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Vol. 24 • Issue 10

Sat., March 11, 2023

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Winter gala helps Brainerd School District Foundation



In keeping with the Farm Fresh theme, Big Event Sponsors and Widseth employees, Lindsey Kriens and Adam Siemers, had a fresh and "eggsellent" idea to raise funds. Joey Halvorson photos

Among the gala events this winter was the 10th Annual Big Event at the Gather on 3 Event Center at The Woods on February 4. This year our theme was "Farm Fresh Brainerd Public Schools Foundation - Planting Seeds of Generosity."

"This year, we had over 200 attendees and raised nearly \$75,000 between our event sponsors, online auction, games/raffles, and donations," said BPSF Executive Director Jessica Gangl. "The crowd loved our first- ever Big Event Meat Raffle and the surprise lipsync music

performance, Warrior Gymnastic video, skits, and line dancing! The online auction had over 250 auction items from gift cards, experiences, handmade items, a grill, and even a diamond necklace. The biggest battle over an item was for a rare bottle of Blanton's Bourbon Whiskey - going for nearly 10 times the value."

BPSF exists to support the Brainerd Public Schools in various ways, she explained, including scholarships and providing 4A Grants to staff and coaches. The mission of the Brainerd Public Schools

Foundation is to enhance opportunities for quality academics, arts, activities and athletics (4As) for the students of the Brainerd Public School District. It's vision is for the young people of the Brainerd Lakes Area to have the finest educational opportunities possible to enable all individuals to reach their fullest potential as learners, participants, citizens, artists, athletes, and contributors to our community and the whole of society.



Mike and Jana Shogren together with Sarah Speer welcomed guests to the 2023 Big Event.



ISD 181 Educator, Angela Holmstrom, celebrates winning \$500 from the Hat's Off Raffle!



Savvy sellers Amye Miller and Kathy Sell cultivated funds by selling "Rip Roarin' Raffle" tickets.

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Rotating Selection of Specialty Sushi Rolls

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Friday: ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT WALLEYE \$21.99

Served with Salad, Bread, Vegetable & Baked Potato

Saturday: MEAT & GREET

Enjoy a Cocktail and Stay Warm Around One of Our Outdoor Fireplaces While Surrounded by the Aroma of Our Charcoal Grill.

SELECT: 22 oz. Bone-In Ribeye 10 oz. Filet Mignon

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14 oz. Dry Aged Pork Chop or Grilled Crab Legs

All Entrees will be Accompanied with a Salad, Choice of a Side, Vegetable, and a Dinner Roll.

Sunday: ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT WINGS & FRIES \$14.95

Heart Attack Burger & Fries \$10 Pitchers of Beer \$12

Friday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day Specials

IRISH RUEBEN NACHOS \$13
House Fried Potato Chips, House Corned Beef, Sauerkraut & Thousand Island Dressing

COLCANNON SHEPHERD'S PIE \$18
Traditional Shepherd's Pie with ground Lamb, Topped with Irish Colcannon Potatoes

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Bill to fight Fentanyl epidemic

Representatives Isaac Schultz (R – Elmdale Township) and Ron Kresha (R – Little Falls) have joined in the fight against the rise in fentanyl deaths that have been damaging Minnesota communities. HF 2453 adds illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) to the current statute on the possession and sale of controlled substances. This means that the criminals who

are bringing this dangerous substance in and distributing it will be held equally accountable as they would be for other dangerous drugs. These statutes include penalties of a gross misdemeanor which carries up to 5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. From 2019 to 2021, according to the National Institutes of Health, deaths from synthetic opioids is on the

rise and recent local events are prompting action. “We’ve seen too many families torn apart by this drug and the saddening spike in overdose deaths it is causing,” said Rep. Kresha on the worsening opioid crisis. In 2021 the CDC recorded more than 105,000 drug overdoses in America with the majority of those being caused by Fentanyl.

Bill expands driver’s license access regardless of immigration status

On March 7, Governor Tim Walz signed a bill into law expanding eligibility for a standard Minnesota driver’s license by allowing Minnesotans, regardless of immigration status, to obtain a license. With an estimated 81,000 undocumented immigrants in Minnesota, the bill will increase safety across Minnesota by ensuring that all drivers are licensed, insured, and have taken driver’s education courses. Governor Walz signed the bill alongside legislators, community, faith, labor, law enforcement, and immigrant advocates. “Ensuring drivers in our state are licensed and carry insurance makes the roads

safer for all Minnesotans,” said Governor Walz. “As a longtime supporter of this bill, I am proud to finally sign it into law, making our roads safer and moving us toward our goal of making Minnesota the best state to raise a family for everyone.” “From picking a child up from school to driving to a doctor’s appointment, driver’s licenses help us safely access essential services and navigate our lives. This bill makes sure that our children and families can come out of the shadows and that all Minnesotans have opportunities to thrive, succeed, grow, and live their fullest lives in our state,” said Lieutenant Govern

nor Flanagan. “Today, I am so proud to stand with Minnesotans who have been fighting for this day for decades. All of us are safer today because you organized, rallied, and kept the faith.” Chapter 13, House File 4 expands the eligibility for a standard Minnesota driver’s license or identification card by no longer requiring proof of citizenship or lawful presence in the United States.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- March**
 13th - Unlimited Learning presents Bill Marchel on Spring Birds, 1:30 pm in the Forum Room at Crosby-Ironton High School.
 13th - Challenger Courses for Fathers, 6:30-8:30pm at 315 E River RD Suite 1 in Brainerd. Topic will be “Royal Treatment.” Refreshments and snacks provided. For more info and to register call Sherri Borowicz at 218-825-0793.
 17th - St. Francis Catholic Church Community Fish Fry 4:30-7pm at 411 N 10th St., Brainerd, menu includes: fried & baked fish, grilled cheese sandwiches, scalloped potatoes, baked potatoes, baked beans, green beans, dessert, lemonade, water & coffee. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children age 11 and under. For more info call 218-822-4040.
 17th & 18th - Lifespring Church in Crosby, has invited Bible Teacher and Evangelist Justin Peters, 6:30-8:30pm on Friday and 8:30am-3:00pm Saturday to present his well-received seminar “Clouds Without Water.” This is a free event, all are welcome. Register by calling 218-545-5433.
 20th - Challenger Courses for Fathers, 6:30-8:30pm at 315 E River RD Suite 1 in Brainerd. Topic will be “Legacy Legends.” Refreshments and snacks provided. For more info and to register call Sherri Borowicz at 218-825-0793.
 21st - You are invited to the Aitkin Lions membership meeting at 6pm at the Forty Club in Aitkin.
 24th - Knights of Columbus spring Walleye dinner serving 5-6:30pm at Aitkin American Legion. Dinner is Walleye fillet, baked potato, salad, roll, dessert for \$15 per person.
 24th - St. Francis Catholic Church Community Fish Fry 4:30-7pm at 411 N 10th St., Brainerd, menu includes: fried & baked fish, grilled cheese sandwiches, scalloped potatoes, baked potatoes, baked beans, green beans, dessert, lemonade, water & coffee. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children age 11 and under. For more info call 218-822-4040.
 24th & 25th - Brainerd Lakes Home Show & Expo at Essentia Health Sports Center, Brainerd. Admission: \$5 Adults (16+), \$4 Seniors (65+), Free - 0-15 years (must be accompanied by an adult)
- April**
 6th - Business After Hours at Unity Bank in downtown Crosby from 5 to 7 p.m. Hosts are Unity Bank and Jame Koop Insurance. For more information contact the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218-546-8131.
 13th - Business After Hours at Common Goods on Main Street in Crosby, 5 to 7 p.m. For more information contact the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218-546-8131.

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!**

LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Mar. 4 & 11, 2023)

WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the voters of Wealthwood Township.

The annual election of Wealthwood Township will be held at the Wealthwood Town Hall on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, to elect one Supervisor for a three (3) year term and a Clerk/ Treasurer for a two (2) year term. The polls will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The annual meeting will convene at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business as prescribed by law.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Dated: February 13, 2023
 LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk
 Wealthwood Township 4.2

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Feb. 25, Mar. 4, and Mar. 11, 2023)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Libby Township, County of Aitkin, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Palisade Community Center. The Annual Meeting will commence at 1:00 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.

Dated this 15th day of February 2023
 JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT,
 Clerk Libby Township 3.6

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Mar. 4 & 11, 2023)

WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP CHANGE OF MEETING NOTICE

Wealthwood Township Board regular meeting will be changed to Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 7 p.m. due to the Annual Meeting and Election at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Dated: February 13, 2023
 LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk
 Wealthwood Township 2.25

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Mar. 4 & 11, 2023)

KIMBERLY TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. on March 14, 2023 to conduct all necessary business as prescribed by law and held at Glen/Kimberly Town Hall. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until March 21, 2023.

Please contact the clerk at 612-619-6742 or kimberly-clerk06@gmail.com for copies of reports or any questions.

Dated: February 20, 2023
 MIA RAPOPORT,
 Kimberly Township Clerk 3.0

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Feb. 25, Mar. 4, and Mar. 11, 2023)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The Libby Township Board of Audit will be held at the Palisade Community Center on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

Dated this 15th day of February 2023
 JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT,
 Clerk Libby Township 2.1

CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

MARCH 13-19, 2023



CLEAN UP AROUND YOUR FISH HOUSE!

Ice fishing season is coming to an end, and fish houses need to be removed from the lake. Before you pull your house off, take the extra time to thoroughly clean up. Remember, everything on the ice will end up in the water or on the bottom of the lake. Don't forget the pieces of lumber you use to level your houses and PLEASE don't dump your gray water in the lake. Leave no trace. Go to the Minnesota DNR website for helpful hints. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/shelter.html>



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 consume resources more wisely, we can help ensure a brighter future for the planet and make life better TODAY!

NATURE NOTES

Spring is officially here next week, but signs are everywhere. Be on the lookout.

- Migrating flocks of Canada Geese are starting to move into the area.
- Migrating robins are also returning, if you hear robins singing loudly those are the new arrivals, the overwintering ones are more quiet.
- If your maple trees are not tapped yet they should be soon. Sap flow is triggered by days reaching into the 40s.
- Clean out wood duck and bluebird nesting boxes. They will be returning in the next few weeks.

STARGAZING NOTES, provided by the Minnesota Astronomical Society

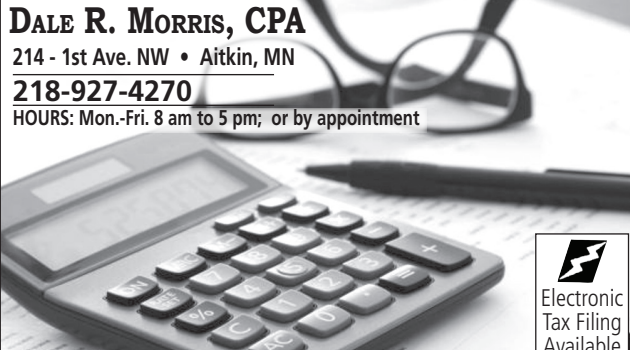
What is happening in the starry sky this week:

Longer Daylight: We're gaining 3 minutes and 20 seconds of daylight every day this week, the highest rate of increase all year. The spring equinox is next week.

International Space Station: The ISS is back in the evening sky, after several weeks of only morning appearances. At the end of each pass, watch the ISS fade to nothingness as it enters Earth's shadow.

- March 17, appears SW at 9:02 pm, disappears overhead at 9:06 pm
- March 18, appears SW at 8:14 pm, disappears east at 8:20 pm
- March 19, appears west at 9:02 pm, disappears NE at 9:06 pm

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- Free compost of lawn and garden material (please separate brush and branches)
- Recycling of used oil filters and anti-freeze
- Free oil recycling at the landfill and several drop-off locations within the County. Visit our webpage for drop-off locations: 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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 Deadlines are Mondays at Noon



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OBITUARIES

PHYLLIS HILL



Phyllis Joy Hill, 80, of Tamarack died Thursday, February 23, 2023 at her residence. A Celebration of Life will be 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at Banns Bar & Restaurant, 18870 Goshawk Street, McGregor. She was born November 10, 1942 in Sauk Center. She grew up in Hermantown and attended Hermantown Schools. Phyllis was united in marriage to James Rudolph Hill on July 31, 1982 in Tamarack. They lived in Egan and retired in the 1990's to their lake home on Round Lake. She worked as a physical therapist assistant and as a bartender at Whispering Pines. When Phyllis was younger she enjoyed league bowling. She served as president, secretary, and treasurer for the Round Lake Community Club. She served as a volunteer for many different local

groups and organizations. She enjoyed playing Bocce Ball, Cribbage, snowmobiling, cooking and baking. She was an avid Elvis Presley and Minnesota Vikings fan, she loved the color purple and chocolate. Phyllis had a zest for life and lived it to the fullest.

Phyllis is survived by her six children: Dale (Gini Sorbo) Niemi, Pamela Ferguson, Sheri (Ron Lennartson) Balen, Becka (Kevin Hoffman) Niemi, Harlan (Jenny) Hill and Heath (Alyssa) Hill; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sisters: Jean Niemi, Gloria Bradley and Marlene Shaw; dog, Max; and many other special relatives.

She was preceded in death her parents: Hjelmer and Arminta (Gravelle) Helmer and her husband James R. Hill in 2020.

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

KENNETH SMITH



Kenneth (Kenny) Vernon Smith, 80, of Aitkin, died on Monday, February 27, 2023 surrounded by family.

Services were held Sunday, March 5, 2023 at the Deerwood Baptist Church, 23546 Forest Road, Deerwood with Pastor Wayne Skog officiating. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Aitkin.

Kenneth Vernon Smith was born February 19, 1943 to John and Emma Jean (Jarvis) Smith in Aitkin. He lived most of his life traveling between Worthington and Aitkin, remaining close to the family, as they moved. Kenny devoted his life to sharing the Love of Jesus everywhere he went. It didn't make any difference if he knew someone or not, he made sure they knew how much Jesus loved them and had helped him. He would often share how he was healed from Epilepsy. Kenny would share how God can and does heal, proving it by going through the painful Epilepsy test a second time and was able to get his driver's license back. Another devotion Kenny had was sharing his belongings and finances with whomever was in need. It could be family, friends, and strangers. Often this generosity would be to the extent of

sacrificing himself causing him to do without. It truly didn't matter who because he believed Jesus would want him to do it. Kenny's work life encompassed many handyman jobs, helping dad with the farming, plus working for the U of M, Shingwalk Resort and retiring from his work career having put in 17 years with Clow Stamping.

A special thanks to Pastor Wayne Skog and wife, Doris who picked Kenny up every Sunday for church when he could no longer drive. Their kindness and the Church's kindness will ever be appreciated.

Kenny is survived by his siblings: Mary (Alan) Hollingsworth; Karl Smith; Dorothy (David) Espeseth; Ruth (Lee) Titus; nephews and nieces: Cindy (Shawn) Story, Bruce (Dianna) Hollingsworth, Loren (Gina) Hollingsworth, Terry Hollingsworth, Karla (Kevin) Fuller, Kevin Smith, Todd (Rita) Espeseth, Tim (Kelsey) Espeseth, Jeffery Scott (Tiffany) Titus, and Michelle (Scott) Anderson; plus many great-and great-great-nephews, nieces, cousins and sweet people who loved him and looked forward to his daily visit.

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Ellen (Boyce) Welch.

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

MARK SHAMP

Mark William Shamp, 44, died on Friday, March 3, 2023.

Visitation will be at 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, March 13 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Pine River. Funeral Mass will 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Burial will be in the Shamp Family Cemetery.

Mark was born on March 9, 1978 to Michael and Melanie Shamp (Struthers) of Pine River. He attended Pine River/Backus schools and graduated in 1996. On August 7, 2010, he was married to the love of his life, Ashlee (Zaffke), his "young and fine" sweetheart. Mark worked for Larson Construction for 20 years. Later he worked on

the Shamp's family farm. Having more time on his hands, he enjoyed woodworking, making bowls and furniture.

Mark is survived by his loving wife, Ashlee; children: Archer, Taylor, and Oliver; parents, Michael and Melanie Shamp; grandmother, Marlys Struthers; siblings: Melissa (Ty) Van Heerden, Marlayna (Lyle) Hutchinson, Matthew (Kyann) Shamp; in-laws: Paul and Janile Zaffke; brothers-in-law: Jev Zaffke, Casey (Kaylee) Zaffke, Jason (Chelsea) Zaffke; aunts and uncles, many cousins, nieces and nephews, and countless friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Archie and Elene Shamp and LaVerne Struthers.

CAROL PORATH

Carol Ann Porath, 82, of Brainerd and New Brighton died Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at Riverwood Health Care Center in Aitkin.

There is no public service scheduled at this time. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, that a donation be made in her honor to one of her favorite charities: Wild and Free Wildlife Program, Ralph Reeder Food Shelf and MV Public Schools.

She was born June 16, 1940 in Charles City, IA to Russell and Marion (Knutson) Perry. She graduated from Patrick Henry High School in 1958. She worked as a secretary for Curtis Circulation until her son Brian was born, and was a wonderful stay at home mom from then on. She was a member of North United Methodist Church for nearly 70 years. She was very active in the UMW, and Faith Circle. She met her future husband, Chuck at the church, and they were married there on May 7, 1960. They stayed happily married for 62 years, until her death. Carol and Chuck have had a home in New Brighton for

over 50 years. They have spent their retirement years at their lake home in Brainerd, where Carol enjoyed feeding and watching the birds. Every year she would keep a log of the many different birds she would see. Carol was always interested in genealogy, she compiled extensive family trees of both sides of our family dating back to the 1500's. She was also an avid reader, and crossword puzzler.

Carol is survived by her husband, Chuck Porath; son, Brian Porath of New Brighton; daughter and son-in-law, Lynn (Chris) DeLambo of Portland, OR; grandson, Zander DeLambo; brother, David Perry; sister and brother-in-law, Janet (Bob) Ostroot and many other special relatives and friends.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents and sister-in-law: Michelle Perry.

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

More obituaries on Page 4



Governor Walz expands voting rights to 55,000 Minnesotans

On March 3, Governor Tim Walz signed into law the largest expansion of voting rights in Minnesota in a half century. The law restores voting rights for over 55,000 formerly incarcerated people

in Minnesota. Chapter 12, House File 28 restores the right to vote to individuals who have been convicted of a felony upon their completion of any incarceration imposed and executed for the conviction.

The bill also requires Department of Corrections or judiciary system officials to provide a written notice and a voter registration application to individuals upon their release from incarceration.

READER RIBBETS

Crosby Council needs to seek facts

Now that the former city of Crosby employee that was recently fired reportedly has won her unemployment case against the city.

I hope this will stand as a learning experience to our council members. They need to do more than just listen to our city administrator's tainted opinions before making rash

decisions and voting on them. This not only was another waste of time and tax resources, but it also negatively effected a young lady's reputation and hurt her family. All simply because the council majority didn't bother to seek out the whole story and all the facts. Instead, they just reacted like sad puppets. I am truly happy

that a neutral party was able to clearly see this was our administration's wrong doing.

Maybe this will open the doors to a wrongful termination lawsuit against our city that might finally help put an end to the inconsistent, bias, almost comical way this administrator handles our city's employees.

Chris Ryan, Crosby

Republican plan to return surplus

We already knew Minnesota takes way, way more than it needs from Minnesotans. This week we got additional confirmation of that fact when the office of Management and Budget (MMB) released its February revenue forecast showing a surplus of a mind-bending \$19 billion – or \$17.5 billion after inflation.

It is time to give the surplus back.

This week we rolled out our Give it Back tax plan to put the surplus back in your pocket. It returns the surplus to you through a combination of permanent tax cuts, direct rebate checks, and property tax relief. It also eliminates the tax on Social Security benefits

and provides relief to families with children.

Every day, I hear from Minnesotans who are struggling with high inflation that's eating away at their paychecks and retirement savings. We need to prioritize returning the surplus to those folks to help ease the stress on their pocketbooks. They badly need relief, and we're in a great position to provide it.

The Dumbest Bill of the Week!

With Democrats in complete control of the legislature, there is no shortage of dumb ideas or foolish bills. From banning gas-powered lawn equipment to mandating electric Zambonis, it seems like every week they get crazier and crazier.

This week they are trying to ban the sale of bottled water in Minnesota.

You read that right. Democrats introduced a bill that would ban the sale of bottled water.

This bill is so insane, I had to honor it as the Dumbest Bill of the Week. Watch my video about it here: <https://fb.watch/j1dOO2DoC8/>.

If you have any questions or comments about the issues we are working on, please contact me anytime. My email is justin.eichorn@senate.mn, or you can call me at 651-296-7079.

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Senator Justin D. Eichorn
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3 lines for \$9.00 per week

OBITUARIES

ROBERT KIRBY II

Robert Leonard Kirby II, 87, of Crosby died on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at his home.

A private service is being held.

He was born in Miami, Florida on April 24, 1935 to Robert and Dendella (Kay) Kirby.

Robert is survived by his son, Jeffrey Kirby of Crosby; three grandchildren: Patrick, LeAnne

and Brenden Kirby; and great-grandchild, Dustyn Worden.

Preceding Robert in death are his parents and his wife, Barbara

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

SAMUEL SWEET



Samuel Anthony Sweet, 82, of Brainerd, died at his home on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

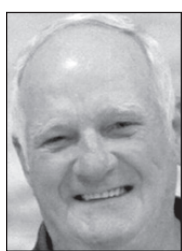
Visitation was held 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2023 at Halvorson Taylor Life Events Center, with graveside service following at Oakland Cemetery at 1 p.m.

Sam was born in Barrows on November 7, 1940, to Harold & Josephine (Clay) Sweet.

Sam is survived by his children: Kevin (Denise), David, Brian and Janae (Jerry) Brill; six grandchildren and sisters: Betty Tyler and Beverly Miller.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother and his wife: Roger and Mary Klunder; and brother-in-law, Ronnie Miller.

DAVID BLAKEMAN



David E. Blakeman, 79, of Brainerd, died on Monday, March 6, 2023.

A gathering of family and friends will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, from 4:00 -7:00 p.m. at Nelson-Doran Funeral Home in Brainerd with a Memorial Service at 7:00 p.m.

David Edward Blakeman was born on February 20, 1944, in Brainerd, to Charles Edward and Alice Rachel (Westerberg) Blakeman. Dave grew up in Brainerd and remained an area resident his entire life. David married Ardy Jensen on November 5, 1966. He worked in the auto parts department at Galvin-Kolar Chevrolet in Brainerd, Spajl Chevrolet in Crosby, and then back to Brainerd at Dondelinger Chevrolet. He was also part owner of Thompson Oil. He was

an avid auto racing fan. Early on, he raced at North Central Speedway and other tracks in St. Cloud and Princeton. Later, you could find him in his recliner, his remote control in hand and his dog on his lap, watching whatever race was on TV. He also loved riding ATVs and had a lot of adventures in Arizona, as they wintered there for many years. He was a member of the Central Lakes ATV Club.

Dave will sadly be missed by his wife of 56 years, Ardy Blakeman; siblings, Cathryn (Gary) Peterson of Baxter, Sharon Richter of Hoyt, KS, Charles (Sharon) Blakeman of Nisswa-Curtis (Karen) Blakeman of Payette, ID, and May Alice (Doug) Moss of Rapid City, SD; sisters and brothers-in-law: Mary Maust, LeAnne (Pat) Caulfield, Pat Clarine, Janet (Bob O'Reilly) Jensen, Cindy (Doug) Yeager, and Lisa (Jay) Storm; and many, many nieces and nephews; great and "great-great" nieces and nephews.

FRANCIS COLTON, NAAWIGIIZIS

Francis Charles Colton, Naawigiizis, 62, of Isle, died Sunday, March 5, 2023 at his residence.

Tribal Rites began on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at East Lake Community Center in East Lake - McGregor. Chato Gonzales was the Tribal Rites Leader. Visitation began at dusk on Wednesday at the East Lake Community Center. Burial was in the Big Sandy Lake Burial Grounds.

He was born March 24, 1960 in Cloquet to Roger Eric Colton and Angelina (Boyd) Wade. He was retired having worked as a garbage man for many years. Francis enjoyed working on cars, gardening, yard work, and fishing. He

was a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Francis is survived by his five sisters: Eloise Yanez, Mary Colton, Rosa (Robert) Colton, Alida Colton, and Jennifer Wadena; Significant Other: Sherrie Murphy; and many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers: Richard Boyd and Roger Colton.

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

GORDON ZEIDLER



Gordon Ray Zeidler, 81, of Pequot Lakes peacefully died due to complications of COVID-19 on Sunday evening, March 5, 2023.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 11, at 2:00 p.m. at the Pequot Lakes Baptist Church.

Born October 10, 1941, Gordy was the first of

seven children born to Gordon and Vera Zeidler. He served his country with distinction as an Army artilleryman during the Viet Nam War. He was a beloved brother and a friend to many.

Gordy is survived by his sisters, Iris Dahlen, Karon Nelson; brother, Rodger Zeidler; and sisters, Linda Thufedal and Ardith Near; and many nieces and nephews.

BONNIE OLANDER



Bonnie (Bartella) Olander, 74, of Pequot Lakes, died peacefully in her sleep on March 11, 2023.

According to Bonnie's wishes a celebration of her life will be held at the Pequot Lakes American Legion from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

Bonnie was born October 25, 1948 to Vernon and Mayme (Hultgren) Bartella in Staples. She grew up on the family farm with her siblings Rick Bartella, Judy Thorsett, and Pat Jensen learning about responsibility and hard work that helped her later in life. Her love of children drove her to earn a degree in education from Bemidji State

followed by many years of fond teaching memories. In 1968 Bonnie married Dennis and together they started a life in Pequot Lakes. For many years Bonnie filled her time working alongside her husband doing lawn care, gardening, running a vegetable and pumpkin stand, processing deer, making sausage, selling Christmas trees and garage sale. A friend of all, Bonnie wanted to be remembered by everyone who stopped by and visited. She was grateful for all the friends she made along the way and will be remembered for teaching all the importance of honesty, love, and generosity.

Bonnie is survived by her daughters: Lisa Spizzo (Tom) and Terri Shogren (Chad); four grandchildren: Aiden, Julia, Ethan, and Jonathan.

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<p style="color: gray; font-weight: bold;">Traditional Funerals • Cremation Services</p> <p style="color: gray; font-weight: bold;">Celebration of Life • Pre-Planning Services</p>	
<p style="color: gray; font-weight: bold;">Directors: Jason Brezinsky</p> <p style="color: gray; font-weight: bold;">Jerry Thompson • Tad Brezinsky</p> <p style="color: gray; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">www.srtfuneral.com</p>	

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 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
Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; hilcityagchurch@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
Baxter — The Journey North, Pastor Jeremiah Rice, 218-824-5617; Worship Saturday 5, Sunday 9 & 10:30, thejourneynorth.com
Brainerd* — Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Jim Stephens, 218-829-3191; SS 9:00, Worship 10:30 and 6 p.m.; Wed. Classes and Clubs 6:30 p.m.; fbcbrainerd.com
Brainerd — The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org
Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Zach Broom 218-562-5252, Worship 9:30, SS 11.
Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor G. Fisher; SS 9:45; Service 10:45 and 6 p.m.; Bible Study and Our Kids for Christ Wed. 7 pm
Deerwood* — SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.
Glory* — Pastor Chris Meirose; 927-3678; SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 am.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12. aitkinchurch.com
Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.
Isle — Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.
Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC

Aitkin* — St. James, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10:30. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 and 4-4:45 pm.
Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Waweru, Sat. 4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00.
Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.
Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
Crosby* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieseke, Mass: M, Th and F at 8; Tues at Noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30.
Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.ihmstemils.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 Gieseke, 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; Sacramento 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 Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.
Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.
Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Richie Bean; Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10
Outing* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Kenny Holm, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge
Palisade —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 218-829-3834 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 Connect 6:30 pm
Malmö — 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 Ingleswood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com
Baxter — Prince of Peace (LCMS); 218-326-2483
Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 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 fbcbrainerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd

Brainerd* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at 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)
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

Crosslake — (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran.com • Kristin Oltmann, Pastor 218-692-3682 Labor Day-Mem. Day: Sun. 9:30am, Wed. 6:15pm Mem. Day-Labor Day: Sun. Indoor 8:30am, Outdoor 10am 14019 Daggett Pine Rd
Crosslake — Mission of the Cross (LCMS), Pastor Leslie Uhrinak; Worship 9:30 with every Sunday Communion, Fellowship 10:30, Adult Bible Class 11, 218-692-4228, www.missionofthecross.org
Deerwood* — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Amanda Kempthorne; Worship: 9; Sunday School 9:50.

Garrison — Light of the Cross (ELCA), Pastor Juli Sutton-Deem; Worship 9 SS 9; 320-692-4773 or 877-406-9101.
Garrison — Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Caleb 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. 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; 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)

Malmö — 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.

Rosburg — Bethesda (ELCA); Comm. 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.

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

Hwy 210
Thor — Zion, Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.
Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.
Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.\

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Brainerd — Oak Street Chapel, Pastor Todd Wooden, 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.
McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9. McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm.
Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11.

REFORMED

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Aitkin — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 9:30, Bible Study 10:30; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933
Brainerd — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 11:20, Bible Study 10; Bible Study & Prayer Mtg. Wed. 6:30 p.m.; 2910 Oak Street, Brainerd, 218-829-1676

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30 1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Brainerd — First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St. Brainerd. Sunday worship at 10. Pastor; Leslie Moughty. Handicapped accessible.

UNITED METHODIST

Aitkin* — Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live.
Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with YouTube live streaming 10 am with fellowship to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please 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. UJWF 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-

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Meatless Meals Made Easy

FAMILY FEATURES

Regardless of your motivation, opting for meatless meals regularly provides plenty of benefits that extend from the health of you and your loved ones to your wallet and the environment.

Whether you're a vegetarian, vegan, considering making some lifestyle changes or just want to give an on-trend meal prep strategy a try, going meatless can help reduce your intake of red and processed meats, decrease greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and save money on substitute ingredients like grains, vegetables, fruits and legumes that are often cheaper than meat.

For example, starting with a versatile pantry staple like instant brown rice can make mealtimes quick and easy. Ready in just 10 minutes instant brown rice lends itself perfectly to satisfying and hearty meals like these Baked Vegetarian Taquitos. Or for a twist on a classic dish, Success Tri-Color Quinoa can be layered with traditional flavors in this Mushroom Spinach "Lasagna." Packed with protein and all nine essential amino acids, the quinoa is a good source of fiber.

To find more meatless meal inspiration, visit SuccessRice.com.

Baked Vegetarian Taquitos

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 4

- 2/3 cup instant brown rice
- 2/3 cup water
- 1 cup shredded collard greens, packed
- 1/4 cup frozen corn
- 1 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2/3 cup canned pumpkin puree
- 1 1/2 tablespoons taco seasoning
- 8 flour tortillas (6 inches each)
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- sour cream, salsa, and guacamole, for dipping
- fresh cilantro, for garnish

Prepare rice according to package directions; add collard greens and corn to water during last 5 minutes.

Preheat oven to 450 F. Drain rice and vegetables; transfer to saucepan. Stir in black beans, pumpkin puree and taco seasoning.

Spoon 1/3 cup rice mixture into center of one tortilla; sprinkle with 2 tablespoons Monterey Jack cheese. Roll up tightly. Place seam side down on parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Repeat with remaining tortillas, filling and cheese. Brush taquitos with olive oil; sprinkle with remaining cheese.

Bake 10-15 minutes, or until tortillas are crisp and cheese is melted.

Serve taquitos with sour cream, salsa and guacamole for dipping. Garnish with fresh cilantro.



Mushroom Spinach "Lasagna"

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Servings: 6

- 2 bags Success Tri-Color Quinoa
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1 cup mushrooms, sliced
- 4 cups baby spinach leaves
- 3 cups tomato sauce
- 2 cups ricotta cheese
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

Prepare quinoa according to package directions. Preheat oven to 375 F.

In large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add garlic and onions; saute 1 minute. Add mushrooms and cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add spinach and stir until wilted, about 2 minutes. Stir in tomato sauce and keep warm.

In medium bowl, combine ricotta, egg, 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese and Italian seasoning.

Place 1 cup sauce in bottom of 2-quart baking dish. Spread half of quinoa evenly over sauce. Top with half of ricotta mixture. Top with 1 cup sauce. Sprinkle with 1 cup mozzarella. Repeat layers, finishing with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan cheese.

Bake uncovered 30 minutes. Serve warm.

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