dates are at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the city council chambers.

Committee assignments

Committee assignments were chosen. Council Members Paul Heglund and Chris Ryan are assigned the Cemetery Committee.

Mayor Hunter and Council Member Chris Ryan are assigned the Community Center, Economic Development, Planning & Zoning, Police Advisory and Personnel. Council Members Diane Cash and Shawn Jarvela are assigned the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Hunter and Cash are assigned the Finance Committee. Jarvela and Heglund are assigned the Fire Relief Association, Library, and Parks and Recreation. Cash and Heglund are assigned the Public Works Committee. Jarvela and Cash are assigned the Refuse Committee. Cash and Jim Traylor are assigned as Serpent Lake Sanitary Sewer District representatives.

On last years budget was a purchase of a new 2020 Dodge Durango that was ordered December 2019, and would have normally been delivered in April or May. However it got stuck in Canada due to boarder restrictions. It was finally delivered in October and is currently in the garage. waiting for outfitting According to Hunter the 2020 and 2021 Dodge

Durangos will replace two Ford Explorers. The plan is that one Explorer will be sold and one replaces a Chevy Blazer and will be used by the Crosby Fire Department. The 2017 Dodge Durango will be retained for use by the Crosby Police Department.

The council unanimously approved the purchase of a 2021 Dodge Durango patrol vehicle from Dodge of Burnsville at the request of Police Chief Rooney to replace a 2017 Dodge Durango (K-9 Unit), at an approximate cost of \$30,260 with funds already budgeted.

The council unanimously approved renewal of the 2 a.m. license for Peanuts Pub at the Midway.

The council unanimously approved a 2.5% cost of living increase and step increases for non-union employees to match the union employees agreement.

The Engineer report was presented by City Engineer Phil Martin of Bolton & Menk.

Council unanimously approved reallocation of funds for the First Street SW project to include the Second St. SE improvements.

Cash asked Police Chief Rooney if the police staff hours will remain consistent with last year. Rooney indicated the overtime hours should be less, because he had addressed the overtime issues.

Hunter thanked the Police Department for the volunteer hours at the helping hands free food distribution of over 28,000 pounds of

food weekly.

On January 23 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a free meal at the Iron-ton Legion in appreciation of volunteers that helped with the food program.

General Manager Ivan Bartha of Hallett Community Center of Crosby said the center is returning to modified operation, as per the Governor's order. Hunter asked the Bartha for a meeting with Ryan and himself. Administrator Hill spoke highly of the report furnished by Bartha and recommended the council review it.

According to Head Librarian Abby Smith, the Jesse F Hallett Memorial Library is due to re-open January 25. The Friends Jingle Books program generated \$13,500 and will be matched with up to \$12,000 by the Hallett Trustees. On January 19, no contact tax preparation appointments will begin to be accepted.

Ron Prushek informed the council about various pipe size restriction for fire truck pumping purposes.

Administrator Hill spoke at being invited to the Planning and Zoning meeting with Sourcewell. They made a recommendation for a new person to service Crosby. Hill said he is very impressed with the Sourcewell organization.

They have three candidates for the Planning and Zoning committee.

Hunter expressed a desire for Hill to ask for help from the council, so he would have time to write for grants.

Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library

The Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library Friends Foundation are holding a clearance sale of books, audiobooks, DVDs, dishes, decorations and seasonal items at the library's temporary Abbey House location at 27 W Main,

Crosby on Thursday, January 21 from noon to 6 p.m., Friday, January 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, January 23 from 10a.m. to 2 p.m.

Masks are required and social distancing rules will be observed.

Checks and cash only. All proceeds help support the Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library.

This is also an opportunity to renew your membership in the Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library Friends Foundation.



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