218-821-1393 By Appointment Only

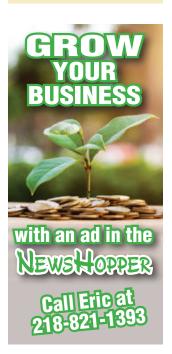
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS MANGLED Page 2

> **OBITUARIES** Pages 3 & 4

> > **LEGALS**

Page 3

CLASSIFIEDS Page 5



Locker plant repurposed as pizza sports pub in Aitkin



Locker Room staff Lucas and Armando are ready to serve.

By ANN SCHWARTZ Another recycled building is open in downtown Aitkin, offering pizza, sports viewing and drinks.

The Locker Room is open in what was once the Locker

Plant in Aitkin and most recently was Glen's Meats, which moved to Glen.

Pete and Amanda Lowe own the new business that serves starters, pizza, salads, drinks and emphasizes sports.



Lucas at the brick-lined pizza oven.

There is an extensive alcohol free and alcohol-included cocktail list, plus a wine list.

www.newshopper.net

As you walk into the space, the smooth polished wooden bar in the back dominates it, with various spirits lined up on shelves.

There is a pub feel, with pub-height tables and chairs. Big screen TVs have sports playing and the Christmas tree is decorated with Minnesota sports memorabilia.

There is old mixed in with the new in the design. The large, red bricks that were the signature of the locker plant are still there. Mixed in are old locker plant doors, tin from a wild rice operation, wood from the Tip Top cafe and other textures from a farmhouse salvage.

Decor includes modern games and a jukebox, as well as ancient meat cleavers, axes, and vintage snowshoes and skates.

Lucas and Armando were on staff when we visited.

"The pizzas take about

six minutes," Armando explained. "Three minutes to assemble them and three minutes in the oven."

The large, stainless steel pizza oven dominates the small kitchen in the back. There is also a prep area for the chef of the day.

Another couple wandered

in for some beverages and an early New Years Eve lunch.

Check facebook for hours and days that the Locker Room is open

Back to the future best explains the space, which incorporates the past yet is trendy and modern at the same time.



Now the Locker Room, Stan and Lou Sell operated the Aitkin Locker Plant for 30 years. In 1989—after Stan had suffered a stroke—they sold it to Glenn Monson, who was a meat cutter at Ziske's Market. Monson planned to continue the services of custom meat cutting for farm-raised meats, processing hunters' game, making all types sausage, meat smoking and locker rental for meat storage. He operated the locker plant until the mid-20-teens, when he moved Glenn's Meats to Glen, north of Mille Lacs Lake.

Ice Fishing Extravaganza

The 33rd Annual Brainerd It's ice fishing's largest prize Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza will be held on Gull Lake on Saturday, January 28.

Be one of more than 10,000 anglers to compete for more than \$200,000 in prizes.

package and all proceeds benefit area charities.

Last year's event raised close to \$100,000 for area non-profit organizations with Confidence Learning Center.

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January 7, 2023 NewsHopperTM www.NewsHopper.net

Area snowmobile trails mangled by December heavy snowstorms



By ANN SCHWARTZ

Of the 74 miles of snowmobile trails maintained by the Aitkin Sno-Drifters Club, about half of them were damaged by mid-December heavy snowstorms.

Readers may recall that the heavy wet snow clung to trees, leaving broken trees and branches littered across trails.

Also, groomers were not able to get out and groom the trails.

"About half of our trails are through the woods. We don't have any open areas," said Maurice Brule, Sno-Drifters trail coordinator.

A combination of volunteers with saws, logging equipment and excavators are working to clear the trails.

Over 144 hours of volunteer time was logged by press time -- just around Aitkin. It is brutal, heaving work, wading through deep snow, cutting up trees and limbs and dragging or throwing them off the trail. "After a fourhour shift, our volunteers are exhausted."

"We're hoping by the end of the week to have it cleared," Brule predicted. Donations by businesses and community members in the Aitkin area, as well as Tom Lundberg donating the use of heavy equipment, is much appreciated. "Our goal is to clear the trails wide enough for our groomer and drag. We have a used but new-to-us groomer this year and we are excited to get out and groom."

He advised riders to check club pages or county government pages for trail updates. The Sno-Drfiters can be found at aitkinsnodrifters.com.

Other snowmobile clubs in Aitkin, Crow Wing and Mille Lacs counties include Giese Sno-Cruisers, Haypoint Jackpine Snowmobile Club, Mille Lacs Trails, MnUSA Region 2, Tamarack Sno-Flyers, Baxter Snowmobile Club, Bay Lake Sno-Packers, Brainerd Snodeos, Crow Wing County Snowmobile Trails Association, Emily/Outing Snowbirds, Fort Ripley Trail Busters, Gull Lake Drifters, Ideal Sno Pros, Merrifield Marathons, MnUSA Region 3, Pequot Brush Pilots, Sno-Serpents Snowmobile Club, Mille Lacs Driftskippers and Rum River Sno-Riders. Club listings can be found at https://www.mnsnowmobiler. org/get-involved/our-clubs/ club-listing.



Long Lake to host Frozen Forest 5K Run or Zero-K Bonfire Sit and Fish Fry

This winter, don't hibernate. Run!

Long Lake Conservation

Center, near Palisade, is host-

JANUARY 8-15, 2023

Forest 5K Run or Zero-K Bonfire Sit and Fish Fry on

a walleye feast at 5 p.m.

Race entrance and walleye Saturday, Feb.18. The race dinner is \$65 for adults, and

ing the first annual Frozen begins at 3 p.m. followed by \$55 for children 17 and under. The Walleye Feast only is \$30 per adult and \$20 per child. The Zero-K Bonfire Sit

with the Walleye Feast is \$40 per adult and \$30 per child. This fun run is perfect for

those who like the scenery as much as the competition. The race winds through the woods surrounding Long Lake with bonfires and s'mores await-

ing racers at the finish line. A social hour and walleye fish fry dinner cap the event.

All racers will receive a Frozen Forest 5k

stocking cap, post-race s'mores and refreshments, and admission into the walleye feast. Those not wishing to race can sign up for the walleye feast only, or take part in the "Zero-K Bonfire Sit" where instead of racing, participants head straight from the starting line to the finish line where they'll claim a stocking cap, and sit by the fire with a beverage of

their choice, before enjoying

the walleye feast.

"This might be the most picturesque 5K course anywhere," Long Lake Manager Dave McMillan said. "Even

> if you're not a racer, a leisurely hike around the lake is well worth your time. Plus, it's for a great cause."

Proceeds from the event will be earmarked for scholarships so that young people can attend nature school or summer camps at Long Lake, he said.

The event is presented by the Long Lake Conservation Foundation, a 501(c)3 that exists to support Long Lake's mission of inspiring a deep appreciation of nature, promoting wise use of natural resources and fostering a lifelong stewardship of the environment.

For more information and to register, go to longlakecc. org/forest5k or call 218-768-4653.

CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

MAKE A MAKEUP DIFFERENCE

Many self-care or makeup routines include disposable cotton rounds. Try switching those out to something REUSABLE like bamboo cotton cloth. Use as you currently do to remove makeup or clean your face and then wash with your regular laundry.

NATURE NOTES

Here is what to look and listen for in nature this week:

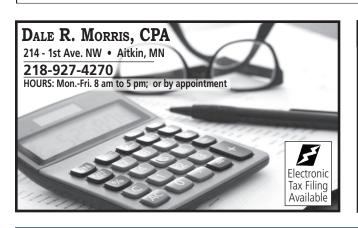
- It's hooting season. Listen for Great Horned Owl duet hooting during the evenings. So, what's with all the hooting? Great-horned owls normally remain together for life, so they use hooting to help solidify their pair-bond. The hooting also lets the other owls in town know that this particular territory is occupied. These nightly duets may go on for several weeks, but once the first egg is laid, the birds tend to quiet down and focus on raising a family.
- Winged seeds. Maples, Ironwood and Paper Birch trees drop their seeds this time of year. If you find them, you'll likely find Ruffed Grouse, Turkey, fox and a variety of rodents who make a meal of them
- **Porcupines** are still in the trees eating bark and Pine needles. They are active all winter and easier to spot in the trees than in other seasons.

STARGAZING NOTES

What is happening in the starry sky this week:

• Jan. 14: Last quarter moon (also known as Third Quarter Moon). The Moon is in quadrature, and one half of the Moon's disk is illuminated as seen from Earth.

As part of its ongoing mission to educate the public about wise use of natural resources, Long Lake's team of Environmental Educators will share simple, everyday Conservation Tips that everyone, including kids, can do. If everyone makes the effort to consum esources more wisely, we can help ensure a brighter future for the planet and make life better TODAY!



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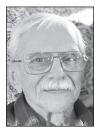
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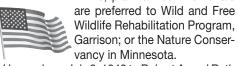


ROBERT CARLS



Bay Lake, died on Monday, Dec. 26, 2022 at his home surrounded by family.

No services are planned. Bob's life was celebrated by his family and friends while he was living. To honor his life, plant a tree. Memorials



He was born July 3, 1940 to Robert A. and Ruth (Bundgaard) Carls in Minneapolis. A graduate of Southwest High School in Minneapolis, he was a U.S. Navy veteran, attended the University of Minnesota and graduated from the University of Oregon at Eugene. He was a full-time artisan working primarily in turned wood, and since

Robert "Bob" Carls, 82. 2000 he and his wife owned and operated Ripple River Gallery. He brought to his work a lifetime of study in art forms ranging from improvisational music to the visual arts, especially photography, sculpture and film. He was an avid gardener. His turned wood vessels can be found in public and private collections worldwide.

> He is survived by his wife, Amy Sharpe; daughter, Emilie Johnson, Aitkin, and daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth Carls and Tim Whitley, St. Paul; stepsons and spouses, Joshua and Katharine Sharpe, New Brighton, and Noah and Melanie Sharpe-Stirewalt, Ironton; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; sister, Bonnie Van Santen; brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Peggy Carls; nieces, nephews and countless friends.

> He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Carls Sr. and Ruth (Bundgaard) Carls; and brother-in-law, Stuart Van Santen.

IRENE PIETZ



and thrown

*No containers used for chemicals or

automotive products (oil, antifreeze, etc)

Irene Mae Pietz, 99, died on Friday, December 30, 2022 at Riverside Assisted Living in Pillager.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Pillager. Friends and family are invited

to gather for two hours prior to the service. Interment will take place at a later date.

Irene was born on April 23, 1923 to Otto and Ada (Grams) Comnick in Rose Hill Township near Tracy, MN. She attended school through the eighth grade in Tracy, her family then moved to May Township, Northwest, of Pillager. Irene married Ordell Pietz on August 27, 1940 and lived on their farm near Pillager until 1976 when they moved into town. Together, they had three children: Joan. Gary and Larry. Irene was employed at Madden's

Resort in housekeeping for many years, and also enjoyed cooking at the Pillager restaurant. She was an active member of First Lutheran Church and the Red Hat Society. Her favorite hobbies included, camping, fishing, riding in the boat and spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her son, Gary (Beverly) Pietz; four grandchildren: Terri (Kevin) Hedquist, Kim Simon, Michelle (Jerome) Pietz and Bob (Linda) Pietz; 11 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Rose Marie Pietz; nieces: Cindy Hedquist, and Karla and Karen Comnick; nephews: Ron Pietz and Kasey, Kent, Kevin, Kelly and Kim Comnick.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ordell; children: Larry and Joan Pietz, siblings. Art Comnick and Alice Fassero; great grandson, Tyler Johnson; brother-in-law, Albert Pietz; nephew, Vern Hedguist and niece. Kathy Pietz.

More obituaries on Page 4

January

7th - Northland Arboretum Full Moon Snowshoe Hike, 7:30pm-8:30pm,14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter, Bring snowshoes and/or winter boots and plan for an hour hike. If it's cloudy, please bring a headlamp. Warm up after the hike together with hot chocolate. Call 218-829-8770.

12th - Stress Reduction Workshop & Breathwork Ecotherapy, 5:15pm-7:00pm., 14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter. Call 218-829-8770.

14th - Northland Arboretum Snowshoe Class, 9:30am-11:30am,14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter, Bring snowshoes and/or winter boots and plan for an hour hike. Call 218-829-8770.

14th - GreatWorks Theatre Company performs "Mytholomania!" at the Chalberg Theatre. A fast-paced, raucous comedy that presents the greatest hits of Greek Mythology in under an hour! Fun for the whole family! Doors at 1:30pm and 6:30pm, with shows at 2pm and 7pm, respectively. Tickets between \$5-\$15. Family package of 4 tickets available for \$35.

15th - Breakfast at the VFW, 8am-Noon, Located just two blocks south of Brainerd's famous concrete water tower, 309 South Sixth Street, Brainerd. The cost is only \$9 per person.

20th - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Annual Dinner. Call 218-546-8131 for more information.

22nd - Northland Arboretum Adult Ski Lessons, 2pm,14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter. Call 218-829-8770. 23rd - "OboeBass!" performs at the Dryden Theatre. This internationally known, multi-faceted instrumental

duo creates a sense of wonder for their audiences with original works and re-imaginings of classic standards. Doors open at 6:30pm. Show at 7pm. Free ticket reservations open on December 23.

Send Us Your Photos and Community Events!



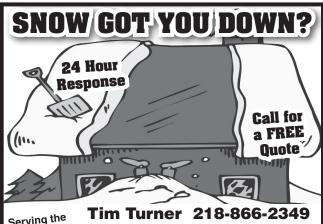
Got an interesting photo and story to share? Just send it to hopper@crosbyironton.net, along with your name, city and a description of the photo. We also accept news and community events. And who knows, you may see your submission next week in the NewsHopper!

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Dec. 31, 2022 & Jan. 7, 2023)

WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The Board of Audit for Wealthwood Township will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m. with the regular meeting to follow.

Dated: December 11, 2022 LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk Wealthwood Township



David Turner 651-242-4796

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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

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For more information on recycling in Crow Wing County please visit our website www.crowwing.us.

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

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OBITUARIES

PRISCILLA GILLESPIE



Priscilla Mae (Grant) Gillespie, 96, formerly of Staples died Friday, Dec. 23, 2022 at Aitkin Health Services in Aitkin. Priscilla requested cremation and no services to be held. Burial will be in Lakewood Cemetery, Staples. Memorials

can be made to Staples Meals

on Wheels and the local food shelf.

She was born July 20, 1926 in Staples to Elmer and Selma (Swanson) Grant. She graduated fifth in her class from Staples High School in 1944. Priscilla married Charles William Gillespie (son of Edward and Laura (Jones) Gillespie) on August 25, 1946. She was employed for a short time as Staples City Clerk and served as Treasurer of the Staples Congregational Church and was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. After two ectopic pregnancies, they adopted their daughter, Pamela Kaye—born in 1954 and son, Charles Grant—born in 1958. Her sister, Betty, married her husband's brother, Edward Gillespie on August 25, 1951. The foursome spent many vacations together in Santa Monica, CA taking the children to all of the amusement parks, movie studios and the beach on the Pacific Ocean. Priscilla was very skilled in sewing, knitting and kept their home a welcoming place for family and friends to gather for holiday

meals or just to lounge at the backyard pool in the summers. She accomplished knitting a sweater for each of her brothers and sisters, several friends and her immediate family. Widowed in March of 1993, she kept her house until she and Betty moved to separate apartments, but on the same floor, at Lakewood Manor Assisted Living in 2012. Together they enjoyed walking and shopping in town. In 2017 they both moved to Northern Lakes Senior Living in Baxter until Betty died August 8, 2020. After suffering several strokes over the years she moved to Aitkin Health Services on December 12, 2022 to receive more needed care.

Priscilla is survived by her daughter and son-inlaw, Pamela and Hugh Heinecke of Aitkin; son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Diane Gillespie, Jr. of Staples; four grandchildren: Casey Gillespie, Nick Heinecke, Annie Gillespie, and Toni (Heinecke) Huss; brother, LeRoy Grant (who is 104 years old and lives in Nevada); and many other special relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents;

brothers: Robert, Harry and Jerry Grant; sisters: Emma Johnson, Dorothy Borle, and Betty Arrangements were with the So-

rensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

RAYMOND ARNOLD

Raymond Arnold, 79, of Pine River, died on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Riverside Assisted Living, Pine River. He was born to Roy and Evelyn Arnold on August 7, 1943, in in Pine Ridge Cemetery, Pine River.

Pine River.

Services were held on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023 at Kline Funeral Home, Pine River. Burial was

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RHODORA HALVERSON



Rhodora (Rhodie) M. Halverson, 91, of Brainerd, died peacefully with family on Tuesday Dec. 27, 2022, at Our Lady of Peace Hospice facility in St. Paul.

Services will be held at First Lutheran Church Brainerd on Saturday, Jan. 14,

2023, at 4:00 p.m. with a visitation at 3:00 p.m. and luncheon at 5:00 p.m. Rhodie will be interned with Milton at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls, at a future date. Interment prayers will be administered by Pastor Patty immediately following the service. Rhodie was born in Tracy, MN on April 17,

1931, to Mabel (Anderson) and Albert (Al) Larson. She married her high school sweetheart, Milton (Milt) E Halverson, in San Francisco, on January 14, 1952. Rhodie and Milt celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in January 2022 and have cherishedtheir spiritual growth with First Lutheran Church in Brainerd. Rhodie was devoted to volunteering in the Brainerd area. She was recognized for her contributions by the Bethany Good Samaritan Nursing Home and numerous other non-profit organizations. She was active with First Lutheran Church Brainerd, The Center, an avid card player (particularly Bridge), and knitted countless dishcloths, blankets, and so much more! She spent her life away from Brainerd but relocated back to Brainerd in the mid-1990s and was genuinely happy to be home. Rhodie was the family matriarch and cherished her final years with family and friends.

She is survived by her sons: Tom (Kathleen) Halverson and Scott Halverson; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brother, Ron (Liz) Larson, and son-in-law, David Belair.

Rhodie is preceded in death by her husband, Milton Halverson; daughter, Susan Belair (Halverson); parents, Mabel and Albert Larson and sister, Lois Mogensen.

JANE SODERBERG



88, of Brainerd, died on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023.

Jane was born on August 27, 1934, in Kingston, MN to Henry and Mamie (Dunderi) Hastings. She was married to Robert Soderberg and together

they had two children. Jane enjoyed being

Jane Arlene Soderberg, in nature, flower and vegetable gardening, watching the birds, and spending time with her family.

Jane is survived by her husband, Robert; children; Marlys Seaton of St. Paul, and Darrel (Pam) Soderberg of Pillager; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and siste,r Judy Fleck of Hillman.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and seven brothers.

& Cremation Services

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Jerry Thompson • Tad Brezinsky

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CHURCH DIRECTO

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

ALLIANCE

Aitkin* — New Life; Larry Burg & Tyrel LaValle, pastors; Worship 10:15 am & 6pm; youth group Wed. 6pm; 11-1st Street SW; newlifeaitkin.com 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

Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30, Worship at 10:45 Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa

Jordan; Worship 10; hillcityagchurch@gmail.com; 218-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, thejourneynorth.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 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 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.

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

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 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

McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-

church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel

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 &

3rd Sun., 10:30. 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, Brain-

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, 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 $\label{eq:cosslake} \textbf{Crosslake} - (\textbf{ELCA}) \ \textbf{www.crosslakelutheran.com} \bullet \textbf{Kristin}$

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 Worrel. 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

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. 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 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. Rossburg — Bethesda (ELCA); Comm. 1st & 3rd Sunday Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwv 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,

Emily — Corne one 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, Wednes-

days 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 call the office to sign up: 218-534-3507. Cutler — Pine Lake Chapel, Worship 9, fellowship follows.

Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9 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

Study Thursday at 6 pm. 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

WESLEYAN 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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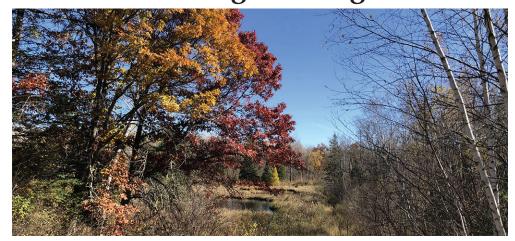
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6 January 7, 2023 NewsHopper.net

Outdoor Heritage Fund grant secures forestland for water quality



Outdoor Heritage Fund-backed land purchases in Crow Wing and Hubbard counties will benefit wildlife habitat and protect a source of drinking water. The Crow Wing County purchases included this parcel in the Pine River watershed, which flows to the Mississippi River — a source of drinking water for more than 1 million people in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud.

Crow Wing SWCD photo

A land acquisition made possible with a \$1.6 million Outdoor Heritage Fund grant will help to preserve water quality in a Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) priority watershed that supplies the Twin Cities with a source of drinking water.

The five parcels totaling 200.52 acres lie in the Pine River watershed, surrounded by 105,000 acres of county-owned land. The \$436,900 purchase, recorded on Oct. 27, nudges the SWCD's goal of keeping 75% of forestland within the Ruth Lake subwatershed forested up by 2 percentage points to 64%. The SWCD purchased the land from two couples, and then donated it to the Crow Wing County Land Services department, which will manage it for timber production and wildlife habitat.

"The more we can keep forests as forests, the more we're going to be able to keep this water clear and good so when it comes down to the Twin Cities, people don't have to pay as much money to treat it," said Crow Wing SWCD Manager Melissa Barrick, who serves as the project manager.

The Pine River flows to the Mississippi River, a source of

drinking water for more than 1 million people in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud.

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources study determined that protecting 75% of forestland within a lake's watershed helps to preserve its water quality. When more than 25% of a lake's watershed is deforested, phosphorus runoff spikes. Phosphorus feeds the algae that turns lakes green.

that turns lakes green.
When it prioritized 500 lakes within the 785-square-mile Pine River watershed, the SWCD ranked Ruth Lake among those deserving the highest level of protection based on water quality, sensitivity to phosphorus, economic significance, and probability of attaining the 75% goal.

"The No. 1 goal for the Pine was to protect habitat, forestland and groundwater. And the best way to do that is through either acquisitions or through conservation easements, because we're basically buying the rights so that land doesn't get developed," Barrick said. "It's a three-for-one: habitat, water protection, forestland."

By working with landowners to install best management practices, the SWCD also aims to reduce by 5% the

amount of phosphorus that enters Ruth Lake. That translates to 18 pounds a year.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Board Conservationist Chris Pence added land access and consolidation to the list of stacked benefits.

"It's not too often that you're going to find a piece of property like this that's completely forested and surrounded by county land. It's an island to itself," Pence said. "One of the reasons why it's so important to look at these rural parcels for consolidation is the county is unable (without incurring a high cost) to provide services that people would expect if they would build a house back there."

A second grant-funded land purchase in Hubbard County —encompassing parcels south of Akeley and north of Kabekona Lake near Laporte—protects 309.8 acres within the Leech Lake River watershed, which also feeds the Mississippi River. That \$417,832 purchase was also recorded on Oct. 27. The Crow Wing SWCD bought the land from The Conservation Fund, which had purchased the property from PotlatchDeltic, and had been seeking a third party to take it over. The SWCD bought the parcels for well under the assessed value of \$639,000. It then donated the land to Hubbard County. Barrick worked with both counties' land departments.

Hubbard County Land grant's purpose was to have a unified protection plan for the lands within the watershed. ... That's why we're doing both easements and acquisitions."

The Crow Wing SWCD staff is reviewing landowners' easement applications, which are ranked. Easement outreach continues in Hubbard and Cass counties. RIM easements are held by BWSR and monitored by SWCDs.

The Pine River ranked No. 3 among 27 watersheds in terms of private forests important for drinking water supply in seven states

— Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The USDA Forest Service's "Forests, Water and People: Drinking water supply and forest lands

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"It's not too often that you're going to find a piece of property like this that's completely forested and surrounded by county land. It's an island to itself," Pence said. "One of the reasons why it's so important to look at these rural parcels for consolidation is the county is unable (without incurring a high cost) to provide services that people would expect if

they would build a house back there."

A second grant-funded land purchase in Hubbard County— encompassing parcels south of Akeley and north of Kabekona Lake near Laporte— protects 309.8 acres within the Leech Lake River watershed, which also feeds the Mississippi River. That \$417,832 purchase was also recorded on Oct. 27. The Crow Wing SWCD bought the land from The Conservation Fund, which had purchased the property from Potlatch Deltic, and had been seeking a third party to take it over. The SWCD bought the parcels for well under the assessed value of \$639,000. It then donated the land to Hubbard County. Barrick worked with both counties' land departments.

Hubbard County Land Commissioner Chip Lohmeier said the property would be managed for forestry, public recreation and wildlife habitat.

"We try to mimic nature," Lohmeier said. That means the occasional timber harvest. Public recreation includes activities such as hunting, hiking and bird-watching.

The land provides habitat for deer, black bears, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse and nongame species such as eagles, hawks and songbirds.

The \$1.6 million grant covered the land acquisitions in Crow Wing and Hubbard counties, plus \$107,000 for contract, legal and appraisal work related to those purchases (including a \$10,000 contract with Walker-based Northern Waters Land Trust, which coordinated the acquisition process among landowners and partners, gathered necessary documents and ensured reporting requirements were met). The balance will fund permanent Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easements with willing landowners. The grant was awarded on July 1, 2021, and runs through June 30, 2025. "Our goal was to acquire 300 acres, which we did surpass.

And then we had a goal to place 240 acres of high-quality forest, wetlands and shorelines into conservation easements," Barrick said. "The in the Northeast and Midwest United States," published in June 2009, ranked the Mississippi headwaters No. 7 and the Leech Lake River watershed No. 9.

The SWCD's grant application notes that the Pine and Leech Lake river watersheds provide habitat for wild rice, golden-winged warblers, Northern long-eared bats, Blanding's turtles and more than 100 unique, rare, endangered or threatened species — all of them at risk from development trends.

The application also notes that the watersheds' lakes and fisheries contribute to a tourism industry that generates nearly \$400 million in gross sales per year in Crow Wing, Hubbard and Cass counties.

Thirty-three percent of sales tax revenue from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, which Minnesota voters passed in 2008, is allocated to the Outdoor Heritage Fund.



A Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment sign marks property south of Akeley in Hubbard County that is now owned by the county. Chip Lohmeier, Hubbard County photo

