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In a fight for his life Hermans has rare, one in a million cancer

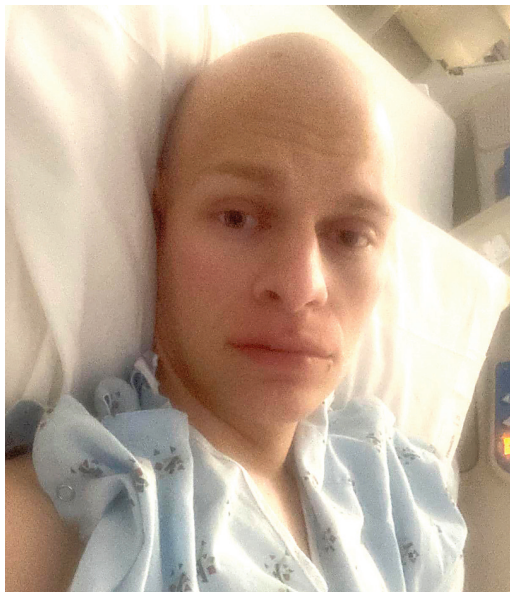
Article reprinted with permission from the *Aitkin Independent Age*
By JEANNE SCHRAM

Chad Hermans was in the prime of his life and pursuing a degree in business marketing and communications in 2021 when he was struck ill.

The 2008 graduate of Aitkin High School had put in two and one half years toward that degree when in May he suffered severe abdominal pain. Tests and scans revealed a large tumor which turned out to be two, then 20, then hundreds.

The next few months turned dire leaving him bedridden and catheterized suffering excruciating pain. Moving his care and surgical plans to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, those few abdominal/groin tumors turned into +20 tumors on scans. In July, a surgical team removed 200 plus tumors with a thousand still remaining.

In August, Hermans was officially diagnosed with



Chad Hermans spends more time in hospitals than he does at home. He is battling rare, malignant peripheral nerve sheath sarcoma.

MPNST (Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumor) sarcoma, stage 4. An extremely rare one in a million cancer in which this soft tissue aggressive sarcoma covers and grows over the nerve cells. The largest tumor removed out of Chad's abdomen was roughly the size of an NFL sized football and there was a softball sized tumor in the groin. After the removal of hundreds more, his intestines, prostate, bladder and rectum were pulverized leaving behind an ostomy.

appointments, tests and scans while depleting his entire savings. His mom continues to fight along with him doing

"It has since spread to his liver and right lung," said his aunt Melanie Poelvoorde. "With a dire prognosis, he continues to fight. Duluth hospital now works with Mayo in hopes of shrinking or slowing down the growth.

"Although Chad has health insurance, it doesn't cover all the costs as his mom and two brothers care for him," added Poelvoorde.

"He depends on his close relatives for transportation for his appointments, tests and scans while depleting his entire savings. His mom continues to fight along with him doing

the best she can financially. All of this is taking a huge toll on Chad and his family and having help with the finances would lift a huge weight. If you can find it in your hearts to donate anything would be such a blessing. Please keep this fighter in your prayers."

The family Susan and the late Butch Hermans adopted five children who had the same birth mother. The family moved to Aitkin from St. Paul.

Chad enjoyed sports, especially basketball, football, baseball and boxing.

"My mom (Susan) has been my emergency line and caregiver since tumors were first discovered in May," said Chad. "The sarcoma is in Stage 4 with a 20% survival rate in five years. It's a slow but aggressive cancer as we

have seen it turn twice already. Hundreds of tumors are still inside me but I am resilient, strong, and a fighter." Chad has been undergoing chemotherapy and radiation to fight the cancer.

"He is 31, ambitious, athletic, independent and looking forward to a bright future," said Poelvoorde. "With such a growth mindset, he strived working hard and excelling at college."

College is on hold for now. Poelvoorde has set up a GoFundMe page for Chad and his family. Those who wish to help the family with medical expenses can search for Chad mpnst sarcoma on GoFundMe or mail a donation to the Hermans family at 208 3rd Ave. SE, Aitkin, MN 56431.

"I believe in God and miracles do happen," said Chad.

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Bicycles on sidewalks in Crosby



Plan to attend the Crosby Bike Safety Committee meeting on Monday, Jan. 24 from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. at Crosby City Hall on 2 Second Street SW.



The Bike Safety Committee is proposing a plan to allow bicycles on the sidewalks in the Crosby business district extending to the clinic, hospital and grocery store.

By attending the meeting you will have an opportunity to view the proposal and provide feedback before it is presented to the city council.



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Aitkin's Jaques Art Center celebrates world-renowned wildlife artist



Pam Andell, director, explained about the prizes available to those in attendance. Photos all by Ann Schwartz

By ANN SCHWARTZ

An air of a party permeated the Jaques Art Center in Aitkin for the Chamber Business After Hours on January 14. Visiting, joking, consuming goodies and drawing for prizes consumed the remainder of the Business After Hours evening. It is clear that roaming the hills and vales of Aitkin County, plus dissecting and stuffing its animals, led Jaques to truly capture nature in all of its awe and beauty.

The exhibit is on display through March 5. The Jaques Art Center is on Hwy. 210 in Aitkin just east of the courthouse and is open from 11-4 Tuesday through Saturday. The present exhibit features 80 works by Jaques Art Center and his family. He moved to Aitkin when he was 16 and farmed on the Mississippi River north of Aitkin. He loved hunting and taxidermy and owned a taxidermy shop here for

about 17 years. "When he was 19 he went to work for the local taxidermist, but the guy didn't have any money to pay him. He skipped town and left the shop to Jaques," said Barden Heft, who gave a talk on the exhibit. "He spent his weeks doing taxidermy and sleeping in his shop and on the weekends he hiked to



Barden Heft shares some of the life story of Francis Lee Jaques.



This bobcat by Jaques Art Center is on display.

the homestead to visit. Those were lonely times." Heft noted that the Chatelle family recently donated a cub bear that was stuffed by Francis. Also, the local center owns over 100 Jaques pieces and has the second largest collection in the world, after the Belle Museum in St. Paul. At 36, Jaques sent a painting to the Natural History Museum in New York. They were so impressed that they

brought him east and he painted dioramas for that museum. His largest one was 72 feet long and he spent 18 years there. He met his wife Florence Page there and she became an author. They collaborated on books together. In 1952, Jaques returned to

Minnesota to work at the new Belle Museum of Natural History, which was donated by Francis Ford Belle, the founder of General Mills. The second incarnation of the museum is still open at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.



Mikaela is Jaques Art Center's office assistant (left) and Taylor is the director of the Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce.

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022)
CITY OF CUYUNA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given the Cuyuna City Council will convene for their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cuyuna Fire Department to conduct the following public hearing:

Rezoning Application RZ-01-22 to rezone the following parcels: 19090500, 19290510, 19290512, 19290517, 19290518, 19290519, 19290520, 19290521, 19290522, 19290523, and 19290524 from "Open Development/Extraction District, (Open)" to "Single and Two-Family Residential District (R-1)." This rezoning better reflects the current and future use of the area.

All interested persons are invited to attend these hearings at the Cuyuna Fire Department, 24849 Minnesota Avenue, and be heard or send written comments to City of Cuyuna, PO Box 536, Deerwood, MN 56444 or via email at amanda.peterson@sourcewell-mn.gov. A staff report is made available at the Cuyuna Fire Department typically one week before the scheduled meeting.

Dated this Jan. 17, 2022
AMANDA PETERSON,
Community Development
Administrator
City of Cuyuna
6.7

Tell 'em you saw it in the NEWSHOPPER
Deadlines are Mondays at Noon

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., January 15 & 22, 2022)
NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR BIDS BAY LAKE TOWNSHIP

The Town Board of the Town of Bay Lake will accept sealed bids for Bituminous Reclamation, Aggregate Base Class 5, Bituminous Paving, Class 1 Shouldering, Mailbox Support:

Nel's Johnson Road - 4485 LF by 20 feet wide
Obrien Road - 1480 LF by 20 feet wide
Clearwater PT Road - 4940 LF by 19 feet wide
Road project to be completed prior to 9/01/2022.

Plan and specifications examined and obtained from the Town Attorney: Virginia J. Knudson, Borden/Steinbauer, Kreuger & Knudson, P.A., 302 South Sixth Street, PO Box 411, Brainerd, MN 56401 (Telephone 218-829-1451; e-mail vjknudson@brainerdlaw.com). Bids must be received by the Town Clerk by 7:00 o'clock p.m. on the 12th day of April, 2022. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive irregularities. Authorization for the sealed bidding process to be completed by Donald Hales and Virginia Knudson.

The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor." The term "responsible contractor" means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3. Any prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that does not meet the minimum criteria or fails to comply with the verification requirements is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded a construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project.

Dated: January 4, 2022
CAROL PUNDT, Clerk
Bay Lake Township
8.2

Brainerd Jaycees America's Ice Fishing Tournament

The Brainerd Jaycees are excited to present America's Ice Fishing Tournament, scheduled for January 22, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Last year, the Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza shifted their on-

ice tournament to a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event had 4,700 registered participants across the state of Minnesota and raised \$125,357.17 for local charities and non-profit organizations. With the success of last year's tourna-

ment, the committee decided to organize a completely separate, new virtual ice fishing tournament.

This year, the event is open country-wide to all ice fishing anglers and will be hosted through the FishDonkey app. Eligible species

for the tournament are walleye, northern pike, crappie, perch, and sunfish. The entry fee for the contest is \$50.

Contestants are eligible to win one of 500 prizes including a new F-150 truck or \$25,000 cash.

The 500 prizes, with a total value of over \$67,000, will be scattered throughout the top 2,000 places based on point-awarded fish values.

Fish length will be entered into the app to the closest one-fourth-inch increment. The tournament officials will convert that length to the corresponding point value for that species.

Participants are subject to all applicable licensing requirements, as well as local, state, and federal laws. For more information on tournament rules and a complete breakdown of the length-to-points conversion scale, visit www.virtualicefishing.org.

Tickets for the event are on sale now through the FishDonkey app. Visit www.virtualicefishing.org for more information and follow the event's updates on Facebook.

Needle-Felted Painting Workshop



Crossing Arts will present Needle-Felted Painting with artist Lisa Jordan, on Saturday, January 29th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Using a special needle and wool, students will learn to needle-felt a highly textured, 5 inch x 7 inch three-dimensional "painting" of a spring

nest full of eggs. Students will be provided with all the wool and materials needed to complete their painting, and will keep their mats, needles, and leftover supplies after the class. Students will discuss techniques for creating texture, blending color, and making shapes.

Lisa Jordan has been felting since 2006. She enjoys sharing this medium with others and has taught throughout the state. By day she is the Director of Crossing Arts.

This class is \$55. Limited to six students. Each participant

must be 12 years or older. Masks are required. This class will be held at Crossing Arts in downtown Brainerd. Crossing Arts members, as a benefit of membership, will receive a \$10 gift card when attending the class.

Please re-register for this class to reserve your spot at 218-833-0416. Cancellations made less than 24 hours before the class begins may not be eligible for a refund.

For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416, info@crossingarts.org. Our hours are Tuesday - Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Second Saturday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Crossing Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in the heart of downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

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Please Note: The Household Hazardous Waste Facility DOES NOT ACCEPT Florescent Light Bulbs, Business or Farm Hazardous Waste.

The Collection Site is at the Landfill Nine Miles Southwest of Crosby on Highway 210

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Snowmobile riders revving their engines across Minnesota

Snowmobile trail conditions vary throughout Minnesota but, in areas where there's good snow, riders have been getting out with gusto. Snowmobile tracks are common sights in road ditches, on trails and atop the ice. This year's busy start to the riding season continues a surge in recent years of people riding snowmobiles to enjoy Minnesota's outdoors.

Gov. Tim Walz declared Jan. 15-23 as Snowmobiling Safety Awareness Week, and Minnesota Department of

Natural Resources conservation officers remind all riders to brush up on safety and prioritize safe rides. So far this year, two snowmobile riders have lost their lives and there have been multiple close calls, including several snowmobile riders who have fallen through the ice. During the past eight snowmobile seasons, more than seven riders, on average, have lost their lives each year.

"We're continuing to see new people get into the sport of snowmobiling and dis-

cover the unique way riding the trails connects them with nature," said Bruce Lawrence, DNR Enforcement Division recreational vehicle coordinator. "With more than 22,000 miles of snowmobile trails in Minnesota, opportunities abound. As long as riders make good decisions when they're out riding, snowmobiling is something they can do the rest of their lives."

Lawrence offers the following tips to ensure a safe ride: Stay on marked trails.

Minnesota's snowmobile clubs work hard to maintain good riding condition on the state's trails. Riders who stay on groomed trails are less likely to strike an obstacle or trespass onto private property. In some parts of the state, wet conditions where trails go through low areas or across lakes mean trails aren't yet groomed. Riders should check trail conditions (mndnr.gov/snow_depth) before heading out.

Leave the booze at home. Riding under the influence

is one of two main factors in crashes and plays a role in about 60 percent of those that are fatal.

Watch the speed. Going too fast is the other main factor in crashes. Many serious and fatal crashes happen when a speeding snowmobiler loses control or strikes an object.

Be careful on the ice. In recent years, nearly every through-the-ice fatality has involved people who were riding a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle when they

fell through. There must be at least 5 to 7 inches of new, clear ice to support the weight of a snowmobile and rider.

Take a snowmobile safety course. It's required of anyone born after 1976 and recommended for everyone. People with snowmobile safety certification are less likely to be involved in serious or fatal crashes.

Additional safety tips can be found on the snowmobile safety tips page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/snowmobiling/safety.html).

Minnesota DNR seeking public input on deer population goals

Portions of southeast, Arrowhead and north central areas to be evaluated

Beginning Monday, Jan. 24, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking for public input on deer population goals in 28 of 130 deer permit areas (DPAs).

"We're continuing with an online questionnaire this year and adding webinars for those who wish to connect directly with area wildlife managers on this topic," said Barbara Keller, DNR big game program leader. "We're excited to have people participate and encourage anyone who has an interest in deer management to give feedback on deer population trends in the areas where they live, work and recreate."

The DNR establishes deer

population goals — how much of an increase or decrease is desired in a deer population in a particular DPA — as part of managing the state's wild deer.

Population goals established in this process will provide direction for management in each goal-setting block for a 10-year period, with a midpoint review at the five-year mark. Goal blocks and the DPAs that comprise them are established based on similar habitat, land uses, deer populations and deer hunter distribution.

The targeted DPAs this year are:

DPAs 117, 118, 126, 130, 131, 133 in the Superior Uplands - Arrowhead block; DPAs 169, 184, 197, 210, 298 in the North Central

Plains Moraines block; DPAs 241, 246, 251, 258, 259, 287 in the Pine Moraines block; and

DPAs 341, 342, 343, 344, 643, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 655 in the Blufflands Plateau block.

Online feedback opens on Jan. 24 and concludes on Sunday, Feb. 13. Participants will be asked to complete an online questionnaire and indicate whether the deer population in a particular area should increase, decrease, or stay the same—and provide their rationale.

Webinars during the last week of January will present information about each goal-setting block, seek participant input and allow DNR wildlife staff to answer participants' questions. Webinars

will be recorded and posted online for those who can't participate in the live events.

"We strongly encourage people to join us for these webinars," Keller said. "Anyone may participate, regardless of affiliation or knowledge of the process, and we'll present useful information and an-

swer questions that will help participants formulate their online responses."

Details about each goal block, how to participate in the process, the webinar schedule and how to access the questionnaire are listed on the DNR's website (mndnr.gov/mammals/deer/management/population.html).

ment/population.html).

In 2019, the DNR updated its deer population goal-setting process, which previously obtained input through citizen advisory committees and in-person public meetings. The new format allows more participants and encourages varied perspectives.



MLEC Touchstone Energy award

Aitkin Youth Fastpitch is MLEC's 2021 Touchstone Energy Commitment to Community Award winner. An award plaque and a \$500 check was presented to the organization on December 15th.

Aitkin Youth Fastpitch was founded in 2018. It began with a small group of parents committed to creating a developmental youth softball league that fosters love of the game, stresses sportsmanship, teaches fundamentals, and encourages community involvement. The program started with one team and 17 girls. Today, it has grown into

a full program of over 150 girls at 6 different levels! The program continues to have a positive impact on all of the players' families, volunteers in the community, and of course all of the participants. Girls ages 4-18 get a chance to play softball throughout the summer where high quality and memorable experiences are shared.

This is the 18th year of this award recognizing a group that shows a strong commitment to community and is helping make the area a better place to live and work. Mille Lacs Energy Co-op is a Touchstone Energy Co-op and

"Concern for Community" is one of the guiding principles.

Aitkin Youth Fastpitch will go on to contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$1,000.

MLEC is a not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative owned by the members we serve. We provide service to over 13,000 members in parts of Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs counties. Our headquarters is located at 36559 US Highway 169, one mile east of Aitkin, MN.

Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

REPUBLICANS OF AITKIN COUNTY

Notice of Aitkin County Republican Precinct Caucuses

As required by MN Statute 202

Tuesday, 1st February 2022

at 7:00 p.m.

You are cordially invited to participate at your local Precinct Caucus to: Elect delegates and alternates and help develop the Republican Party Platform. Sign up to be an Election Judge or Poll Challenger for the 2022 Elections.

You are eligible to participate in the Republican caucus if:

- You will be eligible to vote in the fall election – Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
- Live in the precinct.
- You are in agreement with the principles of the Republican Party as stated in the Party's constitution, voted or affiliated with the party at the last General Election or intend to vote or affiliate with the party at the next General Election may vote at precinct caucus.
- A Straw Poll will be taken for Governor and other State Offices.

Journey North Church 810-2nd St. NW, Aitkin: convener-Jim Blakesley 218-927-2027
City of Aitkin, Aitkin Twp., Farm Island Twp., Morrison Twp., Nordland Twp., Spencer Twp., Waukenabo Twp., Unorganized T48-27(Blind Lake) Twp., and Unorg. T49-27(Esquamah)Twp.

McGregor Public Library 111 E Center Ave., McGregor: convener-Kari Abbott 218-768-3011
City of McGregor, City of Tamarack, Beaver Twp., Clark Twp., Jevne Twp., McGregor, Twp. Rice River Twp., Salo Twp., Spalding Twp., Fleming Twp., and Unorg T47-24 (Davidson) Twp.

Grace Lutheran Log Church 48115 Lake Ave.: convener-Tom and Joyce Peterson 612-272-4283
City of Palisade, Balsam Twp., Haugen Twp., Libby E Twp., Shamrock Twp., Turner Twp., Workman Twp., and LoganTwp.

Hill City School 500 Ione Ave.: convener-Dave Lange 218-697-2446
City of Hill City, Ball Bluff Twp., Cornish Twp., Hill Lake Twp., MacVile Twp., Verdon Twp., Unorganized T51-25; T51-27(Lemay); T52-25(Quadna); T52-24(Ruth); T52-22; T51-22; T52-27(Shovel Lake); T50-26(Bain); T50-27(White Elk); Unorganized T50-25 (Hebron) and West Libby Twp.

McGrath Fire Hall 303 Main St., McGrath: convener-Steve Barteima 320-592-3907
City of McGrath, Idun Twp., Millward Twp., Pliny Twp., Seavey Twp., Wagner Twp., White Pine Twp., and Williams Twp.

Mille Lacs Trails Bldg. 31844-235th Lane, Aitkin convener-Travis Leiviske 218-670-0478
Glen Twp., Malmo Twp., Lakeside, Twp. Hazelton Twp., Wealthwood Twp., Lee Twp.& Unorganized T45-24 (Jewett) Twp.

Aitkin County Republican Convention
Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
Fireside Inn, McGregor Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

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