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Vol. 23 • Issue 06

Sat., February 5, 2022

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Area contests embrace the love of cold, snow, ice and fun



Mark Andrews and Keith Aho ready to try their luck in the extravaganza. "I caught a couple of small perch and got them registered," laughed Keith. "I soon was knocked off the leaderboard, but I did win a free beefstick from a local radio station." Photo courtesy Keith Aho, Baxter

By ANN SCHWARTZ
The Polar Vortex donned a turtleneck and leg warmers and gave us a break for some fun in the Brainerd Lakes Area

last weekend.

The Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza was held on January 29 on Gull Lake and the Lumberjack Jaunt cross country ski races were at the Northland Arboretum on January 30. Nearly 9,000 ice anglers descended on Hole-In-the-Day Bay on Gull Lake for the 32nd tourney. Contestants came from across the country, including New York, California, Pennsylvania, Texas and even a young man from

Germany. While 750 fish were registered, Cody Sablatura of Corpus Christi, Texas, was the winner with a 9.1 pound

northern. With that catch, he landed a new GMC truck courtesy of Mills Automotive Group. In 100th place sat Sate Pongdora of Eagan. Sate caught a .91 lb. Tullibee and will be bringing home an Ice Castle Mille Lacs LT at the end of his trip to the Brainerd Lakes area. Log onto <https://icefishing.org/leaderboard/> for more results.

There are two notable characteristics about Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza— it is entirely volunteer organized and run, and 100% of the proceeds are donated to



Following a grid, volunteers auger holes in the ice. Photo courtesy Keith Aho, Baxter

charities. The Brainerd Jaycees invest nearly 25,000 volunteer hours in the year-long planning of the contest. Amongst the 350 volunteers was this year's chairperson, Andrew Jay. He states "I am honored to be a part of such a great organization that has the ability to have such a large community impact." The largest beneficiary is Confidence Learning Center, and outdoor education facility for individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities. The Brainerd Jaycees have donated over \$4.3 million to more than 75 different charities since the first Extravaganza in 1991.

Lumberjack Jaunt

On Sunday, blue skies and lots of snow made for a great day to take photographs at the Lumberjack Jaunt at the Northland Arboretum of Brainerd.

The jaunt was sponsored



Annalise Baird, an eighth grader on the Brainerd Ski team, won the 6K classic. Ann Schwartz photo

by the Brainerd Nordic Ski Club with Karma Race Management doing the timing. There were classic and ski-skate races of 6 and 16K, along with children's races and a meal afterward for all participants.

Liliana Schaeffer won the female 6K skate race and

Continued on Page 2

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Area contests | Continued from Page 1

Joseph Neumann topped the males.

Annalise Baird won the female 6k classic run with Pedro Pesta in first for the males.

Owen Baird was the top male and Molly Wehruns the top female in the 16K classic. Tom Lysio won the longer male skate race and Mari



Racers ready for the 16k Skate race during Lumberjack Jaunt at the Northland Arboretum of Brainerd. Ann Schwartz photo

Hardel won for the women.

Children winners were Sebastian Frie and Leah Anderson in the 1K and William McKeon and Clare Lundy in the 2K.

Axes and maple syrup were among the prizes given.

Yes, January is long, Yes, winter is boring. But if more of them got out like the anglers and skiers do, we might find the road to March goes slick as waxed skis down a groomed trail.

Ice Fishing Contest and Scorpion Homecoming

Get in on the fun, the 18th Annual Ser-

pent Lake Ice Fishing Contest and Scorpion Homecoming is today, Feb 5 from noon to 3 p.m. on Serpent Lake off the shore of Crosby's Memorial Park. Entry into the ice fishing tournament is \$10 ticket per hole.

Top raffle prizes include a Marcum M5 Fishing System, Marcum v825DS Underwater Viewing System, \$250 Ice Fishing Package, Strikemaster Lite-Flite 8 inch Lazer Drill, Grand Casino Mille Lacs One Night Stay and \$30 food credit.

You can also attend the Scorpion Homecoming which brings together a collection of the historic locally made Scorpion snowmobiles from noon to 3 p.m. with award presentation at 2 p.m.



Tom Heinrich (left) placed sixth in the 16K classic race. Ann Schwartz photo



Busy Hands for LOVE in Garrison

Julie Fritz, (left to right) Martha Klitzke and Cindy Kuehl of Shepherd of the Lake in Garrison are part of an outreach program called Busy Hands for LOVE, which makes handmade knitted or crocheted items for people in need.

Shepherd of the Lake in Garrison has started an out-



reach program called Busy Hands for LOVE, a mission to make handmade knitted or crocheted items for people in need. The items are donated to various organizations in the area including Garrison Caregivers, Aicota in Aitkin, LAPS (Lake Area Pregnancy Support) and Brainerd Women's Shelter.

"On Sunday, Jan. 19, Pastor Tom Peterson gave a blessing for our items that they be a blessing to others," said Cindy Kuehl Director of Evangelism at Shepherd of the Lake.

"We are always looking for more volunteers to knit or crochet with us," said Kuehl.

They have 12 members that make handmade knitted or crocheted items, but they would like more. They will be meeting every Wednesday starting March 2 at the Shepherd of the Lake library. If it doesn't work out to meet, volunteers can knit from home and contribute.

"We also teach people how to knit or crochet, if they have the desire to help," said Kuehl. "Another way to help is to donate yarn to us."

If you know of an organization that needs scarfs, lap blankets, mittens baby blankets and hats or if you need more information about Busy Hands for LOVE, please contact Kuehl at 712-840-9715.

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., February 5, 2022)
AITKIN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING

The Aitkin County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the adoption of amendments to the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance. The hearing will be conducted on February 28, 2022 at 4PM in the Board Room of the Aitkin County Government Center, 307 2nd Street NW,

Aitkin, Minnesota 56431. The Planning Commission will decide on whether to add a third classification of "Solid Waste Transfer Station" to Appendix A Classification List of the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance.

A summary of the sections of the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance proposed for amendments are: Section 3 (Definitions) - add Solid Waste Transfer Station; Appendix A (Classification List) - include Solid Waste Transfer Station.

The above is only a summary; a full text version is available for public review at the Aitkin County Planning and Zoning office and the Aitkin County Auditor's Office in the Aitkin County Government Center during regular business hours. A copy of the proposed ordinance amendments can also be viewed in its entirety on the Aitkin County website at www.co.aitkin.mn.us. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Aitkin County

Planning and Zoning Office: 307 2nd Street NW, Room 219, Aitkin, MN 56431, by facsimile (218) 927-4372, or by email to aitkinpz@co.aitkin.mn.us before 4PM on February 25, 2022. Please include a full name and complete mailing address with all correspondences.

Dated: January 27, 2022
SHANNON WIEBUSCH,
Office Assistant
Aitkin County
Planning & Zoning
8.5

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Cascade United Methodist pie social



Cascade Ladies are inviting all area residents to attend their Pie Social on Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Cascade United Methodist Church, Deerwood. Enjoy a piece of homemade pie, ice cream and coffee for \$5.00. Whole pie will also be available for purchase.

READER RIBBETS

Rep. Dale Lueck legislative update

On Monday, we begin the final regular session of the 92nd Minnesota Legislature. Per the Minnesota Constitution, we must adjourn this session no later than May 23.

We have a lot of work ahead to right size our state's tax system that is projected to collect \$7.75 billion more than the legislature has authorized the governor to spend.

During even-numbered years, the legislature's focus is on policy items and capital investments. The 2-year state budget is passed during the odd numbered years, with only minor changes made to the authorized budget during the even years.

This year is going to look a lot more like a budget year. The governor recently released his proposed supplement budget. Normally, a supplement budget request would involve making minor midcourse corrections to the state's current \$52 billion-dollar authorized budget.

A quick look at the governor's supplemental budget request is eye popping.

He proposes to spend \$7.58 billion of the \$7.75 billion projected surplus almost entirely on expanding existing programs and creating new permanent programs. He is seeking to grow the current budget from about \$52 billion to almost \$60 billion.

The governor's approach squeezes out almost any opportunity to reduce the huge tax bite Minnesota already imposes on our citizens. It also sets the state's next two-year budget to start out with about a \$60 billion base.

During the first year of the governor's term, he clamored for huge tax hikes. We stopped those tax hikes and passed a budget with only modest increases in spending. However, the governor and his spend easy allies were able to stymie any substantial reduction in the huge tax load Minnesotans are

laboring under.

We have a lot of important policy issues to deal with this session, however you can expect a lot of discussion on how the projected surplus should be used.

Do we finally take this opportunity to downsize the tax burden on Minnesotans?

Or, do we accept the governor's plan to spend almost all the surplus on expanded and new permanent government program spending?

My approach is to downsize the tax burden and not simply expand permanent spending to match the current projected surplus. There is room to make some limited common-sense adjustments to the current state budget, but let's fix the tax over-collection problem first.

Please let me know your thoughts on this important matter.

Representative Dale Lueck
Minnesota House
District 10B

Declines to participate

A letter contributor in the *Courier* implied the mayor of Crosby sitting with a person who has no love for Crosby, is not a resident, as unethical is ludicrous.

The person is this author, there is zero shame in saying the Mayor of Crosby has been a long-time friend. She has been found to be ethical, community oriented, and always willing to do the right thing. She has never shared any information about Crosby and the workings of Crosby. She has kept everything confidential and acted accordingly. What escapes understanding is the letters about Crosby expressed the disdain for the

abuse of power, the violation of the public trust, untrustworthy acts committed by people we must trust, for their personal agenda. Past elected officials and some employees who supported the abuse and the untrustworthy acts would like you to believe their failure to act was because they love their community. That seems unreasonable, wouldn't preventing it, stopping it, show more love?

The council members who are speaking up have the right, but they embarrass themselves. They sit on committees that should bring solutions to the problems the city is facing, instead they whine, complain,

and blame the mayor for their failures, typical of Crosby's past public officials. Crosby re-elected Heglund, that was their sense of humor at work. Ryan was appointed, his loyalties appear to lie with those who manipulated his appointment, not the residents, he appears to be their puppet, pushing their personal agendas. The residents must decide on their own whether their mayor is doing the job they are supposed to do.

Watch, listen, and stay involved, do the research and due diligence or assume the worst and embarrass yourself.

Kelly Avelsgard,
Deerwood

OBITUARIES

LAWRENCE CARLSTROM



Lawrence Gustaf "Gus" Carlstrom, 91, of Aitkin died Friday, January 21, 2022 at his home. Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, February 4, 2022 at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin with Pastor Reggie Denton officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the church. Military honors were accorded by the Aitkin American Legion Lee post #86 and the Aitkin VFW Roberts-Glad Post #1727. Burial was in Lakeview Cemetery, Aitkin.



He was born December 6, 1930 in Aitkin to Andrew and Lisa "Lizzie" (Olson) Carlstrom. He grew up in Aitkin and graduated from Aitkin High School in 1948 and then from Dunwoody Institute in 1955. He was a U.S. Army Veteran serving in the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1953 earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. Gus was united in marriage to Ardys Martinson on December 6, 1969 in Aitkin. They raised their family in Aitkin and Gus owned and operated L.G. Carlstrom Construction from 1960 - 1995. He had many hobbies and interests including: restoring military vehicles, he

was a private pilot for over 30 years, he enjoyed the outdoors, hunting and fishing, and loved his many pets. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, NRA, Military Vehicle Preservation Association, Aitkin Fire Dept. and First Lutheran Church.

Gus is survived by his wife, Ardys; sons and daughters-in-law: Peter (Carol) Hanlon of Ham Lake and Andrew (Trisha) Carlstrom of Aitkin; daughters and sons-in-law: Mary Jo (James) Osmont of Columbus, GA., Angela Hanlon of Aitkin, and Amy (Steve) Erickson of Plymouth; nine grandchildren: Kim and Andy Hanlon, Elsa Roque, Clair, Jack, Peter, and Joseph Erickson, Azie Arends, and Addisyn Carlstrom; three great-grandchildren: Marcus, David, and Hugh McGuire; sisters: Anita Jefferson of San Marcos, CA. Lael Carlstrom and Ruth Carlstrom both of Aitkin; and many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by a son, Greg Hanlon; brother, K.V. Carlstrom; sisters: Helen Mushel, Kathryn Hannon and parents, Andrew and Lizzie Carlstrom.

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

More Obituaries on Page 4

COMMUNITY EVENTS

February

- 5th - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Fishing Tournament and Scorpion Homecoming on Serpent Lake. Call 218-546-8131 for more information.
- 6th - Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast at the St. James Catholic Church in Aitkin from 8:30am-11:30am. Free will donation. Menu includes pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs with ham, fruit cocktail, juice and milk. Gluten free option available.
- 8th & 22nd - 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.
- 9th - Registration deadline for the Northland Arboretum Valentines Day Snowshoe Hike and Dinner, 6pm, on Feb. 13. \$55/ couple includes Rafferty's pizza certificate, wine and chocolates. To register, stop by Northland Arboretum at 14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd or call 218-829-8770.
- 12th - Cascade United Methodist Church Pie Social 1 -3 pm at Cascade United Methodist Church, Deerwood. Slice of homemade pie, ice cream and coffee for \$5. Whole pies will also be available for purchase.
- 12th - 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.

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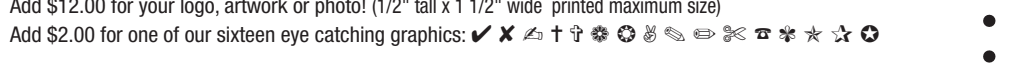


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Nine smart salting tips that protect Minnesota's pristine waters



A coffee mug of salt will cover about 10 sidewalk squares, or a 20-foot driveway.

Courtesy of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

As winter continues to hold forth, we're clearing snow and ice from pavement — sometimes with de-icing salt. But it only takes a teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recommends a low-salt diet for our lakes, streams, and rivers. Much like table salt, rock salt's benefits are peppered with danger. De-icing salt helps melt ice on roads and sidewalks and protects drivers and pedestrians. But when the snow melts, de-icing salt, which contains chloride, runs into nearby bodies of water and harms aquatic wildlife. Chloride accumulates in the

water over time, and there's no feasible way to treat or remove it. Our freshwater fish and bugs can't tolerate a salty environment.

A University of Minnesota study found that about 78 percent of de-icing salt applied in the Twin Cities for winter maintenance ends up either in groundwater or local lakes and wetlands. The MPCA has found that groundwater in the state's urban areas often exceeds the state standards for chloride contamination. Forty-seven bodies of water in Minnesota have tested above the standard for chloride, 39 of which are in the Twin Cities metro area.

Though no environmentally safe, effective, and inexpensive alternatives to

de-icing salt are yet available, smart salting strategies can help reduce chloride pollution in state waters, while saving money and limiting salt damage to infrastructure, vehicles, and plants.

Do your part by following these simple tips:

- 1. Shovel.** The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it can be.
- 2. 15 degrees (F)** is too cold for salt. Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use sand instead for traction, but remember that sand does not melt ice.
- 3. Slow down.** Drive for the conditions and make sure to give plow drivers plenty of space to do their work. Consider purchasing winter (snow) tires.
- 4. Apply less.** More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of de-icing salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug. Leave about a three-inch space between granules. Consider purchasing a hand-held spreader to help you apply a consistent amount.
- 5. Sweep up extra.** If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement it is no longer doing any work and will be

washed away. Use this salt or sand somewhere else or throw it away.

6. Hire a certified Smart Salting contractor. Winter maintenance professionals can become certified by the MPCA in smart salting practices. If you're hiring companies to plow parking lots and clear sidewalks, check out our list of certified individuals and organizations on the

Smart Salting training page.

7. Watch this video: <https://bit.ly/3KEWXch>. Produced by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, it offers tools for environmentally friendly snow and ice removal.

8. Act locally. Support your local and state winter maintenance crews in their efforts to reduce their salt use.

9. Promote smart salting.

Work together with local government, businesses, schools, churches, and nonprofits to find ways to reduce salt use in your community.

Thanks for considering ways to reduce salt during these final weeks of winter! Visit the MPCA website at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us> for more info on road salt and chloride pollution in Minnesota.

Late winter ideal time to prune trees



Late winter is the ideal time to prune branches on trees, according to experts with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. When done correctly, pruning in the winter is less risky to tree health.

"Now through early March — just before trees come out of dormancy — is a great time to get outside and prune your trees," said Jennifer Teegarden, DNR cooperative forestry outreach specialist. "As trees become active in spring,

they are able to quickly heal the pruning wound."

Wintertime pruning minimizes the risk that an open pruning wound could invite pests or diseases. Pruning oak trees should be avoided from April through July, when beetles that can spread oak wilt are feeding on tree sap, which is present at new wounds.

Tree pruning tips:

Trim branches before they grow to 2 inches in diameter to minimize wound size and damage to the surrounding bark.

Don't cut flush to the trunk. Preserving the branch collar (the area where the trunk slightly bulges around the branch) allows the wound to heal quickly and not decay.

Use the three-cut method for larger branches to minimize damage to the bark.

Information on this method can be found the pruning trees and shrubs page of the University of Minnesota Extension website (tinyurl.com/2p8c7bhv).

Pruning trees benefits yards and homes by:

Reducing the need for a larger pruning job in the future and improving the tree's health.

Helping trees survive storms with fewer dropped branches and less damage.

Improving safety by removing branches that overhang or block walkways or roads.

Maintaining the aesthetic of yards and enhancing the beauty of the tree.

More tree care tips are available on the tree planting and care page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/treecare).

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