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Captain Smith to speak at Memorial Sunday Worship Service



Captain Gail Smith

Captain Gail Smith ASAR-Army Nurse Corps will speak on the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm at the Crosslake Lutheran Church outdoor worship service on Sunday, May 30 at 10 a.m.

Captain Smith was a member of the 311th Evacuation Hospital, which deployed to the Middle East during Desert Storm and served for 4 months in the United Arab Emirates. She served as the chief training officer for the medical unit and for the UAE joint medical team. During her 14 years as a reservist with the Army Nurse Corps she also served at Brooks Army and Walter Reed Medical Centers in the ICU. She was awarded an Army Commendation medal for her service in the Gulf war and a special award from the UAE Royal Guard for her work in training. She is a member of Crosslake-Fifty

Lakes American Legion Post 500. In her civilian life, she has enjoyed a 47 year career in ER and ICU currently working at the Minneapolis Heart Institute in Baxter. Gail also serves as the Parish Nurse at Crosslake Lutheran Church and leads activities for the Health Ministry team. She and her husband Larry (also a Veteran) live in Crosslake.

Crosslake Lutheran Church Outdoor Worship Service

The 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship service will feature a larger community-wide Memorial Weekend observance, located at 14019 Daggett Pine Road, across from the Crosslake Community Center baseball field.

The outdoor service will feature the National Anthem sung by John Carlson, a contingent of the Crosslake - Fifty Lakes American Legion Color guard firing an honorary salute to the dead, and an

aerial fly-over by the North Star Squadron (a group of four fixed wing aircraft flown by experienced pilots who participate in air shows throughout the Midwest). The leader of this squadron is Steve Knight who has been an advisor to the Civil Air Patrol and now lives in Mission Hill, SD.

Veterans from World War II to the present will be honored. Those attending may stay in their cars and listen via radio or be seated on provided chairs; you are also invited to bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

A more traditional worship service will also be held at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary at Crosslake Lutheran Church, at 35960 County Road 66, Crosslake, across from the campground.

Both services are open to the public.

More Memorial Day Services Continued on Page 3

Brat Sale
Friday, May 28
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
front lawn of
the Aitkin County
Court House

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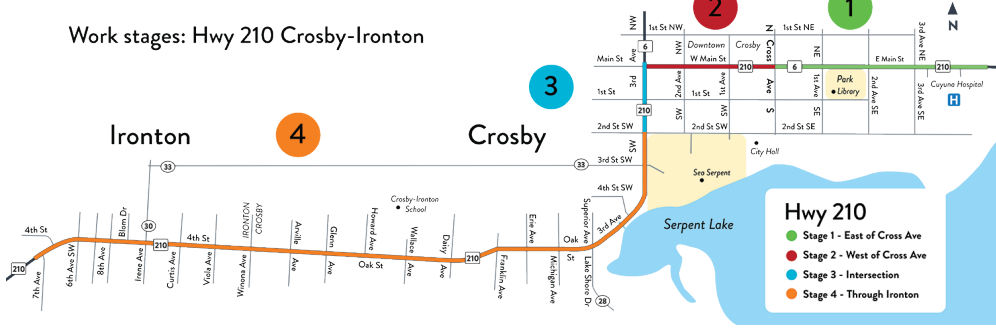
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Crosby road detour begins June 1

Construction crews continue to work on the Crosby-Ironton Hwy. 210 Road Project as stage one nears completion. Stage two includes reconstruction west of Cross Ave to the Hwy. 210/6 intersection, includes sidewalks. Hwy. 210 will be closed starting June 1. Use downtown Crosby detour via 2nd St. SW and Cross Avenue East. The Hwy 210/6 intersection will be open to north/south traffic.



DNR conservation officer dies



She served as a conservation officer since 2005 and had a deeply held dedication to serving Minnesota's people and natural resources.

"Officer Grell was the epitome of a public servant and served the Enforcement Division, the DNR, and the people of Minnesota with distinction," said Col. Rodmen Smith, DNR Enforcement Division director. "Her loss is devastating, and we ask the people of Minnesota to keep Officer Grell and her family in their thoughts during this difficult time."

Conservation officers have protected Minnesota's natural resources and people since 1887. Officer Grell is the 23rd Minnesota conservation officer to die in the line of duty. Funeral arrangements are still being made.

The Minnesota State Patrol is leading the investigation of the crash. Questions about the investigation should be directed to that agency.

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conservation officer has died in the line of duty following a two-vehicle crash Monday, May 24, near Grand Rapids.

Officer Sarah Grell, 39, was stationed in Grand Rapids and leaves behind a husband and three children.

Her retirement.

"The sense of loss we feel right now is indescribable," DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said. "We are heartbroken for her family. Our deepest sympathies and concerns are with them. Officer Grell leaves behind an



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All are encouraged to attend these Memorial Day events. Past or present military personnel are also encouraged to wear their uniform. For comfort, bring lawn chairs for outdoor ceremonies.

Aitkin — 10 a.m. at the Aitkin American Legion
Brainerd — 10 a.m. wreath ceremony at the Laurel Street Bridge; 10:30 a.m. main ceremony at All Veterans Memorial, 4th and Laurel Streets. The public can attend in person, if masks are worn and social distancing is observed or see it on Facebook Live at: <https://www.facebook.com/brainerdmemorialday>; 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. lunch at the Brainerd American Legion at 708 Front Street co-sponsored by Brainerd Elks for veterans and their families. It will be hot dogs and hamburgers for inside dining or to go. A free-will donation will be accepted. The Brainerd VFW will be open noon to 6 p.m.
Crosby — 10:30 a.m. at the Lakewood Cemetery, in case of inclement weather the service will be held at Mayberry Auditorium; free burger bar 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Ironton American Legion.
Deerwood — 9 a.m. at Scandia Cemetery; 10 a.m. at the Bay Lake Cemetery.
Emily — 9 a.m. at the Pine Ridge Cemetery.
McGregor — 10-11 a.m. McGregor High School auditorium; 11 a.m. - noon Woodland Cemetery; noon - 1 p.m. lunch at McGregor VFW; 2 p.m. Lakeview Cemetery.
Nisswa — noon at the Nisswa American Legion.
Pequot Lakes — 10 a.m. in the Pequot Lakes High School auditorium.
Pine River — 9:30 a.m. at the dam in Pine River where Post Commander Terry Steele will speak. A wreath will be laid in the water in honor of soldiers lost at sea and a 21-gun salute and taps will be performed. The ceremony will move to Pine Ridge Cemetery where a wreath will be laid at the base of the memorial accompanied by taps and a 21-gun salute, and a short speech by Steele. At 11 a.m. at Swanburg Cemetery in Pine River.
Waukenabo — 10 a.m. Waukenabo Cemetery

Email your upcoming events to hopper@crobyironton.net

READER RIBBETS
Governing requires transparency

On Monday, May 17, 2021, Speaker Melissa Hortman adjourned the Minnesota House of Representatives. At the time of adjournment, no education policy and budget agreement existed.

This representative democracy-killing move removed the public and legislators from any further input to Minnesota's education budget bill—the largest budget item for the State of Minnesota. Moreover, the House Majority Party and Speaker are "going at it alone."

Passing bills and budgets at the Minnesota House of Representatives is supposed to be difficult. Our founders knew governing requires transparency, compromise, and a lot of time in committee debating the merits and outcomes of legislation. Yes, this is the messy side of legislating, but when legislators fully engage and debate a bill, Minnesotans get fair legislation. This is not happening in the House of Representatives under the current DFL majority party regime.

Because we have adjourned, without an agreed education policy and budget bill on the Governor's desk, further leg-

islating will be conducted by working groups, bureaucrats, lobbyists, and Education Minnesota—none of which have election certificates.

No matter how Speaker Hortman spins the conversation, this is not our constitutional process for creating and passing education bills. This is a "wake up and make it up" process that is changing daily.

To add insult to injury, Speaker Hortman proposes solving the problem with a "year-round legislature." To the contrary, we do not reward bad behavior with more opportunity for failure. Obfuscating the failures of this last legislative session by introducing a "year-round legislature" further decimates our legislative integrity and suggests Minnesotans are oblivious to the St. Paul elite tactics.

The solution Speaker Hortman seeks exists in the current, constitutional legislative process: January-May with committee hearings, debate, and conference committees. As elected officials we must not short-circuit the process so that Education Minnesota and the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's donors get special

access to the education policy bill.

So, we have identified the winners. Who are the losers? Minnesota students, school leaders, and school board members are again locked out of discussions about education policy and budget. This is particularly hard on children who come from families suffering from socioeconomic challenges. These children, from all ethnic groups, are consistently ignored by BIG EDUCATION which prioritizes union-due revenue over improving education access, choice and a quality education for every student and will never solve the achievement gap and declining education outcomes.

Following the intended legislative process and representing constituents serves Minnesota students the best. Clandestine policy making is not Minnesota nice. The House DFL and Speaker Hortman won the 2020 election, but does the consequence have to result in the death of Minnesota's representative democracy?

Representative Ron Kresha
Minnesota House District 9B

READER RIBBETS

Expensive favor

With the past and current controversy surrounding Crosby, its former chief of police Kim "Gonzo" Coughlin, former lieutenant Kevin "Hollywood" Randolph, and the recent victory of Mr. Hunter's appeal, you would think other law enforcement departments would not join the fight.

In what can only be described as a despicable, low-life, shocking move, Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott Goddard performs one of the cheapest, dirtiest, lowest, most unprofessional acts of all. In a May 14, 2021 letter, Goddard blindsides the cities of Deerwood and Ironton by restricting the fine officers that serve. The letter states his decision is based upon an article dated May 5, 2021. He finds the actions of the Deerwood/

Ironton Police Chief troubling and unacceptable for a person in his position. It appears the Deerwood/Ironton Police Chief, knowing the history, having first-hand knowledge of the controversy, and having suffered professional attacks from the former police chief Kim Coughlin, he decided, like others, Coughlin or Randolph could not be trusted. To protect his cities, his citizens, and himself, he wisely made some recordings, something the Sheriff would surely do himself in a similar situation.

Deerwood and Ironton can and will be thankful Chief Taylor had the foresight to take such necessary actions.

Interestingly, Sheriff Goddard didn't find when Coughlin and Randolph abused their power, falsely charged people, falsely pursued in-

nocent officers, troubling and unacceptable and it certainly didn't create distrust and skepticism. Showing his true colors, and allegiance, Goddard's office mirrors that of the former failed, Crosby police leadership. The Sheriff's office is in turmoil with numerous arbitration fights from false discharges, Goddard even demoted a deputy based upon a complaint, coincidentally filed by a Kimberly Coughlin. Goddard is not worried about surreptitious recordings of his officers; he might be worried his own deplorable actions like Coughlin and Randolph's might get exposed. Goddard's actions appear to be a favor to Kim Coughlin and Kevin Randolph, let's hope this favor is ultimately worth his career.

Kelly Avelsgard,
Deerwood

Rep. Dale Lueck legislative update

Regular session ended on Monday May 17 and, to retain his emergency powers, the governor will have to call the legislature back for a special session no later than June 14th, otherwise his emergency authority will automatically expire.

On May 16th, about 24 hours before mandatory legislature adjournment the governor, the Senate Leader and Speaker of House behind closed doors agreed to overall state agency budget funding targets. The conference committees in possession of the agency finance bills are expected to informally reconcile their bills with the numbers that were agreed upon by two legislators and the governor, ahead of the governor calling us back into session. That sidesteps the legislative process our Constitution sets forth and hides the decision making from the public.

All three individuals involved need to check the Minnesota Constitution and reexamine the rolls it sets forth for each. By that agreement, the governor was given preemptive veto authority over what the other 199 legislators are allowed to put in those final agency finance and policy bills. Very disappointing to see a continuing erosion of the leg-

islature's responsibility as set forth in the MN Constitution.

Despite the majority leaders in both the House and Senate failing to steer their respective ships into port on time, please be assured I will continue to soldier on, as we still must get a common-sense, two-year state budget in place before July 1, 2021.

On more a more exciting note, as a newly appointed member of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), I have started working on reviewing about 220 LCCMR funding proposals that are now before the committee for consideration.

The LCCMR consists of 17 members: 5 Senators, 5 Representatives, 5 citizens appointed by the governor, 1 citizen appointed by the Sen-

ate, and 1 citizen appointed by the House. The LCCMR makes funding recommendations to the legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, that are primarily funded from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).

The ENRTF was established by a constitutional amendment that dedicated Minnesota State Lottery proceeds and investment income toward projects that help maintain and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. The LCCMR Commission will work through the summer narrowing down the project proposals and by the end of the year put together a recommended project list for the 2022 legislative session.

Representative Dale Lueck
Minnesota House District 10B

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Wed., June 16 Brats
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Wed., June 23 Cook's Choice
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Wed., June 30 Super Burgers
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OBITUARIES

DONNA MCCORMICK



Donna M. McCormick died Saturday, March 13, 2021. The funeral service was held at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. She was born in Crosby on March 20, 1932. She was raised in Trommald and graduated from Crosby-Ironton High School in 1950. She moved to San Francisco to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation when she was 19 years old. She met Jerry McCormick in 1952 and was married in 1953. They moved to

southern California where they raised their family. She worked as an agent when the children were in high school. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends and motor-homing and swimming. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Patrick and Vanessa; daughter and son-in-law Sheryl and Robert Rhoades, five grandchildren: Jesiah, Danielle, Ashely, Dani and Travis; great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews and her doggie, Daisy. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Bertha Stimac Frazier; husband of 56 years, Gerald "Mack" and brother Rod.

GERALDINE HOWARD



Geraldine "Jerry" June Howard, 94, of Brainerd, died on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 surrounded by family. Interment will take place at Greenwood Cemetery on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 11 a.m. A time of gathering will take place after the burial at the Nisswa Community Center until 3:00 p.m. Jerry was born on June 9, 1926 to Steven and Maybelle (Cooley) Krisak in Superior, WI. She graduated from Central High in Superior. Jerry

was united in marriage to Dell Howard on May 19, 1947. She enjoyed caring for and spending time with her family and friends. She is survived by her children: Mike (Sue Eichler) Howard, and Sue (Jim) Swenberger; three grandchildren; Jon (Greta) Howard, Dani (Brody) Swenberger, and Jeni Swenberger; nieces, nephews, and many other family and friends. Jerry was preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 years, Dell. Arrangements were with Nelson-Doran Funeral Home, Brainerd.

Deerwood Tech recycling drive



Area residents and businesses recycled more than 3,800 pounds of electronic equipment and 22 TV's on Saturday, May 15 at Deerwood Technologies' semi-annual recycling drive. Proceeds from this event benefit continuing education for area youth through the Deerwood Technologies Scholarship Fund. The next recycling drive will be early December 2021. ABOVE: Jim Mayne and Jason McKenzie load items on to the scale to be weighed.



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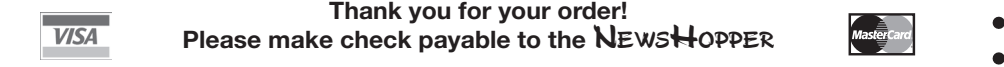
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