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Sat., February 4, 2023

# NEWSHOPPER

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## 13-year-old wins pickup in ice fishing tourney and other fun



Zac Padrnos caught a 9.45 lb. walleye winning him a Ford F150 truck.

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
Zac Padrnos, 13, of Hutchinson, won a Ford pickup truck from Mills Motors in the 2023 Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza.

About 12,000 anglers were out on Gull Lake the last Saturday in January, seeking those elusive fish and raffle prizes. Contestants came from across the country, including New York, California, Tennessee. A few contestants even flew from Australia and France in order to be a part of the event.

As the sun came up, an-

glers began to arrive, claiming their spots on the ice. A record was set the day before the contest, with one hundred volunteers drilling 14,300 holes in two hours. Chairman Tad Johnson states, "Our team is so excited to see thousands of our best friends on ice. We are so thankful to our sponsors and volunteers that helped make this event run smoothly this year!"

Around 12:04 p.m. the first lucky angler entered the weigh-in tent amongst a crowd of excited onlookers.

At about 1:53 p.m. Padrnos

was fishing in about 50 ft. of water with his tungsten jig and 3 pound test line when he felt a hit of what he thought was a tullibee, but in the end with adrenaline running he ended up reeling in a fish of a lifetime, a walleye and winning him a Ford F150 truck courtesy of Mills Automotive Group.

In 100th place, Logan Le-Clair caught a .76 Walleye and will be bringing home an Ice Castle Lake of the Woods at the end of his trip to the Brainerd Lakes area.

There are two notable characteristics about this event – it

is entirely run and organized by volunteers, and 100% of the proceeds are donated to charities. The Brainerd Jaycees invest nearly 25,000 volunteer hours in the year-long planning of the contest. Amongst the 350 volunteers was this year's chairperson, Tad Johnson. He states "I am honored to be a part of such a great organization that has the ability to have such a large community impact."

The largest beneficiary is Confidence Learning Center, an outdoor education facility for individuals with cognitive and developmental

disabilities. The Brainerd Jaycees have donated over \$4.3 million to more than 75 different charities since the first Extravaganza in 1991. On the raffle side of the roster, Esther Johnson won the Ice Castle Trophy Hunter Fish House.

For a complete list of the fish leaderboard and raffle winners, log onto <https://icefishing.org/raffle-winners/>.

**Tamarack Sno-Flyers Vintage Run**

Meanwhile, in Eastern Aitkin County, vintage snowmobile enthusiasts hit the trails from Tamarack to the

Continued on Page 2



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# Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Ice Fishing Contest and Scorpion Homecoming

## ice fishing contest

Join hundreds of anglers and snowmobile enthusiasts at the Cuyuna Lakes Chambers 19th Annual Ice Fishing Contest and Scorpion Homecoming on Saturday, Feb. 4, from noon to 3 p.m. on Serpent Lake in

Crosby. Entry tickets are \$10 each for up to two holes and include the chance to win one of five raffle prizes as well as prizes for top three biggest fish and additional prize for smallest fish. Food will be avail-

able for purchase through Crosby-Ironton Grad Blast. Awards will take place at 3 p.m.

**Scorpion Homecoming**  
Hundreds of Scorpion fans will also attend the Scorpion Homecoming on that day, brought to you by the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce and the Sno Serpent Snow-

mobile Club. The Scorpion Homecoming is a casual, free and fun outdoor event. Sled registration is completely complimentary. No racing is allowed.

Attendees are encouraged to support the sponsors by purchasing a raffle ticket with excellent prizes awarded

(you need not be present to win) and patronizing the concessionaires. All Scorpions, as well as Scorpion manufactured brands are welcome, including Trail-A-Sled, SnoRo, Sears, Sno-Craft, Brut and Massey-Ferguson. (Machines need not run to be displayed.)

If you got 'em, flaunt 'em... remember to wear your Scor-

ption-themed apparel to proclaim your Scorpion support.

For Scorpion Homecoming history and details visit: [www.trailasled.com](http://www.trailasled.com).

Contact the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at [info@cuyunalakes.com](mailto:info@cuyunalakes.com) or call 218-546-8131 for more information.

## Artist work featured at Brainerd Public Library through March

A new exhibit of artwork by DJ Dano is on display at the Brainerd Public Library, 416 S Fifth Street, Brainerd through March 2023. The exhibit includes 20 pieces of pencil drawings and acrylic

paintings. Dano began drawing when she was a teenager and is a self-described "professional amateur."

The artwork on display at the library includes a pencil drawing of the outside of the Brainerd Public Library, which hangs behind the check-out desk. There are pencil drawings of other local sights, as well as acrylic paintings of eagles, wolves, tigers, and a lion.

Dano has previously taught art at Our Place in Brainerd.

## Benefit in Garrison



A Spaghetti Feed Benefit will be held for Emily Mettling on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Garrison VFW Post 1876 from 3 to 7 p.m.

The cost for the dinner

is \$15 per plate. There are also plans for a silent auction, raffles and live music.

Mettling was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer in November. She is now in the middle of chemotherapy treatments and is in much need of support.

Please join her friends and family for the spaghetti feed benefit.

If you would like to be a part of this benefit but are unable to attend please contact the Deerwood Bank of Garrison at 320-692-4336 and ask how to make a donation to Emily.

## Rabbit Lake Contest

The Ice Fishing Contest on Rabbit Lake is Saturday, Feb. 18 from noon to 3 p.m.

Fishing is allowed on East or West Rabbit Lake. All entrants must have a valid fishing license.

Entry fee is \$10. Four species of fish will be weighed in: walleye, northern, panfish and bass. Fish must be live to be registered in the contest. The weigh-in station is at the Rabbit Lake Landing off County Road 31 north of Cuyuna. Northerns must be within the allowed slot limit—24-to-36-inch northerns must be thrown back.

Winners will be announced at the Woodtick following the contest at approximately 4 p.m.

The Cuyuna Fire Department is selling raffle tickets License #02163 during Rabbit Lake Fishing Contest.

All prizes are cash for Cuyuna Fire Department raffle: grand prize is \$1,000; first and second place, \$750 each; third and fourth place, \$500 each; fifth and sixth place, \$300 each; and seventh and eighth place, \$200 each. Tickets are \$5 each and you need not be present to win. Drawings held after the fishing contest on Feb. 18.

## LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Jan. 28, Feb. 4, and Feb. 11, 2023)

### LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Libby Township Board will meet online at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14 to discuss matters that may come before the board. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Please contact Jane Jewett, clerk, to request the Zoom link: [jane@janefarm.org](mailto:jane@janefarm.org) or 218-670-0066.

Dated this 18th day of January 2023  
JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT,  
Clerk Libby Township 2.8

### Area winter fun | Continued from Page 2

Blue Moose on Round Lake (the former Horseshoe Lake Inn.)

The winners of the Tamarack Sno-Flyers 33rd Annual Vintage Run were Rob Glover of Grand Rapids winning most original on his 1972 Columbia Trail Master, Kelley Andreasen of White Bear winning best restored for a

1979 Yamaha SRX, Aaron Anderson of Oak Grove winning most unique for a 1969 Arctic Cat Panther Mod 317, the oldest sled honors went to Dean Floen of Silverbay for his 1967 Johnson Skee Horse, best of show and peoples choice went to Melody Deer of Elko for her 1970 Arctic Cat Pink Panther, Brett Anderson of Duluth won 80s/90s vintage sled honors with his 1982 Kawasaki Interceptor 550, and oldest rider went to Butch Salem of Duluth and his 1992 Yamaha Venture.

### Gala dance light up cold nights

Parents, neighbors and grandparents hardly recognized local high school students as they donned formalwear for winter snow daze balls.

Aitkin's Snoball was held on Saturday, January 28, at the Butler Building.

Why do we live here, you ask? Because we find fun, wacky and unique things to do in the winter that get us out of our homes and unplugged from our screens.



Emma Jacobson, Sno Daze Queen Allie Kullhem, Hannah Slette and Macy Paulbeck.

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# OBITUARIES

## GREGORY WOOD



Gregory Wood, 64, of Verona, WI died on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, following a brave, year-plus battle with pancreatic cancer.

A memorial service was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - West Campus, 7291 County Highway PD, Verona, at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023.

Greg was born in Brainerd on June 8, 1958. He graduated from Brainerd High School, where he often talked about his choir trip to Europe where they sang a Bach Motet in German, and the audience cried. He received a B.S. in Marketing and Business from Bemidji State University, where he played college football. He completed a successful 30-plus year career with Federated Insurance before retiring in 2013, and eventually moved onto a second career at Exact Sciences, before resigning due to his illness. He was a kind, loving spouse to Val, and a devoted father to his son, Sam. As a supportive and very proud dad, he coached everyone of Sam's youth sports - football, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse. Greg

had a passion for helping others. He provided and served meals to the homeless through the Loaves and Fishes program at the Luke House Madison. Plus, the entire family volunteered for The Road Home Dane County, which provides supportive services to help families step out of homelessness. He found solace in the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, camping, fishing, biking and snowshoeing. On their first trip together in 1996 to Alaska, Woody told their guide he knew Val was the one after she caught the first salmon. Ironically, a highlight from their last family trip together in 2019 was salmon fishing on Vancouver Island.

Greg is survived by his wife, Valerie; son, Samuel; mother, Sharon Fjelstad (Clarence Taatjes); sisters: Cynthia Gronning (Mark), Lisa Wood and Shari Chrovian (Dan); brothers: James Wood Jr. (Stacey) and Tom Webber; step-mother, Jodi Wood; step-brother, Jeff Fjelstad (Dinah DeNamur); and step-sisters: Jeanne Beebe and Julie Webber (Jeff).

He was preceded in death by his father, James Wood; stepfather, Charles Fjelstad; and stepsister, Jan Wendt (Paul).

## JANET OLSON



Janet Cloy Olson, 87, died Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023 at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Baxter.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, February 3, 2023 at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Baxter with a visitation starting one hour prior to services. Interment followed at Baxter City Cemetery.

She was born August 22, 1935, to Wallace and Mabel (Knowles) Olson. She lived her entire life in Baxter, growing up with brothers Donald and Roger. She was proud to be a member of Brainerd Class of 1954. In her early years, she worked at the Baxter Store, Brainerd Dairy Bar

and Service Drug. She met her future husband, Harold (also an Olson) at the Baxter Store when he was building a house on White Sand Lake. They married October 15, 1955, and had one daughter, Lynn Rae. Janet enjoyed socializing, cooking and baking, camping and so many other activities. She attended Bethany Covenant Church for decades, and then First Presbyterian Church. She and Harold wintered for many years in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Janet is survived by husband, Harold; daughter, Lynn Rae (Carrie); brother, Donald (Betty); many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews whom she adored.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Roger; and several beloved neighbors who lived by each other for over 60 years.

## JOYCE JOHNSON



Joyce Johanna (Kortekaas) Johnson, 101, of Aitkin died Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

Services are being planned for the spring / summer of 2023. Burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery, Aitkin.

She was born at home in Martin Spur - East of Hill City on October 16, 1921 to Nick and Jenny (King) Kortekaas. She grew up near Hill City and attended Hill City Schools. Joyce was united in marriage to Oscar Johnson on July 29, 1942 in Remer. They were married for 50 years until Oscar's death in 1992. She worked at Gambles and First National (Bremer) Bank for many years. After her retirement she worked for the Chamber of Commerce and Green Thumb. She was one of Aitkin's Avon Ladies, earning many awards. In 1994 she was named Aitkin Riverboat Queen. She loved to bowl, read, do puzzles, play Bingo and go to the casino. She was a lifetime member of the VFW and American Legion and a past member of the Women of the Moose and she earned her College of Regents Cap & Gown.

Joyce is survived by her children: Dennis (Betty) Johnson of Aitkin, Barbara (Ray) Leetch

of Brainerd, Chris (Dave) Rehwinkle of Aitkin; grandchildren: Scott and Betty Jo Johnson, Terry (Steven) Croak, Steven, Jim (Jammie) Rehwinkle; 18 great-grandchildren: Amanda (Jesse) Uebe, Shawn Durham, Brittney (Cory) Naegeli, Mathew (Shyanne) Croak, Steven Croak, Micheala Bassett, Charli (Shawn) Norway, Christopher Peer, Steven (Hannah) Alexander, David Rehwinkle, Colin Farnsworth, Cedric (Alayna) Farnsworth, Dustin Smithson, Jimmy, Avril, Odin, Oscar and Earl Rehwinkle; eight great-great-grandchildren: Jordan Durham; Cabella and Lakelynn Bassett; Elizabeth and Steven Alexander; Estrella, Vallah and Thalia Norway; brother, Bert Kortekaas of Hill City and sister Julie (Johnny) Varner of Tennessee; many other special relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, 3 grandchildren: David and Sue Ann Rehwinkle, and Randy Leetch, brothers: Nick, Marvin, Bob, John and Danny Kortekaas, sisters: Millie Golen, Adella Hill, Agatha, Margaret, Norma Jean, and Jennie May Kortekaas.

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

More obituaries on Page 4

## DENNIS SMOLIK



Dennis Ronald Smolik, 76, of Brainerd died on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023 with his family by his side.

A Celebration of Dennis' Life was held on Monday, Jan. 30, 2023, at Riverside Union Church in Brainerd. Interment with Military Honors was in Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery near Camp Ripley.

Dennis was born Nov. 8, 1946, in Little Falls to Ernest and Frances (Hayes) Smolik. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Brainerd High School. In 1967, he was drafted by the U.S. Army and served for two years in Vietnam. Following his honorable discharge, he returned home and continued farming. In 1985, he decided to re-enlist in the National Guard and dedicated more than

20 years of service to his country. In addition, he worked for Larco (later, ATech) in Brainerd. Dennis had a green thumb and enjoyed gardening. He liked to hunt and fish. He was always willing to lend a hand and was a good neighbor. He was a member of the VFW and appreciated their chicken wings on Wednesdays. He will be missed - especially his sense of humor.

He is survived by his children: Dion Smolik of Pierz, Chad Smolik of Brainerd, Sonja (Greg) Miers of Taylor Falls, and Jesse (Asia) Smolik, of Leader; nine grandchildren: Caleb Miers, Eli Miers, Sophia Miers, Marcus Miers, Isaac Miers, Jesse Smolik, Jr., Jera Smolik, Sawyer and Isaiah; great-grandson, Hunter; siblings: Constance (Leon) Boser and Rosemary Schuster; and four nephews: Tim (Diane) Vadnais, Mike (Sonya) Boser, Tom (Carrie) Boser, and Jason (Terrie) Boser. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Frances (Hayes) Smolik.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### February

- 4th - Crosslake Firefighters Pancake Breakfast 8-11:30am at Crosslake Lutheran Church 35960 CR 3.
- 4th - WinterFest Craft & Vendor Fair 10am-3pm at The Gathering 34212 CR 3, Crosslake
- 4th - Palisade MidWinter Festival - parade at noon, entertainment, marketplace, scavenger hunt, medallion hunt, bonfire.
- 4th - Snow Bowling at the Town Tavern in Ironton starting at noon. All proceeds benefit the C-I Special Olympics. Call 218-546-5997 to register.
- 4th - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Ice Fishing Contest on Serpent Lake in Crosby, noon to 3 p.m. Contact the chamber for more details at 218-546-8131.
- 4th - 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.
- 7th - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Business After Hours at Cuyuna Outfitters located at 10 Third Avenue SW in Crosby, 5-7 p.m. Bring a door prize drawing item and your business cards and be prepared to share a little about your business. R.S.V.P. by emailing info@cuyunalakes.com or register at www.cuyunalakes.com.
- 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.
- 8th - 11th - Valentine's Chocolate Extravaganza at the Mustard Seed in Deerwood. Sponsored by Salem Lutheran Church Honduras Mission Team. Proceeds support "Kid Ark International Christian Camp in Honduras.
- 11th - Pine Lake Chapel Souper Bowl Saturday, 11 am-3 pm 43472 - 240th Street, South Aitkin County. Free will offering. A food or monetary donation for the foods shelf is welcomed. Call 218-678-3344 for more information.
- 11th - Spaghetti Feed Benefit for Emily Mettling at the Garrison VFW Post 1876 from 3-7 p.m. The cost is \$15 per plate. There will also be a silent auction, raffles and live music. Mettling was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer in November. Call 320-692-4336.

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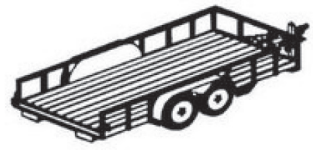
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# Minerva of the North to be presented by Lakes Area Music Festival

Lakes Area Music Festival continues its Winter Series on Sunday, Feb. 5 with a program of baroque instrumental and vocal chamber music. The performance will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd, beginning at 2 p.m. featuring long-time festival artists John Taylor Ward and Chloe Fedor, along with guests from around the country.



Violinist and LAMF artistic advisor Chloe Fedor.

Tickets may be reserved in advance online through the LAMF website. LAMF uses a name-your-price ticket model in order to make concerts widely accessible. For assistance, please call 218-831-0765. Tickets will also be available at the door beginning 45 minutes to each performance.

More information about the upcoming concert is available at: [lakesareamusic.org/event/minerva-brainerd](http://lakesareamusic.org/event/minerva-brainerd)

Step into the drawing room of the most cultured woman in 17th century Europe: Queen Christina of Sweden. After abdicating her throne, this renegade icon left her home country to take up residence in cosmopolitan Rome, where she became one of the most important art patrons of her time. Her particular love for music led her to employ such legendary composers as Alessandro

Scarlatti, Arcangelo Corelli, and Alessandro Stradella.

"I always enjoy returning to Brainerd throughout the year to perform. This time I'm particularly pleased to join Chloe [Fedor] in a co-curation that draws on our specialties as baroque artists and historical performance specialists," Ward, the organization's artistic director, said. "Italian music from this period was innovative and exciting. We look forward to bringing this music to our Brainerd audience, with a nod to its Scandinavian influence."

Ward and Fedor will be joined by cellist Caroline Nicolas from Philadelphia, PA; theorbo (a plucked, bass lute) player Brandon Ackler from Chicago, IL; and harpsichordist Tami Morse from St. Paul, MN. Each of these musicians specialize in historical performance

practice— playing on instruments and in specialized styles to sound as close as possible to how this music would have sounded in the 17th and early 18th centuries. They have completed studies in baroque programs at the Juilliard School, Yale, and the Hochschule für Musik

in Cologne (Germany); and performing regularly with baroque ensembles worldwide.

LAMF co-founder and artistic director John Taylor Ward's performances have been praised for their "stylish abandon" by Alex Ross of the New Yorker, their "intense clarity and color" by the

New York Times, and by the Washington Post for their "finely calibrated precision and heart-rending expressivity."

Recent stage highlights include the title role in Mozart's Don Giovanni with Heartbeat Opera, Nick Shadow in The Rake's Progress under the baton of Barbara Hannigan.

## Free tax assistance appointments

The AARP Taxaide program for low to moderate income taxpayers will open by appointment only at the Aitkin Public Library beginning Thursday, Feb. 9 and be open every Thursday until Apr. 13 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Those taxpayers who had their returns prepared by us last year will be called to set up an appointment. Other taxpayers may call 612-850-6060 and leave your name and phone number to be

called for an appointment. Taxes will be prepared in the same manner as last year so it is advisable to have a cell phone.

You must bring Social Security cards for taxpayers and dependents, picture ID, all tax return information and last year's tax return. For married filing joint returns, both taxpayers must be present to sign the return. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are not trained in all areas of income taxes. You may be

advised to see a paid preparer if your return is out of scope. For more information call 218-845-2666.

Volunteers will also be available at the following times and locations:

McGregor Angels: Tuesday, Mar. 21 and Wednesday, Mar. 29. Call the Angels office for an appointment 218-768-2762

Waukenabo Community Center: Monday, Feb. 28 and Wednesday, Apr. 5 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

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