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NewsHopper

Doors of historic church close and then swing back open



Stop into the Heart of Minnesota Ministries in Aitkin to view the beautiful stained glass and other lovely historic elements. Photo provided by Gail Schardin

Minnesota Ministries.

Schardin said the minis-

try can be a place for quiet

prayer, Bible study and bat-

tling loneliness. The Christian

Women's Club has disbanded

and nothing really took its

Schardin offers the follow-

"We at HOMM have been,

ing about the new ministry:

this year, 2021, focused on

outreach in the community

with mostly times of fellow-

ship and gatherings. We want

to add more spiritual enrich-

ment this upcoming year. We

will be hosting more Bible

Studies. Also, the sanctuary

is a very inspirational setting,

By ANN SCHWARTZ

Things are changing in our world daily and the way Christians worship and conduct outreach to the community is often different than traditional practices.

Established churches are suffering due to aging congregations and Aitkin's Congregational Church is one that had to close its doors due to dwindling attendance.

The gorgeous, historic brick building by the local Dairy Queen is not shutting down, though.

Gail Schardin, a retired real estate broker, has reopened the space as the Heart of beautiful stained-glass windows, and a wonderful place to sense God's presence. We have had the sanctuary open on Wednesdays for personal

we will be adding a time for group prayer - praying for our community, our state, our nation and world...

"Also, in 2022 we plan to

being surrounded by the prayer but this upcoming year host special speakers - possibly once per quarter. I was active in Christian Women Club here in Aitkin and since it has been disbanded I would like

2017 RAM 1500 LARAMIE CREW

2020 RAM 1500 LARANAK GREPK

Continued on Page 6



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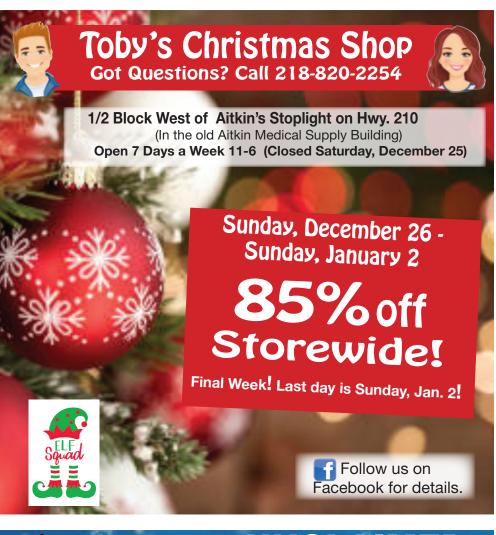
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Statewide snowmobile season here, but most trails not groomed yet



While recent snow in Minnesota has many snowmobile enthusiasts excited to take their first ride of the season, most of the state's trails are

not yet groomed and ready to ride, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Riders can expect to find

uneven conditions and should check local trail reports before venturing out. Minnesota's snowmobile trails officially open on Dec. 1 each year. Regardless of the date on the calendar, though, several conditions must be met before trails can be groomed:

The ground must be frozen. Where trails cross wetlands, 15 inches of ice is needed to support the weight of the trail groomers.

Adequate snow cover, about 12 inches, must be on

the ground to allow for trail consultant. "Unseasonable packing and grooming.

Trails must be cleared of fallen trees, signs have to be put in place and gates need to be opened. Snowmobile club volunteers and DNR staff are currently working on these tasks.

"It's a big job for local volunteers and DNR staff to get the trail system up and running each year, especially with varying weather conditions," said Paul Purman, state trails and snowmobile program thunderstorms last week eroded the snowpack in many areas of the state, setting back our trail preparations. Our 23,000 mile system really needs two things now: more snow on the ground, and more volunteers stepping up to help volunteer clubs get the trails ready and maintained. We're hoping for a banner year for snowmobiling and recognize that local clubs are the backbone of that success."

While snowmobilers wait

for grooming to start, now is a good time to make sure registrations are current, confirm that snowmobiles are in good operating order, review safety training, and check local trail maps for route changes or new trails.

Registrations for new snowmobiles may be purchased in person at any deputy registrar of motor vehicles or at the DNR License Center in St. Paul. Registration renewals and out-of-state trail stickers

Continued on Page 6

Concert and Friends of the Arts dinner

the form of a Great River Strings concert in the Butler

Culture came to Aitkin in Building on December 12, followed by the Friends of

the Arts dinner and auction

at Block North. Christian McShane, emcee, noted that Aitkin was coming alive with such events such as a summer music fest and a brew festival. There are plans to seek performing arts status for the Butler Building. "This is for all

of us so we don't say 'what is there to do in Aitkin?"

The Friends raised money through a raffle, silent and live auctions. Some unique prizes were a salmon fishing trip, a painting party and a fivecourse chef-prepared dinner.



Attendees enjoyed an evening on the town in Aitkin for a Great River Strings Concert and Friends of the Arts elegant Christmas dinner. Events are coming back after a Covid-related absence. Ann Schwartz photos



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READER RIBBETS

Rep. Dale Lueck legislative update

The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IR-RRB) held its final meeting of the year and dealt with three of items of interest to our area. As a member of the IRRRB Board, I am one of nine board members that review and make recommendations to the IRRRB Commissioner on projects that come before the board for consideration.

The funds involved come from taconite production taxes and are available within the taconite assistance area, which includes the Cuyuna, Mesabi and Vermillion Iron Ranges. In our case on the Cuyuna, the taconite assistance area boundaries are the same boundaries as the Crosby-Ironton and Aitkin Public School Districts.

The City of Aitkin received a favorable recommendation on a grant for a potential housing development project. The proposal involves construction of a new 35-unit market-rate apartment complex. The location of the project would be near the existing hospital.

A \$323,000 sum will be available to the City of Aitkin to support the costs associated with the public infrastructure required to support the project. That award is contingent upon a private investment of \$8 million for the actual building construction.

Crow Wing County received a favorable recommendation on a \$58,185 project to improve emergency-vehicle access to a remote segment of a mountain bike trail system near the City of Cuyuna. IRR-RB will provide \$29,000 and Crow Wing County will cover the remaining costs. This past summer a mountain biker was seriously injured. Emergency response personnel experienced a great deal of difficulty in reaching and extracting the individual. The project includes improved vehicle and air access and adds detailed mapping of the access points to the emergency management

A Cuyuna Range Broadband Expansion Project spearheaded by CTC Communications and Crow Wing County also received a favorable recommendation in the amount of \$742,850. The total project cost is \$5.78 million. The funding includes a variety of other federal and state broadband grants, as well as a direct invest by CTC of \$548,303.

The project will expand fiber optic coverage to about 500 unserved/underserved households in rural Crow Wing County within the taconite assistance area. Construction is planned for the summer of 2022.

All three projects received a unanimous vote of the board. While it has been many decades since that last active mining occurred on the Cuyuna Iron Range, mining production taxes continue to benefit our

Representative Dale Lueck Minnesota House District 10B

Calling all haters

Giving some thought to letters to the editor that attempt to undermine efforts to end the massive abuse of power, corruption, and hold people accountable, has been enlightening.

The letters make good points. The people that have grown weary of reading-stop-get involved.

Maybe, use your critical thinking skills to find a peaceful way to stop the people who are the problem. The threat of being sued was made. The threat went nowhere, because the truth is not slanderous or

defamatory, which is why the truth is constantly repeated. Crosby is in two lawsuits that will settle their past issues, unless Crosby attempts to discredit the truth, they are no longer part of the conversation. Crosby is in good hands and safer than it was before.

If you're not angry that Minneapolis burned, 550 million dollars in damages, two lives lost, what happened in other states should be of no concern.

All of it is very disturbing, but we need to focus on our state, our county. And if cities need to be exposed, do your part, take the lead, expose them.

If the Joint Transportation and Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Report and the arbitration documents are not your reading list, add them.

So, calling all haters, do the due diligence, get involved or not, it's your choice.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns about letters to the editor, it helps continue the message, extend the exposure and hopefully it brings about the long overdue accountability.

Kelly Avelsgard, Deerwood

BRENT RUNNING



Brent C. Running, 80, of Deerwood, died surrounded by family on Friday, December 3, 2021, from complications of Progressive Supra Nuclear Palsy. PSP is an extremely rare progressive brain disease which increasingly impacted his mobility, balance, speech, swallowing and vision.

Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 600 4th Street SW, Crosby, MN. Visitation will start at noon. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Minnesota 100 Club (protecting the protectors) or Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Brent was born July 6, 1941. He attended the University of Minnesota, and graduated from the FBI Academy. He enjoyed his 32 year career with the Hennepin County Sheriff's office as Captain of the Criminal Division and Brent retired in 1997 as Chief Deputy. Brent and his wife Judy treasured each other, working, retiring and traveling together, constantly holding hands through life's challenges. They were grateful for finding each other, and shared a profound and true love. Brent loved golf, fishing, all sports, their cabin and life in a small community. His quiet nature, sharp wit and infectious smile will be greatly missed.

Brent is survived by Judy, his wife of 40 years; sons: Mark Running, Darren (Lynn) Bushinger and Dan (Theresa) Bushinger, five grandchildren: Tyler (Molly), Austin, Jack, Alina, Molly and two stepgrandchildren: Alex and Chloe.

He is preceded in death by his parents Leonard and Borghild and brother Garry.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

JAMES CARLSON



James Raymond Carlson, 82, of Big Sandy Lake, Mc-Gregor, formerly of Plymouth and Minneapolis, died on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

A memorial service followed by interment with military honors at Fort Snelling National Cemetery will be planned for a later date. Memorials are preferred to McGregor

Lakes Area Foundation or American Cancer Society. Jim was a 1957 graduate of Roosevelt High

School in Minneapolis. He proudly served in the United States Navy. Jim graduated from the University of Minnesota and went on to earn his Masters Degree in Math at the University of Oregon. Jim loved life to the fullest. Enjoying his family, traveling, working and giving to the community gave him the most joy. In his retirement, he touched many lives in the McGregor/ Aitkin County community volunteering for many organizations.

Jim is survived by his wife, Ann; daughters: Cynthia Jacobs and Anne Langford Altermatt (John); two grandsons: Charlie Langford (Kara) and Joe Langford; two granddaughters, Grace Jacobs (Al) and Julia Jacobs; soon-to-be great-grandson Langford; sister, Kathie Cichanski (Roger); aunt, Gertrude Vanda; brother-in-law, Tom Nelson (Mary); many cousins, nieces, nephews.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service in McGregor. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

LARRY BYBEE



Larry LeRoy Bybee, 79, of Pillager died on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at Banned Desert Medical Center in Mesa, AZ.

Services will be held on Friday, May 13, 2022 at Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, 7348 Excelsior Rd, Baxter. A memorial service will be held at 11

a.m. with a luncheon to follow, provided by the Pillager Lions Club. Interment will be held at the State Veteran's Cemetery at Camp Ripley

Larry was born on May 13, 1942 in Delavan, MN to Gilbert and Margaret (Madson) Bybee. Larry graduated from Staples High School in 1960. Larry served in the United States Army

from March 1964 to March 1966. Larry met and

married Mary Johnson of Morris on September 18, 1965. He worked for Ferrellgas for 35 years until he retired. His hobbies included golfing, fishing, hunting, playing cards, playing marbles, an occasional casino trip, happy hours, traveling and most of all spending time his family. He was a member of the Pillager Lions Club and the American Legion Post #100.

Larry is survived by his son, Don Bybee of Mankato; daughter, Danelle Bybee of Pillager; son, David (Buddy) Brown (Pillager); nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brother, Jerry (Joan) Bybee of Deer River; many nieces, nephews, cousins and his girlfriend Sue McCargar of Moses Lake, WA.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife and son Tim Bybee.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Baxter.

Opposition to delusional leadership

the potential for future lead-

If the city of Crosby only has leadership style of our current mayor to look forward to, I may ership under the delusional have to create chaos and run

against her. Chris Ryan, Crosby

Uneven lake ice conditions

Anglers in some parts of body of water. Minnesota have been venturing onto the ice for several weeks, while water remains open in other parts of the state. So far in December, weather in the state—which has included rain, snow and fluctuating temperatures has affected ice-making and impacted ice that's already formed.

As a result, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources stresses the importance of checking ice thickness with a spud bar, auger or other device before stepping out onto it. Do not rely on other people's footprints, tracks or social media posts.

Anglers and others who recreate on the ice should stay on shore until there's at least

4 inches of new, clear ice. A minimum of 5 to 7 inches of ice is necessary to support an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile, and there should be at least a foot before hauling out a truck or wheelhouse-type fishing shelter. People should check the thickness of the ice regularly, since it can be highly variable even on the same

Christmas and New Year's is typically the kickoff of the 'wheelhouse season,' and we anticipate it'll be the same this year, especially in the northern part of the state," said Col. Rodmen Smith, DNR Enforcement Division director. "Whether you're walking onto the ice or hauling out a shelter you'll sleep in, checking the ice thickness regularly is absolutely vital and one of the easiest ways to ensure tragedy doesn't strike before you arrive at your fishing spot."

Each year, unexpected falls through thin ice lead to serious injury or death. Wearing a life jacket is the best way to avert tragedy should someone fall through the ice, since the initial shock of falling into cold water can incapacitate even strong swimmers. A good set of ice picks will help a person get out, and a cell phone, whistle or other communications device makes it more likely they'll be able to call for help.

General ice safety guide-

No ice can ever be consid-

ered "safe ice," but following "The week between these guidelines can help minimize the risk:

> Always wear a life jacket or float coat on the ice (except when in a vehicle).

Carry ice picks, rope, an ice chisel and tape measure.

Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions can change quickly.

Bring a cell phone or personal locator beacon.

Don't go out alone; let someone know about trip plans and expected return

Before heading out, inquire about conditions and known hazards with local experts.

The minimum ice thickness guidelines for new, clear ice

- 4 inches for ice fishing or other activities on foot.
- 5-7 inches for a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.
- 8-12 inches for a car or small pickup.
- 12-15 inches for a medium truck.

Double these minimums for white or snow-covered

it mndnr.gov/icesafety and mndnr.gov/boatingsafety.

December

25th- 27th Sertoma Winter Wonderland, 5:30 - 8:30pm, Northland Arboretum at 14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd . Purchase advanced tickets before 4pm.

4th & 18th - Northland Arboretum guided snowshoe hike through the woods, 1-2:30pm, Presented by April Sandhoff and DeAnn Caddy. \$5 for Arb members or \$10 for non-members. Bring snowshoes and/or winter boots and plan for an 1.5 hour hike. Snowshoes available for rent at the Arb.14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd,

15th - Northland Arboretum Full Moon Snowshoe Hike 7:30-8:30pm. Bring snowshoes and/or winter boots and plan for an hour hike. If it's cloudy, bring a headlamp. Warm up after the hike with hot chocolate and cookies. \$10 Arb members/\$20 non-members. To register, stop by Northland Arboretum at 14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd or call 218-829-8770.

February

2nd - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Fishing Tournament and Scorpion Homecoming on Serpent Lake. Call



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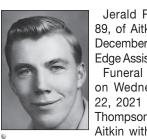
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JERALD NELSON



Jerald Raymond Nelson, 89, of Aitkin died Thursday, December 16, 2021 at Rivers Edge Assisted Living in Aitkin. Funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at Sorensen-Root Thompson Funeral Home in

Aitkin with Pastor Rebecca Hinz officiating. Burial will be in Forest Cemetery. Military Honors will be accorded by Aitkin American Legion Post # 86 and

Aitkin VFW post # 1727.

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He was born January 29, 1932 in Aitkin to Harry and Myrtle (Peterson) Nelson. He graduated from Aitkin High School in 1950. After graduation he enlisted in to the U.S. Army from September 10, 1952 and was honorably discharged June 30, 1954. He was a veteran of the Korean War. Jerald married to Leona Minnie (Loken) May 16, 1958 in Aitkin. He worked road construction for many years and was a member of the local 49rs

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union. In 1971, he was the guide for Governor Wendell R. Anderson during the fishing opener on Farm Island Lake. Jerald was an avid fisherman, he enjoyed hunting, woodworking, playing bingo, bird watching, and being outdoors. He especially enjoyed "decking the halls" at Christmas time and made pretty good Rosettes. He was a proud 60 year member of the Aitkin American Legion Post #86 and was also a member of the Aitkin VFW Post # 1727.

Jerald is survived by his daughter, Virginia "Ginger" (Scott) Okeson of Aitkin; stepson, Michael Ernst of Saint Cloud; brothers: Vernon Nelson of Aitkin, Roger Nelson of Blaine, and Burton (Krista) Nelson of Northwood, ND; sister-in-law, Janine (Chuck) Rathbone of Silver Bay and many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; step-mother, Florence Nelson; wife, Leona Nelson on October 27, 1995; sister, Marilyn Hollister; brothers: Harry, Jr., Jack, and Richard.

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

Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

> Births, Open Houses, Engagements, Weddings & Community Events are published FREE! Send your e-mail to hopper@crosbyironton.net



OBITUARIES

Nyla Jane (Dennis) Nyberg, 95, of Crosby died on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby surrounded by family.

Funeral Services were held on Monday, December 20, 2021 at the Wesleyan Church

in Emily. Burial will be at the Mizpah Cemetery at a later date.

She was born on May 17, 1926 in Williston, ND to Joseph and Helen (Weeks) Dennis. Her family moved to Minneapolis when she was a young girl, and eventually moved to Mizpah, MN. Nyla attended Northome High School. She met the love of her life Wally and was married on November 4, 1944. They lived in Mizpah for 59 years where they raised her eight children. After her children were grown, Nyla took a job working at the Northome Nursing Home with special needs adults. She was a member of the Mizpah Lutheran Church and the Ladies Aid. She moved to Heartwood Senior Living Community in 2015 where she resided until her death. Nyla was a great cook and baker. She would make 12 loaves of bread every week for her family. Her Evelyn Bars were a hit with everyone. You could always stop by her home for coffee and goodies and friendship She was always giving of her time and love.

Nyla is survived by her children: Dennis (Gerry) Nyberg, Gary (Susan) Nyberg, Robert (Marie) Nyberg, Kathy (Michael) Mohs, Vicky Nyberg, Wendy Nyberg, Patti (Steve) Wasserzieher and Vernon Nyberg; 19 grandchildren, 40 great -grandchildren and seven great-great-grand-

Nyla was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Nyberg; parents, Joseph and Helen Dennis and brother, George Dennis.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

WAYNE MURRAY

NYLA NYBERG



Wayne Everett Murray, 71, died peacefully on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

A springtime celebration of his life will be announced at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Wayne's favorite charities, the Wounded Warrior Project and the ASPCA.

Wayne was born on July 30, 1950 in Brainerd, MN to Francis and Doris (Gunter) Murray. As a

young man, Wayne joined the Army and served as a Medical Specialist at Fort Carson, CO until 1978. Wayne honored those who served and he supported the Wounded Warrior Project up until his death. After discharge, Wayne lived in Florida and Colorado before returning to his hometown of Brainerd to be closer to family. He was employed for many years as an over the road truck driver for Halvor Lines. Wayne enjoyed many hobbies including pyrography, gardening, canning, fishing, playing poker, watching movies, baking and grilling. He especially loved riding his motorcycle and was a proud member of the Iron Order Motorcycle Club. As a founding member of the Unforgiven chapter and with the Road Name "J.G.", Wayne participated in volunteer and charity efforts with his Brothers. Throughout his life, Wayne was known to be a good friend and listener. He could often be found enjoying a cigarette at his picnic table and he was glad to have you sit and join him. Wayne had a special bond with his brother Michael and he was a proud and loving father and grandfather. He loved and cherished his friends and family and his Brothers of the Iron Order. He will be remembered for the giant, honest hugs that he gave freely.

He is survived by his children: Thomas (Amy Dudgeon) Bollinger and Melissa (Tim) Higginbotham, four grandchildren: Gustaf and Julia Dudgeon and Alexa and Spencer Higginbotham, sisters: Linda Murray, Laurel (Larry, deceased) Allord, and Wendy (Ron) Opheim and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Wayne was preceded in death by his father Francis (Corinne) and brothers Bradley (Kim) and Mike (Rhonda) Murray.

Arrangements have been completed by Nelson-Doran Funeral Home, Brainerd.

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CHURCH DIRECT

* Indicates handicap accessible. NOTE: All times are Sunday morning (a.m.) unless indicated otherwise.

ALLIANCE

Aitkin* - New Life; Larry Burg & John Baker, pastors; Worship in the church building 10:15 am & 6:30 pm, check the website for the time of service NewLifeAitkin.com; youth group for 7th-12th graders Wed 6:15 pm; 112 - 1st Ave. SW 218-927-2823.

Baxter* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10; www.pointway.org

Garrison* — Pastor Michael H. Palkie; Worship 9; SS 10:30. Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Aitkin — Interim Pastor Mark Boone; Sunday Morning

Crosby — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; Worship 10:30 Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espes

at 9:30, Worship at 10:45 Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; hillcityagchurch@gmail.com; 218-697-2662

Palisade — Pastor Ed Sornberger; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

Aitkin - The Journey North, Pastor Lynfield Hines, 218-824-5617. Worship 10:30, theiournevnorth.com

Baxter - The Journey North, Pastor Lynfield Hines. 218-824-5617, Worship Saturday 5, Sunday 9 & 10:30, thejourneynorth.com Brainerd* - Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Jim Stephens,

218-829-3191; SS 9:00, Worship 10:30 and 6 p.m., Wed. Classes and Clubs 6:30 p.m.; fbcbrainerd.com Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd

Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Zach Broom 218-562-

5252, Worship 10:30, SS 9:30. Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor G. Fisher; SS 9:45; Service

10:45 and 6 p.m., Bible Study and Our Kids for Christ Wed. 7 pm Deerwood* — Pastor W. Skog; SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and

6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm. Glory* — Pastor Chris Meirose; 927-3678; SS 9:15; Worship

10:30 am.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12. aitkinchurch.com Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm. Isle - Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service

10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.

Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC

Aitkin* — St. James, Fr. David Forsman, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 am and 4-4:45 pm. Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Waweru, Sat.4:30; Sun.

10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00. Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and

Sunday 10:30. Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat.

5 p.m. Crosby* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Anthony Craig, Mass: Tues. Noon, Thurs. 8, Sun 8:30 & 10:30

Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www. ihmstemilys.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm

Emily - St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101. Garrison — Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Anthony Craig, Mass

Wed. 9 & Sat. 4 pm, Confession Sat. 3:30 - 3:50 pm Grand Rapids — St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 8 & 10:30. 218-326-2483

Hillman — Holy Family; Sun. 10 to Mass Sat. 6:30 pm (only through Labor Day) w/ confession before or by appt. McGregor - Holy Family, Fr. David Forsman, 218-927-6581;

Mass Sun. 8 am. Confession 7:15-7:45 am. Vineland — St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Baxter, Lakes Area — Nondenominational; 7001 Highland Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-11:30. 218-828-1362

Tamarack — Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship 9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Aitkin - Co. Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Kevin Haffner 218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10

COMMUNITY

Aitkin - Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE., Aitkin, Services Sun.10, 218-927-6959

Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene-Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10:45, SS 9:30 -16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005 Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9

Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God, Pastor Robert

Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30, Worship 10:30; Wed. BS 6:30 pm Jacobson — Jacobson Community Church, Pastor George

Collins, 218-252-5938, Sun. SS (All ages) 9:30, Worship 10:30; Family Time 2nd & 4th Sundays; Wed. BS 7 pm Kimberly - Nature Ave. Rev. Rick Perry; Worship 9; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256. McGregor — Amazing Grace Christian Church; Worship 10:

99 South 1st Street (at the McGregor United Methodist church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel

McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.

Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.

Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Richie Bean;

Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10 Outing* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Kenny Holm, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge

Palisade/Waukenabo Twp. — Service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; between Esquagama & Round Lake. Handicap Accessible.

Tamarack — Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.

EPISCOPAL

Aitkin — St. John's, Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 9 Brainerd* — St. Paul's, Rev. Joyce A. Rush. In-person worship service at 10 am Sunday. Online at 5 pm Saturday. Call the church 219-829-3834 and leave a message with email to receive a Zoom invitation.

EVANGELICAL FREE

Baxter - Lakewood EFC, Pastor Matt Nagel; Worship at 9:00 and 10:45. Wednesday for all ages 6:30 pm. Crosslake — Pastor Mark Holmen; Call for Service Times at

218-692-4141, email thelogchurch@crosslake.net Isle — Pastor Mark Lee; Sunday School 9:00 am; Worship

10:30 am, Sun. Youth group 6:00 pm, Wed. Adult Prayer 6:30 pm and Kids Konnect 6:30 pm Malmo - Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10;

Worship 10:15 Wright - Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30:

Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

HEBREW/MESSIANIC

Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, Rabi Frank Dell, for information 320-684-2804 LUTHERAN Aitkin - Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Rebecca Hinz; Worship

9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month. Aitkin - (ELCA) Pastor Reggie Denton; worship Sun. 8am, and 10am (10am service also available via livestream on YouTube - First Lutheran Church, Aitkin and broadcast on KKIN 94.3 FM radio), Wed. 5:30pm with supper; Sun. school at 9am, take out community meal every Mon. & Thurs. 5pm and Tues. 12pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thurs. each month 9am-4p

Aitkin - St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor D. Becker; Worship Sun. 9, SS 10

Baxter - Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool (WELS) Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter. (Corner of Inglewood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com.

Baxter - Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.princeofpeacelutheran.church

Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st & Beaver Township — 3rd Sun., 10:30.

Brainerd* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www. goodshepherdfreelutheran.church, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052 Brainerd - Laestadian Lutheran Church; 1501 So. 8th St.

- Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.llchurch.org) Brainerd - Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th Street Brainerd - Pastor Hans Anderson Worship times September through May are 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; Summer Worship time is 9:00 a.m. Phone: 218-829-5147 Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org

Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9 Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct.

Cedarbrook - St. John's (ELCA); Worship 8:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun. Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC, NALC) Rev. Paul Mattson;

Sun. 9 & 10:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:40. Crosby —Zion (LC-MS) Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 8:30; SS 10; Bible Study Wed. 7 pm; handicap accessible. 218-546-6910

Crosslake — (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran.com • 218-692-3682 Kristin Oltmann, Pastor • Kurt Hagestuen, Pastor Labor Day-Mem. Day: Sun. 9:30am, Wed. 6:15pm Mem. Day-Labor Day: Sun. Indoor 8:30am, Outdoor 10am14019 Daggett Pine Rd

Crosslake —Mission of the Cross (LCMS), Pastor Leslie Uhrinak; Worship 9:30 with every Sunday Communion, Fellowship 10:30, Adult Bible Class 11, 218-692-4228, www.missionofthecross.org

Deerwood — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Michael Briggs; Worship: 9; Sunday School 9:15. Garrison - Light of the Cross (ELCA), Pastor Juli Sut-

ton-Deem: Worship 9 SS 9: 320-692-4773 or 877-406-9101. Garrison — Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Tom Petersen. Worship 10 with Communion Every Sunday. Adult Bible Study 8:30am, Sunday School Sept-May, 8:30am. Fellowship 11am. 320-692-4581. www.shepherdofthelake.org. Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovaas; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month

Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.

Hillman — Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 9:30, SS 10. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible) Iron Hub — Immanuel (LC-MS), Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship

10:30 am 218-534-3069 Isle — Faith (ELCA), Interim Pastor Rev. Henry French;

Worship 9:30; handicapped accessible. Isle — Holden (ELCA), SS 9:30; Worship 10:30.

Isle — Trinity (Missouri Synod), Rev. Mark Maunula; Worship 8:30; Fellowship follows; SS 9:45; Adult Bible 10. Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner; SS 1st & 3rd Sun.

10, Service 11, fellowship follows.

Lake Shore — Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8327 Interlachen Rd.; Worship 9:00 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N) Malmo — Bethesda (ELCA) Sun. Worship 9 (winter) 8:30

& 10 (summer); Fellowship after first service; Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun. McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.

McGrath - Zion (ELCA), Pastor Elliott Malm; Worship McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (ELCA), Pastor Ericka Foss; Worship 9, Fellowship

follows, SS 10. McGregor — Our Savior's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua

C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Peter Rosenkvist,

Palisade* — Bethel (ELCA), Rev. Wm. J. Sass; Worship 9:30. Pequot Lakes* - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Stephen Blenkush Worship 9:00 a.m., SS 9:15 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Rossburg — Bethesda (ELCA); Comm. 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.

Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210

Thor — Zion, Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.

Wright —Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.

Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.\ NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

Brainerd-Remnant Ministry Center, Pastor Ben Davis, Worship service is Sunday at 10am, 512 S 8th St., Suite 2. 218-829-2989.

PENTECOSTAL

Emily — Cornerstone Church; Pastor Earl Ready; Worship 10, 41536 Birchwood Drive, Emily; 218-763-2939.

Ironton — Iron Range Christian Center; Pastor Dwight Semler; 218-546-6523; meeting at Irondale Town Hall*, Co. Rd. 12, (Deerwood Shortcut); Worship 10 & Wed. 7 pm. Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Ministry, Pastors Ken and Ron Fairbanks, Sat. 11. 218-768-3585 **PRESBYTERIAN**

10;14444 Daggett Pine Road just passed the Community Center; www.crosslakepres.org McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9. McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm.

Crosslake - Pastor Tony Oltmann, 218-692-4769; Wor-

ship 10; Fellowship 11:15; Bible study on Wednesdays at

Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11. REFORMED Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave

NE 218-545-5433, www.visitlifespring.com SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST Aitkin - Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 9:30 a.m., Bible Study 10:30 a.m.; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; www.

aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30

1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Brainerd — First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St, Brainerd. Sunday worship at 10.00. Pastor; Leslie Moughty. Handicapped accessible. Candlelight Christmas Eve

4:00 Dec 24 **UNITED METHODIST**

Aitkin* - Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10 am, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live. Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Reverend Dr. Genia Garrett;

Worship 9:45; fellowship follows. Cutler — Pine Lake Chapel, Worship 9, fellowship follows. Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9 Emily* — Pastors Luke and Bethany Nelson; Worship 8:30;

fellowship follows. Fleming* — (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship

10:30; fellowship follows. Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10

McGregor* — (Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45; fellowship follows. Onamia — Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship 10; 2 blks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947

Emily — Rev. Jason Gressman; Worship 9; Friendship Time 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

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December 25, 2021 NewsHopperTM www.NewsHopper.net

Winter wonderland: take steps to protect trees and shrubs from deer



In winter, property owners sometimes begin to notice broken branches or branches missing on tree and shrubs. This damage often is a result of deer browsing and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has tips to prevent it.

"Hungry deer will eat plants they can access, and that can cause trees and shrubs to become quite ragged or in some cases even die," said Eric Nelson, DNR wildlife animal damage program supervisor. "Try a few of these tips before deer become a problem—but make sure to first check local ordinances, which may impact some of these practices." **Eliminate food sources**

To start, try removing food sources or blocking deer from them. Temporarily stop feeding seed or grain to birds, and clean-up spilled seed. Switch to feeding only suet during this time.

Cover bushes and low

woody plants near the house with burlap, plastic snow fence, netting or heavyweight frost protection blankets made of 2.5- to 4-ounce fabric, and shake off snow before it gets heavy enough to damage covered plants. Do not use tarps or clear plastic because they may make some plants more susceptible to sunscald and fungus. Shake the snow off the covering to prevent breaking of branches from a heavy snow load.

To protect young trees, cover the lower areas with tree tubes, wrap or bud caps. Remove tree tubes or wrap in the spring to prevent unwanted pests and disease.

To protect older trees, create a cage that is 6 inches away from the trunk using at least 6-foot high woven or welded wire cages around the tree or shrub 6 inches or more away to stop deer from accessing the tip of the branches. Adjust the cage as

the tree grows.

If the space between the wires is larger than 6 inches by 6 inches deer will be able to reach in with their slender mouths so add at least 8 inches of additional space from the tip of the branches if the cage has a grid larger than 6 x 6. In some cases deer can push on the cages, so cages may need to be staked down with metal or wood stakes.

Consider planting trees and shrubs that are less palatable to deer such as nannyberry, ironwood and white spruce. Additional ideas are available from the University of Minnesota Extension at https:// extension.umn.edu/plantingand-growing-guides/whitetailed-deer-damage#deer-resistant-plants-1880560.

Tactics to deter deer

Deer deterrents can work but be aware that deer become desensitized to disturbances, so property owners may need to vary tactics.

Deterrents include motion-activated floodlights to startle nocturnal deer in rural areas; however, deer may be accustomed to these types of lights in urban areas. Other deterrents include wind chimes, wind socks, shiny polyester tape, flagging, scarecrows, or ornaments that create both motion and noise to startle deer. Keeping a leashed dog in the area can deter deer. Others have reported success using a radio in combination with lights, activated by a motion-detector for both a sight and auditory deterrent.

There are also many commercial and homemade repellants that can be used for deer, but they typically need to be used when temperatures are above freezing. These also need to be reapplied regularly

to discourage deer. See the manufacturer's recommendations for winter effectiveness and application rates.

For more information on life/index.html.

living with deer and other wildlife species, visit the DNR website at https://www.dnr. state.mn.us/livingwith_wild-

Ruud receives award

For her extensive and significant efforts to support SWCDs at the Legislature, the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water

Conservation Districts (MAS-WCD) recognized Senator Carrie Ruud (R-Breezy Point) on Dec. 13 as its 2021 MAS-WCD Legislator of the Year.

Ruud received the award at the 85th annual MAS-WCD Annual Meeting in Bloomington. MASWCD annually honors a legislator who promotes natural resource conservation through the legislative process and recognizes the key role that SWCDs can play in delivering conservation practices on private land.

SWCD funding and policy issues regularly are critical issues before the Legislature. Ruud, who also received the MASWCD legislator award in 2017, serves as chairwoman of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee.

"I'm incredibly honored to receive this award," said

Sen. Ruud. "Our SWCDs are integral when it comes to effective resource conservation—they are the 'boots on the ground' that protect our state's soil, water, and natural resources."

"Sen. Ruud has been our unwavering, common-sense voice for practical land conservation," said Sheila Vanney, MASWCD Assistant Director. "We are so grateful for Sen. Ruud's work to ensure that SWCDs' voices are heard at the capitol, and for seeing the vital role the SWCDs play in our state's environmental health. No legislator has been more supportive or a greater friend to SWCDs than Sen. Ruud."

Doors of historic church | Continued from Page 1

to see that void filled in some capacity. Women speaking to other women by telling their own personal story has a way of encouraging and strengthening by knowing you are not the only person dealing with tough stuff and hearing how another has overcome or what was done to get through a situation.

"HOMM, being a non-profit ministry, we do run by donations. It was decided and determined when HOMM was set-up that with any and all donations 10 percent is tagged to go back into the community to help with needs that come to our attention. This has been a very satisfying part of this Ministry - to know that, in some small way, we helped to make a financial burden lighter.

"I do not consider Heart of Minnesota Ministries my ministry alone. This is a place where anyone can be an extension of God's love and kindness. It is amazing how just a cup of coffee and a conversation will minister to another - and anyone can do that. Serving others is not a menial thing. Serving is what God has called us to do by extending oneself and using the special gifting God has placed within you to help others."

Wednesdays are set aside for prayer and Thursdays for creative activities. Gatherings such as family dinners, baby showers, memorial services and more can be held. The board will decide which events can be allowed in the repurposed and historic

If you have more questions or want to attend or host an event, you may contact Schardin at HeartofMinnesotaministries@gmail.com or call 218.429.0097.

Schardin has been in touch with other local congregations to emphasize that HOMM is not a church. Rather, it wants to come alongside and support individuals in their Christian walk.

Recycling and repurposing a historic building is a valiant effort and meeting the needs of lonely and hurting community members is something that Schardin and her board are well-positioned to accomplish.

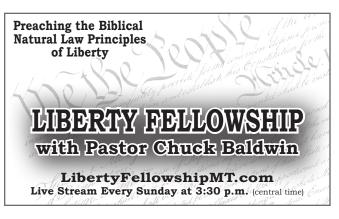
Snowmobile trails | Continued from Page 2

may be purchased in person or online at mndnr.gov/licenses.

Local trail conditions are often posted online by local tourism associations, chambers of commerce and volunteer snowmobile clubs. Contacts for DNR-funded, locally managed trails can be

found at www.dnr.state.mn.us/ snowmobiling/index.html. State park and trail conditions are posted onhttps://www. dnr.state.mn.us/snow_depth/ index.html.

Local snowmobile clubs welcome volunteers to assist with annual trail preparations like removing brush and fallen trees, holding snowmobile safety classes, and stocking trailside shelters with firewood. To find the nearest club, visit the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association website at www.mnsnowmobiler.org/.







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