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WHAT'S INSIDE

FORT RIPLEY MAN CHARGED WITH KILLING WIFE
Page 2

BIRTH
Page 3

OBITUARIES
Pages 3 & 4

CLASSIFIEDS
Page 5

NewsHopper

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Juicy, ripe peaches will benefit families and communities



Matt Doucette and his sons picked up Lions peaches last year.
Matt Doucette photo

By ANN SCHWARTZ
Matt Doucette, pharmacist at GuidePoint Pharmacy in Aitkin, and a Lions member, went on a mission. He wanted to find homegrown,

so-ripe-the-juice-runs-down your-chin, peaches to sell in the Aitkin/Crosby areas.

After some research, he found C and R Farms in Palisade, Colorado. Last year,

the Aitkin Lions took preorders for peaches and Matt and his two oldest sons [still little guys]_drove all the way to Colorado to bring back peaches.

"They come in a lug, a large box, which weighs at least 18 pounds and each lug costs \$42.50," said Doucette in an interview.

Order peaches by August 11 at Aitkin's GuidePoint next to the Rialto Theater or call Carroll and Joy Janzen at 218-927-6119. They can also be ordered through the Aitkin Lions Facebook page and order and pay online.

"Our first year, our biggest obstacle was not selling the peaches," explained Doucette. "They sell themselves.

It was transportation that was the issue."

"My two oldest sons and I drove all the way out to Colorado to pick up the peaches. We enjoyed a couple of days in the mountains and returned with a pickup trailer full of pallets of peaches.

C and R Farms in Palisade, Colorado, is a family-run operation. The reason the peaches are so great is that they are picked by hand when ripe and carefully wrapped for distribution. "They are never handled by machinery nor put on a conveyor belt. It shows when you take a bite in one. You will be addicted."

The farmland has a river running through it and the right amount of moisture and sunshine to produce these wonderful peaches.

"We are selling the best grade you can get. And transportation is solved for this year. A grandson of a Lions

members owns a trucking company in Brainerd and he agreed to pick them up."

The tentative date to distribute peaches is Sept. 1 at the Aitkin Fairgrounds Food Building.

"I guarantee, people will love these peaches," enthused Doucette. "And the proceeds will be used for programs that benefit our community. I know a whole lug sounds like a lot of peaches, but once you start eating them you can't stop. Our family went through three lugs last summer."



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Sellebrate Rhubarb with Cascade

The Cascade Ladies of Cascade United Methodist Church invite all to attend their Sellebrate Rhubarb event on Saturday, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church located on Highway 6 and 210 west of Deerwood. Rhubarb desserts will be served with coffee for \$5.00. Other items for sale will include baked goods, jams, kitchen and miscellaneous crafts, garden art and plants. Pictured above are front row: (left to right) Deb Weide and Pam Hallin; second row: Cheryl Taylor, Sherry Black, Kimber Verkuilen, Carol Mills and Tom Black; third row: Terry Mevissen, Brad Akers, Mark Hallin, Mike Hawks, Mike Bender, Gary Taylor and Cary Klingner.

Husband charged in wife's death



A Fort Ripley man is now charged with killing his wife after they left a party last month in Crow Wing County.

Prosecutors have charged 47-year-old Tony James McClelland with second-de-

gree murder, first-degree manslaughter and two counts of criminal vehicular homicide for the death of his wife, 49-year-old Angela Marie McClelland.

Her body was found along a frontage road on the west side of Highway 371 in Fort Ripley Township, around 15 miles southwest of Brainerd, early on Sunday morning of June 25, near the intersection of Legend Road and Killian Road.

Charging documents filed Wednesday morning state that her body had "significant trauma" consistent with behind hit by a vehicle.

Investigators have been working on the case and put-

ting the pieces together of the fatal events leading up to the death of the victim. Both the husband and victim lived together in their Fort Ripley home.

Investigators from the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office, BCA and the State Patrol began developing leads and worked throughout the last two weeks following up on interviews and gathering pieces of evidence.

On Monday, July 10 at 8:30 p.m. Crow Wing County Deputies arrested McClelland and he was transported to the Crow Wing County Jail.

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- 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.

Artist work featured at Brainerd Public Library



A new exhibit of artwork by Gust Akkanen is on display at the Brainerd Public Library, 416 S Fifth Street, Brainerd, through September 2023. The exhibit includes 14 acrylic

paintings depicting various nature scenes and wildlife.

The artwork on display at the library includes a mix of underwater scenes, sweeping landscapes, and forest

wildlife. Akkanen is a self-described nature enthusiast and was a canoe guide in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). A love of the water and fishing inspired many of his earlier paintings and snorkeling the clear waters in Cozumel, Mexico and being eye to eye with the subjects of his paintings was for Akkanen, "a treat".

Now retired from the paper industry, Akkanen has been able to refocus his time on his artwork. He is currently working on wildlife and landscape scenery. Having grown up in Babbitt, MN, Akkanen says, "living in this area is always an inspiration

for a new creation to draw or paint. Capturing the mood, brightness, realism, and color of the world I see, is my goal as an artist."



Summer farm festival celebrates things local

Celebrate all things local at the free Summer farm festival on Sunday, Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Clear Lake Gardens located at 31213 - 292nd St., Aitkin, in Glen Township. The venue is a historic farmstead, with an iconic red barn, near Glen

on beautiful Clear Lake, 10 miles north of Mille Lacs and 20 miles south of Aitkin, just 1 mile off Hwy 47 on 292nd Street.

Event organizers are Kelley Rajala and Judy Douglas. The two are hosting the festival, to bring together local farmers, food businesses, related organizations, education, art and music.

"Aitkin County has a lot of great local food, local products and local talent", said Rajala. "We see the Festival as an opportunity to showcase local businesses of Aitkin County."

Participants include the Aitkin Farmers Market, the Aitkin Food Hub, Block North Brewery, Glacial Lakes Brewers, Vangstad Creamery, local

farms, food producers, artists and organizations that share the values of local production, handcrafting, environmental stewardship and sustainability.

For more information contact Kelley Rajala at 707-331-6850 or email: clearlakegardens@gmail.com. The event website is clearlakegardens.org/events

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

July

- 15th - Celebrate Emily Day. Parade, kids' games, pancake breakfast, beer garden, fireworks, raffle, live music, and Lakers Lions' Famous Pork Chop on-a-Stick.
- 15th - One Night Stand will put their twist on classic rock, blues, gospel and jazz, 6-8pm sponsored by Crosslake Ideal Lions at Crosslake Town Square. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the music.
- 15th - Malmo Evangelical Free Church Outdoor Gospel Concerts, with the Song Masters - They are known as the longest continuously singing southern gospel group in the Midwest, 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.
- 15th & 22nd - Aitkin County Historical Society will be accepting good/clean donations of items noon-4pm at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds for their garage sale
- 16th - KC Pancake Breakfast Sunday at the St. Joseph's Church social hall in Crosby, 9am-noon. Come enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, beverages and great company! Gluten-free options available. Free will donation. Proceeds go for parish support. 18th & 19th - Pequot Lakes Bean Hole Days
- 20th - Flying Solo (Creating the New Life as a Single Person) will be held at Crosslake Lutheran Church 12:30-4pm. You are invited to participate in this class that looks at the grief experience and how to create the new life after loss of relationship. To sign up for the class, please call the church office at 218-692-3682.
- 21st - 23rd - Garrison Play Days. Music, food, parade and more.
- 22nd - Ironton Fire Department Day at the Ironton Fire Hall. Vendors 9am-2 pm; Cars, trucks, motorcycle show along Third Street in Ironton. Call 218-838-1822 for details.
- 22nd - The Merrifield Lions Park-Fest and Car Show 10am-2 pm at the Merrifield Lions Park on County Road 3, six miles north of Brainerd. The Car Show will be held on the baseball field. Registration of \$10.00 begins at 8:30am. The Car Show is free to spectators. Pulled Pork, BBQ Rib and Hot Dog Dinners and Root Beer Floats will be for sale throughout the day. The Merrifield Craft Marketplace will also be held at the park that day. This annual fundraiser is to benefit the maintenance and improvements at the Merrifield Lions Park. A new playground is badly needed and funds of \$100,000 are now being raised to replace the current playground equipment.
- 22nd - Our Lady of the Cross Lutheran Church, which is next door to the VFW in Garrison, will have a Garage Sale, Bake Sale, Book Sale. Pie and Ice Cream, 9am-3pm.
- 22nd - Because of Brandon ATV Ride, 9 a.m. at the Miller Black Bear Cole's Lake Cabin Trailhead area. Contact Ken Irish at ironrider@comcast.net with questions.
- 22nd - Our Lady of the Cross Lutheran Church, which is next door to the VFW in Garrison, 9am- 3pm, Garage Sale, Pie and Ice Cream. Ice Cream Cones, Hot Coffee, Cold Water, Bake Sale, Book Sale. Come and shop for goodies and then sit and have a piece of pie with or without ice cream and coffee.
- 22nd - Cuyuna Iron Range Riders ATV Club Because of Brandon ATV Ride, a fund-raiser for juvenile diabetes education, with guided rides starting at 10am on the Miller Black Bear Trails. Directions to Cole's Lake Trailhead area: take County Road 30 (four miles north of Ironton) to the Manganese Road on the west side of County Road 30. Watch for banners. Lunch will be provided, sandwiches made by Crosby SuperOne. For more information contact Ken Irish at ironrider@comcast.net. Register at brand on 2023.givesmart.com
- 22nd - Dos Guys will perform 6-8pm at Crosslake Town Square. The two-man band perform favorite songs. Music in the Square is sponsored by the Crosslake Ideal Lions. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy.
- 22nd - Malmo Evangelical Free Church Outdoor Gospel Concerts, with the Northern Lights Revisited - from east central MN, singing and playing gospel favorites, 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.
- 27th - Newly formed hiking club needs members, meet at 9am at the Northland Arboretum, Brainerd. Register in advance by calling the front desk at 218-829-8770. It is a free hike, Organizers hope to do this once a month or more often
- 27th - Music in the Park at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake, 5-8pm. Hosted by the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- 28th & 29th - Powerboat racing Serpent Lake at Crosby's Memorial Park, noon-4 pm, no admittance fee. Concessions will be available. For more information, visit cuyunalakes.com or call 218-546-8131.
- 29th - Malmo Evangelical Free Church Outdoor Gospel Concerts, with Higher Call - a Men's Gospel Quartet from the Twin Cities Area, 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.
- 29th - Erin's Wish at the Town Tavern in Ironton, benefit for the

Walkers wanted for new hiking club

Walkers are needed for a newly forming hiking club. The first hike is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27 at 9 a.m. at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd. Walkers will be accompanied by knowledgeable guides as they walk at a comfortable pace for a free one-hour walk on the arboretum's expansive trail system. Participants are asked wear comfortable, support-

ive shoes as trails are dirt or grass and can have uneven surfaces and to call 218-829-

8770 to register in advance. Well-behaved leashed dogs are welcome on the hike.

Donations wanted

Consider donating your gently used housewares, garden items, home décor, bedding and furniture (no electronics or exercise equipment) to St. Joseph's Youth Group Garage Sale, at 617 Poplar Street in Crosby.

Dates and times for the garage sale are Thurs., July 20 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Fri., July 21 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sat., July 22 from 9 a.m. to noon. Call the parish office 218-546-6559 for more information.



LOOK WHOSE baby JUST ARRIVED

KAYLEEANA TIBBETTS

Kayleena Rose Tibbetts, a girl, weighing 7 lbs., 12 ozs., was born July 6, 2023, in Aitkin, to Alicia and Christopher Tibbetts of Aitkin.

OBITUARIES

LESTER DOSMANN



Lester "Les" J. Dosmann, 94, of Ironton died on Sunday, July 9, 2023 at St Cloud Veterans Medical Center.



A Memorial Mass will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 21, 2023 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby. Full military honors will be presented by the Myrin-James American Legion Post 443 of Ironton. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Les was born May 25, 1929 to Albert and Edith (Kroetsch) Dosmann on the family farm near Mt. Carmel. He grew up on the family farm then moved to Langdon in 1949. On November 9, 1952, Les was united in marriage to Carol Dalbotten. They made

their home in Crystal and raised six children. Aside from raising their children, Les also worked as a Machinist for 48 years at Despatch Industrial Ovens.

Surviving Les are his wife, Carol; children: Sandy Ulrick (John) of Brooklyn Park, Sherry Ashton of Hibbing, Karen (Terry) Cook of Bloomington, Diane (Milt) Thompson of Ballston Spa, NY, Alan Dosmann of Deerwood, and Maureen (Rob) Payne of Crosby; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother, Lloyd (Jackie) Dosmann; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Leon; sisters: Margaret Hell, Dorothy Zerr, Sharon Gross, and Corrine Clover.

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

More obituaries on Page 4

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New worlds emerge through abstract landscape paintings at gallery

Painter Steven McHugh can look at a forest clearing, at light refracted on a lake's surface or lichens on fallen trees and see composition and color. McHugh's mixed media abstract paintings will be featured at Ripple River Gallery July 12 through August 13. The public is invited to meet the artist at a reception on Saturday, July 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. The gallery is located between Aitkin and Deerwood near Bay Lake.



McHugh's "Forest View" began with intuitive marks and gestures, then layers of color to create texture. "First comes the chaos, then some order and clarity." He wants the viewer to discover new elements and details in his paintings.

"Art, like life, becomes vibrant by creatively shaping what we have to work with, responding to spirituality, and incorporating all the subtle influences that bring the artist to the place where he finds himself

in the moment," McHugh says. He believes that the tension between the artist's vision and the structural

boundaries imposed by the canvas are where the magic happens. "I want the eye of the viewer to finish the details of my paintings in their own mind."

Smooth, broad color fields, linear imagery and thick, textured surfaces built up with oil, charcoal and mixed media on canvas or paper are the elements that allow McHugh to create deeply layered paintings. "When it works, my art piques curiosity, stimulates discussion or meditation, delights or disturbs."

Driven by curiosity and fueled by imagination, McHugh says he never learned to color inside the lines. "I started creating art as a child on my mom's kitchen floor. Spread out across the floor

were large sheets of colored construction paper, crayons, scissors and paint. I spent my days creating."

McHugh's refuge was the woods and river near his home in Appleton, WI. In high school the art department was his sanctuary. He attended Layton School of Art in Milwaukee and Brooks Institute of Photography. In 2006, a creative project drew him to Madeline Island off Bayfield, WI, along the south shore of Lake Super-

rior. "Getting on the ferry and gliding over pure blue waters, leaving the busy corporate world behind, I felt instantly at home. Three days later I bought a cabin nestled in the woods."

"I spent my first three decades creating advertising images," McHugh said. "I plan to spend my last decades creating soul-driven images. The act of painting, creating, is as essential to me as air and water."

Ripple River Gallery is

open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. The gallery is located five miles south of Deerwood on Highway 6, then 3 miles east of Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge on County Road 14 to Partridge Avenue; or south of Aitkin on Highway 169 to Bennettville, then 3.2 miles west on County Road 11 to Partridge Avenue.

For more information call 218-678-2575 or e-mail ripplerrivergallery@gmail.com.

Midwest author at library

Wisconsin author Jenny Robertson will discuss her debut book "Hoist House: A Novella and Stories" in the large meeting room of the Brainerd Public Library on Monday, July 17 from noon to 1:00 p.m. Attendees are free to bring a sack lunch or to just enjoy the light refreshments provided. No registration is required and all are welcome.

The stories she tells are many and varied: Cher Bebe manages the dance floor and flogs patrons at a night-

club while his estranged father takes his last breaths back home; a man walks a moonlit trail through his ancestral lands on his way to abduct a child; a Michigan tornado spotter grieves the end of his marriage; Maggie Pancake returns to her Minnesota hometown, jilted by her fiancée, a professional clown; and the titular novella follows 14-year-old Sadie and her Finnish immigrant mining family in Iron Range Minnesota in the months leading up to the Milford

Mining disaster of 1924. With power and compassion, Robertson weaves tales that explore the precarity of immigrant life, worker exploitation, the tensions and dangers inherent in growing up, and the ephemeral nature of the American Dream.

Upcoming author visits in this series:

July 24: Allen Eskens, "The Stolen Hours"

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

Nation's best emerging singers

Each year Lakes Area Music Festival (LAMF) invites young professional singers to apply to the Vocal Fellowship program. This year the organization received over 250 applicants from leading music conservatories in the nation. Through a competitive selection process, four fellows were selected: soprano Tori Tedeschi Adams from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music; mezzo-soprano Ori Marcu from the Eastman School of Music; baritone Marcus King, recent soloist with the Memphis Symphony; and baritone Joel Mathias who performs regularly with Minnesota Opera.

These singers spend three weeks in central Minnesota to gain performance experience throughout the region while also participating in musical and career coaching activities from worldwide leaders of the music industry. The first public performance of these star singers will be a musical theater cabaret presented Friday, July 21 at Aitkin's Ripple Center. Joined by singers from LAMF's 2023 opera production, attendees will enjoy a variety show featuring classic music theater.

On Sunday, July 23, the star singers will present a vocal recital program at 2 p.m. at Crosslake Lutheran Church and at 7:30 p.m. in Nisswa at

Lutheran Church of the Cross. After hearing Adams, Marcu, King, and Mathias in these performances, audiences will see them again on the mainstage performances of this year's Lakes Area Music Festival, performances at the Gichi-ziiibi Center for the Arts. They will be featured in a Night at the Opera with the LAMF symphony, performing familiar opera hits like the William Tell Overture and music from Carmen. They will also perform in the chorus for a full production of Gaetano Donizetti's operatic comedy Don Pasquale on August 11 and 13 featuring singers from the Metropolitan Opera.

Lutheran Church of the Cross.

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