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Student wins regional spelling bee for second year in a row



Participants of the 2024 Regional Spelling Bee, hosted by Sourcewell, on March 21.

pressed by each participant's incredible skill and talent."

Each participant was a finalist or champion in their respective district. The representation formula is one speller per 1,000 students based on K-12 enrollment, which also includes private and parochial schools within the geographical boundaries of a district.

Congratulations to all regional spelling bee participants: Jeffrey Brassard, eighth grade, Aitkin; Zachary Prethish, sixth grade, Aitkin; Autumn Haus, seventh grade, Bertha-Hewitt; Marlowe Cotariu, sixth grade, Crosslake; Jessa Aho, fifth grade, Menahga; Corey Stone, fourth grade, Nay Ah Shing; Jacob Harrison, eighth grade, Pequot Lakes; Soren Pearson, fifth grade, Pequot Lakes; Carson Lucking, fifth grade, Pierz; Isabelle Grittner, eighth grade, Pierz; Tyler Thesing, seventh grade, Pierz; Wyatt Dropps, fifth grade, Pine River-Backus; William Rausch, eighth grade, Royalton; Hudson Nelson, eighth grade, Sebeke; Owen Roline, seventh grade, Staples-Motley; Milo Hutchins, eighth grade, Swanville; Josslyn Hansen, sixth grade, Wadena-Deer Creek.



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William Rausch has spelled his way to champion, again.



Runner-up Soren Pearson, fifth grade student of Pequot Lakes.



2nd Runner-up Hudson Nelson, eighth grade student of Sebeke.

The Royalton eighth grader took first place at the 2024 Regional Spelling Bee, hosted by Sourcewell, on March 21. Rausch was declared the win-

ner after successfully spelling the words "profundity" and "apothecary" in the final round. He also won the Regional Spelling Bee last year.

Rausch now moves on to compete in the 2024 Scripps

National Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Maryland, the last week of May.

The top three regional finishers were:

Champion – William Rausch, eighth grade, Royalton

Runner-up – Soren Pearson, fifth grade, Pequot Lakes

2nd Runner-up – Hudson Nelson, eighth grade, Sebeke

According to a new release, Sourcewell hosts the Regional Spelling Bee each year for third through eighth graders of member schools in the five-county service area of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties. The winner earns an all-expenses paid trip to the national spelling bee for themselves and a parent/guardian.

"It was a remarkably close competition this year," said Sourcewell Student Academics Coordinator Phillip Olsen. "It came down to a six-person spell-off to determine the second runner up, which was exciting to see. I'm always im-

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

March

- 30th - Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 p.m. at St. James, Aitkin
- 30th - Ruttger's Resort Easter Egg Hunt, 10-11 a.m. at Ruttger's south of Deerwood. The event will take place rain or shine. Call Ruttger's at 218-678-2885 for more details.
- 30th - Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. sponsored by the Lakers Lions at Emily City Hall for ages up through 10. Bring your own bag or basket and dress for the weather.
- 30th - Easter Egg Hunt, 2 p.m. in the Merrifield Lions Park, 21433 County Road 3 hosted by the Merrifield Lions Club.
- 30th - Viewing of the Epoch Times documentary "The Real Story of Jan. 6 - Part 2" about the Westbury/James family of Lindstrom will be presented by Senator Nathan Weseberg (Minnesota Senate District 10) and Diane Webb-Skillings (candidate for Minnesota House District 10A seat) at the 40 Club Convention Center in Aitkin. The Pledge of Allegiance is at 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend.
- 31st - Easter Sunday Masses, 8 a.m. at Holy Family, McGregor; 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima, McGrath; and 10:30 a.m. at St. James, Aitkin
- 31st - Hilltop Chapel Free Easter Breakfast at 9 a.m. and Worship Service at 10 a.m. Located at 49448 Osprey Avenue Palisade, between Round and Esquagamah Lake. Handicap accessible.

April

- 4th - Local author Jill Hannah Anderson will be at the Author Talk at the Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library on her fourth stand alone novel "Closer to Home" at 6 p.m. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event. Anderson will be available to sign books at 5:30 p.m. and after the Author Talk. Please call the library if you will to attend.
- 8th - Lakes Area Unlimited Learning: Campfire in the Basement: Reflections from a Northwoods Lake 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. in the Forum Room of Crosby-Ironton High School. Programs are free for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information about joining, contact Sally Ihne at sihnecharter.net or call 218-829-2544.
- 11th - Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library in Crosby Free Movie Night, 5:30 p.m. Popcorn and refreshments are provided, but bring your own blanket for comfort. Call 218-546-8005 for the movie showing or for more information.
- 12th - The Jessie F. Hallett Memorial Library Friends Foundation meeting, 9 a.m. in the library's meeting room. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- 13th - Lakes Area Homeschool Conference, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Deerwood Auditorium with four Heppners Legacy Workshops: where to start homeschooling; exploring homeschool methods; time and home management while homeschooling and homeschooling throughout high school.

Campfire in basement

Join Unlimited Learning on Monday, April 8 at 1:30 p.m., to hear from Rev. Darrell Pedersen. The program will be in the Forum Room at Crosby-Ironton High School. It's free for members and \$10.00 for non-members.

Rev. Pedersen will share stories from his collection of essays, "Campfire in the Basement: Reflections

from a North Woods Lake." The audience will be taken back to adventures, mishaps and challenges that happened in their own lives. He will also relate how he came to be a storyteller and how his storytelling evolved into sermon illustrations, magazine articles, a manuscript for his own children and finally a book.

Struggling with your family? WRAP can help

By ANN SCHWARTZ
WRAP helps parents in Aitkin County who have children aged birth to second grade. The We Rally Around Parents program in Aitkin County -- through Lakes and Pines Community Action Council -- offers connection to resources and support for parents or guardians of

children who are 0-5 years old or in grades K-2. "I have room on my caseload right now to welcome referrals from anyone in the county who thinks WRAP could be a good fit. I can have 15 on my caseload," said Resource Coach Janet Watson.

A combination of services from WRAP and Lakes and

Pines produces success stories for struggling families.

Stories often start with a single mom who is unhoused. Lakes and Pines THRIVE coaches found housing in Aitkin County. Watson began working with them, and, over a matter of time, helped them gain transportation, childcare, and, ultimately,

employment.

"I gain tremendous satisfaction from seeing people go from despair to triumph," Watson said. "When I check up with people and they've moved on from Aitkin County it's been rewarding to find out they are thriving on their own."

Using the vast resources of Lakes and Pines and the other 200-plus resources she knows, such things as car repairs, childcare assistance and jobs are attainable. If families need help with preschool education they are referred to Head Start. "If they have the funding, Lakes and Pines has helped with damage deposits and rent and utility shut-off notices."

"This program is free to anyone who lives in Aitkin County and is a parent or guardian of children aged birth to second grade," Watson emphasized. "There are no income guidelines or restrictions so we can serve everyone -- no matter what their income."

Janet Watson, WRAP resource coach, can be reached locally at 320.364.3344 or email janetw@lakesandpines.org.

Families can also request information by mail from:

Lakes and Pines CAC, WRAP program, 1700 Maple Ave. East. Mora MN 55051

Easter Weekend Fun

Saturday, March 30

10-11 a.m. 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt
(We will be indoors & outdoors, dress accordingly)

11 a.m. Family Art Fun* fees range from \$5 to \$25
Tye Dye • Build a Critter • Easter Projects

1-3 p.m. Wood Sign Creation with Lakes Custom

at the White Oak Grill 17698 MN-6, Deerwood
Register online at: <https://bit.ly/3PoEBAG>

EVERYONE WELCOME!!



Easter Brunch

Sunday, March 31

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

in Ruby's Dining Room
25039 Tame Fish Lake Rd., Deerwood

Creamy Baked Eggs Eggs baked in Gruyere & 18-month aged parmesan cream sauce topped with green onions, served on Focaccia bread

Strictly Mushroom Quiche Variety of locally grown mushrooms & Gruyere cheese, **Aged Cheddar Scrambled Eggs**, **Pecan Roasted Bacon**, **Compart Family Farms Sausage Links**, **Blueberry Cobbler French Toast**, **Baked Gruyere & Cheddar Hashbrowns**, **Shrimp, Spinach & Prosciutto Frittata**

Italian Benedict English muffin, creamed spinach, Prosciutto, basil hollandaise

Dark Cherry Wood Triple Smoked Ham Served with ham gravy

Chicken Piccata • Made to Order Omelets and Crepes

Smoked Salmon • Peel-and-Eat Shrimp

Seasonal Vegetables • Mashed Garlic Red Potatoes

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White Oak Grill WILL BE CLOSED Sunday, March 31 through Thursday, April 18 for Kitchen Renovations

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Bear Pine Bar will be open Thursday, April 4 through Sunday, April 14 same hours as the White Oak Grill and same menu...



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EMILY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY MEMBERS SEEKING BOARD CANDIDATES

Emily Cooperative Telephone Company d/b/a Tremolo Communications is seeking prospective candidates to run for a position on the Board of Directors representing the Emily District and At Large District. The candidate for the Emily District must reside in the City of Emily and be a cooperative member. The candidate for the At Large District must reside in any of the cooperatives' serving areas and be a member. A member is anyone that has an active phone or internet account with the cooperative.

A director of the Cooperative shall among other things:

- Assume a fiduciary duty to the Cooperative.
- Possess the minimum knowledge and skills necessary to direct the affairs of a cooperative.
- Be willing to devote such time and effort to the duties of a director as may be necessary.

Members of the Board of Directors are responsible for representing the Cooperative membership and for developing strategies, policies, and objectives for the Cooperative.

Those interested in becoming a candidate for Emily District or At Large District should contact Tremolo Communications CEO/General Manager, Josh Netland at jnetland@emilytel.com or at 218-763-3000.

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OBITUARIES

ROGER DREHER



Roger Dreher, 70, died on Friday, March 15, 2024. A celebration of Roger's Life will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 11 a.m. in Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home, Aitkin with Pastor Lorelie Robinson officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

Roger's love for the outdoors was evident in every aspect of his life. Whether it was hiking through the wilderness, fishing in the serene waters, or simply basking in the beauty of nature, he found solace and joy in the great outdoors. His adventurous spirit led him to spend cherished moments on Kodiak Island, where he found peace in the rugged landscapes and the embrace of nature's wonders. As an animal lover, Roger's heart overflowed with affection for his pets. He was a pillar of strength for his family and friends, always ready to offer his support and guidance in their times of need. His selflessness and generosity touched the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough

to know him. In his youth, Roger embarked on a journey in the music industry, where his passion for creativity and expression thrived. His talent and dedication left an impression on those he worked with, and his contributions to the industry will be remembered fondly by colleagues and friends alike. Additionally, Roger played an integral role in his family's business, the Palisade Cafe. His tireless efforts alongside his parents ensured that the establishment was not just a place to dine but a hub of warmth, community, and cherished memories for all who frequented it.

He is survived by his siblings: Cathie Rasmussen, Linda (Paul) Marso, Jeff (Donna) Dreher, Sue (Tom) Bingham, Kevin Dreher, Lisa (Steve) Moosbrugger, Joyce Block, Todd Dreher, and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Eloise J. Dreher; stepfather, Wayne R. Dreher; and father, Charles B. Rasmussen.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

ALLEN MILES



Allen Douglas Miles, 72, of Aitkin, formerly of Crosby, died Sunday, March 17, 2024 at his home.

A Celebration of Allen's Life will be held Saturday, April 6, 2024, beginning at noon at The Deerstand, 24188 Mohs St, Deerwood, MN 56444.

He was born August 31, 1951 in Crosby to Charles and Clarice (Judge) Miles. Allen was united in marriage to Sharon Ford on November 24, 1973 in Reno, Nevada. Allen was a very talented Stone Mason who built many fireplaces for 40 years with his best friend, Bob Tuthill. Prior to being a Stone Mason, Allen worked at Scorpion and Woodland Container. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, forestry/logging and traveling with Sharon to the North Shore and Acapulco. Allen's passion, however was Jet Skiing. Allen especially enjoyed time with his family,

especially his grandkids.

Allen is survived by his loving wife, Sharon Miles; children, Brandon Miles of Aitkin, Tracey Miles of Mesa, Arizona and Shane (Jenny Cooper) Miles of Deerwood; seven grandchildren, Katie (Anthony) Serico, Emma Miles, Abby Miles, Rachel (Kyle) Voght, Daniel Boyd, Dylan Miles and Love Kallio; seven great-grandchildren; siblings: Beverly (Clifford) Helsley of Mansfield, Missouri; Edna McDonough of Harrisville, Michigan; Robert Miles of Farmington; and Dennis (Vivian) Miles of Michigan; and his best friend, Robert Tuthill; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Allen is preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Charles, Michael and Elva.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

ANTOINETTE NANIK



Antoinette Margaret "Toni" Nanik, 99, of Crosby died on Friday, March 22, 2024 at the Cuyuna Regional Care Center in Crosby.

A prayer service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. Burial will be at the Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. She was born in Crosby on December 13, 1924 to

Anton and Mary (Zvokel) Deblock. Toni graduated from the Crosby-Ironton High School class of 1942. She moved to San Diego, CA in 1954, retiring to Show Low, AZ in 1989 and then returned to Crosby in 2005. Toni is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby.

Toni is preceded in death by her husband, Gordon and a sister, Mary Belt.

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

RAYMOND KEELER



Raymond D. Keeler, Jr., 83, of Palisade died peacefully on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at Golden Horizon's in Aitkin.

Celebration of Ray's life was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at Fleming United Methodist Church, rural Aitkin, Fleming Township. Memorial donations are preferred in lieu of flowers to Fleming United Methodist Church, PO Box 98, McGregor, MN 55760-0098.

He was born October 21, 1940 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania the son of Raymond and Ruth (Hen-

dricks) Keeler, Sr. Ray was a U.S. Army Veteran and former Scout Master while stationed in France. He enjoyed farming and spent the last 50 years in Palisade.

Ray is survived by his two sons: John and Mike; daughter, Jamie; several grandchildren; four brothers; two sisters; and many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol in 2011; sister, Robin; and his parents.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

More Obituaries on Page 4

READER RIBBETS

"The Long Road Home" at 40 Club

On Saturday, March 30, 2pm at the 40 Club in Aitkin will be the showing of the EPOCH Times Documentary "The Real Story of J6, Part 2, The Long Road Home" sponsored by: Senator Wesenberg and myself.

With the FBI calling its J6 investigations "bigger than 9/11," Jan. 6, 2021 has marked a turning point in American history. The Epoch Times reveals evidence of how the wide-ranging prosecutions of Jan. 6 defendants have been handled with injustice.

The Westbury/James family of rural Lindstrom MN will be in attendance to tell their personal journey... their lives will never be the same.

While "The Real Story of Jan. 6 Part 1" tells the real story of what happened that day, Part 2 will take a look at what has happened since—and the fine line between justice and political vengeance.

How are the J6ers being treated in court, in jail, and in the public eye?

After three years of investigation by The Epoch Times, and putting together many, many hours of Capitol video footage, they peel back the countless layers of January 6 to expose injustices and champion stories.

The justice system in America is based on "innocent till proven guilty". A crime is committed, a person is charged, they are taken

to jail, given a court date and the opportunity to defend themselves. That is NOT what is happening to the J6'ers that went to Washington DC that day to "Ask our US Government to LOOK into our elections".

Is the government using J6 as a springboard to inflate its "domestic terrorism" probe? Who is behind this chaos and why? And more importantly, how do we heal as a nation? These and more are the questions we all need to be asking.

Please join us to learn Truth, support these & other families and again, work to figure out just exactly What Is Going On Here?

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

City of Crosby Mayor update

As Mayor of Crosby, I have recently attended several meetings with fellow government entities in order to provide a better understanding of the needs of our city.

In February I attended the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting. I discussed with them the flooding issues at our city park. Since then, they have been in touch with our city engineer and things are progressing nicely towards finding possible solutions, along with possible grants.

Also in February, the City Administrator and I met with Pete Stauber regarding the needs of the city that he may be able to provide us at the Federal level. We discussed road repairs for streets without underlying utilities and how our schools are underfunded. He stated they are working on education funding currently.

He also forwarded us a grant application and we have sent that request in and hope to hear this year, if our project was accepted for street repair grant funding.

In March I attended the "Day on the Hill" event sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities. I was able to talk directly with Rep. Michael Howard - a member of the Tax Committee. I handed him documentation of how the State's formula for Homestead Exclusion is hurting our residents.

In Crow Wing County alone - over \$80,000,000 of Homestead Exclusion has been lost since 2019 due to rising home values. This is drastically hurting our residents that live in low to moderately priced homes. Myself - and five fellow Mayors - emphasized to Rep. Howard how the State of Min-

nesota needs to fix this problem. He took note and said he would bring it up at the Tax Committee.

Also at that March meeting I presented a road repair bonding request to Rep. Ben Davis and we are now officially on the request list! Attending the "Day on the Hill" event at the Capital was of great benefit to our city.

I was joined by Mayor Taylor of Deerwood and we both voiced the same requests - fix the Property Tax, give us money for road repair and help with the school funding shortfalls.

Property Tax statements are coming out this week, and if your property value has risen a lot, this can only be fixed at the state level. Too many lower valued homes are paying a higher portion of the taxes due to the State formula and they need to adjust it for inflation. They can fix it this year - call your Representatives! In 2020, the City Council began researching much needed street repairs. In March of 2021, our Engineer completed the grant/bond request for PFA Funding for several projects including 1st St SW, 1st and 2nd Streets SE and the alleys south of Main Street. The first of many public hearings was held and the request was submitted and we were approved for more than \$9,000,000 of the PFA funding. The first phase of this project is the 1st St SW and 4th St NW project. We received funding from the PFA for over \$2,000,000 at 2.185% for 20 years. The balance of costs of around \$1,000,000 will be paid from current reserves and ARPA funds leftover from Covid.

On Monday, March 26, 2024, the Council will be voting on whether to improve storm sewer items south of Main Street as part of the Alley/PFA project. This will provide better storm water drainage out of the areato the park and will work with the bigger plan to provide better storm drainage for the park itself. Once we get final engineered drawings the project will go out for bid. The PFA funding will be reviewed and it will be determined how much of these costs are a low interest loan and how much will be a grant.

Due to the debt we currently have for the Water Plant and the 1st Street SW project, we are hopeful that a large portion of the Alley Project will be a grant instead of a loan. Some construction on the southern alley may start this year if all goes well. This is a complicated project due to the electric/gas/cable utilities being in the same narrow alley space as the water and sanitary sewer and storm sewer. Most likely this is a 2 year project to complete.

The last PFA phase will be 1st St S and 2nd St S - east of City Hall. Engineering is working on the preliminaries.

Public Hearings will begin once the engineering is ready, most likely in 2025. Other projects we are looking into that are not part of this PFA funding are the 1st St N replacement and the 2nd St S replacement along the City Park. This is all part of the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan that the Finance Committee requested in 2021.

More information will be provided and many more public hearings will be held as information becomes available.

City of Crosby Mayor Diane Cash

NEWSHOPPER Deadlines are Mondays at Noon
Send your photos, stories and community events to hopper@crobyironton.net

LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., March 30, 2024)
CITY OF CUYUNA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given the Cuyuna City Council will convene for their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Cuyuna Fire Department to conduct the following public hearing:

Ordinance Amendment 03-2024 to amend the City of Cuyuna Zoning Ordinance

No. 903 to modify Section 903.04, "Rules and Definitions" to include a definition of "Recreational Vehicle," Section 903.06, "Single and Two-Family Residential District" and Section 903.07 "Multiple-Family Residential District" regarding "recreational vehicles" and add Section 903.13- Subd 10, "Parking, Storage and Usage of Recreational Vehicles," regarding permitting requirements and performance standards regarding recreational vehicles. Applicant: City of Cuyuna.

All interested persons are invited to attend these hearings at the Cuyuna Fire Department, 24849 Minnesota Avenue, and be heard or send written comments to City of Cuyuna, PO Box 536, Deerwood, MN 56444 or via email at info@ci.cuyuna.mn.us. A staff report is made available at the Cuyuna Fire Department typically one week before the scheduled meeting.

Dated: March 21, 2024
BILL BEDARD,
Clerk/Treasurer
City of Cuyuna
7.2

Flammable • Caution • Warning • Danger • Poisonous • Toxic • Explosive •

Never dump household hazardous waste such as pesticides, fertilizers, paint or solvents down the toilet, down the drain, into a storm drain, open waterway or ditch. Beyond posing a threat to our health and environment, such dumping is illegal.

Crow Wing County Household Hazardous Waste Facility OPEN Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Automotive • Paint • Home Improvement • Workshop Crafts • Lawn • Garden • Household Cleaners

Read the Warning Labels: A product has one or more hazardous properties, if it shows the single words: Corrosive, Flammable, Caution, Warning, Danger, Poisonous, Toxic, Explosive or Reactive. It does not become any less hazardous when you throw it away.

Please Note: The Household Hazardous Waste Facility DOES NOT ACCEPT Florescent Light Bulbs, Business or Farm Hazardous Waste.

The Collection Site is at the Landfill Nine Miles Southwest of Crosby on Highway 210

For more information call Crow Wing County Land Services at 218-824-1010.

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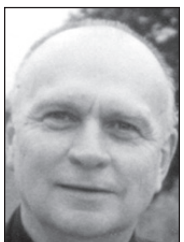
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OBITUARIES

REV. NORDEAN “DEAN” STOLZ



Rev. Nordean A. “Dean” Stolz, 83, of Deerwood died at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis on Monday, March 18, 2024.

A Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Crosby. Burial will be at the Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in Iron Hub. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. If desired, memorials are preferred to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

He was born in Waseca on March 20, 1940 to

Charles (Adeline) (Priebe) Stolz. Dean married Janet Wilson in Pomona, CA on February 18, 1961. He was ordained a LCMS pastor with 43 years of ministry, pastoring congregations in Ogilvie, MN, Pana, IL, Crosby and Iron Hub.

Pastor Dean is survived by his wife, Janet; son, Travis (Kristin) Stolz of Fairfax, VA; daughter-in-law, Christine Stolz of La Crosse, WI and five grandchildren.

Preceding Pastor Dean in death are his parents; son, Jeff Stolz and brother, Norman Stolz.

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

BETTY OSTROWSKI



Betty Agnes Ostrowski, 87, of Ironton died on Sunday, March 24, 2024 in Deerwood from cancer.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby. Burial will be at the Scandia Cemetery in Deerwood. Visitation will be on Tuesday at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Wednesday one hour prior to the service at the church.

She was born in Westmore, MT on January 25, 1937 to Fred and Mary (Aidt) Oswald. For many years Betty was an expert seamstress and house cleaner.

Betty is survived by three sons: Joseph (Lori) Ostrowski of Ironton, Wayne (Carla) Ostrowski of Deerwood and Mark (Kathy) Ostrowski of Deerwood; daughter, Karin (Tony) Nelson of Deerwood; daughter-in-law, Lori Ostrowski of Brainerd; brother, Howard Oswald of Baxter; sister, Kathy Emery of Farmington; 20 grandchildren and 56 great-grandchildren.

Preceding Betty in death are her parents; husband, Roger; son, Clark Ostrowski; three brothers: Roger, Irvine and Albert Oswald; two sisters: Marie Knisely and Ethleen Maski; grandson, Andy Nelson and two great-grandchildren: Ainsley and Olivia Sylstad.

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

PAMELA JOHNSON



Pamela Marie (Wilson) Johnson, 56, of Aitkin died Wednesday, March 20, 2024 in Aitkin.

Memorial service will be 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the United Methodist Church in Aitkin with Pastor Dawn Houser officiating. Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 5, 2024 at the church and will continue one hour prior to the service Saturday. In lieu of flowers, Memorials to Special Olympics are preferred.

She was born May 7, 1967 in Fridley, the daughter of Dennis and Rosemary (Nyberg) Wilson. She grew up and graduated from Cambridge High School in 1985. She earned her A.A. Degree in Child Development and her B.A. Degree in Recreation. Pamela was united in marriage to Andrew S. Johnson September 1, 2012 in Cambridge. She was a dedicated Life Skills Trainer for Oak Ridge Homes for 22 years. She

devoted her life to helping those with special needs as a Camp Counselor, Special Olympics coach and a Life Skills coach. She was an active member of the Aitkin United Methodist Church, a Deaconess in the Methodist Church, a Youth Director and a Lay Speaker for several churches.

Pamela is survived by her husband Andy Johnson; mother, Rosemary Wilson; stepsons: Andrew “AJ” (Ashley) Johnson and Karl Johnson; brother and sister-in-law: Garth (Adriana) Wilson; nieces: Theresa (Joe) Wallin and Dawn Wilson; great-nephew Harrison Wallin; many aunts, uncles, cousins, other special relatives, friends and clients who's lives touched Pamela.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dennis; sister, Dawn and her grandparents.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

SHERYL BEDDOW



Sheryl Ann “Sherry” Beddow, 85, of Crosby died at her home on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Funeral Services will be 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. Burial will be at the Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service on Tuesday.

She was born in Cedar Rapids, IA on June 27, 1938 to Bill and Helen (Frantz) Hungerford. Shery

married Russell Beddow on November 19, 1965 in Tucson, AZ.

Shery is survived by her husband, Russell; two sisters: Tracy (Bob) Shwery of W. Des Moines, IA and Vickie (Merrill) Klemm of Cedar Rapids, IA; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding Shery in death are her parents and a brother, Bill Hungerford.

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

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

* Indicates handicap accessible. NOTE: All times are Sunday morning (a.m.) unless indicated otherwise.

ALLIANCE
Aitkin* — New Life; Larry Burg & Tyrel LaValle, pastors; Worship 10:15 am & 6pm; youth group Wed. 6pm; 11-1st Street SW; newlifeaitkin.com 218-927-2823.
Baxter* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10:00 am; pointway.org
Garrison* — Worship 10:30am
Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Aitkin* — Pastor Andrew Jergenson; Sunday Morning Service 10.
Baxter — Heritage Church, Pastor Heath Beard; 9 & 10:45 Sundays, 6:30p Wednesdays; iamheritage.org
Crosby — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; Worship 10:30
Crosslake* — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30; Worship at 10:45
Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; hillcityagchurh@gmail.com; 218-697-2662
Palisade — Pastor Charlie Bell; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

BAPTIST
Aitkin — Northwoods Community Church (formerly The Journey North) Tom Hoffman, interim pastor, Worship 10:30, northwoodscommunitychurch.org
Baxter — The Journey North, Worship 9 & 10:30, 218-824-5617 thejourneynorth.com
Brainerd* - Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Jim Stephens, 218-829-3191; SS 9:00, Worship 10:30 and 6 p.m.; Wed. Classes and Clubs 6:30 p.m.; fbcbraingerd.com
Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchontheviseroad.org
Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Zach Broom 218-562-5252, Worship 9:30, SS 11.
Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor Jon Thorson; SS 9:45; Service 10:45 and 6 p.m.; Bible Study Wed. 7 pm
Deerwood* — Jeff Shadrack, SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.
Glory* — Pastor Chris Meirose; 927-3678; SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 am.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12. aitkinchurch.com
Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.
Isle — Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.
Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC
Aitkin* — St. James, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10:30. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 and 4-4:45 pm.
Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Waweru, Sat. 4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00.
Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.
Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
Crosby* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass: Thurs. and Fri. at 8; Tues at noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30.
Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.ihmstemiaks.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm.
Emily — St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101.
Garrison — Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass Wed. 9 & Sat. 4 pm, Confession Sat. 3:30 - 3:50 pm
Grand Rapids — St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 8 & 10:30. 218-326-2483
Hillman — Holy Family; Sun. 10 to Mass Sat. 6:30 pm (only through Labor Day) w/ confession before or by appt.
McGregor — Holy Family, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sun. 8; Confessions Tues. 5:30-6:30 pm
Vineland — St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Baxter, Lakes Area — Nondenominational; 7001 Highland Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-11:30. 218-828-1362
Tamarack — Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship 9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Aitkin — Co. Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Kevin Hafner 218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10
COMMUNITY
Aitkin — Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE., Aitkin, Services Sun.10, 218-927-6959

Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene- Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10, SS 9; 16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005
Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9 May-Oct.
Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God, Pastor Robert Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30; Worship 10:30; Wed. BS 6:30 pm
Jacobson — Jacobson Community Church, Pastor George Collins, 218-252-5938, Sun. SS (All ages) 9:30; Worship 10:30; Family Time 2nd & 4th Sundays; Wed. BS 7 pm
Kimberly — Nature Ave. Rev. Rick Perry; Worship 9; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256.
McGregor — Amazing Grace Christian Church; Worship 10; 99 South 1st Street (at the McGregor United Methodist church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel Seibel.
McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.
Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.
Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.
Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Richie Bean; Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10
Outing* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Kenny Holm, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge
Palisade —Hilltop Chapel (Waukenabo Twp)*- service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; 49448 Osprey Avenue, Palisade.
Tamarack — Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.

EPISCOPAL
Aitkin — St. John's, Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 9
Brainerd* — St. Paul's, Rev. Joyce A. Rush. In-person worship service at 10 am Sunday. Online at 5 pm Saturday. Call the church 218-829-3834 and leave a message with email to receive a Zoom invitation.

EVANGELICAL FREE
Baxter — Lakewood EFC, Pastor Matt Nagel; Worship at 9:00 and 10:45. Wednesday for all ages 6:30 pm.
Crosslake — The Log Church 9:30, Pastor Troy Nelson; 218-692-4141, 37218 County Road 66, www.crosslakeefc.org
Isle — Pastor Mark Lee; Sunday School 9:00 am; Worship 10:30 am, Sun. Youth group 6:00 pm, Wed. Adult Prayer 6:30 pm and Kids Connect 6:30 pm
Malmö — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15
Wright — Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

HEBREWMESSIANIC
Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, for information 320-684-2804

LUTHERAN
Aitkin — Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Rebecca Hinz; Worship 9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month.
Aitkin — First* (ELCA) Pastor Reggie Denton; worship Sun. 99am (9am service also available via livestream on YouTube — First Lutheran Church, Aitkin and broadcast on KKIN 94.3 FM radio at 10am), take out community meal every Mon. & Thurs. 5pm and Tues. 12pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thurs. each month 9am-4pm.
Aitkin (Cedarbrook) — St. John's (ELCA); Worship 9:00; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun.
Aitkin — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor D. Becker; Worship Sun. 9, SS 10
Baxter — Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool (WELS). Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter. (Corner of Inglewood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com.
Baxter — Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.princeofpeace-lutheran.church
Beaver Township — Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st & 3rd Sun., 10:30.
Brainerd — First Lutheran Church (ELCA) Pastors: Patty Bjorklund and Jordan Gades, Sunday worship 9, Sunday School following worship. Services also available on YouTube and Facebook. 218-829-9552 fcbraingerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd

Brainerd* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www.goodshepherddfrelutheran.church, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052
Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.lhchurch.org)
Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th St. Brainerd, Worship time September through May 8:15am & 10:30am; worship (June through August) 9 am. 218-829-5147. Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org. Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org
Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9
Brainerd - Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Steve Benson, Sunday Worship 9, Monday Worship 6 pm. Education hour Sunday 10:15 am. 220 N. 8th St. Brainerd. 218-829-4317. www.zionbrainerd.com.
Cedar Lake, Norwegia Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct. Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC, NALC) Rev. Paul Mattson; Sun. 9 & 10:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:40.
Crosby — Zion (LC-MS) Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 8:30; SS 10; Bible Study Wed. 7 pm; handicap accessible. 218-546-6910
Crosslake Lutheran Church (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran.com • 218-692-3682 Kristin Oltmann, Senior Pastor; Becky Swanson, Associate Pastor. Labor Day-Mem. Day: Sun. 9:30am, Wed. 6:15pm; Mem. Day-Labor Day: Sun. Indoor 8:30am, Outdoor 10am
Crosslake — Mission of the Cross (LCMS), Pastor Leslie Uhrinak; Worship 9:30 with every Sunday Communion, Fellowship 10:30, Adult Bible Class 11, 218-692-4228, www.missionofthecross.org
Deerwood* — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Amanda Kempthorne; Worship: 9; Sunday School 9:50.
Garrison — Light of the Cross (ELCA), Worship 9 SS 9; 320-692-4773 or 877-406-9101.
Garrison — Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Caleb Worrel. Worship 10 with Communion Every Sunday. Adult Bible Study 8:30am, Sunday School Sept-May, 8:30am. Fellowship 11am. 320-692-4581. www.shepherdofthelake.org.
Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovaas; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month 8:45.
Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.
Hillman — Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 9:30, SS 10. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)
Iron Hub — Immanuel (LC-MS), Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 10:30, (alternates with Zion of Crosby) 218-534-3069
Isle — Faith (ELCA), Interim Pastor Rev. Henry French; Worship 9:30; handicapped accessible.
Isle — Holden (ELCA), SS 9:30; Worship 10:30.
Isle — Trinity (Missouri Synod), Rev. Mark Maunula; Worship 9; Fellowship follows; SS 10:30; Adult Bible 10:30.
Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner; SS 1st & 3rd Sun. 10, Service 11, fellowship follows.
Lake Shore — Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8327 Interlachen Rd.; Worship 9 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N)
Malmö — Bethesda (ELCA) Rev. James Muske; Sun. Worship 9am. Fellowship following Service. Communion every Sunday.
McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.
McGrath — Zion (ELCA), Pastor Elliott Malm; Worship 9; SS 9.
McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (LCMC), Pastor Lorelle Robinson; Worship 9, Fellowship follows, SS 10.
McGregor — Our Savior's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm
Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Luke Lekander, Worship 9.
Palisade* — Bethel (ELCA), Pastor Steven Teff; Worship 9:30.
Pequot Lakes - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Monte Meyer Worship 9 am, Fellowship 10 am, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:15 am
Pequot Lakes* - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Stephen Blenkush Worship 9:00 a.m., SS 9:15 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m.
Rosburg — Bethesda Lutheran (LCMC Congregations in Mission for Christ) 11:30 service. Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.

Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210
Thor — Zion, Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.
Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.
Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.)

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Brainerd—Oak Street Chapel, Pastor Todd Wooden, Worship service is Sunday at 9:30, 523 SE 11th Street, Brainerd, 218-454-0984
Brainerd—Remnant Ministry Center, Pastor Ben Davis, Worship service is Sunday at 10am, 512 S 8th St., Suite 2, 218-829-2989.

PENTECOSTAL
Baxter — Christ Alive, 12485 Forestview Drive, Baxter, MN 56425
Emily — Cornerstone Church; Pastor Earl Ready; Worship 10, 41536 Birchwood Drive, Emily; 218-763-2939.
Ironton — Iron Range Christian Center; Pastor Dwight Semler; 218-546-6523; meeting at Ironstone Town Hall , Co. Rd. 12, (Deerwood Shortcut); Worship 10 & Wed. 7 pm.
Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Ministry, Pastors Ken and Ron Fairbanks, Sat. 11. 218-768-3585

PRESBYTERIAN
Crosslake - Pastor Mark Ford, 218-692-4769; Worship 9; Fellowship 11, 14444 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, just passed the Community Center; www.crosslakepres.org.
McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9.
McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm.
Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11.

REFORMED
Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals; 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave NE 218-545-5433, www.vitalifespring.com

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Aitkin — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 9:30, Bible Study 10:30; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933
Brainerd — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 11:20, Bible Study 10; Bible Study & Prayer Mtg. Wed. 6:30 p.m.; 2910 Oak Street, Brainerd, 218-829-1676

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30 1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Brainerd — First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St, Brainerd, Sunday worship at 10. Pastor; Leslie Moughty. Handicapped accessible.

UNITED METHODIST

Aitkin* — Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live.
Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Youtube live streaming 10 am with fellowship to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please call the office to sign up; 218-534-3507.
Cutler* (South Aitkin County) — Pine Lake Chapel, Pastor Gary Taylor; Worship Sunday 1 p.m. Fellowship follows.
Cromwell — Pastor Tim Hornstad; Worship 10; SS 9
Emily* — Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Facebook live streaming 8:30 with fellowship to follow. UWF meet on the first Sunday of each month following worship. Men's prayer breakfast 2nd Saturday of each month at 8. Bible Study Thursday at 6 pm.
Fleming* — (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship 10:30; fellowship follows.
Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10
McGregor* — (Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45; fellowship follows.
Onamia — Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship 10; 2 blks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947
WESLEYAN
Emily — Rev. Jason Gressman; Worship 9; Friendship Time 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

To become a sponsor of the church directory contact Eric at 218-821-1393 or hopper@crosbyironton.net

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WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-888-750-5574. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! (mcn)

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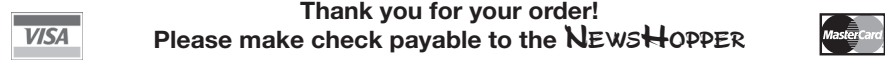
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Ice ridge shoreline damage

Crow Wing County Land Services is reminding property owners affected by ice ridges this winter the options for repairing shoreline damage. Given the lack of snow and above average temperatures this winter, many lakeshore landscapes around the county have been affected by severe ice ridge damage this spring. Before repairing shoreline damage, property owners should consult the Land Services Department or their city/town zoning office for a review of applicable rules.

"Given this winter's conditions or lack of, we are expecting that many property owners will be affected by annual ice ridges this year" stated Chris Pence, Environmental Services Manager.

The Crow Wing County Land Use Ordinance allows an annual ice ridge to be re-graded back to its original elevation without a permit when the work is done in the same year the ice ridge occurred. Annual ice ridges are defined as a linear mound of lakebed

materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice within a calendar year.

It is important to remember that the soil from the annual ice ridge cannot be pushed back into the lake and must be graded back away from the lake. Erosion and sediment control measures such as a silt fence must be implemented before any work is started on the project.

Land Services encourages landowners to implement near shore buffers with native vegetation to help reduce annual ice ridges. The deep roots hold the soil in place and helps shorelines be less susceptible to ice action on lakes. The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District can be a technical resource for landowners interested in planting and establishing natural buffers. Visit <https://www.cswcd.org/>.

Any dirt moving activities on a historic ice ridge requires a shoreland alteration permit. Historic ice

ridges are a linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice over a period of two or more years upon which well-established trees, shrubs or grasses are growing.

Additionally, the Minnesota DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may need to be consulted if restoration work extends below the ordinary high-water level (OHWL) of the lake.

Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Department at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.gov to discuss shoreland alterations or other land use questions before starting any construction projects. Information about land use in Crow Wing County can be found at www.crowwing.gov.

DNR seeks input on muskie plan

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking people to share their thoughts on how the DNR manages muskellunge as part of an update to the state's muskie long-range plan.

For the plan update, the Minnesota DNR hopes to hear from anglers who fish for muskies, other anglers, lake-user groups, partners in tribal nations, and anyone interested in muskies. People can share input in an online scoping survey on the Minnesota DNR muskie webpage (mndnr.gov/muskie). A webinar about the update process is planned for fall 2024, and in the winter of 2024-2025 the public will be able to review and provide input on a draft plan.

Muskies are a large, popular predator fish native to

Minnesota. The Minnesota DNR manages muskies by stocking them into waters, setting harvest and season regulations, population monitoring and research, and outreach and education about muskies.

As part of the plan update, the Minnesota DNR is considering ways to enhance muskie stocking in lakes that already have muskies, how to ensure that hatcheries can produce enough quality-sized muskies to meet stocking needs in these lakes, and options for improving public education surrounding muskie biology, ecology, and management.

Muskie background

Minnesota has 102 waters managed for muskies, comprising 2% of the state's fishable lakes and rivers and 21% of the total surface

area that is fishable. Muskies have been introduced in 48 lakes and are maintained in these lakes through stocking. The state record muskie for catch-and-release length is 58 1/4 inches, caught on Mille Lacs Lake in 2022.

Recent Minnesota DNR research on muskie diets show that, on a population level, pike and bass consume much more food than muskies in the lakes where they are present. The research found that muskies consumed a wide range of prey, but the primary makeup of muskie diets are yellow perch, white sucker, bullheads, invertebrates and northern pike. Cisco can also be important in those lakes where their populations are abundant. Walleye are not an important component of muskie diets.

Prevent conflicts with bears this spring

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is encouraging homeowners to remove birdfeeders now and check their property for food sources that could

attract bears. While most of the female bears with cubs and yearlings are still near their dening areas, the mild winter has caused some full-grown

bears to emerge from dens early to look around or find a quick, high-calorie snack.

"Bird feeders can become bear feeders," said Andrew Tri, DNR bear project leader. "Birdseed and grains are very attractive to bears looking for a quick, high-calorie meal. Prevention is key. Once a bear finds a food source, it will likely return." As bears emerge from hibernation, their metabolism gradually ramps up as they transition from nibbling on plants to more substantial meals. Food and food odors attract bears, and they can pick up a scent from over a mile away.

Home and cabin owners can prevent bear conflicts now by using the BearWise checklist (files.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/bear/bearwise/mn-bearwise-at-home-checklist.pdf) and following these BearWise basics: (bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics); Remove bird

feeders when bears are active. Secure food, garbage and recycling. Never feed or approach a bear. Never leave pet food outdoors. Clean and store grills and smokers. Alert neighbors to bear activity.

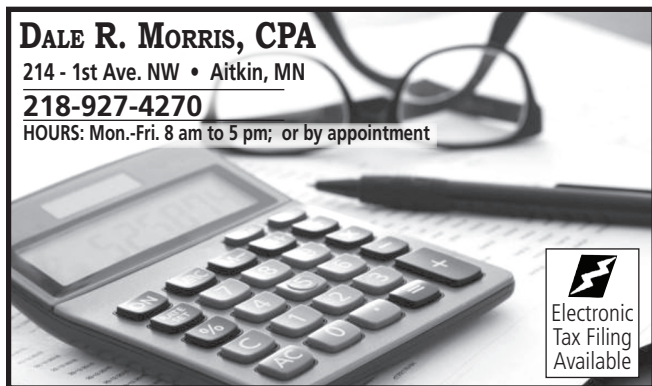
More bear information

People should be cautious around bears and give them space. If bear problems persist after cleaning up food sources, contact a Minnesota DNR area wildlife office for advice.

To find a local wildlife manager, contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367, or visit wildlife area office contact information (mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife) on the Minnesota DNR website.

For more information on how to live responsibly with bears visit the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/livingwith_wildlife/bears) or BearWise website (bearwise.org).

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