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## Pizza men ready to heat up Rosalina's Pizza in Aitkin

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
Two Brainerd men took over Rosalina's Pizza in Aitkin. Curtis Ross and Christian Collins are the new partners and owners of the popular pizza parlor. "I have over 20 years in the pizza business," said Ross, which includes stints for both he and Collins at the famous Rafferty's franchise. In fact, Mike Brusseau, Rafferty's retired founder and longtime owner, was one who sent welcome flowers. Ross has also worked at Dominos, Arby's and the Grand Ca-

sino. Collins also has over five years of pizza-related experience. The two have revamped the menu, are open Sundays and offer take-out, delivery (within two miles and when staffing permits) and eat-in



Curtis Ross and Christian Collins are the new pizza men, taking over Rosalina's in Aitkin.  
Ann Schwartz photo

options. "We make our dough fresh every day and we have perfected two types of dough," said Ross. "We use all fresh ingredients and now offer calzones." The hours are very long now, plus the commutes from Brainerd. But they both emphasize it will be worth it. Ross oversees the kitchen and Collins the front of the shop. They were very busy their first week of business and their enthusiasm is contagious. Ross has a wife and four daughters and Collins concentrates on work for the time being. As a pizza lover, I can vouch for their pizza pies, large and small, as well as their garlic bread, but haven't tried the calzones yet. Saving that for the next visit.

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## Cannabis products available at new Weedery store in Aitkin

By ANN SCHWARTZ  
Tony Mindrum has opened the Weedery in western Aitkin in the Posh Hair Parlor building. He started business in the new year with a small storefront decorated with fun graphics. What gave him the idea? "My wife Holly has researched it for years for the health and healing properties, as well as a business opportunity. She is very business-minded. She has built a business plan for years in anticipation of the product becoming legal

and we decided to pull the trigger." The store carries cannabis projects, both with and without THC. "We know with our demographics that our older people in the community will likely use our products to sleep or for joint pain. We expect to be on the healthy side of it more than the fun part. Lots of people don't want to use prescription drugs or alcohol and this is an alternative." He has drops to put in drinks and gummies to help

with sleep. "We want to stock the products that people are looking for." These products are already available at local grocery gas stations, liquor stores and gas stations. "We just want one location." He emphasized that the products are all natural. "We are not selling drugs or doing anything illegal." He said they don't carry vapes of any kind and plan to stock actual marijuana once the rules are set. It is expected that marijuana won't be available in a retail setting until 2025. The

Weedery operates under a state license. This may be preserved as quite a change for residents who aren't used to seeing these products in local stores, but Mindrum has taken a chance. He is open most afternoons and will often include a free product with a purchase.



Tony Mindrum points out hemp-derived products that help with aches and pains and sleep in his new store.

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# First Free Park Day of 2024 at Minnesota state parks and recreation areas



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on Monday, Jan. 15.

With this year's unusual weather, it's good to know there are many winter park activities that don't require snow or ice, such as birding, winter hiking, nature photography, and having a campfire with hot chocolate and s'mores.

And, if sufficient snow arrives before Jan. 15, visitors can also partake in popular winter activities like sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Most parks offer snowshoe rentals, and select parks offer ski rentals. Visitors looking for rental equipment or certain recreational opportunities can use the ParkFinder tool ([mndnr.gov/parkfinder](http://mndnr.gov/parkfinder)) to find the best park for their trip.

The DNR recommends visitors wear clothing appropriate for the weather, and bring water and snacks. If trails could be icy, traction devices for footwear are useful.

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. There is one fee-free day for each season of the year, giving Minnesotans a free of charge opportunity to experience the parks and recreation areas at different times of the year.

Four free park days are scheduled for Minnesota state parks and recreation areas in 2024 including:

- Monday, Jan. 15
- Saturday, April 27
- Saturday, June 8
- Friday, Nov. 29

"Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are open 365 days per year but some visitors only visit in summer," said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. "We hope having a free day in each season will

encourage people to get out and visit a park at a time of year they might not normally visit."

Visitors are advised to check for updates in the visitor alert section of individual park webpages ([mndnr.gov/parks](http://mndnr.gov/parks))

before leaving home. Visitors may also download free maps from park webpages, which can be used in the free Avenza maps app, available in the Apple App Store or Google Play. Visitors who prefer a paper map can pick one up at the

ranger station; look outside the station if it's closed when you arrive.

The entrance fee waiver for fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for activities like camping or equipment rentals.

## Ironton water treatment plant groundbreaking



City of Ironton Council Member Eric Heglund, SEH Senior Engineer Jeff Ledin, City of Ironton Public Works Brad Rosecrans, City of Ironton Interim Trainer Jan Loftis, City of Ironton Clerk Emma Pratt, City of Ironton Mayor Josh Jacobson, City of Ironton Council Member Shawn Hamdorf, City of Ironton Public Works Crew Rob Kugel, Taylor Thom with SEH and Eagle Construction Inc. Contractor Jayd Newman pose at the groundbreaking of the new \$6.337 million water treatment plant for the city of Ironton on Tuesday, Jan. 9.



City of Ironton new water treatment plant exterior perspectives (left) looking southwest and (right) looking southeast.

### CROW WING COUNTY LANDFILL

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**Open Mon – Friday / 8am to 5pm (November to March)**

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- Fiberglass boats
- Mattresses
- Furniture
- Mobile Homes
- Free recycling of lead-acid car/marine batteries - NOT to be disposed of in the landfill
- 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](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.**

**For more information, please call 218-824-1010.**

## Help for low-income individuals and families

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area.

The Direct Home Loan program offers financing to qualified very-low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low

as one percent with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability. The program is available in rural communities of generally 35,000 people or less.

The maximum loan amount is \$40,000 at a one percent interest rate, repayable for a 20-year term and can be used to improve or modernize homes and do essential repairs. Grants of up to \$10,000

are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health or safety hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace.

Contact a USDA Rural Development Housing Specialist in your area today, to see if you qualify.

USDA Rural Development loans and grants provide assistance that supports in-

frastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas.

For further information, or questions regarding the program, contact Baxter Rural Development Office at 7118 Clearwater Road, Baxter, MN 56501 or call 218-829-5965, ext. 4 or visit [www.rd.usda.gov/mn](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mn).

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Thursdays 5PM-8PM

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Saturdays 5PM-8PM

All You Can Eat\*\* Shrimp and Ribs

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All You Can Eat\*\* Fish Fry

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# OBITUARIES

## KENNETH ROOD



Kenneth Irven Rood, 70, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, December 30, 2023, at Brookline Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Mifflintown, PA.

Funeral service were held on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the United Methodist Church – Pine Lake Chapel, Aitkin with Pastor Gary Taylor officiating. Burial was at Bennettville Cemetery with full military honors by Aitkin American Legion Lee Post 86 and Aitkin VFW Roberts Glad Post 1727.



Ken was born on October 2, 1953, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to the late Irven and Sarah Elaine (O'Neil) Rood. He was a graduate of Brainerd High School. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served for six years. On November 2, 1974, Ken was united in marriage to the love of his life, best friend and caregiver Carol

(Snook). For almost thirty years, he dedicated his life to operating his own painting business. He was an avid trapper, and loved deer and duck hunting. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with Carol, his sons, grandchildren, and his loving furbabies.

Ken is survived by his loving wife, Carol; sons and daughters-in-law: Jamie and Sonya Rood, and Scott and Raena Rood; seven grandchildren: Christian (McKenzie) Rom, Amber Rood, Garrin Rood, Valerie Rood, Benjamin Rood, Samuel Rood, and George Rood; three great-grandchildren: Oliver, Rosaleigh, and Nichola; siblings: Cindy Fields, Shelley Watson, Jodi Calkins, and Doug Rood; fur-babies, Uff-Uff and Ginger; and many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Tracy Zontelli; and his beloved cousin, Mike O'Neil, who was like a brother to him.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com).

## HELEN WORKMAN



Helen Joyce Workman, 74, of Aitkin died in the early morning hours of November 28, 2023 at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Aitkin with Pastor David Becker will officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

Helen was born November 7, 1949 in Aitkin to Sigurd and Anna Lucille "Lucy" (Erickson) Swanson. She graduated in 1967 from Aitkin High School alongside her high school sweetheart, Jeffrey Joseph Workman. They were united in marriage on January 4, 1969 in Aitkin. They made their home in Aitkin and together, raised three children. Helen spent many years working as a Title 1 teacher at Ripplside Elementary School in Aitkin. She made many lasting friendships and memories there and impacted the lives of so many children and adults alike. There is nothing that brought Helen more joy than watching her family grow and welcoming her grandchildren into the world. Family was very

important to her.

Helen is survived by her husband Jeff Workman; sons and daughters-in-law: Michael and Carrie Workman, and Brett and Megan Workman; daughter, Amy Workman (David Schwartz); 14 grandchildren: Kirk (Amber) Workman, Kegan (Nicole) Workman, Anastasia Workman, Lexi Workman, Bowan Workman, Jack Workman, Hayden Workman, Luke Workman, Finn Workman, Cohen Workman, Hayley Amundson, Kelsey Amundson, Madilyn Amundson, Orrin Workman; four step-grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; sisters: Karen Holm, Linda (Glen) Bakken and Darlene (Frank) Horvath; brother Clyde Swanson; sisters-in-law: Karen (Dale) Holm and Bonnie Peterson; many other special relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Sigurd and Lucy Swanson, two brothers: Alan and Gary Swanson; brother-in-law, James Christian Holm and her grandson, Spencer Workman.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com).

More Obituaries on Page 4

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## January

14th - The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest (for boys and girls ages nine to 14 as of Jan. 1, 2023 at the Crosby-Ironton High School. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and competition begins at 1 p.m. All contestants are required to furnish a copy of proof of age and written parental consent. Entry forms or additional information is available by contacting Justin Smith at (218)-330-1431. Winners will advance to District, Regional and State Competition. Districts will be held in Crosslake on Sunday, Feb. 4. Winners advance to Regionals held in Aitkin on Sunday, Feb. 25. Winners advance to State held in St. Cloud on Saturday, April 6.

18th - Annual Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Membership Dinner at Ruttger's Bay Lake Resort in Deerwood. For more information call 218-546-8131.

20th - Learn to Snowshoe at the Northland Arboretum 9:30-11:45 a.m. at 14250 Conservation Drive, Baxter.

Please submit Community Events by e-mailing [hopper@crosbyironton.net](mailto:hopper@crosbyironton.net)

# READER RIBBETS

## "The Fall of Minneapolis" at Rialto

Well, I got my next project!! Here goes... working along with Sheriff Guida and Senator Wesenberg:

Aitkin County Welcomes "The Fall of Minneapolis" to the big screen at the Rialto Theatre Monday and Tuesday, Jan.15 and 16 with show time at 7 p.m., no charge free-will offering only.

"The Fall of Minneapolis" is a "Crowd Funded Documentary", produced by Liz Collin, based on her best selling book "They're Lying: The Media, The Left and The Death of George Floyd."

Personally, I watched the movie once so far. I made it half-way through and had to walk away and watch the second half at a later time. Sooo much corruption, deceit and lies, it makes my stomach sick. I am looking forward to seeing it on the big screen and with others in attendance. Powerful.

Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin is cur-

rently serving 21 years in prison for murdering George Floyd, even though he did not, in fact, murder George Floyd. We know this because the medical examiner who performed the first autopsy found he had fatal levels of fentanyl in his system, meaning he likely died of an overdose.

Derek Chauvin's lawyer, Gregory Erickson, recently told Tucker Carlson Network "George Floyd had previously overdosed in police custody, I think six to eight months earlier, and ended up in the hospital. So the medical examiner labels it a drug overdose. And then, mystically, after meeting with Mike Freeman and the AG for two hours, somehow the

medical report changes. You can, you know, come to whatever conclusions you want to come to."

What is happening to our beautiful state? Where were the current legislators during this time?? Why were we locked down but Antifa and BLM's could get away with what they did to our state and have done to other states??? I ponder these questions often, yet, most "politicians" and some people in general don't want to talk about it... WHY? 'Cuz it's not real??

Please join us at 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Jan.15 and 16 at the Rialto Theatre at 220 Minnesota Ave N, Aitkin.

*Be Blessed ~ Seek Truth, Diane Webb-Skillings, Aitkin*

# LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Dec 30, 2023, Jan. 6 & 13, 2024)  
**LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

The Libby Township Board will meet online at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 to discuss matters that may come before the board. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Contact Jane Jewett, clerk, at [jane@janefarm.com](mailto:jane@janefarm.com) to request the Zoom link.

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# Select Minnesota laws that took effect January 1, 2024 part 2



The following is part two of the select new laws passed during the 2023 legislative session that took effect Jan. 1, 2024. Part one was published in the NewsHopper January 6 issue. Summaries of all laws passed by the 2023 Legislature are available online from nonpartisan House Public Information Services at [www.house.mn.gov/newlaws/#/search/2023](http://www.house.mn.gov/newlaws/#/search/2023)



**ELECTIONS-Political contribution refund increases**  
State law provides for a refund for political contributions made to Minnesota po-

litical parties and candidates for state offices.

As part of the tax and policy finance law, the political contribution refund is increased from \$50 to \$75 for individuals and from \$100 to \$150 for married joint filers. It is effective Jan. 1, 2024, for contributions made in calendar year 2024 and thereafter. Rep. Aisha Gomez (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the law. HF1938\*/SF1811/CH64

**Curtailing foreign-influenced contributions**

A provision in the "Democracy for the People Act" takes effect with the new year.

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, foreign-influenced corporations will be prohibited from making certain types of ex-

penditures or contributions, including:

- to promote or defeat a candidate for nomination, election, or appointment to a public office; Minnesota House of Representatives Melissa Hortman, Speaker
  - to promote or defeat a ballot question or qualify a candidate or a candidate's principal campaign committee;
  - making contributions to a political committee, political fund, or party unit; and
  - taking any action to publicly endorse or oppose a candidate or ballot question.
- Additionally, per the law, "A foreign-influenced corporation must not make a contribution or donation to any other person or entity with the express or implied condition that the contribution or donation or any part of it be used for any of the purposes prohibited by this subdivision."

A corporation that makes an authorized contribution or expenditure permitted by law

must submit certification to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board that it was not foreign influenced when the contribution or expenditure was made. Rep. Emma Greenman (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Liz Boldon (DFL-Rochester) sponsor the law. HF3\*/SF3/CH34

**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS- Benefit and services awareness**

Employers with more than 50 full-time equivalent employees must display a poster containing various benefits and services available to veterans in a conspicuous workplace location accessible to employees.

Created by the Department of Labor and Industry, the poster must include information about the Department of Veterans Affairs and its veterans' services programs, substance use disorder and mental health treatment, educational and other training resources, tax benefits, unemployment benefit eligibility, and contact information for the veteran's crisis line. Poster content must be reviewed annually to provide the most current information. The provision is in the jobs, economic development, labor, and industry law sponsored by Rep. Hodan Has-

san (DFL-Mpls) and Senate President Bobby Joe Champion (DFL-Mpls). HF3028/



SF3035\*/CH53

**PUBLIC SAFETY- Extreme risk protection orders permitted**

The public safety and judiciary finance and policy law provides a way for family or household members, a chief law enforcement officer, a city or county attorney, or a guardian to petition a court for an "extreme risk protection order," including on an emergency basis, that will prohibit a respondent from possessing firearms for up to one year.

Per the law, "A petition for relief shall allege that the respondent poses a significant danger of bodily harm to other persons or is at significant risk of suicide by possessing a firearm. ... A petition for emergency relief shall additionally allege that the respondent presents an immediate and present danger of either bodily harm to others or of taking their life."

A court hearing must be

held within 14 days of the date a petition is received. A court may extend the relief granted in an existing order granted after another hearing.

Upon issuance of an order, a respondent must transfer their firearms within 24 hours to a federally licensed firearms dealer or a law enforcement agency which may charge a reasonable storage fee. "If a court issues an emergency order ... or makes a finding of immediate and present danger ... and there is probable cause to believe the respondent possesses firearms, the court shall issue a search warrant to the local law enforcement agency to take possession of all firearms in the respondent's possession as soon as practicable," the law states. Returning firearms upon the expiration of an order is also provided.

A chief law enforcement officer, their designee, or a city or county attorney who in good faith decides not to petition for an order is immune from criminal or civil liability.

Rep. Kelly Moller (DFL-Shoreview) and Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park) sponsor the law. HF2890/SF2909\*/CH52

To Be Continued Next Issue

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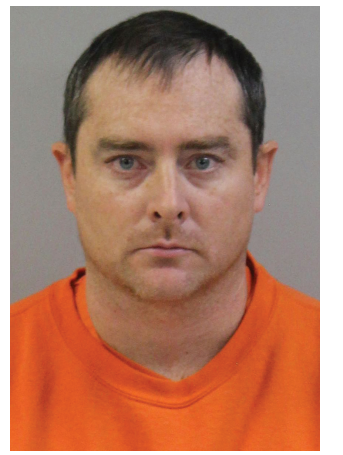
## Man charged in Aitkin County with 13 felony counts of child porn

A former Aitkin County resident has been charged with 13 felony counts related to pornographic materials involving minors.

Patrick Jennings Brophy, Greenville SC has been summons to appear to answer the charges in Aitkin County Court. The intensive investigation conducted by the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office and the MN BCA started in March of 2022 and was com-

pleted with the complaints, signed by Judge Hermerding January 3, 2024.

In a press release, Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida Wanted to remind everyone that criminal behavior related to minors will, not be tolerated and if you suspect that children are being abused or exploited to report the incidents immediately to your local law enforcement agency



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