



January 16, 2023

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**New Crow Wing County Sheriff Eric Klang loves his job**

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
"We in law enforcement have to do a better job of telling our story," said Eric Klang, 57, Baxter, Crow Wing County's newly elected sheriff.

Since 1990, he's lived in the Brainerd area, working as a drug operative, a deputy and the police chief in Pequot Lakes since 2011.

**Seeking the position**

"I'd accomplished everything I intended to in Pequot Lakes," explained Klang. "I think some of my election platform resonated with people. There was lots of dissatisfaction with the current leadership in place in the sheriff's office. There was a lot of bad press over the last four years that negatively affected the employees. Lots of people were talking about it. Voters were ready to put something new in. I was overwhelmingly elected. I'm excited to be here and to live up to the expectations of the people."

He took the role on the first Tuesday of January.

In other leadership positions, Mike Davis, a former officer, is the new police chief in Pequot Lakes.

Klang named Andy Bradley as his chief deputy. "This individual had tons of experience

in the sheriff's office. He is well-respected by our deputies and by outside agencies and I believe the job is a great fit for Andy Bradley."

Others continuing on the sheriff's leadership team are Troy Nash, Craig Katzenburger, Adam Kronstead and Keith Fosseson.

One of Klang's top priorities is to recruit staff: jailers, dispatchers, deputies, to work in the sheriff's office. "We live in a great place – people love it here. We have hunting, fishing, lakes, and beautiful scenery. We should be able to find good people who want to work here. Recruitment is a problem nationwide, but we have great things in our area that others don't have."

With the increased staffing, he hopes to reopen two closed pods of the county jail. They were closed during Covid and also for lack of staffing.

Klang has about 80 inmates in the jail along with 150 staff that he oversees. "My philosophy as a leader is to provide good leadership to them and to respect and value our employees. We hire the best and brightest people."

The approach to giving orders has changed with the

younger generation. "In my early years, you were told what to do and you did it. Now, the staff wants to know why they are doing a task a certain way."

Despite the bad rap officers have gotten in recent years due to shootings, Klang loves his job and always has. "Crow Wing County isn't like what you see on TV. People love us here. We are constantly receiving treats, words of encouragement and cards. We are well-respected in Crow Wing County."

His favorite part of the job is helping people. A challenge now is since he has so many staff and agencies to deal with that everyone wants a piece of his time.

"But I've been doing this job for three decades and I still love it to this day. If I had to do it all over again I would. I love working with people and assisting them in navigating through difficult situations."

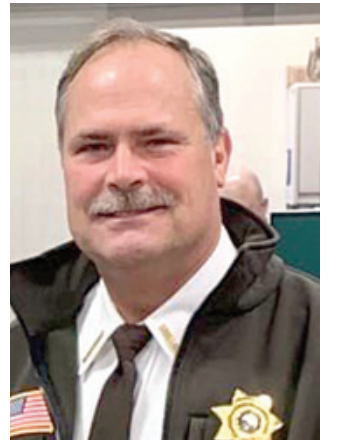
**County crime**

He said the drug problem, with opioids and fentanyl, is the biggest crime problem in the county. Drug use can also lead to burglaries and theft as addicts will do most anything to get money.

Klang is opposed to legalizing marijuana for casual use. He is not against the medical marijuana issue, but: "You wouldn't want your airline pilot to be high. I've seen the damage done and the effects of marijuana on families. It is a gateway drug. You see cigarettes, beer, marijuana and then meth. It is a cycle I have seen. I have friends who totally support legalization, but I don't."

Active in his church, Klang also teaches 55 Alive classes to help seniors get a discount on their vehicle insurance. He always participates in chamber of commerce activities.

He and his wife Annette have four active sons. Married for 23 years, they are now grandparents and also



Crow Wing County Sheriff Eric Klang

have two sons in college. Annette is the director for the Crosslake Community School. "We love to travel and go on little vacations as a family – four-and-five-day vacations."

Continued on Page 6

**Ice Fishing Extravaganza**

Mark your calendar for the 33rd Annual Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza on Gull Lake on Saturday, January 28.

Be one of more than 10,000 anglers from Minnesota and beyond to compete for more than \$200,000 in prizes. It's ice fishing's largest prize package and all proceeds

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# Gramma's Pantry and Market natural foods to close in downtown Aitkin



Store Manager Amy Wyant in front of products displayed in Gramma's Pantry, which is closing after 38 years in downtown Aitkin. She says an exciting new venture is planned for the market location. Ann Schwartz photo



Judy Christie Maqueda is a faithful customer of Gramma's Pantry and the Beanery. She is sad that the market is closing. Ann Schwartz photo

## LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Jan. 14 & 21, 2023)  
**BAY LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR BIDS LAWN MAINTENANCE**

The Town Board of the Town of Bay Lake will accept sealed bids for cemetery and town hall lawn maintenance (May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2026) in the Town of Bay Lake. Proposals will be opened and read publicly at the Bay Lake Town Hall immediately after the hour set for receiving bids.

Specifications obtainable from the Town Attorney: Virginia J. Knudson, Borden/Steinbauer, Kreuger & Knudson, P.A., 302 South Sixth Street, PO Box 411, Brainerd, MN 56401 (Telephone 218-829-1451; e-mail vjknudson@brainerdlaw.com). Bids must be received by the Town Clerk by 7:00 o'clock p.m. on the 11th day of April, 2023. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or technicalities therein. Authorization for the sealed bidding process to be completed by Donald Hales and Virginia Knudson.

Successful bidders shall be required to enter into a contract with the Town and provide all necessary supporting documentation, including necessary insurance certification within 14 days of the Board acceptance of the bid.

The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor." The term "responsible contractor" means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3. Any prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that does not meet the minimum criteria or fails to comply with the verification requirements is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded a construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project.

Dated: January 4, 2023  
CAROL PUNDT, Clerk  
Bay Lake Township  
8.8

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Jan. 14 & 21, 2023)  
**BAY LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR BIDS ROAD MAINTENANCE**

The Town Board of the Town of Bay Lake will accept sealed bids for road maintenance (May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2026) in the Town of Bay Lake. Proposals will be opened and read publicly at the Bay Lake Town Hall immediately after the hour set for receiving bids.

Specifications obtainable from the Town Attorney: Virginia J. Knudson, Borden/Steinbauer, Kreuger & Knudson, P.A., 302 South Sixth Street, PO Box 411, Brainerd, MN 56401 (Telephone 218-829-1451; e-mail vjknudson@brainerdlaw.com). Bids must be received by the Town Clerk by 7:00 o'clock p.m. on the 11th day of April, 2023. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or technicalities therein. Authorization for the sealed bidding process to be completed by Donald Hales and Virginia Knudson.

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Dated: January 4, 2023  
CAROL PUNDT, Clerk  
Bay Lake Township  
8.8

By ANN SCHWARTZ

A fixture on a corner north of the stoplight in Aitkin is closing.

Peter Lowe, owner, said on facebook that the store has struggled to be profitable for many years and that there will be a "permanent closure of the Gramma's Pantry effective February 1."

The store was started about

1982 by Ken Wasserzieher of Bennettville.

Becki Lowe, who later went

by Jones, came to Aitkin in 1983, and was active in the chamber and retail committee. She also played viola in the Great River Strings.

Becki purchased the store from Wasserzieher 38 years ago. The store was a ground-breaker in selling or-

ganic food and supplements. She died of cancer in 2014 and her son, Peter, has kept the store open since then.

Manager Amy Wyant said stay tuned for exciting things to happen in the space that abuts the Beanery coffee shop in Aitkin.

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- Free oil recycling at the landfill and several drop-off locations within the County. Visit our webpage for drop-off locations: [www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us) and search "oil"
- Demolition materials may be disposed in the demolition landfill for a fee
- Large appliances, electronics, tires with or without rims, and scrap metals can be disposed at the site for a nominal fee for recycling.

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

**For more information, please call 218-824-1010.**

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# OBITUARIES

## LAVONNE MCCALVY



LaVonne Mardelle McCalvy, 86, of Bay Lake Township died peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Friday, Dec. 23, 2022.

A Memorial service will be held at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, January 21, 2023 at Light of the Cross Lutheran Church in Garrison. Visitation will be two hours prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Burial will be at the Garrison Community Cemetery at a later date.

She was born on August 13, 1936 in Crosby to Roy and Melva (Stang) Abbott. LaVonne married James Howard McCalvy on September 16, 1955 in Crosby. She was a member of Light of The Cross Lutheran Church in Garrison. She

was a close confidant, mother, grandmother, and friend to many.

LaVonne is survived by Cindi (Gene Mackedanz) Peterson of Brainerd, Lori Eckel of Willow River, Donald (Janette) McCalvy of Cottage Grove, and Brenda (Dave) Freerks of Forest Lake; brother, Robbie (Chris) Abbott of Crosby; two sisters: Jane "Bubbles" Manske of Ironton and Penny (Louie) Valquet of Crosby; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding LaVonne in death are her parents; husband, James in 2017 and son-in-law, Marlowe Peterson.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to [www.koopfuneralhome.com](http://www.koopfuneralhome.com).

## CHARLES GILE



Charles L. Gile, Sr. 91, died Monday, Jan. 2, 2023 at Aitkin Health Services in Aitkin.

A Celebration of Life will be held April 26, 2023 in Nodine, MN with burial in Bush Cemetery. (The time of the Celebration is to be determined).

He was born April 26, 1931 in Nodine to Wilmer and Blanche (Grenow) Gile. During his working career he owned and operated several construction businesses. Charles traveled the world from Saudi Arabia to Ireland, Scotland and throughout the United States. "It was a life well lived."

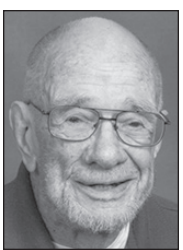
Charles is survived by his eight children: Cindy

(Paul) Schneider of Elk River; Steven (Laura) Gile of Vail, AZ; Audrey Nogle of McGregor; Scott (Marcia) Gile of Richfield; Candi (Niib) Aubid of McGregor; Charles (Annie) Gile, Jr. of Tucson, AZ; Craig (Deb) Gile of Fruitland, MD; Brian (Mikaela) Gile of Medical Lake, WA; 16 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife Jenniver Shallenberger, one great-grandchild, eight siblings, and his parents.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com).

## GLENN MECHELKE



Glenn E. Mechelke, 99, of Crosby formerly of Outing died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023 at Heartwood Senior Living in Crosby.

A Memorial service will be held 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Outing. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Burial will be at the Pine Ridge Cemetery in Emily at a later date.

He was born on March 5, 1923 in St. Paul to Edward and Alice (Mogren) Mechelke. For many years Glenn was the owner and operator of Birch Bay Lodge and Campground in Outing. He gave 50+ years of service as clerk for Crooked Lake Township. Glenn was a member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Outing.

Glenn is survived by his daughters: Judy (Bob) Seidel of Eureka, MT and Kim (Dave) Hughes of Outing; nine grandchildren: Jeff (Beth) Seidel, Tim (Kim) Seidel, Stacey (Shaun) McKinney, Jessica (Justin) Chalich, Sara Smith, Joshua Morris, Scott Carstens, Erin (Alexander) Tolchinsky and Derek Hughes; 23 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Preceding Glenn in death are his parents; wife, Pat and a daughter, Barbara Carstens.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to [www.koopfuneralhome.com](http://www.koopfuneralhome.com).

## ALBERT KRINKE



Albert J. Krinke, 85, of Cottage Grove, formerly of Cross Lake, died Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022.

A memorial service was held on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 530 Victoria St S., St. Paul. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at church. Memorials preferred to Zion Lutheran Church, 220 North 8th St. in Brainerd.

Al was born February 12, 1937 in St. Paul to Albert Sr. and Eleanor (nee Le Vasque) Krinke. Al graduated from Monroe High School, St. Paul in 1955. Al married Judith "Judy" Schmidt on May 4, 1957. After marriage, Al & Judy and their growing family lived in St. Paul until they moved to Cross Lake. In the spring of 1956 Al went to work for American Hoist & Derrick (Amhoist). His career with the Hoist spanned over 32 years. At

the Hoist he started in the Engineering Dept. and finished his career in Manufacturing Systems. After the Hoist, Al joined ATEK Manufacturing in Brainerd in the spring of 1988, in the Materials Management area. Al retired from ATEK in 2003 after 15 years of service. Al was proud member of the NRA and a shooting enthusiast. He was also a member of the Pine River Fish & Game Club. He served for many years as congregation president and he held several other offices with Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church in Cross Lake.

He is survived by his children: Gail (Joe) Stemig, Douglas (Julee) Krinke, Kim (Ryan) Brown, and Victoria Krinke; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; his puppy, Chuie; brother, Larry (Marge) Krinke; sister-in-law, Sue (Charles) Krinke; and many other relatives and friends.

Al was preceded in death by his wife of 60+ years, Judith "Judy" Krinke; infant daughter, Audrey Lynn; parents, Albert Sr. and Eleanor Krinke; brother, Charles; and sister, Jill Arnold.

## BERNADINE DZIEWECZYNSKI



Bernadine Theresa (Backowski) Dziejewczynski, age 88, resident of Garrison died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022.

A Memorial Mass was held at Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Garrison on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023. Burial was at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls. If desired memorials are preferred to Scandia House (540 E Isle Street, Isle, MN 56342).

Bernie was born to Anthony and Albina Backowski on August 28, 1934. She was the youngest of six children. Bernie wed the love of her life, best friend and soulmate, Ken on June 6, 1953. They were blessed with seven children. She enjoyed family outings and get togethers, traveling, volunteering, helping others, gardening, cooking, country music and Neil Diamond. She had a great

time making rugs, sewing, crafting, embroidering, the casinos, fishing and hunting. Bernie held many jobs, but will be most remembered for her work with kids. She was a daycare provider for over 20 years in Inver Grove Heights, helping raise numerous children including some of her own grandkids. She volunteered as a foster grandparent for 11 years in Isle, providing a positive and loving influence on countless students and staff. She loved to laugh, give hugs and interact with all the children.

She will remain in the hearts of her husband, Ken, children: Pam (Tom), Brian (Vicki), Bruce (Heidi), Patti (Joe), Keith and Kevin (Kari); 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Brenda Bahns and five angel grand-babies.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to [www.koopfuneralhome.com](http://www.koopfuneralhome.com).

More obituaries on Page 4

## Send Us Your Photos!



Got an interesting photo and story to share? Just send it to [hopper@crossbyironton.net](mailto:hopper@crossbyironton.net), along with your name, city and a description of the photo. We also accept news and community events.

## Cajun Menu

**Friday and Saturday Nights in January 4-9 p.m.**

- STARTERS -

**SKILLET CORN BREAD \$9**  
Skillet cornbread with jalapeños, corn, bacon and hot honey butter

**SHRIMP PO BOY SLIDERS \$12**  
Three Cajun shrimp sliders topped with Maque Choux and Croft sauce

**HUSH PUPPIES \$11**  
Corn fritters with Croft sauce

- ENTREES -

**CREOLE GUMBO \$17**  
A true taste of Southern tradition. A thick and hearty stew with chicken, sausage, ham, seafood, okra, tomatoes and greens

**CATFISH \$17**  
Cornmeal breaded catfish pan fried and topped with Maque Choux. Served with Swiss chard and red beans and rice.

**BACKENED SIRLOIN \$22**  
Top sirloin served with red beans, rice and Maque Choux topped with red eye gravy

**SHRIMP AND GRITS \$22**  
White cheddar grits topped with blackened shrimp, andouille sausage and bacon

**HOT FRIED CHICKENS \$17**  
Two Nashville fried chicken thighs, drop biscuits, Swiss chard and mashed potatoes served with white BBQ sauce.

- SIDES -

**RED BEANS AND RICE \$4**

**DROP BISCUITS \$4**

- DESSERTS -

**SALTED CARAMEL BEIGNETS \$9**

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# OBITUARIES

## SHELBY OLSON



Shelby Jean Olson, 83, of Deerwood died at Aitkin Health Services on Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022.

A Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at the Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. She was born in Crosby on January 3, 1939 to Vernon and Edna (Duzan) Hendrickson.

Shelby was member of the Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood.

Shelby is survived by her son, Wade Olson of Deerwood; daughter, Heidi Christensen of Ironton; sister, Karel Foss of Lino Lakes and five grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Preceding Shelby in death are her parents; husband, Wright Olson and sister, Joan Olson. Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to [www.koopfuneralhome.com](http://www.koopfuneralhome.com).

## ROBERT BREMNER, JR.



Robert Boyd Bremner, Jr. 76, of Aitkin, died unexpectedly at his home on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023.

To honor Boyd's memory, a celebration of his life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 at the Malmo Evangelical Free Church in Malmo. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. All who knew Boyd are invited to attend and remember his wonderful life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be directed to the American Red Cross.

He was born on May 14, 1946, in Aredale, IA to Robert and Nora (Sherbino) Bremner, Sr. Boyd graduated from Wheaton High School in Illinois, attended St. Paul Bible College, and received his Broadcasting License from Brown Institute in 1970. Boyd married Colleen Ann Young on February 28, 1969. His first job was Manager

of KEYD in Oakes, ND. In 1971, he was hired by KKin in Aitkin and remained there until he retired in 2010. Boyd was active in many community organizations and activities and was Co-Chair of the first River Boat Days in Aitkin. Boyd loved the people of Aitkin and to his last day found joy in fellowship with various business owners and friends. Boyd was a man who trusted and found comfort in Christ.

Boyd left behind his loving wife of 54 years, Colleen Bremner; five children: Todd, Lara (Jason) Scott, Elissa and Erin (Sara); eight grandchildren, Alex, Elizabeth (Spencer), Caleb, Caitlin, Aidan, Jacob, Brenna, Ethan; a great-grandson, Rowan; and many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters.

Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Aitkin. Go to [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com) to leave a message of condolence.

## ALICE PURANEN



Alice Elaine (Carlson) Puranen, 85, of Aitkin, died Friday, Dec. 30, 2022 at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

Funeral service will be held Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023 at Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin with Lorelie Robinson officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Aitkin at a later date.

Alice was born Dec. 7, 1937 to Carl and Ethel (Glashan) Carlson in Aitkin. She grew up in Aitkin and graduated from Aitkin High School. She worked as a switchboard operator at the telephone company and then at the Aitkin County Courthouse for the Veterans Affairs office for 29 years. She helped countless veterans and their spouses with questions, apply for benefits, and some who were dealing with tragedy. She was very proud of her work, making many friends along the way. Alice loved deer hunting and fishing when she was younger. She enjoyed painting wildlife pictures on saws, mushrooms, distressed wood, or just about any surface. She was an avid

bowler and belonged to the Priscilla Club. Once a month Alice attended the Aitkin High School class reunion lunches at the 40 Club. She loved gardening and flowers along with visiting with friends and family. She always had a story or a joke to tell and her contagious laughter will be missed by many.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law: Marjorie and Kim Proctor, and Renee and Joe Bayerle; son, Dennis Plunkett; four grandchildren: Jennifer (Jason) Henke, Kent (Tara) Proctor, Jacob (Kelly) Bayerle, Joseph (Kalli) Bayerle; 11 great-grandchildren; sisters: Darlene Steinke and Robena Moloy; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husbands: Patrick Plunkett, Marvin Berg, and Jim Puranen; daughters: Peggy Plunkett and Susan Puranen; granddaughter, Allison Bayerle; brothers: John Carlson and Bob Carlson; and her parents Carl and Ethel Carlson.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com).

## VIRGINIA BRADFORD



Virginia M. Bradford, 96, of Aitkin, died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023 in Aicota Health Care Center, Aitkin.

Services will be Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 at 11 a.m. in Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home, Aitkin with Pastor Dallas Smith officiating.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Private interment will be in Diamond Lake Cemetery, Farm Island Township. Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers to the Aitkin Food Shelf where she volunteered.

She was born February 24, 1926 in Dayton, OH. The daughter to Emery and Catherine (Williams) Hall. Virginia grew up and attended schools in Ohio. Virginia married Kenneth S. Bradford on April 19, 1946 in Ohio. They moved to Ripple Lake, near Aitkin in 1953, living there until 1996 when they moved to Aitkin. She worked at the Ben Franklin Store and Gambles in Aitkin. She

then worked at Bares Bootery for eight years and Aitkin Community Hospital and Extended Health Care for 16 years. Virginia also cared for people in their home. Virginia was a member of Westside Church, Aitkin.

Virginia is survived by her daughters: Marsha Benson of Aitkin and Lori (Rolly) Nelson of Aitkin; stepson, Gary (Janet) Bradford of Aitkin; stepdaughter, Janet Ogden of London, OH; six grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; several great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, step-great grandchildren and step-great-great-grandchildren; nephews: Dan (Jan) Koch and Jim Hall; special friends: Pearl Jensen, Jan Gardener and Jan Tibbetts; other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Kenneth; parents; three sons; stepson; three brothers and four sisters.

To sign the guestbook online, go to: [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com). Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Aitkin

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

### ALLIANCE

Aitkin\* — New Life; Larry Burg & Tyrel LaValle, pastors; Worship 10:15 am & 6pm; youth group Wed. 6pm; 11-1st Street SW; [newlifeaitkin.com](http://newlifeaitkin.com)  
Baxter\* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10; [www.pointway.org](http://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](http://iamheritage.org)  
Crosby — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; Worship 10:30  
Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30; Worship at 10:45  
Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; [hillcityagchurch@gmail.com](mailto: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, [thejourneynorth.com](http://thejourneynorth.com)  
Baxter - The Journey North, Pastor Jeremiah Rice, 218-824-5617, Worship Saturday 5, Sunday 9 & 10:30, [thejourneynorth.com](http://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](http://fbcbrainerd.com)  
Brainerd - The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 [www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org](http://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](http://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.ihmstemiys.org](http://www.ihmstemiys.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 church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel 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 Christensen; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.  
Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.  
Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Richie Bean; Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10  
Outing\* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Kenny Holm, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge  
Palisade —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](mailto: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 Connect 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](http://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.princeofpeaceclutheran.church](http://www.princeofpeaceclutheran.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 [fcbraainerd.com](http://fcbraainerd.com) 424 8th Street South, Brainerd

Brainerd\* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at [www.goodshepherdfreechurch.org](http://www.goodshepherdfreechurch.org), 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052

Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. ([www.lhchurch.org](http://www.lhchurch.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](http://www.trinitybrainerd.org). Email: [trinity@trinitybrainerd.org](mailto:trinity@trinitybrainerd.org)

Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9  
Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct. Cedarbrook — St. John's (ELCA); Worship 8:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun.  
Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC, NALC) Rev. Paul Mattson; Sun. 9 & 10:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:40.  
Crosby — Zion (LC-MS) Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 8:30; SS 10; Bible Study Wed. 7 pm; handicap accessible. 218-546-6910

Crosslake — (ELCA) [www.crosslakelutheran.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.shepherdofthelake.org).  
Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovas; 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 9 am Alternates with Zion of Crosby 218-534-3069  
Isle — Faith (ELCA), Interim Pastor Rev. Henry French; Worship 9:30; handicap 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 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. Rossburg — Bethesda (ELCA); Comm. 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.

Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 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](http://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](http://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](http://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. Handicap 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 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 Thursdays 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.

To become a sponsor of the church directory contact Eric at 218-821-1393 or [hopper@crosbyironton.net](mailto:hopper@crosbyironton.net)

Call Jim Blakesley Appliance Service & Repair 218-927-2027 Toll free: 1-888-450-8845

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# Minnesota DNR invites public input on deer population goals

Beginning Monday, Jan. 23, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking for public input on deer population goals in 23 deer permit areas in eastern and south-central Minnesota.

Opportunities for input will include an online questionnaire, a webinar, and two in-person public meetings for those who wish to connect directly with an area wildlife manager on the topic. Written comments will also be accepted via email at DeerGoalSettingSurvey.DNR@state.mn.us or mailed to: Barb Keller, Fish and Wildlife Division, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155. Comments must be received by Feb. 13, to be considered in the goal setting process.

"We're excited to hear people's thoughts and encourage anyone with an interest in deer management to give

feedback on deer population trends in the areas where they live, work and recreate," said Todd Froberg, DNR big game program coordinator.

The DNR establishes deer population goals — how much of a population increase or decrease is desired in a particular DPA — as part of managing the state's wild deer.

Population goals established in this process will provide direction for deer management in DPAs for a 10-year period, with a mid-point review at the five-year mark. Goal blocks and the DPAs that comprise them are established based on similar habitat, land uses, deer populations and deer hunter distribution.

The targeted DPAs this year are:

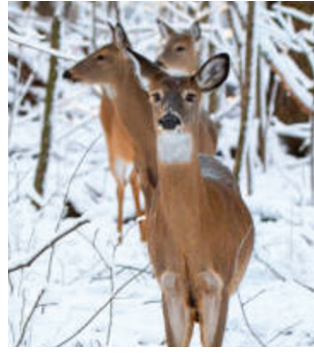
- DPAs 152, 155, 156, 157, 159, 172, 183, 221, 222, 225, 248, 249, 604 in the East Central Uplands goal

block; and DPAs 219, 223, 224, 227, 229, 235, 236, 285, 338, 605 in the Sand Plain/Big Woods goal block.

The online feedback portal will be open Jan. 23-Feb. 13. Participants will be asked to complete an online questionnaire and indicate whether the deer population in a particular area should increase, decrease, or stay the same and provide their rationale.

A Jan. 23 webinar will give participants information about both goal blocks and explain the goal-setting process. It will be recorded and posted online for those who can't participate. Participants will be able to ask questions and provide input during the webinar.

In-person meetings during the last week of January will present information about each goal-setting block, seek participant input and allow DNR wildlife staff to answer



participants' questions.

"We strongly encourage people to join us for the webinar and in-person meetings," Froberg said. "Anyone may participate, regardless of affiliation or knowledge of the process, and we'll present useful information, answer questions, and provide participants several options to share their opinions."

### Meetings are scheduled:

Online from 6-7:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, for the East Central Uplands and Sand Plain/Big Woods goal blocks.

• 6-7:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 30, in the auditorium at the Pine Technical and Community College, 900 4th SE, Pine City, for the East Central Uplands goal block.

• 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 31, in the Dakota B Room at Dakota County Technical College, 1300 145th East, Rosemount for

the Sand Plain/Big Woods goal block.

Complete details about each goal block, how to participate in the process, meeting schedules and how to access the questionnaire are listed on the DNR's website (mndnr.gov/mammals/deer/management/population.html).

## House fire in Irondale

A family of four escaped a house fire in Irondale Township on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department reported that deputies and the Deerwood Fire Department were dispatched to a structure fire at 21885 Wood Lane Road, Ironton at 4:34 a.m. The caller reported he was out of the house, but an adult female and two teenage boys, aged 14 and 15, were still inside.

On arrival of first responders, the two boys had made their own way out of the home. The female, a 35-year-old Ironton woman, was removed from the residence through a second-story window by fire personnel. All three victims were transported to Cuyuna Regional Medical Center. Two fire fighters were treated for smoke inhalation and released. One Crow Wing County Deputy was treated and released for smoke inhalation at Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota State Fire Marshal.

The Sheriff's Office and Deerwood Fire Department were assisted at the scene by

Crosby Police Department, Crosby Ambulance, Ironton Fire Department and Crosby Fire Department.

### Donations needed

A GoFundMe page has been set up for the family at [gofund.me/5dc1d65c](https://gofund.me/5dc1d65c).

You can also donate through Venmo, @John-Juracek.

Immediate personal items are also needed. Please drop off donations at the Ironton City Hall or the Ironton American Legion through Sunday, Jan. 29.

### Items needed:

- Shirts, pants, shoes, coats, boots, hats and gloves.
- Undergarments
- Household items
- Furniture
- Linens
- Grocery and gas cards.

### Sizes needed:

- Mom: shirt size large or XL; sweats size large or pants, size 14. Shoe size is 8.5 or 9
- Dad: shirts size XL; pants 38 X 34.
- Teenage sons: shirts size large or XL; pants 32 X 30 and 33 X 32; shoes for one son, 11 or 11.5 and for the other son, size 10.

Pick-up of donated items is possible by calling the Vigilant Guardians at 651-775-5656.

### New CWC Sheriff Eric Klang | Continued from Page 1

According to his campaign material, Klang has three decades of an "unblemished law enforcement career," as well as a bachelor's degree in

Criminal Justice; is a graduate of the FBI academy and is working on his master's degree. He seems confident that he will do a great job.

## Minnesotans fish free with kids Jan. 14-16

### DNR urges everyone to take proper precautions on the ice

Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend is Saturday, Jan. 14, through Monday, Jan. 16.

During the three-day weekend, any Minnesota resident

can go ice fishing for free if fishing with a child 15 years old or younger. Minnesotans 15 years old or younger don't need fishing licenses any time

of the year.

Check the DNR's learn to ice fish page ([mndnr.gov/GoFishing/Learn-Ice-Fish.html](https://mndnr.gov/GoFishing/Learn-Ice-Fish.html)) for more information

about ice fishing, including a recorded webinar with tips and techniques anglers can use to have fun catching sunfish, crappie and perch.

## MLEC moves forward with new operations facility

At the December 22board meeting, the Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative Board of Directors unanimously voted to move forward with the new operations facility project. MLEC will be working with Architectural Resources Inc. and McGough Construction to bring the project to fruition.

Located near the junction of Highways 169 and 18, the new site is ideally positioned to more effectively and efficiently serve MLEC's growing member base, while still having easy access to reach the entire membership

from a single location. Since its creation in 1940, MLEC has evolved into a critical infrastructure, serving more members with more offerings in a more connected world.

"Our 1960s facility was wonderful when it was built, but our growth has constrained our existing facility's ability to serve MLEC's diverse business needs," said Sarah Cron, CEO of MLEC. "This new operations facility will be transformative for MLEC now and for its next 80 years."

This long-term investment will help MLEC more com-

petitively meet the needs of community members in Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs counties for affordable energy, efficient services, and high-speed Internet; all while helping us more flexibly adapt to the necessary and exciting innovations in the energy and information industry.

The current MLEC operations facility is located one mile east of Aitkin on Highway 169. The estimated \$16 million construction project, located approximately 11 miles south of Aitkin, is

expected to be completed 18 months after breaking ground.

"What's best for our members guides our strategic decisions," said Harald Harms, board president of MLEC. "When faced with the decision of spending millions of dollars to renovate our current facility or build new, we decided that the longevity of a new facility will serve MLEC best."

For more information visit [mlecmm.net/TheNext80Years](https://mlecmm.net/TheNext80Years) or give our office a call at 218-927-2191.

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