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TO FIND NEW CUSTOMERS

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Long Lake to host traditional Ojibwe storytelling event Renowned Ojibwe Storyteller Michael Migizi Sullivan



Dr. Michael Migizi Sullivan, an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) linguist, will share stories at an event at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26 at Long Lake Conservation Center.

Renowned Storyteller Dr. Michael Migizi Sullivan will share traditional Ojibwe stories as part of Ojibwe Legends Storytelling event at 6:30 pm. on Saturday, Feb. 26 at Long Lake Conservation Center. This event will feature an Aadizookaan - a sacred story often about a legend or myth,

in this case Wenabozho, a historical and spiritual icon of the Ojibwe-Anishinaabeg. Sullivan will first tell the stories in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) and then in English. "Being able to provide the people of Aitkin County, and beyond, the opportunity to get a glimpse into both the rich history and vibrant modern Ojibwe culture is an honor," Long Lake Manager Dave McMillan said. "I hope to see a lot of young faces in the audience."

The event is free and open to everyone. In-person attendance is limited to the first 200 people, but the event will also be available via Zoom. Pre-registration is required. All attendees are required to wear a mask while indoors. To learn more and to pre-register, go to longlakecc.org/storytelling, or call 218-

768-4653.

Prior to the storytelling, the registrants are invited to an hour-long Naturalist-guided nature hike beginning at 4:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served at 5:30 p.m., with the storytelling beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The event is made possible thanks in part to a grant awarded to Long Lake by the Northland Foundation, who, through grant making, an operating program, business lending, and special initiatives, help people and communities in our region to move forward together.

Michael Migizi Sullivan (PhD.) is an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) linguist from the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe reservation in northern Wisconsin. He is currently the Native American Studies Faculty Director at Lac Courte

Oreilles Ojibwe College and previously served as the resident linguist for the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School. Dr. Sullivan has traveled extensively across Ojibwe country exploring regional language variation and works closely with elders and tribes in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ontario. He is a firm believer in an Anishinaabe-centric self-determined pedagogy grounded in Anishinaabe language, worldview, and spiritual lifestyle. Sullivan currently resides with his family in the Skunawong community on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation where he enjoys the outdoors. He and his children enjoy singing at powwows, round dances, and ceremonies throughout the year.

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Here's what you need to know about the Child Tax Credit:

- Taxpayers who chose to opt out of advance payments, may claim the full credit on their return.
- Dependents age 18-24 may qualify for a \$500 Other Dependent Credit.

- Bring IRS Letter 6419 with you when filing your taxes, this will help determine remaining credit amount.
- The Expanded Child Tax Credit has expired for tax years after 2021.

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Crossing Arts Creativity Kit giveaway



Join Crossing Arts on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 10 to noon, when they will be giving out creativity kits to anyone who wants a little bit of creative fun. Kits will be available on tables inside of Crossing Arts. Kits include two art projects, a coloring sheet, and more! This month's kit includes Wire Sculpture and Shadow Drawing projects. Creativity Kits are free to the public. Kits are limited. First come, first served.

Creativity Kits are a way of engaging young artists and spreading the joy of art to the community. Crossing Arts goal is to offer projects that show the many different ways

of being creative, because you never know what's going to light up a kid's imagination and help their creativity bloom. Crossing Arts offer them for free so that everyone

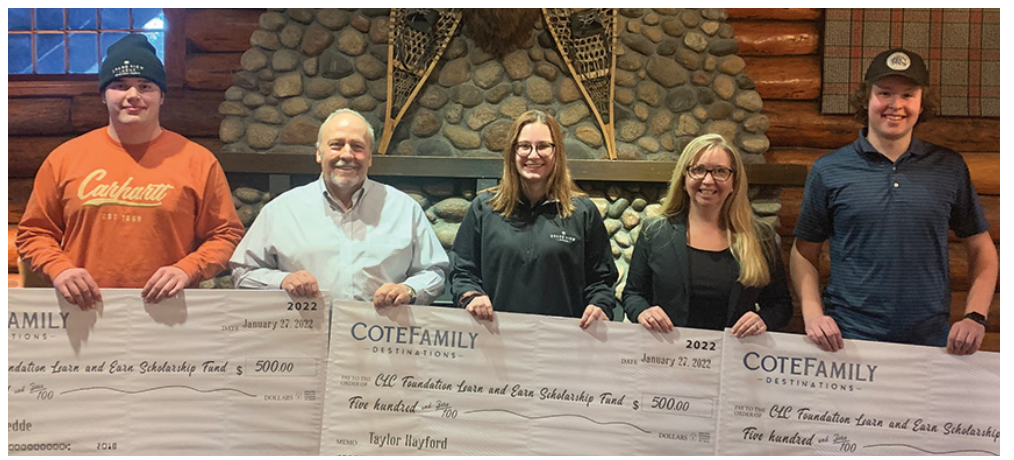


can enjoy them, and receive the support of numerous businesses, individuals, and Crossing Arts members who believe that the arts are for everyone.

Brought to you by Crossing Arts members and supporters, and sponsored by Deb Prazak, Bob Larson, and MN Nice Enough.

This event is funded, in part, by the voters of Minnesota through grants from Five Wings Arts Council and the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416, info@crossingarts.org. Crossing Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit located in the heart of downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.



Pictured from left at the scholarship presentation are Scholarship recipient James Gedde; General Manager of Grand View Lodge, Spa & Golf Resort Don Lenahan; Scholarship recipient Taylor Hayford; CLC Foundation Director Kate Adornetto; and Scholarship recipient Zachary Nelson.

CLC Learn and Earn Program

Central Lakes College is proud to announce the success of its pilot Learn and Earn Program, with the awarding of three student scholarships with Grand View Lodge, Spa & Golf Resort.

Scholarship recipients include: Taylor Hayford (Accounting – AAS), James Gedde (Associate of Arts), and Zachary Nelson (Business Transfer Pathway).

In its first semester, the Learn and Earn Program benefits both CLC students and local businesses. Students apply to open positions with an area business that focuses on the students' career path and if employed, are eligible to receive a scholarship. In addition to being awarded a scholarship from the respective businesses, the student also gains professional experience, along with a paying job during their academic

program at CLC. Further, students receive specialized academic and career coach services at CLC.

"The college and the foundation benefit from relationships with businesses in the community to leverage resources and services for our students," said Kate Adornetto, CLC Foundation Director. "We have had several businesses support the Learn and Earn concept and I feel confident that we will continue to build strong community partnerships for our students."

The program also helps local businesses recruit CLC students to be new employees in their organization while attending college.

"We need people, and what better resource than our closest community college, Central Lakes College. This program gives us an opportunity to find qualified em-

ployees, while helping them pursue their professional, career dreams," said Grand View Company Director of Human Resources Merrick Dresnin. "Learn & Earn is a win-win-win. It's great for Grand View Lodge Spa & Golf Resort, great for CLC, and fantastic for our community's brightest students!"

Scholarship recipient Hayford said "The Learn and Earn Scholarships are helping me learn how to balance my responsibilities, while also meeting new people!"

Fellow recipient Nelson added, "It's a great opportunity! You get a good job that pays decent and get a scholarship on top of that!"

Central Lakes College will open the Learn and Earn application on May 1 for Fall placement.

More about the program: www.clcmn.edu/learn-and-earn-scholarship-program/

Lakes Area Music Festival Feb. 20

The Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) continues its Winter Series with a baroque recital on Sunday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Gitchi-zibi Center for the Arts

in Brainerd. There is no set admission fee to attend, but tickets must be reserved in advance through the organization's website.

Tickets may be reserved

online through the LAMF website with name-your-price admission (suggested donation \$20). For assistance in reserving tickets, please call 218-831-0765.

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Wed., February 16
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(1st & 3rd Thursdays)
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Hall Available for Rent (Seats 225) Weddings, Reunions, Graduation & Other Events
Now booking for parties. Call Lodge for info.

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., February 12 & 19, 2022)

BAY LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Bay Lake Township, County of Crow Wing, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather the meeting and election may be postponed until March 15, 2022.

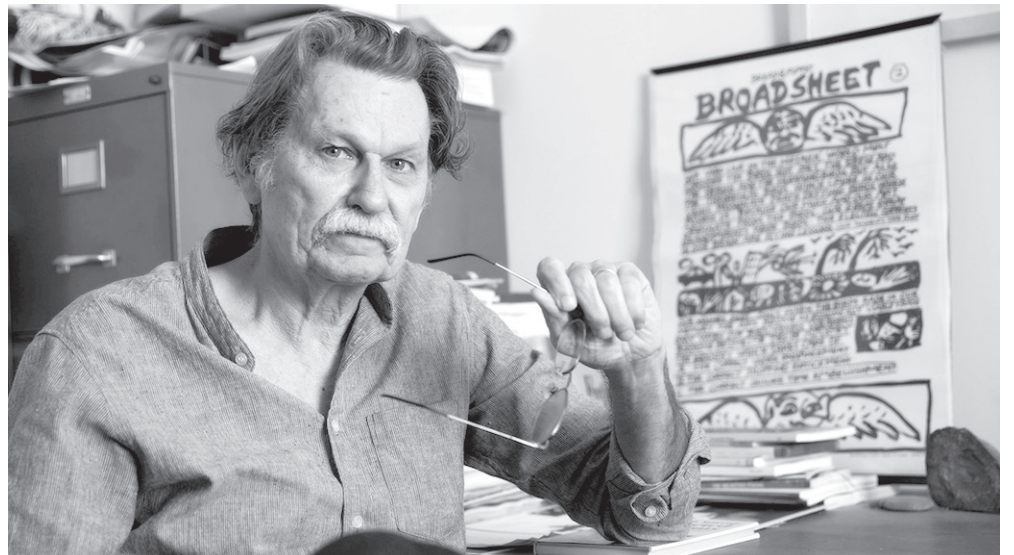
The Election Poll hours will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at which time the voters will elect:

- 1 - Supervisor (3 year term) presently held by Don Hales
- 1 - Supervisor (1 year term) John Enright to complete office term vacated by Jon Steblay
- 1 - Clerk (2 year term) presently held by Carol Pundt

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:30 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. Board of Canvass will convene after the annual meeting.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:
Bay Lake Town Hall
13861 Co Rd 10
Deerwood, MN 56444
Dated: January 28, 2022
CAROL PUNDT, Clerk
Bay Lake Township
6.7

Tell 'em you saw it in the NEWSHOPPER



Verse Like Water: The visiting poetry program of Central Lakes College presents American Poet Gregory Orr livestreamed at <https://youtu.be/JZNhVuUM9mg> at noon on Friday, Feb. 18. This virtual event is free and open to the public. Orr has published 10 volumes of poetry and books of memoir, criticism and essays. He has much to say about how lyric poetry across the centuries has helped people survive grief, loss and trauma. Orr taught English at the University of Virginia for 44 years, and founder of the school's MFA program in Creative Writing.

Concordia Choir stops in Brainerd

Conductor Michael Culleton will bring The Concordia Choir from Moorhead to perform in Brainerd, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, in the Gitchi-zibi Center for the Arts at Brainerd High School. Tickets are available at ConcordiaTickets.com or at the door.

The choir celebrates Culleton's first tour as conductor and a belated 100th anniversary of The Concordia Choir with its Southwest spring tour. The tour includes performances in Alexandria Brainerd, Mahtomedi and Rochester; Dana Point, Rancho Santa Fe, Redlands, and Thousand Oaks, CA; Scottsdale, Sun City and Tucson, AZ; Albuquerque and Las Cruces, NM; Colorado

Springs and Denver, CO; concluding with a Home Concert in Moorhead.

Culleton a 1998 Concordia graduate and associate professor of music, was named director of choral activities in 2020, appointed conductor of the choir and named the Paul J. and Eleanor Christiansen Chair of Choral Music succeeding Dr. René Clausen who retired after 34 years of service. For the eight years prior, Culleton conducted the Chapel Choir, Kantorei and Cantabile vocal ensembles. He teaches vocal music education and church music courses, serves as campus supervisor for student teachers, and advises the student chapter of the American Choral Directors

Association.

Touring nationally and internationally since 1920, the choir has performed in nearly every major hall in the United States including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, and continues to affirm its reputation as one of the nation's finest a cappella choirs. The choir will tour internationally to Italy in May 2022, marking its first tour to the country.

Masks will be required for all performers, staff, and audience members.

Concordia College is a four-year liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offering more than 50 majors, including 18 honors majors and 13 preprofessional programs.

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- BBQ Ribs & Broasted Chicken \$19.95*

(*Dinner specials include garlic mashed potatoes, Normandy mixed veggies, ciabatta toast, and choice of lobster bisque or side salad)

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CROW WING COUNTY LANDFILL

Winter Hours:
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The landfill is open only to residents of Crow Wing County for recycling and disposal needs.

The Following Items are Accepted

- Household Garbage
- Fiberglass boats
- Mattresses
- Furniture
- Mobile Homes
- Free recycling of lead-acid car/marine batteries - NOT to be disposed in the landfill
- Free compost of lawn and garden material (please separate brush and branches)
- A small fee for recycling of used oil filters and anti-freeze.
- Free oil recycling at the landfill and several drop-off locations within the County. Visit our webpage for drop-off locations: www.crowwing.us and search "oil."
- Demolition materials may be disposed in the demolition landfill for a fee
- Large appliances, electronics, tires with or without rims, scrap metals, glass, and plastic can be disposed at the site for a nominal fee for recycling.

For more information please call
Crow Wing County Land Services at 218-824-1010.

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EXCITING NEWS

Got an interesting photo and story to share?
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along with your name, city and a description of the photo.
We also accept news and community events.
You may see your submission next week in the NewsHopper!

READER RIBBETS

Rep. Dale Lueck legislative update

Greetings from the House of Representatives, where the first week of the 2022 legislative session is in the books.

Sadly, our week was overshadowed by the continued senseless violence occurring in our communities. Please pause and consider a prayer for the victims and their families of the recent shooting incident which took place outside a Richfield school building.

My colleagues and I are working hard on legislation to remedy the current public safety crisis. We must put the proper tools back into the hands of our judges' and law enforcement officer's. Our judicial system is failing us. All too frequently perpetrators of serious crimes, are out on bail or were already in violation of parole status for previous felony convictions.

I am chief author of HF 2947 that would reform Minnesota's

cash bail law. Regardless of who posts cash bail for an individual, those dollars if refunded become the property for the individual charged. That's an invitation for abuse of the system. Cash bail put up by a non-profit group, ultimately may end up as a cash reward for the conduct that led to that individual's arrest.

On a more positive note, I was privileged to spend time with members of Minnesotans for Health & Parental Rights. They held a full day event at the Capitol. Because the House DLF leadership has forbid constituents from entering our state office building, we were not able to meet in person in my office. However, we were able to meet in person in the State Capitol building. It was wonderful to see the hundreds of young families and children at the Capitol rallying for health and paren-

tal rights. We are working on legislation across a broad front in this area. We must protect the right to die in dignity surrounded by one's family and prevent government overreach due to loosely worded laws that invite exploitation by government.

Thank you for the overwhelming response on the fate of the \$7.7 billion projected state surplus. I hear you – downsize the tax burden.

During Feb-May, I will be in St. Paul, Monday-Thursday working on your behalf. Please don't hesitate to contact me via email: rep.dale.lueck@house.mn or (651) 296-2365. Please visit my legislative website: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/15439> to see what I am currently working on.

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

What position are you taking?

Some letter contributors make accusations of bias, prejudice, half-truths, meant as an attack on this writer. The documents, information, and actions shared are solid. Goddard banned two local police departments from our offices based upon an unauthored letter published locally. His reason—to protect our deputies, from what? —a Chief of Police protecting his community and doing his job? recording a person with a huge ax to grind with one of the officers, recording a person arbitrators found is willing to lie, alter documents, make documents disappear to achieve their outcome, not a

legal outcome?

It seems like the Chief made the right call. Exposing abuse of power does not require bias, prejudice, or half-truths, their actions do that. When elected officials refuse to protect us, or attempt to bring harm to our communities, we the people must demand accountability.

A few people attempt to create doubt, claim there are other sides, must be qualified, and the only way to make it stop, make it stop, is challenge the writer and make false accusations so they feel better about themselves. They can tell their children, grandchildren when asked, "what did you do to protect me from

the abuse of power?" they can proudly state, "I got in the way of the efforts to stop it."

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor political, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right."

The position is, people who abuse their power, must be held accountable. Evidence will continue to be submitted, the length of time it takes to obtain accountability depends upon the reader's decision, do nothing, get in the way, or participate.

**Kelly Avelsgard,
Deerwood**

Ironton American Legion

No politics, no complaints, lots of praise — something new to "Letter to the Editor."

I recently started visiting this local establishment [Ironton American Legion] again after years of management boring attitude of "worked for years/ why change things."

What a change with the new management! This new

younger management style looks good with excellent food, service and prices. Her name is Liz and her skills have turned this establishment on it's heels. The food is very tasty with good portions. The workers are friendly and hard working in appropriate dress code. Prices are budget minded.

Just a good place to relax

and enjoy life with friends and neighbors. Liz is gifted with the abilities to hire these exceptional employees and set the standards. Her cooks know how to cook!

Yes, I am a vet, but everyone and anyone is welcome.

Jim Hiller, Trommald

Deerwood Outdoor and Gun Show

The 24th annual Deerwood Outdoor and Gun Show is planned for Saturday, Mar.5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Mar. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Deerwood Auditorium. The public is invited; admission is \$5.00 per day and children under 16 are free, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Buy, sell or trade items will be on display on more than 30 tables from local and outstate vendors. All federal and local gun laws must be observed. Deerwood Civic and Commerce is not responsible for accidents, loss or theft. No alcohol or loaded guns are allowed on the premises.

A Concession Stand is available on Saturday and Sunday.

Proceeds from concessions benefit Boy Scout Troop 100. Fresh Kettle Corn will also be available for purchase outside the auditorium.

The Outdoor and Gun Show features a fantastic raffle again this year. Tickets are \$5.00 each, must be over 21 to purchase and winner need not be present to win. Complete list of prizes, raffle ticket sales outlets and complete rules can be found at deerwoodoutdoorshow.org/raffle

In addition to our traditional Show and Raffle at the Auditorium this March, we're lining up other activities at the Deerwood Fire Department.

The Minnesota DNR's high-profile, outdoor "Wall of Shame" trailer will display animals that have been poached with the violator being held accountable – part of the DNR's Turn In Poachers (TIP) program.

Additionally, Outdoor groups (hunting, fishing, recreation, conservation, etc.) will have displays and literature tables with information for individuals and families with a wide range of interests, inside at the Deerwood Fire Hall.

Proceeds from this event benefit local area community organizations via donations by Deerwood Civic and Commerce.

For more information: visit deerwoodoutdoorshow.org, find us on Facebook @Deerwood Outdoor Show or email info@deerwoodcommerce.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

February

- 12th - Hill City Lions Club Ice Fishing Contest on Hill Lake, noon- 3 pm.
- 12th - Mid-Minnesota 150 Sled Dog Race from Outing to Remer.
- 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 also available for purchase.
- 12th - Aitkin Area Chamber's Winter Wonderama 1-4 pm - snow games, s'mores, ice skating, x-country skiing plus more family-friendly activities.
- 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.
- 14th - Brian Andrews will speak on Restorative Justice: Giving young offenders better options at Lakes Area Unlimited Learning at 1:30 p.m. in the Forum Room of Crosby-Ironton High School. Admission is free for members and \$5.00 for non-members.
- 17th - Singers from all area communities are invited to join the Central Lakes College Choir. No auditions or registration fees required. Rehearsals are every Thursday evening from 6-8:30 pm in the Music Rehearsal Hall (E471) on CLC's Brainerd campus. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Sarah Aamot, Vocal Music Director, at sarah.aamot@clcmn.edu.
- 18th - Verse Like Water: The visiting poetry program of Central Lakes College presents American Poet Gregory Orr at noon livestreamed at <https://youtu.be/JZNhVuUM9mg>. This virtual event is free and open to the public.
- 19th - Jacobson Annual Classic Snowmobile Run 10 am registration at the Jacobson Recreation Landing Park, noon ride begins with lunch along the trail, 4 pm awards and door prizes at the Swan River Red Eye, 8 pm raffle drawing at the the Forestry Station Bar. Raffle first prize is a yellow 1990 Skidoo Safari, second prize Sports A Field 30 gun safe, third prize StrikeMaster ice Auger. Contact Dale at 218-256-7930 for more information.

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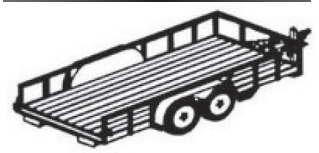
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New administrator Mike Skrbich at the helm for city of Aitkin



Mike Skrbich is Aitkin's new administrator. Readers may be interested to know that the city hall offices are now at the Southgate Center in the former Soil and Water District space.

Ann Schwartz photo

Finding someone that you have common ground with makes it easier."

They have two grown children: a daughter who is a doctor of pharmacy and a son who is a chemical/biological engineer. They also have two granddaughters. "We are hoping for more."

Skrbich's background

"I have a varied career." He spent 20 years at Sherwin Williams and managed Chromaline in Duluth "I have a strong background in building, construction, project management, budgeting and grant writing."

He started the Aitkin job in October 2021. "I had driven through here several months before and told my wife if the job ever comes open I'm going to apply for it. We have horses and dogs and are small town, rural people. When I saw the job open and applied, they gave me the job."

(City council minutes show that administrator applicants were narrowed down to three finalists, of which Skrbich and one other candidate agreed to be interviewed. The third finalist had already found another job).

His skills include road construction, building construction, industrial tanks, production and wastewater treatment.

Goals? He is not going to stay forever – he has four or

five years left to work. "We will be able to accomplish a lot of things here. One of the things we need to work on is workforce housing."

The community has \$120 million in property that doesn't pay taxes, such as the hospital, schools, DNR, county government and churches. "We need to enhance our housing. There isn't any here. I'm living in Crosby in an air B and B. We have limited building sites because of all our wetlands. But we do have some really nice areas where the city needs to work with developers to develop housing."

Controlling expenses and enhancing revenue with grants are goals and something he has already done. "We want to be a great place to live. We want our young people to come back. Our demographics are such that our elderly are moving to Brainerd and other areas because we don't have enough assisted living here."

"We want this to be a great place to live. We want to improve our housing and our parks."

The city can work with the hospital, with manufacturing or whoever wants to partner. "We need more people to live here to share the expenses. We need to grow our housing stock in this community. We have some people who commute here to work in town and they want to live here but can't because there is nowhere for

them to live."

Having reliable budget numbers and a capital plan are priorities for city planning, he said, so if they have to do a project or buy equipment they always have the money in the bank and don't have to borrow. "I'm fiscally conservative."

Staff working for the city is limited so it is important to assure that the staff is well-trained and well-equipped.

"I come from a place – from Hermantown – where people want to be there. They have good schools, good parks, and a good community. Very few businesses there, no downtown. That is why people want to live in a town like this. They want good schools and community, want to shop locally and buy what they need. The county has a new administrator and economic development guy and we are working together to help the region – not just the city of Aitkin but all of Aitkin County. We are all working together to make it better than it was in the past."

He said he is not criticizing anyone from the past but he brings great skills in management and economic development and hopes to bring in more businesses.

"I find it very rewarding to work for a city rather than the corporate world where it is all about what sales were last week"

Asked about bringing a bike trail from Deerwood, he replied that it is a great idea, but is a long-term project that will take several years.

"Realistically, in our community, we are working with the county on the Tank Trails and things that are already here. We are more likely to see more development in that area because everyone is working on it now. I think you'll see more biking and ATV trails in the area before you'll see a bike trail come in from 15 miles away.

"We need to concentrate on the assets we already have, such as the Tank Trails. Also, a Ripplesippi group is trying to draw more attention to the

rivers."

For fun, he's done lots of coaching. He and his wife horseback ride, make trails through their woods, watch a lot of hockey and play with their grandchildren. Summer weather leads to time on the lake.

"One of my favorite hobbies is building," he said. He and Karen have built 15 homes together and recently made a mile of trail through the woods for horseback riding. He likes being able to do things that he didn't have time to do when raising his kids. "But now we are chasing our grandkids."

They have three springer spaniels that they walk every day in the woods.

"Mike was a great hire for the city of Aitkin," said Mayor Megan Workman. "His background in budget management and creative problem-solving will help the city achieve its long-term goals."

Although his career is winding down, Skrbich is excited to work in Aitkin and make it his long-term home.

Lakes Area Unlimited Learning

Brian Andrews will speak at Lakes Area Unlimited Learning on Monday, Feb. 14. at 1:30 p.m. in the Forum Room of Crosby-Ironton High School. Admission is free for members and \$5.00 for non-members. For more information about member-

ship, contact Sally Ihne at sihnecharter.net or call 218-829-2544.

Since 2004, juvenile offenders in Crow Wing County have had an alternative to entering the court system through the Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project, resulting in significantly reduced recidivism and reduced crime rates. Ninety-two percent of offenders will complete their Restorative Contract

with a recidivism rate of 13.5 percent, compared to the national average of 67 percent. Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project works directly with Crow Wing County police departments, the sheriff's department, the county attorney's office, social services and schools.

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