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Vol. 23 · Issue 45

PO Box 562, Ironton 56455

218-821-1393 By Appointment Only

Daylight Saving Ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 6 **Turn your clocks** back 1 hour.



Justice Alan Page in Brainerd Page 2

OBITUARIES Pages 3 & 4

CLASSIFIEDS Page 5

HURRICANE Pages 6 & 2







Michael Lee LaFlex has been charged with murdering his daughter's boyfriend.

A Brainerd man has been charged with fatally shooting his daughter's boyfriend, after he suspected his daughter was abused by him.

Michael Lee Laflex, 45, is charged with second-degree murder in the death of 23-year-old Bryce Brogle, who was reported missing.

Bail was set on Tuesday, Nov. 1 by a Crow Wing County judge at \$2 million for Laflex.

Following are details from the criminal complaint:

According to the criminal complaint, Laflex's daughter reported her boyfriend missing on October 28 after Brogle went with Laflex to her father's storage unit on October 26.

During the investigation,

Laflex told investigators that Brogle had been arrested by unknown law enforcement and he had two cellphones, which authorities took when Brogle was arrested.

Later Laflex changed his story, saying he got rid of Brogle's phones in a garbage can at a gas station in Brainerd. The phones were then retrieved by law enforcement.

According to the criminal complaint, a concerned citizen who wished to remain anonymous told investigators about conversations they had on October 28 with someone related to Laflex. That family member said Laflex was sharing details of what happened, including that Laflex believed Brogle had been abusing his daughter and Laflex had shot Brogle at his storage unit complex on or about the evening of October 26. Laflex then moved Brogle's body using a sled, cleaned up the storage unit with bleach and buried Brogle's body.

also marks on the concrete investigators conducted a floor that appeared consistent with something with a similar width to a sled being dragged across the floor.

email: hopper@crosbyironton.net

www.newshopper.net

Sat., November 5, 2022

On Sunday, October 30,

foot search of public land in Crow Wing County to find Brogle's body. A grave site was found and excavated. Investigators found a body with

an apparent gunshot wound to the back of the head.

The body was transported to the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office.

Continued on Page 3

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A search warrant was executed on October 29 at the storage unit rented by Laflex. The concrete floor of the storage unit tested positive for blood and a bottle of bleach was recovered. There were

(sorry no cutting)

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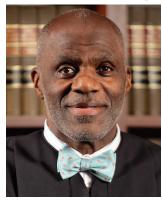
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Justice Page at Rosenmeier Forum



Retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice and former Vikings football star, Justice Alan Page will be featured at the next Rosenmeier Forum at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9 in the Chalberg Theatre, Central Lakes College Brainerd campus. The event is free and open to the public. Page will speak about the

education amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, which aims to ensure all children have access to a quality education.

Steve Wenzel, Executive Director of the Rosenmeier Center for State and Local Government, said the Rosenmeier Center is pleased to welcome Justice Page.

After graduating from law school, Page worked as an attorney for a law firm in Minneapolis, then served seven years as an attorney in the office of the Minnesota Attorney General.

He sought election to the Minnesota Supreme Court

in 1992 and won, becoming the first African American on the court and one of the few associate justices ever to join the court initially through election, rather than appointment by the governor. Page served until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2015.

Page and his wife, Diane, founded the Page Education Foundation in 1988, which assists Minnesota students of color in their pursuit of post-secondary education. The Foundation has awarded almost \$16 million in grants to 7,700 students.

In 2018, Justice Page received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

serving households in the

Lakes Area for 20 years.

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mentally a safety-net that

provides additional support

to empower people, bridge

gaps and connect individu-

als and families to resources

and services through col-

laborative partnerships and

coordination of resources to

promote stronger, healthier

the Common Goods Christ-

mas Showcase can be found

on the Common Goods Face-

book page or at www.com-

mongoodsmn.org.

More information about

families.

First annual Christmas Showcase

Common Goods first annual Christmas Showcase will be held on Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov.12th from 9 am until 5 pm. Customers will be treated to refreshments, Christmas music, and all new holiday displays.

Pick up a Common Goods Christmas Passport (in Baxter at 16277 MN 371, Crosslake at 35562 County Road 66, or Crosby at 27 W Main) and get it validated during the two-day Christmas Showcase to be entered to win a \$100 Common Goods Gift Certificate, after visiting all three stores.

In preparation for the Christmas Showcase, Common Good locations will be closing at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Owned by Bridges of Hope, Common Goods is a trendy thrift store for the community-minded shopper. Common Goods offers high-quality goods at reasonable prices, including clothing, fashion accessories, home decor and furniture pieces. Profits from the stores support Bridges of Hope's work in Crow Wing County and surrounding communities.

Bridges of Hope has been



Bridges of Hope Sleep Out



November is National Homelessness Awareness Month and Jana Shogren, Executive Director at Bridges of Hope, invites the community to take part in their second annual Sleep Out — so others can Sleep In-(side) fund raiser at the event center at The Woods on Monday, Nov. 7 from 5 p.m. to 7p.m. The community can learn about the first season at The Bridge on Seventh and learn about plans for this season. Please RSVP to info@bridgesofhopemn.org with your name or call 218-825-7682. You can learn more about Sleep Out at www.bridgesofhopemn.org.

Thanks to the generosity of local donors and grant funders, as of Sep. 15, Bridges of Hope has opened for the second season its

Hurricane Continued from Page 6



live."

neighborhood and saw all the damage," noted Chris. "Those who lived in one-story homes got it really bad."

In the future they are considering locating further away from their beloved beach. Many folks they know are leaving Florida for good.

But the light of the human spirit is not easily distinguished. Chris was going to meet her happy hour group that day. Of the five women, one lost everything; Chris and overnight shelter, named The Bridge on 7th. The shelter is open seven days per week for those 18 years of age and older, from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.

The shelter first opened last December and served 78 unique individuals from Crow Wing County and surrounding communities. Only 20 nights of sleep were provided for individuals outside of Crow Wing County. These stays were primarily for those coming out of the CWC jail who were waiting for a bus on the day after their release.

Since opening on September 15, the shelter has hosted 44 guests, 35 of whom are new to the shelter since last season. As of October 19, the shelter has provided 394 safe, warm nights of sleep this season for those who are otherwise unsheltered. The Bridge is averaging 10 guests per night with the busiest night being 19 guests so far this season.

Ann Hunnicutt, director of The Bridge on 7th shares, "Our guests have been incredibly

another were suffering extensive damage and the other two had very little damage – just some trees down and minor damage as one would expect from any severe thunderstorm. "It all depends on where you

Ever active, Chris thrives on retirement as she did on her high-powered jobs. She plays pickleball several times a week and bikes. She loves the summer she spent in North Carolina, away from it all. Her husband's trucking company is hauling a lot of gravel and helping to repair bridges after the storm, but Chris has no thankful. They are just looking for somewhere safe to get some sleep. Some are with us many nights and others just a night or two. We have a few guests who get up at 3:00 - 6:00 a.m. and leave the shelter to get to work for the day."

Shogren states, "We are humbled by the positive community response we've received since opening The Bridge last December. The community has stepped up with supplies and financial support. It's clear our community cares about our neighbors in need. We can't believe the shelter is nearly full some nights and the snow hasn't even fallen. We are preparing for a busy winter."

Individuals, churches and places of business are welcome to inquire about volunteer opportunities at The Bridge.

Interested parties can contact Ann at ann@bridgesofhopemn.org to learn more.

desire to go back to work. After all, how would she do things like babysit for a neighbor who was cleaning up after the storm?

"Today, the Red Cross fed me as they do every day. The food truck stops at each block and every person lines up to get something to eat. Even the workers in the houses come out when the food truck comes."

Everywhere you live, there are hazards. Florida has white sand beaches and warm, mild winters. But for native and adopted Floridians, many are considering if they want to stay so near the gulf when each year brings in more and more storms that devastate their way of life.



NORTON SORENSON



Norton Louis Sorenson, 92, died on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at his home in McGrego on the Sandy Lake Flowage. A celebration of Norton and Ellsa's lives was held at the McGregor Community Center on Sunday, October 30 at 3 p.m. A celebration

of life will also be held at the Birchwood Village Hall in White Bear Lake on Friday, November 25, at 3:00 p.m.

He was born on March 2, 1930 to Lloyd and Sylvia Sorenson of North St. Paul, Minnesota. Nort was a proud Marine and married Ellsa Lindstrom while still serving. They raised five boys in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Nort built a hunting shack in the early 1950s on Sandy Flowage where he and his family hunted, fished,

snowmobiled, and riced. Eventually Nort upgraded this shack to a retirement home. Norton was a carpenter and general contractor in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. After retirement and relocating to Sandy Flowage, he lent his skills to the McGregor Lions, Angels, Grace Lutheran Church, and countless members of his community. Norton and his wife Ellsa were long time members of the McGregor Lions. Nort also love to golf in the area well into his late 80's.

He is survived by his five sons: Glen (Marv Jane), Ivar (Su), Andy (Ginny), Rick (Jackie), and Chris (Mary); 15 grandchildren and 27great-grandchildren.

Norton was preceded in death by his parents, brother Lloyd, and wife of 69 years Ellsa.

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

Italy and in the Korean War, and as a Merchant

Marine on the Great Lakes. Donald was united

in marriage to Marion Sugg Caviness on March

18, 1961 in Minneapolis. He lived in Minneapolis

and worked as a Stationary Engineer for the city

of Minneapolis at the Auditorium and Convention

Donald is survived by sons: Donald (Brigette)

Kilpela, Bruce Kilpela, Gary (Robin) Caviness,

Robert (Sandy) Caviness; daughter Margaret

Caviness; sister Ingrid Lunde; many special

grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other rela-

He was preceded in death by his wife Marion

on October 21, 2012, siblings: Kenneth Kilpela,

Wallace Kultala, Herbert Kilpela, Donna Kilpela,

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral

Home and Cremation Service in McGregor. Leave

online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

Aileen Larrivy, and his parents.

tives and friends

Center retiring to the McGregor area in 1988.

DONALD KILPELA



Donald A. Kilpela, 94, of McGregor, died Sunday, October 23, 2022 at Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin. Interment with full military honors was held on November 1, 2022 at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Min-

neapolis. A celebration of Donald's life for all friends and family will be Sunday, December 4, 2022 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the community room at Cross

of Hope Lutheran Church 5730-179th Lane NW Ramsey, MN. Memorials are preferred to the DAV or the Riverwood Health Care Foundation Aitkin.

He was born March 28, 1928 in Palo to John and Helmi (Pakarinen) Kilpela. He was a U.S. Army Veteran serving in World War II in Trieste,



Joan Mary Rasmussen, 83, of Crosby died on Monday, October 24, 2022 at Aitkin Health Services.

A Memorial service will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, November 5, 2022 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby. Burial will be at the Ada Cem-

etery in Ada, MN on Monday, November 7, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

She was born on July 5, 1939 in Ada to William and Frances (Kappes) Braunschweig. Joan married Duane Rasmussen on July 25, 1959 in Ada.

Joan is survived by her husband, Duane; four sons: Timothy (Nadia Naets) Rasmussen of Brussels, Belgium; Todd (Laura) Rasmussen of Truckee, CA; Thomas (Stephanie) Rasmussen of Underwood, and Robert (Mary) Rasmussen of Zimmerman; daughter, Jayne (Matt Jares) Rasmussen of Brainerd; 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; brothers: Charles (Donna) Braunschweig, Vernon (Sue) Braunschweig, Kevin Braunschweig; sisters: Charlotte (Rolan) Epsen, Frances (Robert) Schuler, Patricia (Ray) Poxleitner, Rita (Michael) Gakin, Susan Reynolds and Wanda Braunschweig.

Preceding Joan in death are her parents; brother, Dennis Braunschweig and sister, Nancy Hawks; six grandchildren: Dalton Rasmussen, Allysun Rasmussen, Melissa and Nastassia, Tatianna Rasmussen, and Jeremy Rasmussen. Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

More Obituaries on Page 4

Man charged with murder | Continued from Page 1

An autopsy identified the body as Brogle and determined he died of a distant gunshot wound to the back of the head.

County Sheriff's Office received a phone call from the landlord of where Laflex's daughter and Brogle lived. The landlord said Laflex

shared with Laflex that the landlord had seen Laflex's daughter with two black eyes. Laflex then told the landlord he was going to

COMMUNITY EV EN

NewsHopper[™]

November

1st -3rd - Brainerd Community Theatre presents Neil Simon's classic coming-of-age comedy "Brighton Beach Memoirs" in the Chalberg Theatre. Doors open at 6:30pm. Show at 7pm. Tickets between \$10-\$15.

- 4th The Midtown Men perform live in concert at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts. Join stars from the original Broadway cast of Jersey Boys on their 10th Anniversary Tour singing a decade of 60's hits! Doors open at 6:30pm. Show at 7pm. Tickets starting at \$25.
- 5th Onamia American Legion Auxiliary #395 Holiday Shopping Day at Onamia Vet's Club, 9am-5pm. Free donuts and coffee served until gone. Contact RaAnn at 406-220-2328 to be a vendor.
- 5th Carmel Lutheran Church Harvest Dinner, 4:30-8pm, traditional turkey dinner with all of the trimmings: mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, corn, cole slaw, roll, cranberry sauce and homemade dessert. Located 4 miles south of Jacobson on Highway 65. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12 and children under 5 eat free.
- 9th Salem Lutheran Church Community Thanksgiving Meal at noon in Deerwood. Call Laura at 218-534-3309 to RSVP
- 9th The Rosenmeier Forum will featured Justice Alan Page, retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice and former Vikings football star, at 7pm. The event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Chalberg Theatre, Brainerd campus. In 2018, Justice Page received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- 11th & 12th Common Goods Christmas Showcase, 9am-5pm. Customers will enjoy refreshments, Christmas music, and all new holiday displays. Pick up a Christmas Passport (in Baxter, Crosslake, or Crosby) get it validated during the two-day Christmas Showcase and be entered to win a \$100 Common Goods Gift Certificate after visiting all three stores. Common Goods stores are in Baxter (16277 MN 371), Crosby (27 W Main), and Crosslake (35562 County Road 66.)
- 12th Immanuel Lutheran Church Spirit of Christmas Bazaar, 8:30am-1pm, arts and crafts, baked and canned goods. Located at 600-4th St. SW, Crosby.

12th - Hilltop Chapel's Hunters Supper Turkey with all the trimmings adults = \$12, children 6-12 = \$5, 5 and under are free Waukenabo Cummunity Center 36797 Grover Street, Palisade, handicap assessable

14th - Lakes Area Unlimited Learning program, Small Towns: Confessions of a Recovering Engineer at 1:30 p.m. in the Forum Room at Crosby-Ironton High School. The fee is \$5 for non-members, and it's free for members. Contact Sally Ihne at sinnecharter.net or call 218-829-2544.

December

- 7-10 Actors Repertory Theatre first production "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" performed in the Studio Stage at the Gichi-Ziibi Center for the Arts at 7pm. Tickets and information regarding the show and the Actors Repertory Theatre can be found on the company's web site, www.art4mn.org
- 10th & 11th "Appalachian Winter" ecumenical Christmas cantata directed by Kevin Edstrom performace at Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood on Dec. 10 at 7pm and Dec. 11 at 9am.
- 13th Jingle & Mingle during Business After Hours Holiday Extravaganza at Town Hall of Madden's Resort 4-7:30pm. Guests will enjoy mingling with 50+ area businesses and organizations, networking with old friends and new, savory appetizers, beverage samples, cash bar and chances to win prizes! This event costs \$5 to attend and is

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open to the public, Chamber members, their employees, and potential members. Register in advance by calling Sue Galligan at 218-822-7119.

13th - 15th - Brainerd Community Theatre presents the holiday classic "A Christmas Carol" in the Dryden Theatre. A pre-show dessert reception, included with all tickets, begins at 6pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. Show at 7pm. Tickets between \$10 - \$15. Family package of 4 tickets available for \$45.

- 16th The Rock & Roll XMAS Spectacular, the most requested holiday show in PAC history, performs at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts. Doors open at 7pm. Show at 7:30pm. Tickets
- \$35. 31st - Fireworks over Lawrence Lake in Outing at 6 pm.



ship November meeting will

be changed from 7:00 to 8:00

Tator Tot TOWNSHIP CHANGE 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **OF MEETING NOTICE** The Wealthwood Town-

Wed., Nov. 9

Wed., Nov. 2

Hot Dish

Sloppy Joes

Wed., Nov. 23 eef Stew **Corn Bread**

Woman of the Moose

Homemade Pizza

Thurs., November 3 & 17

1st & 3rd Thursdays 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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November 5, 2022



In addition the complaint stated, the Crow Wing

had asked if Brogle had hurt his daughter. The landlord had dug the hole.

kill Brogle and already

ONE OF of hydraulic hose & fittings up thru 2" 4 wire

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Got an interesting photo and story to share? Just send it to hopper@crosbyironton.net, along with your name, city and a description of the photo. We also accept news and community events. And who knows, you may see your submission next week in the NewsHopper!

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. p.m. on November 8, 2022 due to election regulations Wed., Nov. 16 Wed., Nov. 30 concerning meetings held on **Cook's Choice** Super Burgers an Election Day. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dated: October 5, 2022 LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk Hall Available for Rent (Seats 225) Weddings, Meat Raffle Wealthwood Township Reunions. Graduation & Other Events Every Saturday 6 p.m. 2.25 Now booking for parties. Call Lodge for info. These Items may all be recycled in Crow Wing County: Newspapers & Glass Plastic Magazines All Water Colors & Soda Bottles Junk Mail 🕷 Milk Jugs Corrugated Cardboard (Please Crush) (Please cut and flatten) Plastics with a neck Lids removed and thrown Metal Cans *No containers used for chemicals or (Please wash) automotive products (oil, antifreeze, etc) - DROPOFF LOCATIONS -

Crow Wing County Landfill - 15732 State Highway 210, Brainerd

Nisswa Community Center - 25636 Main St, Nisswa

Ideal Transfer Station - 33503 W Island Lake, Pequot Lakes

Recycling is good for the environment and our community. LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME! For more information on recycling in Crow Wing County please visit our website www.crowwing.us.

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NICOLE HAMMOND

November 5, 2022 4

OBITUARIES

the service at the funeral home.

She was born March 5, 1994 in Aitkin to Steve Hammond and Terri (Hembre) Anderson. Nikki was employed at Dubow Textile of St. Cloud. She was very proud of the fact that she was also in the process of starting her own jewelry business. Nikki was a very talented writer and also enjoyed working on her car with her father, Steve. Nikki loved hiking, kayaking, photogra-

Nicole Michelle Hammond, 28, of St. Cloud, formerly of Aitkin, died unexpectedly on Monday, October 24, 2022. Services were held Friday, November 4, 2022 at 11 a.m. in Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home, Aitkin, Visitation will be one hour prior to

Hembre.

phy, beading, traveling and the ocean. She eventually wanted to move to Fort Meyers, Florida.

Nikki is survived by her parents, Steve (Sandy Yurrick) Hammond of Aitkin and Terri (Christopher) Anderson of Leesburg, FL; siblings: Amy Hammond of Ocean Shores, WA; Chad Hammond of Orlando, FL; Troy Hammond of Riverton and Cody Hammond of Aitkin; other relatives and many friends.

Nikki was preceded in death by her grandparents:, James "Shirley" Hammond and Mary "Claudine" Hammond and Lucille and Harry

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

COLEEN RAYMOND

Coleen Lee Raymond, 80, of Deerwood died on October 27, 2022 at the Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin.

No services are being held at this time.

She was born in Crosby on July 21, 1942 to Wesley

"Dale" and Irene (Keeler) McCoy. She graduated from the Crosby-Ironton High School, class of 1961 and then graduated from the St. Cloud Beauty School. Coleen married Rodnev

Raymond on August 3, 1963 in Deerwood. She was a Title One teacher at the Washington Elementary School in New Ulm, retiring back to the Crosby area in 1998.

Coleen is survived by her husband, Rodney; son, Kurt Raymond of New Ulm; sister, Wendy Flannigan of Crosby; and four grandchildren.

Preceding Coleen in death are her parents; two sons: Von and Kevin Raymond; and brother Keith McCoy.

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



NW, Aitkin with Pastor David Becker officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Immediately following the service at the church burial will be in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery - Cedarbrook.

She was born June 8, 1923, in Tamarack to Charles and Louise (Bornfleth) Engle, baptized in 1923 in McGregor at the Evangelical Lutheran Church and confirmed in June of 1939 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, in McGregor. Irene attended Tamarack Grade School and High School in McGregor. Her parents and family moved to McGregor where they operated the "Welcome In Café." They later sold the café and left for California. The family later moved to Aitkin where they owned and operated a resort on Cedar Lake. Irene later met John Wedel and they were married on June 21, 1941 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Aitkin. For a short time they lived in Spokane, WA, and later returned to Aitkin where John was in the construction business and they also raised turkeys, and later, beef cattle. They lived most of their married life in the Cedarbrook area where they raised their three children. In 1993, they built a home and lived on Cedar Lake. After retirement, they enjoyed traveling throughout the United States including California, Branson,

day, October 26, 2022 at the St. Cloud Hospital

He was born January 2, 1940 in Willmar to

Joseph and Mary (Salonek) Tovey. He graduated

from Central High School in Minneapolis and

attended Dunwoody Institute. John was united

in marriage to Lorena A. Anthony on August

13, 1960 in Menomonie, MI. He worked as a

design – mechanical engineer in the Twin Cities

Private family services will be held.

IRENE WEDEL

Irene Martha Wedel, 99, of Florida, Alaska (above the Arctic Circle) and Aitkin died Monday, October Hawaii. They also went to Europe where they 24, 2022 at Riverwood Health traveled throughout Germany and England. John Care Center in Aitkin.

Services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at St. John's Lutheran Church LCMS, 324 3rd St.

Society, Blood Mobile, the Aitkin Community Hospital Auxillary, and many other benevolent causes. She served as a Trustee and Member of the Aitkin Community Hospital Board and spent many years as an Aitkin County Election Judge. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church of Cedarbrook where she was active with the Ladies Lutheran Church Group. Irene served as organist of the church for 37 years. In 2013 Irene joined St. John's Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Aitkin.

She is survived by her children: J. Mark Wedel of Aitkin, Darla (Jim) Spencer of Cambridge and Shelby (Tom) Kuntz of Owatonna; six grandchildren: Kimberly, Jenna, Matthew, Luke, Katie and John; 11 great-grandchildren: Daniel, Robert, J.T, Conner, Lucas, Darren, Kahler, Maddie, Matthew, Max and Maggie; nieces, nephews and many friends.

passed away in 2002 and Irene continued living

at their Cedar Lake home until 2019 when she

moved to Aicota Assisted Living. Irene was active

in community affairs and volunteering for many

charity drives including the Red Cross, Cancer

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband John C. Wedel, infant grandson Darren Spencer, brother Delbert Engle, sisters: Elva Schmitt and Francis Emch.

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

JOHN TOVEY, JR. John M. Tovey, Jr., 82, of Aitkin died Wednes-

area before retirement. He was a life member of the NRA.

John is survived by his wife of 62 years Lorena and his son Scott.

He was preceded in death by his son Joey and his parents.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.Go to www.srtfuneral.com to leave a message of condolence.

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CHURCH DIRECTO

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

ALLIANCE

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- 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* — Worship 10:30am

Onamia - Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Aitkin — Pastor Andrew Jergenson; 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

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, SS 9;
- 16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005 Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981: Worship 9 Mav-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

3rd Sun., 10:30.

in St. Cloud.

- Brainerd First Lutheran Church (ELCA) Pastors: Patty Bjorklund and Jordan Gades, Sunday worship 9, Sunday School following worship. Services also available on YouTube and Facebook. 218-829-9552 flcbrainerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd
- Brainerd* Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www. goodshepherdfreelutheran.church, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052

Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.llchurch.org)

Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th St. Brainerd, Worship time September through May

8:15am & 10:30am; worship (June through August) 9 am. 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. M Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210

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

Wright - Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

PENTECOSTAL

Baxter — Christ Alive, 12485 Forestview Drive, Baxter,

- Cros — 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 Charlie Bell; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

BAPTIST

- Aitkin The Journey North, Pastor Jeremiah Rice, 218-824-5617, Worship 10:30, the journey north.com
- Baxter The Journey North, Pastor Jeremiah Rice, 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 9:30, SS 11.
- 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* 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. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10:30. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 and 4-4:45 pm
- Brainerd St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Waweru, Sat.4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00.
- Brainerd St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.
- Cromwell/Wright Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
- Crosby* St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass: M, Th and F at 8; Tues at Noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30.
- Crosslake Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www. ihmstemilys.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm.
- Emily St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101.
- Garrison Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass Wed. 9 & Sat. 4 pm, Confession Sat. 3:30 - 3:50 pm
- Grand Rapids St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 8 & 10:30. 218-326-2483
- Hillman Holy Family; Sun. 10 to Mass Sat. 6:30 pm (only through Labor Day) w/ confession before or by appt.
- McGregor Holy Family, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sun. 8 am. Confession 7:15-7:45 am.
- Vineland St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Baxter, Lakes Area Nondenominational; 7001 Highland Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-11:30.218-828-1362
- Tamarack Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship 9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Aitkin - Co. Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Kevin Haffner 218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10

- Seibel. 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 Meet-
- ing, 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 —Hilltop Chapel (Waukenabo Twp)*- service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; 49448 Osprey Avenue, Palisade.
- Tamarack Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.

EPISCOPAL

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

EVANGELICAL FREE

- Baxter Lakewood EFC, Pastor Matt Nagel; Worship at 9:00 and 10:45. Wednesday for all ages 6:30 pm.
- Crosslake Pastor Mark Holmen; Call for Service Times at 218-692-4141, email thelogchurch@crosslake.net
- Isle Pastor Mark Lee; Sunday School 9:00 am; Worship 10:30 am, Sun. Youth group 6:00 pm, Wed. Adult Prayer 6:30 pm and Kids Konnect 6:30 pm
- Malmo Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15
- Wright Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

HEBREW/MESSIANIC

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

LUTHERAN

- Aitkin Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Rebecca Hinz; Worship 9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month.
- Aitkin First* (ELCA) Pastor Reggie Denton; worship Sun. 99am (9am service also available via livestream on YouTube - First Lutheran Church, Aitkin and broadcast on KKIN 94.3 FM radio at 10am), take out community meal every Mon. & Thurs. 5pm and Tues. 12pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thurs. each month 9am- 4pm.
- 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 &

To become a sponsor of the church

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- 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 Kristin Oltmann, Pastor 218-692-3682 Labor Day-Mem. Day: Sun. 9:30am, Wed. 6:15pm Mem. Day-Labor Day: Sun. Indoor 8:30am, Outdoor 10am 14019 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 Amanda Kempthorne; Worship: 9; Sunday School 9:50.
- 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. Caleb Wor-
- rel. 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 8:45.
- Hill City Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9: Bible Study 10:15.
- Hillman Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 9:30, SS 10. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)
- Iron Hub Immanuel (LC-MS), Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 10:30 am 218-534-3069
- Isle Faith (ELCA), Interim Pastor Rev. Henry French; Worship 9:30; handicapped accessible.
- Isle Holden (ELCA), SS 9:30; Worship 10:30.
- Isle Trinity (Missouri Synod), Rev. Mark Maunula; Worship 9; Fellowship follows; SS 10:30; Adult Bible 10:30.
- 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 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N)
- Malmo Bethesda (ELCA) Rev. James Muske: Sun. Worship 9am. Fellowship following Service. Communion every Sunday.
- McGrath Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.
- Zion (ELCA), Pastor Elliott Malm; Worship McGrath -9: SS 9.
- 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 Luke Lekander, Worship 9.
- 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.
- each month.
- Emily Rev. Jason Gressman; Worship 9; Friendship Time Rossburg — Bethesda (ELCA); Comm. 1st & 3rd Sunday 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

Call

- MN 56425
- 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; Fellowship 11. 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.

REFORMED

Crosby - Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave NE 218-545-5433, www.visitlifespring.com

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

- Aitkin Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 9:30, Bible Study 10:30; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist. org; 423-805-0933
- Brainerd Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 11:20, Bible Study 10; 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. Pastor; Leslie Moughty. Handicapped accessible.

UNITED METHODIST

Aitkin* - Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live. Crosby/Deerwood* - Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday

Worship with Youtube live streaming 10 am with fellowship

to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of

each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on

the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please

Cutler — Pine Lake Chapel, Worship 9, fellowship follows.

Emily* — Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Facebook

live streaming 8:30 with fellowship to follow. UWF meet on

the first Sunday of each month following worship. Men's

prayer breakfast 2nd Saturday of each month at 8. Bible

Fleming* - (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship

McGregor* — (Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45;

Onamia - Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship

3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947

10; 2 blks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-

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hopper@crosbyironton.net

Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9

call the office to sign up: 218-534-3507.

Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10

Study Thursday at 6 pm.

10:30; fellowship follows.

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Long road from Nesheim bait to the Florida gulf course As Chris Nesheim Plonski recovers from the latest hurricane in her life

By ANN SCHWARTZ Chris and Dave Plonski were lucky that they chose a two-story home with a loft for their retirement home. Others in their homeowners' association of Island Park Village (IPV) of South Fort Myers, Florida, did not fare as well. Their one story homes were wiped out, as was the Plonskis' garage.

Chris, 63, grew up in Brainerd, where her parents owned Nesheim Bait, a fixture on South Sixth Street. "As a child, I counted worms and nightcrawlers, and later, as a teen, I worked in the Nesheim Bait retail store and also at Van's Cafe."

After graduating in 1977, she left Brainerd never to return. Stints at St. Cloud State University and Brainerd

Community College left her with a nursing degree in hand. In 1982, she took

a two-week vacation to Florida and fell in love - with the ocean and the state. "I returned to Minnesota to give my resignation at the VA hospital in Dave and Chris Plonski Minneapolis.

"I drove down by myself with everything I owned in a Toyota Corolla and stopped at Lee Memorial to pick up an application was hired on the spot and started as a staff nurse in Ortho the next Monday.

"I worked at Lee Memorial Health System (a five hospital systems) for over 35 years retiring in 2016 as Vice President of Case Management, Then, I worked part-time as a Senior Consultant for the Center for Case Management."

She thrived on the active lifestyle centered on the

Gulf Coast waters, where she windsurfed and sailed her Melges 24. She took second in Nationals windsurfing and entered sailing races all over the state.

Over the years, Chris has lived in Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach. She has weathered and survived a multitude of hurricanes. On the island, she went without a stable roof for months.

But Hurricane lan, that hit the last week of September was, by far, the worst. The 15-foot storm surge tossed around their large appliances in the garage like matchsticks and they had roof damage, a flooded garage and water in the house.

to Fort Myers on Thursday. We stayed in our house the whole time - it was better water; three times. than camping. "Returned to our house in IPV on Friday and discovered trees on the house - a dormer

taken off roof, big hole in garage roof, trees piled in driveway, garage completely underwater and water in house a few inches above the baseboards.

"We crawled over debris to open the garage – also opened up three other neighbors' houses to air them out - completely in a fog over the extent of the damage,

"We paid someone from Texas \$250 to remove trees and debris in front of our garage. Everything in the garage was thrown around - refrigerator, washer, dryer, motorcycle, bikes, tools, ect.

"We hooked up the generator (that was saved when our neighbor moved it pre-storm up to the top of the steps most people in the neighborhood lost their generators in the storm).

"We removed all the baseboards, shop-vacced water and black mud out of house and area rugs, removed carpeting and area rugs, washed

all floors with bleach and wood floors, with vinegar and



"It took days to empty the garage and to empty the mega boxes (completely drenched) from the storage space under the house, turned couches and loveseat on sides to empty water - we had some volunteers to help empty the garage - wow they were amazing.



that no contents will be covered and is waiting to hear on exterior and interior repair of

buildings).

"We have a single family unit that is considered a condo - they cover everything outside. Signed up with FEMA - denied - I called them and we will have to write an appeal letter,

"We had running water (yeah!) with a boil notice that was lifted a few days before we got power, a generator and fairly good spirits - working from sunrise to sunset - then went to bed completely exhausted. The stars were beautiful with no city lights....

"Our neighbors (we play pickleball with everyday in winter) lost everything - water over their cupboards - so they stayed with us for a few days and my brother-in-law drove down from Pennsylvania to help us and my sisterin-law who had a house on the river and lost everything.

After living with no power for weeks, spirits were lifted immensely on October 15 when power was restored, along with hot showers.

"We have been helping four of our neighbors (who are out of town) with various items such as emptying out fridges and freezers, getting some contactors for remediation - (mold everywhere), moving the furniture in their garage to the center so they can take the walls off, opening the garages during the day and closing them at night, face-timing and texting pictures of the damage to their house. Our neighbors next door, a young couple with a 9-month-old baby - they lost almost everything. They had to move all their contents out of the house because of so much damage to the subflooring. I spent the weekend babysitting baby Finnley so they could pack.

"Many people in the neigh-

borhood and in Ft. Myers are putting contents in PODs in the driveway and emptying the contents of houses for reconstruction.

"But we are better off than most. Everything we have can be salvaged and we are living in our home."

With the need for many people to live elsewhere while their homes are being repaired, everyone is scrambling for rentals. A vacation`Fishing Shack" that the Plonskis own on Pine Island was severely damaged as well.

"The best part is seeing all the neighbors coming together and providing physical and mental support during this crisis. It's amazing the comradery we are seeing through the devastation. Help lifting heavy items, turning off power circuit boards throughout the neighborhood...

"The hardest part is seeing some of our close neighbors stopping by to see how much damage everyone had – in Ft. Myers we were worse than most and better than some. We all made connections and supported each other physically and mentally with various meltdowns and various discussions of who is staying and going.....

"I held it together for a week - the hardest part for me personally or my straw - was the broken washing machine."

She finally had her meltdown after buying a new washing machine and planning to start on 10 loads of wash, some of which was covered in mold and nasty. The machine broke down and flooded and Chris broke down a little as well.

"I didn't really realize how bad it was until we took a walk through our

GE1

ESTIMAT NOW

Continued on Page 3

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The couple was at their summer home in North Carolina when the hurricane hit and had no access to news because their internet was down. Their neighbor let them watch some TV each day and they stayed in touch with their daughter, who rode out the storm and eventually evacuated. Their daughter had moved their car out of the garage for them because they

knew it could flood. Chris describes their after-the storm misadventure:

"Post storm activities: storm was Wednesday - drove

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