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Jason Henke, a high school teacher and Aitkin City Council member, keeps the skating rink fire going for Winterwonderama Day.

Among the things area families chose to do pre-Valentines Day was a new Winterwonderama Day in Aitkin. It included family-friendly

Aikin's parks, skating rinks and trails. The evening featured a chili cookoff at the Moose Lodge, with Timber's Sugar Shack winning the People's Choice Award.

February brings blue skies and fun to Winterwonderama

At the Landing, The Aitkin



Bennett Christy, 10, of Aitkin, is ready to try out the smooth new ice at Aitkin City Park's improved hockey rink. Bennett is a squirt in Northern Lakes Hockey.

Sno-Drifters held their Annual Vintage Snowmobile

ride. The day featured registration and riding to the 40 Club, Sno-Drifters Clubhouse and back to the Landing for

Meanwhile, back at the Butler Building, insiders were treated to a Farmer's Market and music by Roy Lilenquist. **Continued on Page 6** 



Children get their skates on to try out the ice in Aitkin. There is just a shed for a warming house now, but a new building is



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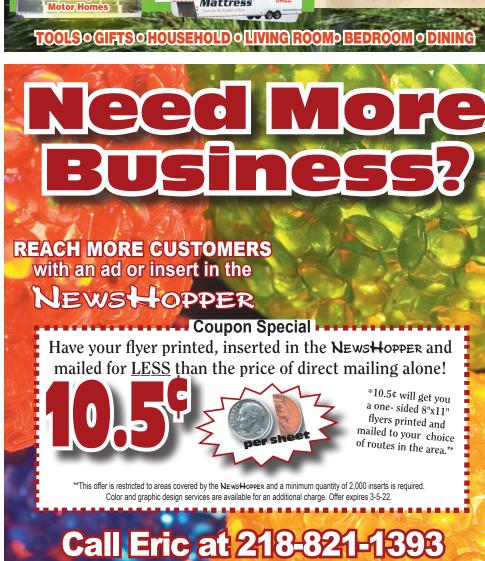
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## Governor candidate demands full forensic audit of GOP caucus data



Dr. Neil Shah, conservative outsider and Minnesota Republican candidate for governor.

The campaign of Dr. Neil Shah, conservative outsider and Republican candidate for governor, is demanding the full release of the original delegate signup sheets from the Republican Party's precinct caucuses conducted on February 1, 2022.

According to a press release from the campaign, demand follows a series of unusual data releases and policy changes from the state Republican Party. After several party officers across the state refused to allow the Shah campaign access to their caucus data, the state

Senator Carrie Ruud

(R-Breezy Point) has co-au-

thored a bill that allows the

Professional Educator Li-

censing and Standards Board

(PELSB) to expand the pool

of qualified candidates to

party issued the directive that Basic Political Operating Units must submit their data to the party first, which will then be compiled and distributed to all statewide campaigns. Typically, each BPOU provides caucus data directly to all statewide campaigns seeking the GOP endorsement.

The campaign alleges that on Friday, Feb.11, the state party issued a list of caucus data to campaigns that was full of grave errors. Total numbers of caucus attendees in some areas were off by a factor of 40 or more, with thousands of entries from previous election cycles included. Names of caucus attendees did not correspond accurately with address, phone number, email, or even delegate status.

The Shah campaign's attorney contacted Morrison County Republican Party Chair and Gazelka campaign staffer Mandy Heffron to investigate an area with particularly egregious discrepancies on Sunday, Feb. 13. According to the Shah campaign's attorney, Hef-

Ruud co-authors teaching bill

licenses, gets teachers back in the classrooms

Bill that temporarily modifies substitute teaching

receive teaching licenses.

Minnesota has seen a

steady decrease in available

substitute teachers, a prob-

lem that was only further

exacerbated by Covid. Prior

to the pandemic, substitute

fron stated she deliberately omitted delegates from the list she sent to the state party. When pressed further on the issue, Heffron also admitted to adding names to the delegate list for people who were not in attendance on caucus night. Delegates must be voted on within their own precinct on caucus night, and cannot be added after the fact. Delegates stricken from the list by Heffron account for a significant portion of total Morrison County caucus attendees.

Additionally, the party is required to issue a convention call to delegates ten days prior to the BPOU convention. Delegates who had their names stricken from the list will not receive a convention call. BPOU conventions are set to start on Friday, Feb. 18, with more on Saturday, Feb. 19. Some delegate lists for these conventions are still being compiled, and evidence of widespread errors and manipulation renders the possibility of free and fair conventions to be very unlikely unless a full forensic audit takes place. Therefore, the Shah campaign is also demanding that conventions scheduled to take place in February be rescheduled to March, allowing time for a forensic audit of delegate signup sheets used on caucus night.

Discrepancies continue to be widespread across the state, as Shah delegates compare photos of delegate signup sheets to the delegate lists the state Republican Parcampaigns. A statement by Lukas Baker, Political Director of the MNGOP said they are currently looking into the issues with the caucus data. With time until conventions running out, many statewide campaigns have expressed worry that upcoming conventions will be conducted freely and fairly, given the widespread data issues.

"If we proceed with carrying out the BPOU conven-

ty is currently distributing to tions without a full forensic audit, we are guaranteed to not have a fair endorsement process," Dr. Neil Shah stated.

> Demands from the Shah campaign can be summarized as submitting original caucus documentation to all statewide campaigns, having that data verified and entered by an independent third party, and postponing all local party conventions until such an audit is complete.

## Food pantries awarded microgrant

Central Lakes College was awarded a \$3,000 microgrant to support its campus food pantries from Swipe Out Hunger, a national nonprofit committed to ending college student

hunger. CLC was one of only 17 colleges nationwide to re-

ceive a microgrant in this first cycle of Swipe Out Hunger's inaugural campus pantry microgrant fund.

"The Swipe Out Hunger grant gives us the opportunity to continue to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for our students," said Erich Heppner, CLC Director of Student Life. "

(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,

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 Ste-

-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

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Feb. 19, 26 & Mar. 5. 2022)

#### **LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT**

The Board of Audit of Libby Township will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Palisade Community Center. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.

Dated this 7th day of February 2022 JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT, Clerk Libby Township

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Feb. 19, 26 & Mar. 5, 2022)

#### **LIBBY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of Libby Township will be held beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Palisade Community Center. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March

> Dated this 7th day of February 2022 JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT, Clerk Libby Township

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022) ORDINANCE AMEND **MENT SUMMARY** 

**CITY OF CUYUNA** 

#### On February 8, 2022, the City of Cuyuna adopted a zoning map amendment, RZ-01-22. The amendment rezones 11 parcels, 19090500, 19290510. 19290512. 19290517, 19290518, 19290519, 19290520, 19290522 19290521.

19290524, from 19290523, "Open Development/Extraction District" to "Single and Two-Family Residential District" This notice is a summary of the zoning map amendment that was adopted by the City.

A copy of the Cuyuna Zoning Map and the City Land Use Ordinance are available upon request. This amendment goes into effect upon publica-

Dated this Feb, 9, 2022 AMANDA PETERSON, Community Development Administrator City of Cuyuna

## **MORRIS-MORRIS** CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS Dale Morris, CPA Don Morris, CPA 214 - 1st Ave. NW • Aitkin, MN 218-927-4270 HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8 am to 5 pm; or by appointment



teachers were in short supply as teacher retention numbers fell. Distance learning and the accompanying challenges have kept candidates from entering the pool of educators. SF-2861 would allow a person with an Associate Degree, professional certification, or five years of relevant work experience along with a background check to fill in the teaching gaps in our schools. This change would go into effect starting July 1 of this year, to allow schools to fill openings for the 2022-2023 school year.

"Students across the state have had interrupted learning schedules for over two years, and now that they're back to in-person learning, we need to address the shortage of teachers," said Sen. Ruud. "This bill expands the pool of candidates for substitute teacher positions, ensuring kids once again have proper instruction and guidance in the classroom."

This shortage has hindered in-person learning and has caused schools to shuffle their staff and schedules. Proposed legislation focuses on recruiting candidates so Minnesota can get its education system back on track, allowing schools and educators to focus on improving literacy and education with proper personnel.

The bill was referred to the Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

18th - 20th -Nisswa Winter Jubilee - Winter fun for the entire family: snow sculptures, parade, wood splitting contest, smoosh racing, medallion hunt and an ice fishing derby on Nisswa Lake and more. 19th - Jacobson Annual Classic Snowmobile Run 10am registration at the Jacobson Recreation Landing Park, noon ride begins with lunch along the trail, 4pm 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.

19th - Rabbit Lake Ice Fishing Contest, noon-3pm.

19th - Introduction to Beekeeping presented by Larry Chismar, noon-3pm at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd, call 218-829-8770

19th - The Concordia Choir from Moorhead will perform in Brainerd, at 7pm in the Gitchi-ziibi Center for the Arts at Brainerd High School. Tickets are available at ConcordiaTickets.com or at the door. 22nd - Check out Honey Badger Analytics LLC. (HBA )9am-4pm at the Franklin Arts Center, formerly Franklin Junior High at 1001 Kingwood St, Suite 120, Brainerd . This is a chance to learn about Geographic Information Systems (GIS). To find out more and to register for the event call 218-330-0170.

24th - 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 6-8:30pm 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.

26th - Blackhoof Lake Fishing Tournament starting at noon, a fund-raiser for the C-I Fishing Team, spon-

sored by the Town Tavern in Ironton. March

5th & 6th - Outdoor & Gun Show hosted by the Deerwood Civic and Commerce at the Deerwood Auditorium.

Send Your Photos, News and Community Events to hopper@crosbyironton.net

# READER RIBBETS

# Rep. Dale Lueck legislative update

The governor recently signed the first bill passed by the legislature this year. The bill extends for another year classification of COVID-19 in certain situations as an occupational related disease for the purpose of claiming workers' compensation. That provision expired on Dec. 31, 2021. I supported the bill, which passed the House on a 126-8 vote.

The Minnesota's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently reported an additional \$649 million of tax collections over authorized spending. OMB will issue an updated semi-annual budget forecast early in March. Tax collects appear to still be running well ahead of authorized spending levels.

Early in March, the next semi-annual forecast is issued. The discussion on what to do with the billions of excess tax collections will intensify. There are some existing programs that need attention, such as support for nursing home workers and those that work with the permanently disabled. Also transportation, especially for the dollars that get down to county, townships and small city road and bridge funds.

Those are long-standing, existing programs, not new programs. I remain skeptical of creating new programs. That will not fix the current structural imbalance of excess tax collections over authorized state spending.

The billion-dollar hole in the state's unemployment insurance (UI) trust fund also needs attention. We must fix this and hold businesses harmless, as our businesses were directed by the State of Minnesota to shutter their doors.

My friends across the aisle are proposing to only pay back the \$1.2 billion Minnesota borrowed from the federal government, resulting only in a net-zero fund balance. That's a half measure and will trigger major increases in the UI rates on all businesses later this year.

Failure to return that trust fund to a positive balance also risks immediately plunging the fund back into a deficit should we experience even a mild economic downturn.

I recently attended a Mining Summit hosted by Congressman Pete Stauber at Virginia, Minn. Six members of the U.S. Congress spent the day touring our iron mines and participated in a panel discussion with Minnesota's major mining companies.

The panel included Jessica Johnson of Talon Metals representing the Tamarack Project. Jessica did an excellent job explaining the project including the important role it will play in domestic production of electric vehicle batteries and the very positive impact it will have on our local economy.

Representative Dale Lueck Minnesota House District 10B

# Time to stand up for change

Regardless of your beliefs on the handling of the Pandemic, we've all felt the negative impacts. It's been hard on businesses, our children, our mental, physical, spiritual health, and the healthcare system, among others. It's magnified many things that were already problematic. To see this area not just survive, but THRIVE, we must examine these areas and find ways to grow.

Are you happy with the way things were handled? I'm not, nor are most people I have spoken with. Did the current politicians minimize the effects of the last two years? I want to know more than just how they feel about certain issues. I want to know if they will buckle down and fight for what's important to those they represent. It's easy to claim a stance, but not so easy to do what it takes to take a stand. We need strong leadership

that will promote the economy, work hard to keep businesses open and "restriction-free". We need leaders that will tackle the education and healthcare systems. Healthcare should be re-oriented around family-centered care, and away from government or school-based care. People lost trust in the system and healthcare workers feel under supported and de-valued. Where do our leaders stand on vaccine passports? Some of our Representatives frown upon government interference, but state that private employers can do what they wish.

There are many Bills under review during this Legislative session. We should be searching those bills to see if our current leadership has co-sponsored Bills that protect and preserve our jobs, health care rights, the education of our kids, and economic expansion.

If we are unhappy with the system, it is time to stand up and change it! Never before in recent history have we lost so much ground in regards to personal liberty. If we do not take a stand now, we will reap the consequences of our inaction for decades to come.

**David Sims Candidate for MN House** Palisade, MN

## Abuse of power is the lowest bar

Merriam Webster Dictionary defines ethics as: the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligations.

Untrustworthy acts committed by people we must trust, is highly unethical, borderline criminal, and people should be held accountable.

Other people believe that ethical position is biased, prejudiced, and half-truths need to be used.

Senator William Norris 1926 said, "Publicity is the cure for government evils." That is why the acts must be disclosed, and the people must be held accountable.

Ethical people usually resign when caught, other's take a stand to defend their actions at all costs, even approaching law enforcement with false charges, or use people to do their bidding if their hands remain clean, and they advance their cause in the shadows.

The moments in life that expose our lowest ethical behavior, our lack of discipline, are usually our most embarrassing moments. We refer to those moments as our "dirty laundry" and we hope those moments remain in the shadows.

Our public officials, who have knowledge to manipulate the legal system before, during,

and when they are abusing their power, continue to lie and build up a bigger height from which they will fall.

This dangerous, unethical, possibly illegal behavior must stop, our public officials and law enforcement officials must be held to a higher standard.

Abuse of power is the lowest bar they can obtain. Ethics is a discipline position, it is only arguable. It won't stop false charges, false claims, false imprisonment, from those who abuse their power. Therefore, we must expose them, fire them, or demand their resig-

Kelly Avelsgard, Deerwood

#### **RONALD STERNQUIST**



Ronald Richard Sternquist, Jr., 58, of Palisade, died Thursday, January 27, 2022. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 1 p.m. in the Waukenabo Town Hall.

He was born July 13, 1963 in St. Paul to Ronald and Shir-

ley (Furchner) Sternquist, Sr. Ron was a trucker for TransWood and enjoyed fishing, hunting and especially spending time with his family.

Ron is survived by his life partner, Elizabeth Sternquist; mother, Shirley Sternquist; seven children: Aaron Watkins, Shawntay Watkins, Tiarynni Watkins, Toneeka Watkins, Ron Fischer, Marissa Stacey and Corey Huro; seven grandchildren; siblings: Jim Sternquist, Sandy Volrath and Tim Sternquist; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

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

#### ROBERT BARRY



Robert "Timm" Barry, 73, of McGregor, died on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 surrounded by his family.

A Celebration of Timm's Life will be Sunday, March 6, 2022 from 1-4 p.m. at Bann's Bar on Lake Minnewawa, McGregor. He was born September 18,

1948 in Riverside, CA to Robert LeRoy and Mable (McDermott) Barry. Timm grew up in Big Fork before moving to McGregor. He

worked with his dad at the Savannah Portage State Park as a teenager. Timm graduated from McGregor High School in 1968. Timm was a veteran of The United States Army. Timm was a member of McGregor Ambulance in the 70's. He also did masonry work in both McGregor and Alaska before becoming a Union Carpenter for Potlatch. Timm married Rebecca "Becky" Nelson on July 5, 2021 in McGregor, although they were together for 30 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and Miller Lite. Timm had an incredible knowledge of guns and ammo, reading anything he could get his hands on.

Timm is survived by his loving wife, Becky Barry of McGregor; children: Robert "Timmy" Barry (Emily) of Ham Lake, Lisa and Matthew Roberts of Bemidji, and Andrew and Janell Nelson of Shakopee; five grandchildren; siblings: Allen Barry of Schroeder and Dawn Christen of Tamarack; nieces:, Michelle Barry of Duluth, Jennifer Rarick of Hinckley and Emma Christen of Tamarack; and friends and family at "Bann's".

Timm was preceded in death by his parents; and nephew, William Christen.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home. Leave condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

#### **ALAN HORNER**



Alan Bradley Horner, 32, of Crosby died on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Crosby. Burial will be at the Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby. A visi-

tation will be on Thursday at the Koop Funeral Home from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

He was born on May 22, 1989 in Crosby to Bradley and Dawn (Van Vickle) Horner. Graduated from the Crosby-Ironton High School, class of 2007. He was an employee of Graphic Packaging in Crosby and was a member of the Cuyuna Fire Department. Alan married Ashley Heglund on August 8, 2015 in Crosby.

Alan is survived by his wife. Ashlev: parents. Smokey and Dawn Horner of Crosby; three sons: Mason Horner of Aitkin, Noah Horner and Derek Mausolf both of Crosby; daughter, Claire Mausolf of Crosby; two brothers: Deavon Horner of Crosby and Derek (Jadell) Horner of Deerwood. Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

#### WILLIAM O'NEIL



<u>.</u>

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William "Bill" Douglas O'Neil, 91, of Aitkin, died Saturday, February 12, 2022 at his home. A memorial service will be

held Saturday, February 19, at 2 PM in Pine Lake United Methodist Church, 43472 240th Street, Aitkin. Visitation will be from Noon to 2PM at the church.

He was born July 31, 1930 in Aitkin to Percy and Myrtle (Reem) O'Neil. Bill attended the local Aitkin School. He met the love of his life, E. Joan Johnson and the two married on March 22, 1952 in Cresco, IA. Bill passed away 6 weeks short of their 70-year anniversary. Bill worked at Tennant Corporation in Golden Valley until his retirement in 1992 as a welder. During his life, Bill

also had a wood cutting business and was still going out daily to cut wood to heat the house. In retirement, Bill and Jo ran a sewing business, doing craft shows until they were in their 80's. They enjoyed the friends they made as well as staying active. Bill is survived by his loving wife, Joan; chil-

dren, Steve (Terry) O'Neil, Dan (Peggy) O'Neil, Roxanne O'Neil-Shimek (Dean), Tamara (Sean) Grage and Mary O'Neil; 18 grandchildren; many great grandchildren; sister, Peggy (Jerry) Palm. Bill is preceded in death by his parents; son, Michael; grandson, Jimmy and several siblings.

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

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## **OBITUARIES**

#### **SHEILA CARLSON**



Sheila Marie (Thompson) Carlson, 59, of Deerwood, died on Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

A Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby on Sunday, February 20, 2022.

She was born in Duluth on December 28, 1962 to George and Marie June Thompson. Sheila grew up on the Lax Lake

Road near Finland, MN graduating from Silver Bay High School and completing her BSN from St. Scholastica, Duluth under the ROTC program. She was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and active reservist until her separation in 1999, retiring with rank of 1st Lieutenant. She served the Crosby, Brainerd and Mille Lacs/Onamia medical community in several different Nursing Administration capacities. She was a compassionate and dedicated nurse. She loved animals of all kinds and

had several horses, Labradors and cats. She was an avid eBay hobby enthusiast and loved antiquing. She was her family's storyteller and archivist. She loved her Scottish heritage and had always hoped to visit that country. She was happiest at her beloved Wilson Lake (The Cove) and carried cherished memories from her childhood and more recent times spent there. Her faith in Jesus Christ, her Lord and Savior, was unwavering and constant.

She is survived by loving husband Andy. Children, Ryne and Kale (Matt) Siebert, Benjamin (Berlin) Carlson, and Morgan (Jeff) Goff. Grandchildren Holden Siebert and Oslo Carlson. Sister Gwynne (Dave) Bender, brother Gary Thompson, 13 nieces and nephews, 21 great nieces/nephews. Mother-in-law Mary and Step-father Joseph Lasser.

Sheila is preceded in death by her father George, mother Marie June, brothers George Jr. and E. Arthur and Father-in-law Don.

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

#### JAMES FELDT

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James V. Feldt, 77, of McGregor, died Friday, February 11, 2022 in Riverwood Healthcare Center, Aitkin. He was born June 21, 1944 in Grand Rapids to Edward and Mary (Schultz) Feldt.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. James graduated from Greenway High School, Coleraine in 1962. He worked for Electric Static for 25 years as a supervisor.

James is survived by his significant other, Millie Nielsen of McGregor; children: Pamela (Dave)

Sorensen-Root-Thompson

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**Directors**: Jason Brezinsky

Jerry Thompson • Tad Brezinsky

Doolittle and Jon (Vickie) Feldt; three grandchildren: Hailey Feldt, Becky Feldt and Keaton Doolittle; siblings, Fern (Jim) Rolfes, Marge (Jim) Jackson and Edward Feldt; and sister-in-law, Mary Ann Feldt.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Robert.

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

McGregor Funeral Home

& Cremation Services

McGregor, MN

218-768-3136

## **TODD GRUENDEMANN**



Todd Curtis Gruendemann, 60, of Cuyuna died Thursday, February 10, 2022 after battling ALS.

A Memorial service was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. If desired memorials can be given to

the MN Chapter of the ALS Association donate. als.org Todd was born on June, 23 1961 in Springfield,

MN and grew up in Brainerd. The majority of his life Todd lived in the Crosby area. He was strong and courageous. His kind soul will be sorely missed but his impact on all those he knew will live on. He loved his kids deeply and cherished his time with them. He unselfishly helped friends in need with commitment and grace. Cooking, camping, sports, music and outdoor activities where a part of his life he would generously share with family and friends. Todd was humble, kind, smart and fun.

He is survived by his boys: Zachary and Tyler; parents, Eunice and Jim Gruendemann; sisters and caretakers: Lynn Miller and Kay Aarrestad; nephews, nieces and those who adopted him as uncle; in-laws and his extended family and

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

#### MARILYN BACKSTROM



of Aitkin, died on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at New Life Church in Aitkin with Pastor Larry Berg officiating. She was born on December

9. 1939 in Faribault to Lewis and Mary Evelyn (Davis) Backstrom. She grew up and graduated high school in Faribault. She attended Bethel College and graduated with a degree in Sociology and Christian Education.

She moved to Aitkin in 1967 and worked with Aitkin County Social Services helping many residences of Aitkin County for over 35 years. For many years she was a member of Westside Church in

Marilyn Ann Backstrom, 83 Aitkin, serving at various times as Sunday School teacher. She also worked with the church's AWANA program for 25 years helping the 6th – 8th grade girls. Marilyn was passionate about Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child. The program sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to disadvantaged children around the world. For many years she led this ministry first at Westside Church and then at New Life Church. All of her adult life, Marilyn always wanted to be near a lake and bought a home in 1971 on beautiful Lone Lake. She loved canoeing and often camped with her daughters. She also enjoyed watching birds and wildlife.

> Marilyn is survived by her three adopted daughters (two of whom were from India): Stephanie Cooper-Lewter of Winston-Salem, NC; Rochelle Alvarez and Elizabeth Backstrom both of Columbia, SC; seven grandchildren: Courtney, Nicholas, Samira, Miguel, MyKaila, Mykhi and Charis; sister

> > Donna Erickson of Idaho; special friend Paul Amenta, and many other friends and rela-

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister Joanne Coleman.

Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral. com to leave a message of

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

\* 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 & 5:30 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 Service 10.

Baxter — Heritage Church, Pastor Heath Beard; 9 & 10:45 Sundays, 6:30p Wednesdays, iamheritage.org

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

#### **BAPTIST**

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; Sun-

day 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; Con-

fession 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

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;

Grand Rapids — St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5

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

www.srtfuneral.com

**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 Glen - Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9 May-Oct.

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**

HEBREW/MESSIANIC

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.

Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, Rabi Frank Dell, for information 320-684-2804 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

Beaver Township - Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st & 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, Brainera, 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 Sutton-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

Hillman - Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 9:30, SS 10.

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

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, Worship 9.

condolence.

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, Wor-

ship 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

#### **PENTECOSTAL**

2, 218-829-2989.

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

Crosslake - Pastor Mark Ford, 218-692-4769; Worship 9:00 AM; Fellowship 11:00 AM. 14444 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, just passed the Community Center; www. crosslakepres.org.

McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9.

McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm.

Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11. Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave NE 218-545-5433, www.visitlifespring.com

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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. 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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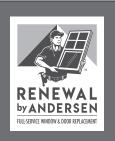
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Winterwonderama Day in Aitkin | Continued from Page 1

Vintage snowmobiles bring back memories for many riders at Winterwonderama Day in Aitkin. .



Nallely Koehler explains how to use her hand-made oil defusers to make your car smell great. She was a vendor at the Aitkin Farmer's Market on Feb. 12.



Roy Lilenquist plays guitar to brighten up the atmosphere at the Aitkin Farmers Market.

## Crosslake Fire Department's 78-foot ladder truck



Crosslake Fire Department's Seth Wannebo atop their new 78-foot ladder truck. The new ladder truck will not only benefit the City of Crosslake, but a much larger area. The Crosslake Fire Department is part of the Cuyuna Range Mutual Aid agreement along with fire departments in the counties of Morrison, Aitkin, Crow Wing, southern Wadena, and Cass. They can assist anywhere they are needed and recently deployed units to the Big Lake recycling fire and the Sartell paper mill fire.

Crosslake is getting bigger in population, quantity of buildings, and in structure size. The Crosslake Fire Department's (CFD) recently upped its fire-fighting and emergency response capabilities to keep pace with the thriving region.

The CFD was established in 1967 with nine charter members who built a twostall, brick firehall. The crew now includes 27 firefighters and 24 of them are EMS-certified. They had 84 calls In 1996, 196 in 2009, and 2021 reached close to 500-about 80% of their calls are medical emergencies. The firehall is now located in the Crosslake

**Emergency Services Center** and an extensive remodel was recently completed.

#### Ladder up to keep up

At the recommendation of its insurance office, the crew added an aerial ladder truck to its fleet.

"With the new, 78-foot ladder truck, we'll be able to get after higher fires and rescue situations," said Chip Lohmiller, Crosslake's fire chief of 12 years. "It's also safer for our firefighters who won't have to scramble up roofs coated with snow and ice or that may be hazardous structurally."

The truck is a 2021 E1 HP78. As well as being a ladder truck, it is also an engine that pumps 2,000 gallons per minute, can deliver an elevated master stream of water, elevated rescue, and other

#### rescue-type incidents.

**Take command** Around the same time as the ladder truck's arrival, the department updated its technology in the firehall's training room. The room's primary function is for trainings/ meetings; however, in the event that something would happen to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Brainerd, Crosslake's room is now well equipped with new technology to serve as the backup EOC.

#### Match made in heaven

The department's new ladder truck and updated ings, or meetings.

technology in the firehall is thanks, in part, to support from Sourcewell's Community Match Funds program.

"We rotate our vehicles every 20 years and engine 2 was up for replacement," said Lohmiller. "When we started looking for a replacement engine, we found a ladder truck that Community Match Funds enabled us to purchase. We also included the income we brought to the city when our firefighters helped fight Oregon's wildfires."

While remodeling the firehall, they also saw the need to expand its capabilities with additional technology.

"During the remodel, our training room was developed into an Emergency Operations Center with technology that was made possible through Community Match Funds," said Lohmiller. "The training room can now be utilized as an EOC for our county, if needed. As an alternate command site, it is equipped to be used as a unified location for county and regional agencies, such as county sheriffs, FEMA, and others. The EOC has many resources, such as high-quality AV equipment and monitors that would enable multiple resources and agencies to work together and unify command during a large-scale emergency."

The room can also be used by anyone in the area for trainings, corporate gather-

## Gray wolf court ruling

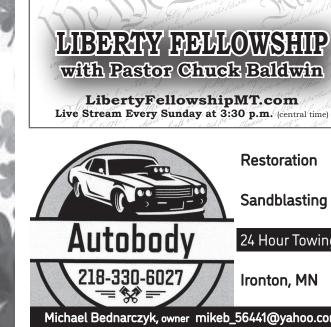
Rep. Josh Heintzeman, R-Nisswa, Republican Lead on the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, and Rep. Spencer Igo, R-Grand Rapids, issued the following joint statement regarding the district court ruling that put gray wolves back on the endangered spe-

"Once again we have coastal elite judges telling Minne-

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sota what's best in our own state. Over the past decade Minnesota has surpassed the state's goal by wide margins, which was completely ignored by today's ruling. We know our state far better than a judge from California. We need these interlopers to butt out, let Minnesota retain control over its wildlife, and for our federal delegation to step up and right this wrong."





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