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Minnesotans to receive up to \$1,300 through September



One-time tax rebate payments

- \$260 for Single Individuals
- \$520 for Married Couples
- \$260 for each dependent (up to three dependents)
- \$1,300 Payment Cap

Governor Tim Walz announced on Wednesday that one-time tax rebate payments of up to \$1,300 per family will start going out.

"As Minnesotans plan for back-to-school, we know that the excitement families are feeling is mixed with the stress that comes with buying books, backpacks, and clothes," said Governor Walz. "We're going to help with that - both with payments of up to \$1,300 per family and universal free breakfast and lunch. I am

grateful for the Department of Revenue's work to deliver these payments to Minnesotans as soon as possible."

"We know that these payments will take a weight off millions of Minnesotans' shoulders this fall - especially with the start of the new school year," said Lieutenant Governor Flanagan. "These direct payments are a crucial way to put money in the pockets of Minnesotans who need it and empower families across the state to meet their needs on their terms."

The legislation, signed by the Governor in May, provides payments to eligible Minnesotans of:

• \$520 for married couples filing a joint 2021 income or property tax return with adjusted gross income of \$150,000 or less.

• \$260 for all other individuals with 2021 adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less.

Another \$260 for each dependent, up to three dependents.

• Direct deposit payments will go out first, followed by paper checks in the mail. The department expects the nearly 2.1 million rebate payments to be initiated by the end of September.

"This tax rebate was proposed and passed to help ease the pain of the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation," said Revenue Commissioner Paul Marquart. "Governor Walz and Revenue staff prioritized the implementation of this rebate program this summer knowing how important the payments are to Minnesotans to help pay for everyday expenses."

Direct deposit rebate recipients

Recipients who chose direct deposit when they filed their 2021 taxes or updated their bank information with the department earlier this summer should see their payments in their bank accounts starting this week, through the end of August. The payment will appear as "State of Minnesota 2021 Tax Rebate Program" on their bank statement.

Paper check rebate recipients

Recipients receiving a paper check should start seeing their checks in 2-3 weeks, with checks being mailed through September. Paper checks will appear in a plain white envelope. These checks are protected by standard banking safeguards that help detect and deter fraud.

I chose direct deposit, why did I get a paper check?

If a direct deposit is returned due to a banking error or incorrect bank account information, then a paper check will be mailed.

If you elected to have tax preparation fees deducted from your 2021 tax refund, a paper check will be issued to avoid the rebate being deposited into an erroneous bank account.

Can I track the status of my rebate payment?

No. This rebate payment is being processed outside the usual tax refund processing system so it will not show up in the Where's My Refund? system.

What if I didn't get my rebate payment?

If you think you are eligible for the rebate but did not receive it by October, review the eligibility requirements on the Department of Revenue website at <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/direct-tax-rebate-2021>. If you are eligible for a payment, a customer assistance representative can look into your situation. Call 651-565-6595 or email mntaxrebate@submittable.com.

Where can Minnesotans find more information on other tax-related legislation?

Revenue is reviewing other legislation recently signed into law and is working to update the state tax filing systems to reflect changes made to Minnesota's tax laws. For more information on other tax law changes, visit the Tax Law Changes page on DOR's website at <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/tax-law-changes>.

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Summer Twilight Festival lights up Brainerd with spectacular music lineup



The charismatic twin brothers of *B2wins* from Brazil harness their violins in a blend of rock, dance, and soul.

Get ready for a sensational three-day musical extravaganza as the Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center proudly presents the Summer Twilight Music Festival from Wednesday, to Friday, Aug. 23 to 25. This not-to-be-missed event will take place at the West Side

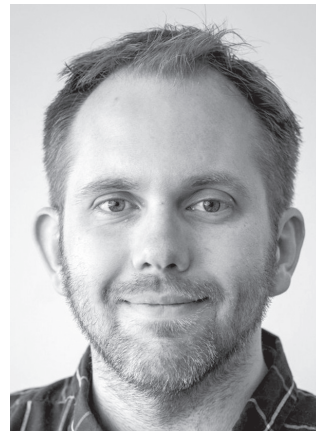
Tent of the Central Lakes College campus in Brainerd. The diverse lineup includes artists from across the world and music to thrill all ages.

Kicking off the festival on Wednesday, Aug. 23 are the electrifying *B2wins*. Hailing from Brazil, the charismatic twin brothers deliver an un-

forgettable high-energy show that fuses various genres into a mesmerizing blend of rock, dance, and soul. Pronounced "B-Twins," their captivating renditions of crowd favorites and engaging live performance are set to create an enchanting experience that is part rock concert, part dance party, and a true vacation for the soul.

On Thursday, Aug. 24, brace yourselves for the magic of Creedence Revived, a tribute band that has taken the world by storm. Known for their sold-out shows and breathtaking performances for audiences upwards of 30,000, Creedence Revived

promises to transport festival-goers back in time with their authentic rendition of classic hits. This group of im-



Joey Yow, Director of the Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center

mensely talented musicians, each a master in their own right, pays homage to the legendary Creedence Clearwater Revival, promising a night of musical nostalgia.

The festival's grand finale on Friday, Aug. 25 brings a remarkable collaboration of talent to the stage. Ken Waldman, a seasoned Alaskan artist, will join forces with Kyle Orla and Kelley Smith to deliver a unique performance that combines Appalachian-style string-band music with original poetry and folk tunes. The trio's blend of artistry promises to take the audience on an emotive journey through music and

storytelling, evoking a sense of connection and wonder.

"We are thrilled to present the Summer Twilight Festival, an event that showcases the power of music to unite our community and uplift our spirits," said Joey Yow, Director of the Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center. "This week will be a farewell celebration of an incredible summer and a welcome to the students returning to Central Lakes College for the upcoming semester. With a diverse lineup and performances that span genres and generations, we invite everyone to join us for a week of pure musical joy."

Big Tom's Diner 50s-era themed restaurant open for breakfast and lunch



Big Tom's Diner, a 50s-era themed restaurant with poodle skirts, jukebox and milkshakes, opened in early June. It is in the former Birchwood Café location on Minnesota Avenue in downtown Aitkin.

By ANN SCHWARTZ

in downtown Aitkin, is hidden there in Big Tom's Diner. The new, refurbished

50s-era diner opened in early June. "It's been good," said Owner Cory Eken, who also owns eateries in the McGre-

gor and Palisade areas. The refresh includes new flooring, teal paint, a jukebox, cheerful red and white booths and much memorabilia.

The menu is typical diner fare. Breakfast is served all day and you may switch to lunch if you want. They are open from 7-3 seven days a week.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, hubby and I loved our chocolate malts and our chicken fried steak was crispy and seasoned well. The hash-browns were crunchy and the biscuit, flaky.

Local high school student Annika Kahn is one of the waiters who work in bright poodle skirts.

With a merry décor and food to please, Big Tom's Diner is worthy of a stop for a bite.



Cory Eken (left) is the owner and Darlene Jakowski (right) manager of Big Tom's Diner in Aitkin.



In the kitchen, Paige Packard is a prep cook.



Be transported back in time as your waitress makes your milkshake at the counter.

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OBITUARIES

LOLA JOHNSON



Lola M. Johnson, 95, McGregor, died Sunday, August 13, 2023 at Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin. Services were held Friday, August 18, 2023 at 11 a.m. in Our Saviors Lutheran Church, McGregor with Pastor John Thomson officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at a later date in Sheriff Lake Cemetery, Spalding Township. She was born on July 18, 1928 to Lester and Ann Bailey and graduated from McGregor in 1946. Lola was united in marriage to Walter Johnson on August 2, 1947. He was the love of her life and they were married for almost 65 years. They were active members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church and enjoyed bowling and golfing together. Lola

enjoyed decorating her home for all of the holidays and loved spending time with her family and spoiling her grandchildren. She is survived by her children: Randy (Elaine) Johnson, Kathie (Bill) Bolt, and Tami (Mark) Hawkinson; daughter-in-law, Darla Johnson; seven grandchildren: Leah (Donnie) Koerber, Angie Johnson, Katie Jacobson, Ryan Johnson, Emma Hawkinson, Tanya (Fred) Whitesides and Adam Hawkinson; two great-grandchildren: Ashlyn Biessel and Carrick Whitesides; sister, Leslie Hietalati; brother, David Bailey and many other relatives and friends. Lola was preceded in death by her husband, Walt in 2012; son, Kevin in 2020 and three of her siblings: Verton "Toke" Bailey, June Olson and Betty Manchester. Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service in McGregor. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

GAYLIN SMITH



Gaylin Jon Smith, 61, of Nisswa, died suddenly at his home on Thursday, August 3, 2023. The Celebration of Gaylin's Life was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. Gaylin was the son of Karl and Marlene Smith. He married the love of his life, Ilene Gangestad. The couple enjoyed their life together and raising their beloved pups, Lewie, Ollie, and the most beautiful dog in the world, Charlie. If you knew Gaylin, you knew he loved fishing.

He will be dearly missed by his wife Ilene; parents; siblings: Rob (Heavenly) Smith, Gina (Todd) Smith, and Scott (Shiela) Smith and families; in-laws, Brenda (Bob) Peterson, Cynthia (Brian) Bachman, Dudley (Kathy) Gangestad, Emma Rademacher, Felix Gangestad, Greg Gangestad, Holly (Terry) Wendland, Julie (Jeff) Hardy, Kendra (Brian) Roberts; brother-in-law, Bob Rakow; and many friends. He was preceded in death by sisters-in-law, Alisa Rakow and Tammy Gangestad, brother-in-law, Mike Rademacher, and grandparents.

More obituaries on Page 4

MONA BENGTON



Mona Lee Bengtson, 63, of Aitkin/Palisade died on Friday, August 11, 2023, due to a tragic car accident in Faribault. There will be no arranged funeral service or visitation, but a celebration of life will be held at a later date. She was born January 19, 1960 in Iowa Falls, IA to Donald and Virginia (Wilson) Dass of Jewell, IA. She graduated from South Hamilton High school, and BSBA (Computer Information)/MBA (General Business) from Drake University. She retired from Northwest Airlines/Delta as IT Manager in 2010 and worked at Land

O'Lakes as a Manager, Application Support until 2015, Mona then chose to retire fulltime to Fleming Lake home located south of Palisade. Mona was united in marriage to Rodney Bengtson in Maui, HI on Feb 27, 2007. Mona enjoyed her goldendoodle "Sophie", quilting, knitting, traveling and socializing with friends and family. Mona was outgoing, had a great sense of humor and always willing to help others. Mona is survived by her husband, Rodney; mother, Virginia of Story City, IA; brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Carol Dass of Colorado Springs, CO; numerous aunts/uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

CAROLYN KUBESH



Carolyn "Shorty" Francis Kubesh, 67, of Brainerd died on Sunday, August 6, 2023. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday August 12, 2023, at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Baxter. In Lieu of Flowers and Memorials, donations can be made to the National Kidney Foundation in memory of Carolyn. She was born on April 1, 1956, in Redwood Falls, the daughter of Roland and Francis Violet (Mertens) Serbus. She attended Morton school, graduating as an Honor student. She worked various jobs in the medical field and in-home foster care. She was united in marriage to Doug Kubesh on June 3, 1983. Their family started off on the farm outside of Olivia. In 1984, the family moved to Brainerd. She always did a lot of canning, she loved to cook, bake, and she enjoyed deer hunting season to have family

and friends come to the farm so she could cook and bake for everyone. She loved making her bean soup for all to enjoy. She loved taking care of everyone coming to the farm, whether they were family or friends. She enjoyed playing cards and games. She especially loved making Christmas cookies and holiday treats. Her faith was strong. She was grateful for having shared her life with her husband, Doug, their three sons Jason (Becky), Jeremy (Shannon), and Joel (Katria) all of Brainerd, her 8 grandchildren, 2 great granddaughters, siblings Tom (Linda) Serbus of Waconia, MN, Dennis (Barb) Serbus of Eagle Bend, MN, Deb Herdina (special friend Wes) of Mendota Heights, MN, Curt (Kristi) Serbus of Zimmerman, MN, Lisa (John) Grant of Burnsville, MN, and Penny (Jeff) Krueger of Brainerd, MN. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Dale; grandparents, Ted and Mayme Serbus and grandmother, Cleo Mertens.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

August

- 19th - Babinski Foundation Pet Adoption at The Hudson on Curtis Avenue in Ironton. Meet your new furry best friend! For more information call 218-772-0096.
- 19th - Emily Wesleyan Church Community Market in the church parking lot from 9 am-2 pm.
- 19th - Heritage Highland Games, 9am-2pm. Near the Serpent Statue in Crosby Memorial Park in Admision is free. Bring a lawn chair for this event.
- 19th - Heritage Days Arts & Crafts Show in Crosby Memorial Park in Crosby from 9am-3pm
- 19th - Heritage Days Car Show in the Crosby Memorial Park Ball Field, 10am-3pm. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Cuyuna Range Lions.
- 19th - Malmo Free Church Outdoor Gospel Concerts featuring Hawkinson & Friends - a local Country Gospel group that features steel guitar, lead guitar, rhythm guitar, bass guitar and drums, 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 near the junction of Highways 47 and 18 on highway 18 near the north east corner of Lake Mille Lacs.
- 20th - Manna for Malawi Fund-raiser at the Bridge Tavern in Crosby from 2-6 pm. Live music by Wyld Ryce. Free will offering pulled pork dinner at 3 pm. A raffle for A kayak, a portable gas fire pit with four patio chairs and three cash prizes will be raffled. There will also be a silent auction.
- 24th - Music in the Park at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake starts at 5pm featuring Amanda Stand-alone and Crooked County. Hosted by the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce.
- 24th - Cuyuna Crusher Mountain Bike Race early registration closes at 8pm. Register at mnmmtseries.com or call the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce at 218- 546-8131.
- 25th - Mike Wilder Project New Hope Golf Event at Crosswoods Golf Course in Crosslake.
- 25th - Crushing on Curtis Avenue Street Dance with live music by Mason Dixon Line, food & beverages will be held on Friday 8pm-Midnight. Located on Curtis Ave. in Ironton between Taconite Canteen & The Hudson.
- 26th - Ironton Kids Fest at the Ironton City Hall, 11am-3pm with free food, firetruck viewing and games. Volunteers are still needed, please contact 218-546-5625.
- 26th - Malmo Free Church Outdoor Gospel Concerts featuring the Klassen Family - a family group from Worthington 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 near the junction of Highways 47 and 18 on Highway 18 near the north east corner of Lake Mille Lacs.
- 26th - Pizza Party Ride with the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club beginning and ending at the Log Cabin Bar in Emily.

Tell 'em you saw it in the **NEWSHOPPER**
Deadlines are Mondays at Noon
Send your photos, stories and community events to hopper@crosbyironton.net
Due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, Sept. 4, there will be an Early Deadline of Noon on Friday, Sept. 1 for the Sept. 9 NewsHopper issue.

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To Place An Ad
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Due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, Sept. 4 there will be an Early Deadline of Noon on Friday, Sept. 1 for the Sept. 9 NewsHopper issue.

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All ads must reach our office no later than **Noon on Monday with payment.**
 Please type or print clearly. Your ad will be printed as you write it.

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 # of issues
 75¢ per word one issue (10 word minimum)
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Friday Nights 5-8 p.m. on The Deck



Mexican Fajita Night

Saturday, August 19 5-8 p.m.

Choose from Tequila Lime Shrimp, Steak, or Chicken. Comes with Black Beans, Cilantro-Lime Rice, Peppers & Onion, served with Guac, Sour Cream, Pico de Gallo & Cilantro. Served with Chips and Salsa.

Single Platter for 1 (pick one protein, 3 tortillas) \$25
Double Platter for 2 (pick two proteins, 6 tortillas) \$45
Family Platter for 4 (All three Proteins, 12 tortillas) \$70
 Limit of 1 Shrimp

Enjoy live music on Saturday, August 19 by Bruce Archer 6-9 p.m. on the Deck.



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Labor Day Weekend Sept. 1-3
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California boy drowns in Star Lake

A 14-year-old boy drowned Wednesday, Aug. 9, after he fell in Star Lake while paddleboarding.

The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office responded to the incident, reported at 8:14 p.m., at Pine Terrace Resort, 35101 Pine Terrace Road, in Ideal Township, west of Crosslake. According to the report, deputies responded to a report of a missing boy who was last seen paddleboarding on the lake.

According to witnesses, the boy, identified as Stanley Ryder Wilson of Encinitas, CA, never resurfaced after falling off the paddleboard and into the water.

Wilson was pulled from the water by individuals at the resort. Life-saving measures were attempted but were not successful and he was pronounced dead at the scene. Wilson and his family were staying at the resort.

Assisting at the scene were the Crosslake Police Department, Pequot Lakes Police Department, Breezy Point Police Department, Ideal Fire/First Responders, Crosslake Fire Department and North Memorial Health Ambulance and Air Care.

CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

AUGUST 21-27, 2023

ENERGY-SAVING TREES

Not only does planting trees create animal habitat, produce oxygen and beautify the world, it can also save you money. Trees properly placed around your home can reduce your air conditioning needs by 30% and save 20% to 50% in heating costs, according to the USDA Forest Service. The U.S. Department of Energy says three properly placed trees could save you \$100 to \$250 a year.

Nature Notes:


- Monarch butterflies are flying south, one-by-one, and in late afternoons and early evenings.
- Apples are beginning to ripen, ready for picking.
- It's time for beekeepers to take honey from the hives.
- Both black field and snowy tree crickets, plus black-horned tree and Carolina ground crickets, join katydids to fill the night air with their special late summer sounds.

STARGAZING NOTES, provided by the Minnesota Astronomical Society
What's happening in the starry sky this week?

- First quarter moon is on Aug. 24. The moon eclipses Antares, the brightest star in Scorpius. Use binoculars and look SSW between 9 and 9:30 pm.
- Saturn is at opposition on Aug. 27, the ideal time of year to look for this telescopic favorite. Look SE after 9:30 pm.

Evergreens block north winds in winter

Deciduous trees shade in the summer



As part of its ongoing mission to educate the public about water 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 conserve resources more wisely, we can help ensure a brighter future for the planet and make life better TODAY!

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Heritage Days

—FOUR DAYS OF CELEBRATION—
THURSDAY, AUG. 17
 Customer Appreciation Luncheon at Cuyuna Lakes Parts City, Medallion Hunt, Annual Book Sale at Hallett Library, Night To Unite at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake, Area Youth Receive Back-to-School Supplies at Crosby MMFCU, Bar Bingo and Meat Raffles

FRIDAY, AUG. 18
 Customer Appreciation Luncheon at Unity Bank in Crosby, Annual Book Sale at Hallett Library, Experience Downtown Crosby, Area Youth Receive Back-to-School Supplies at Crosby MMFCU, Dinner Specials and Meat Raffles Throughout the Community

SATURDAY, AUG. 19
 Lions Car Show, Free Yoga on the Beach, Arts & Crafts Show, Heritage Highland Games (Scottish Highland Heavy Games) Just For Kix Special Performance, Heartland Dancers And Gymnasts, Chainsaw Carving Demonstration, Loon Calling Contest, Concessions, Artisan Fair and Silent Auction at The Soo Line Depot Museum, Farmers' Market on Crosby's Main Street, Children's Festival in the Park, 10 to 1—Crosby Fire Truck on Display, Connect Four, Tie Dying T-shirts, Bubbles Station, Coloring Station and more!
 Pet Adoption at The Hudson, Annual Book Sale at Hallett Library, Dinner Specials and Meat Raffles Throughout the Community

SUNDAY, AUG. 20
 Attend the Church of Your Choice, Breakfast Buffet at Iron American Legion, Manna for Malawi Benefit Concert, Trivia Night, Meat Raffles and More!



Heritage Days Promotional Support Provided By The City of Crosby

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 - Rip Rap
 - Demolition
 - Building Pads
 - Ditches and Ditch Cleaning
 - Black Dirt, Sand & Gravel
 - Roads / Road Building
 - Boulder Walls
 - Trail Brushing
- Tree Removal**
 - Tree Removal and Clean-up
 - Stump Grinding
 - Storm Damage Cleanup
 - Aerial Truck