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Ski Loons season is here



The Brainerd Ski Loons will be performing four free water ski shows at Lum Park in Brainerd on Sundays, July 16, July 30 and August 13 at 5 p.m., and Wednesday, August 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Each show is a unique event and great entertainment for the whole family. You can witness human ski pyramids, ski jumping, barefooting, stilt skiing, and so much more. Free will donations are appreciated. Please bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating. Concessions will be available. Additionally, the Ski Loons will be performing two trav-

eling shows at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort in Deerwood on Thursday, July 6 and Tuesday, August 8. Both shows at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort are at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

The mission of the Brainerd Ski Loons is to provide opportunities for personal development, teamwork, and community involvement through water sports. The Ski Loons are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Brainerd. For more information, find the Brainerd Ski Loons on Facebook or visit their website www.skiloons.com.



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Crosby-Ironton youth baseball and softball alive and thriving

Three to 8-year-olds can join T-ball in July



"Where we came from, there was a big baseball community," Hannah explained in an interview. "Not everyone here was as involved. We served on the board and saw how the leagues were run."

"We moved here in 2020 during the pandemic. There wasn't a lot going on with summer ball due to the covid rules. Before Paul Hoge passed away he ran an amazing program. After

that, it kind of fizzled out and lacked direction."

With their oldest son active in Crosby-Ironton school baseball, the Wesners and other community members formed a new summer youth baseball and softball board of directors and set out to revamp the program.

Last year, they got their feet wet and this summer, children and youth aged 3 to 17 are enjoying youth baseball on the Cuyuna Range.

They were lucky to snag C-1 high school varsity coaches – Brian Syrdstad for baseball and Molly MacDonald for softball – along with community coaches.

Now, about 200 young people are participating each week, with leagues that are co-ed till aged 9, then morphing into boys' and girls' baseball and softball teams. There are about 175 student



Photos courtesy of Cuyuna Range Youth Baseball and Softball

By ANN SCHWARTZ
When the late Paul Hoge was coaching, Crosby-Ironton summer youth baseball was going strong. But, due to the pandemic, Hoge's passing and other circumstances, the summer T-ball, baseball and softball leagues were struggling a bit.

Hannah and Bob Wesner moved to the area a few years ago. They operate their own

business and are located halfway between family in Wisconsin and South Dakota. The business services small airports and Hannah is able to work from home.

The couple has a 15-year-old son, a 10-year-old son and a 7-year old daughter. They will be a sophomore, fifth grader and second grader at Crosby-Ironton schools this fall.



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Park as well," noted Hannah.

The program has gained momentum, with sponsors coming forward and banners placed at the fields. Each player gets a jersey, hat and baseball pants. Volunteers are key and sponsors and grants have helped buy two new mechanical pitching machines.

Concessions are offered in a trailer donated by the Deerwood Bank and young players delight in getting weekly coupons to buy a treat. "We use our funds to keep costs low for families, both to participate and to buy concessions," she said.

Tuesday and Thursday nights are busy with drills and games. Younger players can still sign up to play T-ball in July although the other leagues are at capacity now. They started the season with some skills camps this year. The traveling team seasons will wrap up in late June or early July. Three-to-eight year olds can still sign up to play T-ball in July.

The board of directors still has plans to rebrand the program and work toward continued organization and benefits for the young players and their families.

For more information about sponsorships, participating or volunteering, please email crybaseball@gmail.com

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Campfire in the basement at library

The Friends of the Brainerd Public Library host the Brown Bag Lunch Summer Author Series in the large meeting room of the Brainerd Public Library on Mondays in June and July.

On Monday, June 26, from noon to 1:00 p.m., local author Darrell Pedersen will discuss his collection of stories, "Campfire in the Basement" at the Brainerd Public Library. The book is filled with amusing retellings of his colorful family history and thought-provoking bits of wisdom garnered from a long life well-lived. A self-described "little dickens" during his growing up years, the author shares memories

of a not-well-thought-out campfire in the basement and the tragic misadventures of being asked to care for the class goldfish over Christmas. Pedersen's stories will remind readers of their youth when old country stores were "candy heaven" and how every little boy wanted to be like the cowboys from "Gunsmoke."

Darrell J Pedersen spent much of his adult life serving others as a parish pastor at numerous Minnesota churches.

This presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Brainerd Public Library through their volunteer and fundraising efforts. Attendees are free to bring a sack lunch

or to just enjoy the light refreshments provided. No registration is required, and all are welcome.

Upcoming author visits in this series:

July 10: Kurt Johnson and Ellie Johnson, "The Barrens"
 July 17: Jenny Robertson, "Hoist House: A Novella & Stories"
 July 24: Allen Eskens, "The Stolen Hours"

July 31: Craig Bowron, "Man Overboard: A Medical Lifeline for the Aging Male"

For more information, contact the library at 218-829-5574 or visit the Friends of the Library's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Friendsofthebrainerdpubliclibrary.

New PAL & Co. Emporium in Aitkin



Vera Eisenbraun, sales clerk at PAL & Co., is excited to work at her first job. She shows shirts available at the newest shop in Aitkin. Ann Schwartz photos

By ANN SCHWARTZ
 Grandma's Pantry, selling bulk goods and staples, was long a staple on the corner of Minnesota Avenue and 3rd St. NW in Aitkin.

"PAL & Co offers a variety of men and women's casual wear and sanuk footwear," summed up Amanda Lowe. "Life Unplugged clothing is a unisex clothing line that I brought in when I read their

story and discovered this clothing line gives back. Eleven percent of their net profits are donated to families with children born with Chronic Heart Disease. Their mission is to encourage people to unplug from technology and to be present with the people that mean the most to you. I love to work with companies that have a story behind them -- a true mission. We will also continue to offer products from local farmers such as honey, maple syrup, pancake mix and wild rice."



There are now so many other places to buy bulk and natural foods, so the space is switched up to PAL & Co., a new shop owned by Amanda and Peter Lowe.

The store has been redecorated and re-designed and, on a recent Sunday, customers checked out clothing and footwear choices.

The store carries men's and women's leisure clothes and footwear. There are also locally produced food products such as honey, wild rice and maple syrup.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

- June**
- 24th - Emily Wesleyan Church Community Market in the church parking lot from 9 am-2 pm.
 - 24th - Fifty Lakes Day featuring live music all day vendors/crafters, beer gardens, mega meat raffle, family bingo, pork feed, fireworks, bungee jumping, inflatables and more.
 - 24th - Deerstand's Block Party starts at 6 pm. Featuring Live music, food and drinks. Call 218- 534-9253 for details.
 - 24th - Music in the Square with the Rusty Crayfish Brass Band. This ensemble covers the high energy music of great original 'New Awlins' brass bands with their own original tunes and arrangements. The performance in Crosslake Town Square 6-8pm. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music with your neighbors.
 - 24th - Malmo Evangelical Free Church Outdoor Gospel Concerts, with Mike & Ted, playing a toe-tapping mixture of tunes and telling stories in song form, at 7pm. Come as you are and bring a lawn chair. In case of rain, the concert will be inside the air-conditioned church. A free-will offering will be taken to help pay for the concerts. Malmo church is located at 21927 - 322nd Ave., Isle (near the junction of Highways 47 and 18 on Highway 18 near the northeast corner of Lake Mille Lacs.
 - 25th - Northland Arboretum Dazzle of Dragonflies, species identification, habitat, metamorphoses, and bio-diversity. 1:30-3:30 pm, 14250 Conservation Dr, Baxter. Class designed for adults and youth ages 10-16 when accompanied by an adult. Door prizes! Space is limited. Call 218-829-8770.
- July**
- 1st - Shane Martin Band in the Crosslake Town Square, 6-8pm, at Crosslake Town Square. They play a unique blend of modern country rock. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music with your neighbors.
 - 1st - Annual Crooked Lake Fire Department Dance in Outing.
 - 1st - Fireworks at dusk overlooking Lawrence Lake sponsored by the Outing Area Chamber of Commerce.
 - 3rd - Spalding's Annual Street Dance in Crosby. Live music from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Call 218-546-6060 for more information.
 - 3rd & 4th - Pequot Lakes Stars & Stripes Days
 - 4th - Annual Fourth of July Celebration in Crosby. Two mile parade, kiddie parade, live music, food, beer garden, cash raffle and more! Organized by the Crosby Fire Department and the CFD Auxiliary.
 - 12th - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Golf Tournament. at Cuyuna Rolling Hills in Deerwood. Call 218-546-8131 to register.
 - 13th - Crosslake Ideal Lions Red Cross Blood Drive at Crosslake Lutheran Church, noon - 6pm. Schedule your appointment at RedCrossBlood.org using sponsor code Crosslake Community.

Vacation Bible School in Garrison

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church at 10583 US Highway 169, Garrison will have a Vacation Bible School (VBS) on Monday - Friday, Aug. 14 - 18 from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. with the theme of "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

Students will learn about the one true God through five mountain top Bible stories, high energy music, games, crafts, and snacks. All "Go Tell it on the Mountain" materials integrate mountain Bible stories with a mountain theme to teach children about the real Bible, the real Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you would like to sign up your children or grandchildren for this VBS or would like know more about this opportunity, you can send your inquiries to sotlpastor-caleb@gmail.com or call at 320-692-4581.

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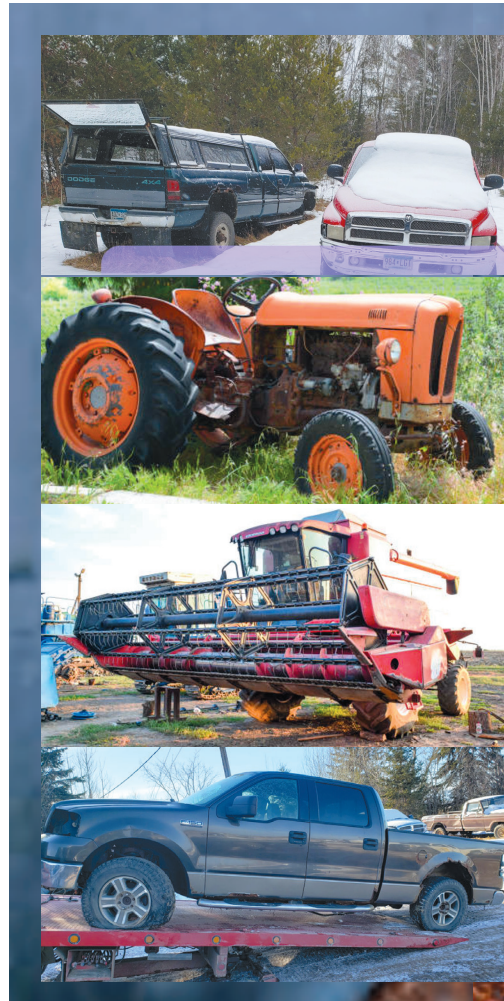
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