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Sat., April 22, 2023

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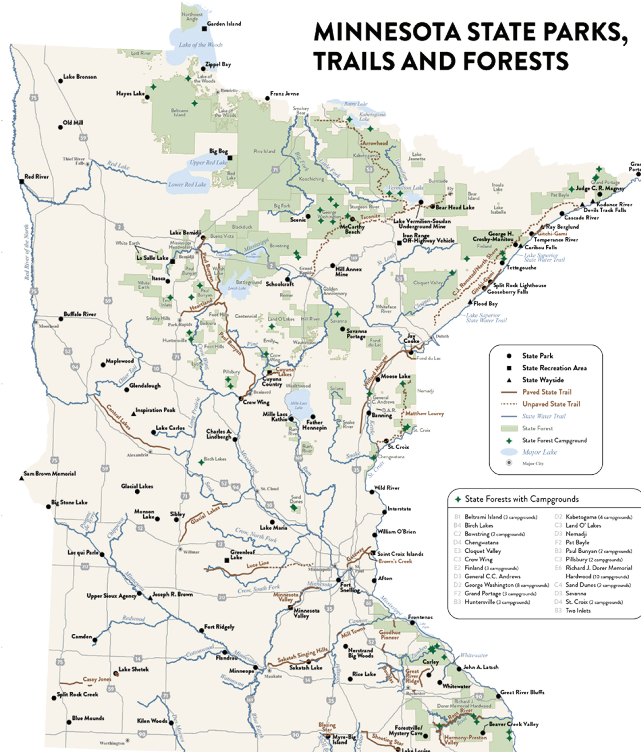
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## Free entrance to Minnesota state parks, recreation areas



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on Saturday, April 22. This "Free Park Day" is one of four days each year on which the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit at state parks and recreation areas.

In addition to being a Free Park Day, April 22 is also Earth Day. Several state parks are offering Earth Day events,

such as the Earth Day celebration at Gooseberry Falls State Park and clean-up events at Frontenac, Lake Bemidji and Myre-Big Island state parks. Find details about these events and others on the state parks event calendar (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar).

Visitors looking for certain recreational opportunities or amenities can use the ParkFinder tool (mndnr.gov/parkfinder) to find great options to meet their interests

and needs. The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather and bring water and snacks. Spring brings a variety of weather conditions, and trails can be icy or mud-

dy. Traction devices and/or waterproof footwear might be useful. Check for updates in the visitor alerts on park websites (mndnr.gov/parks). For more information, visit the DNR's Free Park Days web

page (mndnr.gov/freepark-days) or contact the DNR Information Center by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us or by calling 888-646-6367 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

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# Luke LeBlanc next artist at the Live Well Nightclub and Coffee Bar

Luke LeBlanc is the next Grassroots Concerts artist who will take the Nisswa stage Friday, April 28. It is the last concert of the spring season. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. at the Live Well Nightclub and Coffee Bar in the Journey Church at 5459 Lakers Lane, next to the school. Doors open at 6:30, where seating is first-come, first-served.



LeBlanc is a Minneapolis-based singer-songwriter who delivers dynamic and versatile original performances that feature a warm, organic merging of rootsy folk and pop.

As noted by The Current, LeBlanc's music is "so delicate, understated, and careful in its construction that you forget it's taking apart how to live in such an unstable world while giving solace and a place for rest."

LeBlanc's music has been featured on 89.3 the Current and has received critical acclaim from numerous music magazines, including Bluegrass Situation, Americana Highways, and Glide Magazine.

His music has been featured in podcasts, including The Bob Cesca Show, 13th Floor MusicTalk with Marty Duda, Tales from the Corners with Robert J Nebel, and Strong-writer on the Radio with Dean Olsen.

LeBlanc taught himself how to play guitar at 11 years old and decided to write his own words and music soon after. At 13, he was the youngest to win the Zimmy's (named after Robert Zimmerman, aka Bob Dylan) national Dylan influenced singer-songwriter competition.

LeBlanc played South by Southwest in Texas in 2017 where he opened for Char-

lie Parr, Phil Solem of the Rembrandts, Joey Molland of Badfinger, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.

His newest album, "Fugue State," was released last October, a follow-up to 2021's "Only Human." The album has garnered numerous

positive reviews, including an invite by Minnesota Public Radio to perform in-studio for The Current's Radio Heartland, a feature in Ed Helm's

bluegrass magazine, "Bluegrass Situation," and an appearance on Duluth's morning news. For more about the artist go to [www.lukeleblanc.com](http://www.lukeleblanc.com).

# Never-ending winter sets a snowfall record



The Rice River about eight miles north of Aitkin is very high, nearly reaching some of the houses there. Telephone boxes and power lines are in the water. Ann Schwartz photos

all the seasons. We had highs in the 70s, single-digit lows overnight and enough snowstorms that folks were getting paranoid about packing away their shovels and snowblowers.

After months of shuffling over icy driveways and sidewalks, dealing with stuck vehicles and shoveling, shoveling, shoveling, three warm days almost melted all the snow.

I call it out as each year I keep track of when the snow is substantially gone. (Man-made snow banks don't count).

I called it out last week, which means I should remove my snowmen from the window. But I didn't take them down. I marked the calendar as "snow gone 23" for future reference but then another four-five inches of wet, heavy stuff made its presence known. And we couldn't just

leave it to melt as it took a day or two.

The birds are back and the animals scamper around, leaving their tracks in the mud and snow. Rivers and lakes rise. At press time, the Mississippi River at Aitkin was 15.85 feet, quickly rising with the sudden snow melt by six feet in less than a week. Thirteen feet in Aitkin means minor flooding in low areas.

Well, we did it. According to the National Weather Service, Duluth, the Brainerd area set its all-time high snow depth record at 85.3 feet. Duluth was just barely below its 1995-96 record of 135.4 feet. Duluth measured 135.1 feet of snow this winter.

The red, red robins have valiantly returned and are hop bop bopping along. The old saying, "snow will fall three times on a robin's tail," is more than true. Depending on when the robins returned

they have been blasted probably five or six times.

Observant readers notice that swans and geese are back and the latest snow left some green grass in its wake. But temperatures are dipping again for this weekend. While there is hope with flowers pushing up through the snow, and birds blithely singing in the morning, it has been a long, long winter. And no, I am not packing away my snow shovels yet. They remain on the porch, probably until July this year.



Signs of hope, daffodils bravely push through a snowy landscape.

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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.**

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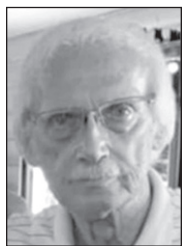
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# OBITUARIES

## JOHN BAHMA



John Charles Bahma, 74, of Brainerd, died on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at Essentia Health - St. Joseph's Medical Center.

A celebration of life will be held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at the American Legion Post #255 in Brainerd from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The family asks you to join them for a time of lunch and sharing memories.

John was born to Clyde and Mavis (Gardner) Bahma on July 23, 1948 in Brainerd. After graduating from Brainerd High School, he went on to earn a degree from DeVry Institute of Broadcasting. He then worked in the radio industry for

over 40 years, starting in Hastings and ending up in Brainerd for the majority of his career. He enjoyed a round of golf with his friends, gambling and going on outings with family. He will be remembered for being friendly, funny caring and easy to talk to.

John is survived by his siblings, Gary Bahma and Kathy Caffrey; cousins, Gaylene Peters and her children, Chandra (Christopher) Ruther and Danielle (Jeff Lofgren) Nelson; Diane (Gary) Blue and their son, Cole (Nanette) Blue; Heather (Dan) Gillund, and their sons, Christopher (Alex) Gillund and Kevin (Sarah) Gillund; and other cousins and extended family members. He is preceded in death by his parents and many aunts and uncles.

## RONALD CARNER



Ronald J. Carner, 78, of Brainerd died Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at his home in Brainerd.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the Barrows (Crow Wing) Town Hall.

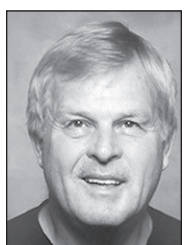
Ron was born on July 16, 1944, in Brainerd, to the late Raymond and June (Glanville) Carner. He was united in marriage to Peggy Adair on March 16, 1966. Ron enjoyed being home with his family, fishing, listening to music, and watching the wildlife that came into the yard. He also liked watching westerns, Minnesota Vikings and Harry Potter. His grandchildren and great-grandchild-

dren were his pride and joy.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 57 years, Peggy Carner; children: Rob (Christi) Carner, Chris (Brett) Carner-Stalwick, James (Donna) Carner; eight grandchildren: Ashley Kohl, Ross (Amber) Carner, Randy Kohl, Angela (Joseph) Bahr, Duante (Hannah Moody) Carner, Haley (Brandon) Pederson, Alyssa Carner and Danielle Carner; three great-grandchildren: Addyson Bahr, Evelyn Carner and Rhett Carner; siblings, Judy Maske, Virginia Borg, Dale Carner, Richard (Lillie) Carner, Anita Chamberlin, and Loren Carner; many nieces and nephews.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and June Carner; brothers, Virgil and Tom Carner; sister, Lorna Britton and nephews, Todd and Joshua Carner.

## FLOYD HAMLIN



Floyd (Dick) Richard Hamlin, 88, of Baxter died on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Military burial service was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 21 at the MN State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls with a Celebration of Life which followed at the Brainerd American Legion from 3-5 p.m.



Born November 3, 1934, to Floyd and Evelyn Hamlin, Dick was born and raised in St. Cloud and was the youngest of three boys. After graduating from St. Cloud Tech High School, Dick

joined the U.S. Navy as a Sonar Tech and later went on to graduate from Mankato State University. Anyone who knew Dick knows he was a born salesman. He had successful sales careers with Revlon, Yellow Pages, and later his used car lot.

Dick is survived by his wife, Maria, his two children: Tom (Kathy) Hamlin of Nisswa and Tina (Ivan) Hamlin of Port St. Lucie, FL; three stepdaughters: Loethers Hirsch, Silvia Bravo, and Maria Acosta; eight grandchildren: Kandice, Samantha, Peyton, Kasey, Kristina, Jonathan, Natalie, and Keith, and two great-grandchildren.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents Floyd and Evelyn, and his two brothers: Bob and Don.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

### April

- 22nd - Free entry into all Minnesota state parks
- 22nd - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Business Expo from 10am-3pm. For more information call 218-546-8131.
- 22nd - Jigsaw puzzle competition at Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library in Crosby, 1pm. Eight teams to will complete the same 500-piece puzzle with a maximum of four on each team. Registration is required; sign-up at the library by providing the team name, contact name and number.
- 22nd - Tree Pruning, 10am, at Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Dr., Baxter, This class will cover basic pruning tools, proper pruning cuts, optimal season to prune common tree species. This class is led by ISA Certified Arborist Zack Clark, the founder of Environmental Advantage, a local tree service in the Brainerd Lakes. Open to the Public: Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Pre-Registration is required, deadline to register is April 18. Call 218-829-8770.
- 24th & 25th - Bloodmobile noon-6pm at St. John's Lutheran in Aitkin. Aitkin Lions will be doing the registering and serve the canteen. To register call Red Cross for an appointment.
- 26th - The CLC String Orchestra and Choir will present their Spring program "Songs of Spring" at 7pm in the Chalberg Theatre and via livestream (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JYCiZLjkW).
- 27th - Annual Brat Sale in downtown Outing from 11am-2pm at the Crooked Lake Cafe, 432 State Highway 6. Don't miss the Crooked Lake Fire Department's raffle for cash prizes.
- 28th - St. John's Lutheran Church in Aitkin Chicken Dinner Carry Out with pickup from 5-6 pm. Call 218-927-3170 to make reservations. Chicken, potatoes and gravy, vegetable, bread and dessert for \$12.
- 29th - Northland Arboretum Arbor Day Celebration, FREE outdoor community event, 11am-2pm, 14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter. There will be free bug kits, free seedlings, and swag bags for the first 500 visitors. There will also be live music, a bouncy house, medallion hunt, demonstrations, a petting zoo, live reptiles, giveaways and so much more.
- 30th - Northland Arboretum Birding 101, 1:30-3pm, 14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter. Class includes indoor presentation with techniques, tips and tools to help you become a better birder, plus a brief trail walk (weather dependent) to test out your newly learned skills. Class is designed for adults and youth ages 12-16 when accompanied by an adult. Door Prizes and Free Use of Binoculars. Call 218-829-8770.

**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!

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# READER RIBBETS

## Property values and real estate taxes

Have you seen your property values on your Real Estate Tax Statements go extremely high in the last few years?

Everyone is feeling the difference this inflated real estate values is having on their Real Estate Taxes. It is hitting the homes valued under \$250,000 more than anyone because their values have gone up and the Homestead Exclusion has gone down.

How do we fix this? Who is responsible? You would think it could be fixed by your city

or county. Nope - the STATE of MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS are the ones that set the rules.

What could be changed? Raise the values for Homestead Exclusion from the first \$76,000 to \$150,000. Then change the way they calculate the property values. Right now they only look at last years sales. So, if only high price homes sell, everyone gets a value increase. How about a 3 year rolling average of sales? The "sudden" spikes would be spread out over 3 years and not be so drastic.

Leaving the formula the way it currently is - set in 2011 - benefits the wealthy. IT IS NOT FAIR!

Call the Senate Tax Committee Chair - Ann Rest - ph: 651-296-2889 and let her know how you feel.

And while you are at it, tell her we - the taxpayers are hurting. NO NEW TAXES! NO FEE INCREASES!

WE the People need some of our money back!

**Diane Cash, Crosby**

## Spending and voter fraud issues

Greetings from St. Paul, where [the week ending April 14] House Democrats started bringing omnibus finance bills to the floor for preliminary votes of the full body. There are a dozen or so of these packages that fund various sections of our state government for the next two years.

The high-level concern is these budget bills, collectively, would increase state spending by an unsustainable 40 percent (from \$51.6 billion to around \$72 billion), while also wiping out the \$17.5 billion surplus and failing to deliver meaningful tax relief.

The first omnibus finance bills to come to the floor were among the "smaller" we'll see this session, pertaining to higher education and the Legacy Amendment. We'll get back to budget notes next time but, for today, I would like to focus on another bill House Democrats approved this week that is not a budget bill:

### Elections bill (H.F. 3)

Let's not mince words here: On Thursday night, House Democrats approved the most partisan election bill in state history, violating Minnesota's longstanding tradition of requiring bipartisan support for election law changes. This bill will regulate campaign speech, limit engagement in the political process, and threaten election integrity with automatic voter registration when you sign up for a driver's license.

My biggest concern is with same-day voter registration provision in the bill. I recently

spoke with a county elections specialist about this issue. The specialist voiced concern that if someone wanted to commit voter fraud, they could easily do it through the same-day voter registration vouching statute.

This bill does nothing to address the fact that someone can fraudulently register to vote on voting day, vote, then have their vote count in the election. It could take weeks to detect the fraud after the fact that the vote is already banked - if it gets detected at all.

During 2016, there were up to 16,000 such persons who could not be found by the Social Security Administration when their voter registration information was sent by state election officials.

In March 2018, there was a report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor that revealed more than 26,000 individuals whose status was marked "challenged" (because they failed one or more eligibility tests) who voted in November 2016. Following that same election, Ramsey County alone tried to, but could not confirm the validity of the addresses of approximately 6,000 voters. That is a staggering number.

I spoke with a resident who said she went to vote in the 2020 election and election workers told her she had already voted absentee when in fact she had not. There was also a canvass done recently in Crow Wing County by a local group of citizens. They canvassed roughly 400 residents. They found a 5% discrepancy

rate in the voter roll, including a woman reporting she didn't even vote in the 2020 election, but the voter roll showed that she did indeed vote.

I can also tell you I have used the Secretary of State's list to reach out to people in our district. I came across addresses that didn't even have a home or residence at the listed address. So, in other words, people were registering to vote where there was no residence at all. That wrecks of fraud. One address I came across was a patch of woods that had a deer stand on it - and no home.

I personally addressed my concerns in the House Elections Committee about how a person will be able to vote numerous times without being caught (and possibly using numerous aliases to do it):

- in person early voting
- mail in ballot
- absentee ballot
- election-day voting

Not one single House Democrat who disagreed with me - nor the Secretary of State's office - were willing to address my concerns. They wanted me to just move on and only argued with the regurgitated talking points of "disinformation" or "misinformation" in response to mine and other members concerns.

I will keep fighting for what I believe is right because Minnesotans deserve a system where voting is easy but cheating is hard.

Sincerely,  
**State Rep. Ben Davis**  
District 6A

# LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., April 15 & 22, 2023)

## WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION PLUS ROAD REVIEW NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Wealthwood in Aitkin County, Minnesota, will meet at the Wealthwood Town Hall on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the

assessment of said Township for the year 2023.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the Township has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after conferring with your assessor, you may appear before the lo-

cal board of appeal and equalization.

The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

Road Review to follow the meeting.

Dated: April 3, 2023  
LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk  
Wealthwood Township  
7.4

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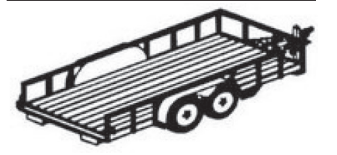
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# Northland Reliability Project



## Join us during our second phase of open houses

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**May 3, 2023** 10 a.m. - Noon

**Daggett Brook Town Hall**  
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See the full list of open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



### Can't be there in person?

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