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Mild winter, early ice-out, leads to warm water for fishing this spring

By ANN SCHWARTZ
If you avoided the crowds for Fishing Opener Weekend you may be ready to dip a line in the water this weekend. The good news is the water temperature has warmed due

to the mild winter and early ice-out. Therefore, all the big bodies of water are eminently fishable, as are the smaller lakes.

James Linder, president of Linders' Angling Edge in

Brainerd, predicted a great fishing opener. Angling Edge produces fishing programs for outdoor television channels and is the newest manifestation of the In-Fisherman brand.

"My prediction is it is going to be very good fishing in May this year. The ice went off quite early which advances the spawning season — everything is further advanced. Normally, during a cooler

season, we do not see this much fish activity. But after the spawn there should be lots of fish activity this year," said Linder.

In the Brainerd Lakes area, he said Gull Lake is a good

choice for anglers, as well as Whitefish and Pelican. Mille Lacs will be catch-and-release only. Leech Lake is also on his radar for early-season success.

Continued on Page 6

UNCLAIMED FREIGHT NORTH GET READY FOR **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SALE**

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Memorial Day usually marks the unofficial start of summer, so it's essential to get your air conditioning system ready to handle the hotter temperatures before they arrive. If you've got an older air conditioning unit, it's even more crucial to keep a regular maintenance schedule. It can mean the difference between a cool, comfortable home or one that feels like an oven. You'll also avoid longer wait times for service as the temperatures rise!

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Highway 169 detour extends into Aitkin, work in town begins May 20



Lake Street), Highway 65 McGregor and Highway 210. See detour maps, including close-up of local access in Aitkin.

Aitkin is open to local traffic: Access for those who live, work or visit within the work zone will be open and maintained. Expect changes to access, gravel or grooved road surfaces, flaggers, periodic stops and alternate one-way traffic. Please slow down, follow construction signs and stay out of barricaded areas.

When the highway is complete this fall, travelers will benefit from a wider, smoother and stronger road surface; improved safety, access and traffic flow and updated drainage.

For more information and to sign up for email updates, visit the project webpage: www.mndot.gov/d3/projects/aitkin-hassman/.

All construction activities and traffic impacts are weather dependent and subject to change. MnDOT urges motorists to always be attentive, drive with caution and slow down in work zones where workers are present.

Motorists who travel on Highway 169/210 between Aitkin and Hassman will encounter an extension to the current detour as work begins in the city of Aitkin on Monday, May 20, reports the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

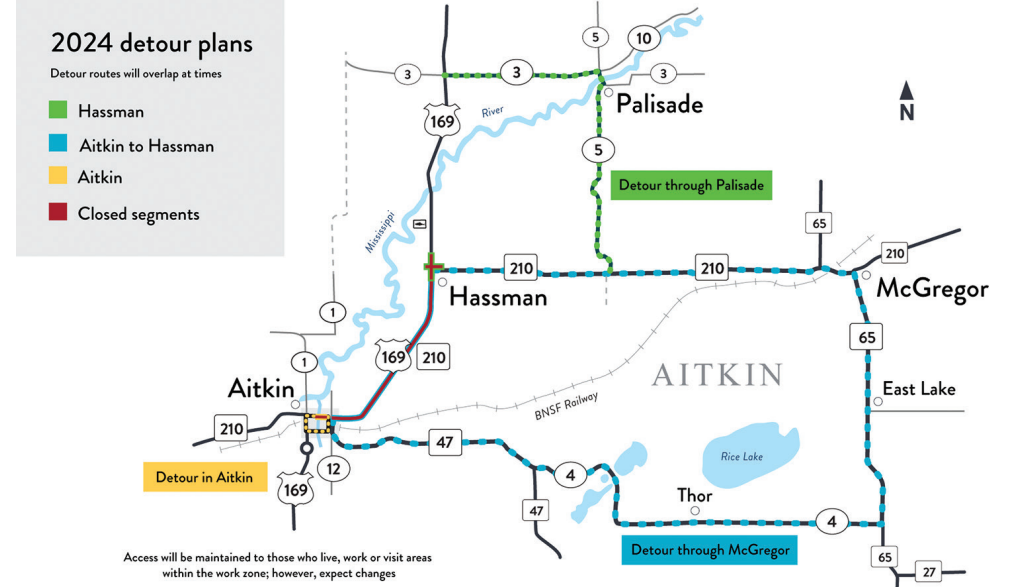
The closure will extend west of Aitkin County Road 12/83 (400th Avenue) to the Ripple River bridge. Crews will reconstruct Highway 169/210 and widen the shoulders; add center left turn lanes, walk, curb and gutter; and replace drainage

structures beneath the road. Here's what to expect May 20 until mid-July:

Work zone: Multiple crews and equipment will work along Highway 169/210 east of the Ripple River bridge in Aitkin to Highway 210 in Hassman.

Detour for through traffic extends into the city of Aitkin and continues through McGregor

Motorists to follow Highway 169 (Minnesota Avenue at Highway 210 in Aitkin to Highway 47 (4th Street South), County Road 4 (Dam



For current road conditions and detours on Minnesota highways, visit 511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

Learn about 2027 plans for new Highway 210 roundabout in Pillager

The Minnesota Department of Transportation invites the community to learn about plans to improve Highway 210 from Motley to Pillager, Cass County, on Wednesday, May 22.

The open house will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. at the

Pillager Community Center, 207 East Second Street, near the Pillager Fairgrounds. The public will have the opportunity to visit with project staff, view design layouts and ask questions at the event is drop-in style event.

MnDOT plans to resurface and improve nearly nine miles of Highway 210 from Highway 10 in Motley to east of south junction Cass County Road 1 in Pillager; replace a box bridge east of 49th Avenue SW; and install a new roundabout on Highway 210 at south junction Cass County Road 1 (River Street) and 37th Avenue in Pillager. The project is currently in the design phase and scheduled for construction in 2027.

When complete, travelers will benefit from a smoother road surface, improved safety, access and traffic flow, especially at peak hours.

For more information, contact Kelly Hoppe, project development manager, at kelly.hoppe@state.mn.us or 218-537-6220 or visit the Highway 210 project web page: www.mndot.gov/d3/projects/pillager.



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Memorial Day Sunday service

Crosslake Lutheran Church will again host a community observance of Memorial Day on Sunday, May 26.

A more traditional worship service will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary at Crosslake Lutheran Church across from the campground. The 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship will feature a larger 'community-wide' Memorial Weekend observance. This is located at 14019 Daggett Pine Road, across from the Crosslake Community Center baseball field. Both services are open to the public.

The celebration will include recognition of all veterans and military personnel

in attendance, special music and guest speaker, Russ Philstrom.

Philstrom enlisted in the US Army Reserves on his 17th birthday in 1957 and served until 1965. He has served in a variety of work life positions including State of MN Revenue Division, Semi truck driver, and sales. He was elected to the Emily City Council from January 1995-1999. Russ was elected to the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of MN in 2000, which is another one of his other interests after a near fatal snowmobile accident in 1994. He also serves as the Chairman for the Homeless and Wounded Warriors of

MN and is widely known for his commitment to this population in the State of Minnesota. He is married to Virginia, and they have three children, 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He builds custom fishing rods in his free time when he is not doing Veteran charity work.

The outdoor service will feature an aerial fly-over, weather permitting, the Crosslake-Fifty Lakes American Legion Post 500 Color Guard will provide appropriate honors to the colors and to the dead, including a bugler playing "TAPS." Please join us to honor our troops, veterans, and country.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- May**
- 16th - 19th - Nord Hus Scandinavian Goods Grand Opening in Crosby
 - 18th - Emily United Methodist Blooms, Books, Bazaar, and Bake Sale
 - 18th - Glory Baptist Church Best Life Ministries Women's Event "Be the Light" with a light breakfast and lunch, three workshop speakers, times of worship and prayer, along with encouragement and motivation stories and Scriptures to lift up those around us in the difficult days we are experiencing. Cost is \$25. Purchase tickets at Glory Baptist or online at bestlifeministries.com.
 - 23rd - Flying Solo - Creating the New Life as a Single Person at Crosslake Lutheran Church from 12:30-4 p.m. You are invited to participate in this class that looks at the grief experience and how to create the new life after loss of relationship. Topics include review of the loss process, how we experience loss in different ways, barriers to transitioning to recovery and tools for building a life that does not include the loved one that was lost. The group is facilitated by Gail Smith and is limited to 10 people so that there is time to reflect and share. Many have found this session to be helpful in making connections and to find support in the loss process. To sign up for the class, please call the church office at 218-692-3682.
- June**
- 6th - Music in the Park at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake from 5 to 8 p.m. Call Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218-546-8131 for more details.

Erickson selected as administrator



Crow Wing County announces Administrative Services Director Debby Erickson as the next County Administrator. The County Board unanimously approved the position at its May 14 board meeting. She will replace County Administrator Tim Houle who will retire on July 12.

"It's through the Administrative Leadership of Dr. Tim Houle that has allowed us to have internal bench strength that the full board was confident we would find a replacement in our own staff," said County Board Chair, Jon Lubke. "We are pleased to offer Debby the role of County Administrator. Her wealth of knowledge and wide range of experience will help us with a smooth transition to support us and continue to drive our vision forward."

Senior Management Team and served as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Elections Officer for the county. She became Administrative Services Director in 2015 where she is responsible for strategic planning and oversight of finance, information technology, facilities, and election services, including coordination of annual budget and policies and procedures across the organization.

"I am passionate about public service, and as a lifelong Crow Wing County resident, I'm fortunate to have had the opportunity to dedicate my career to advancing the vision to be Minnesota's Favorite Place. I feel I bring a good set of skills and knowledge to continue to advance that vision that the board has set," Erickson said. "I'm always one who's looking for the next challenge in front of me. I see this is an opportunity to embrace that challenge and continue the good work

that we're currently doing with the help of our outstanding team working together to serve our community."

Debby has a BA in Business Management from the College of St. Scholastica. The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) named Debby Auditor of the Year in 2017. She also served as present president of MACO in 2023.

Debby and County Engineer Tim Bray were interviewed on April 29 as finalists for the position.

Debby will replace County Administrator Tim Houle who announced his retirement on April 15. Houle has spent 30 years working in county government with his career spanning four decades. In July 1994, Houle began work as the Morrison County Administrator where he worked for 14 years. He then served 16 years as Crow Wing County Administrator, beginning his career here in July 2008.

OBITUARIES

JOHN LINDBERG



John "Jack" V. Lindberg, 85 of McGregor, died Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at Essentia Health - Saint Mary's Hospital in Duluth.

Services will be 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at Rabbit Lake Cemetery, Aitkin. He was born January 12, 1939 in Superior, Wisconsin the son of Ellsworth Verner and June Dorothy (Armitage) Lindberg. He graduated high school at Duluth East and then attended North Dakota State University. He earned degrees in: Pharmacy, B.A. in Business, Minor in Psychology, Major in Chemistry Science and Math and was a substitute teacher at U.M.D. While working at Peoples Drug in Superior, WI. John met the love of his life Ann. John Verner Lindberg and Ann Elaine Otterson were united in marriage October 28, 1979 in Blackberry, Minnesota. They were inseparable, working side by side for over 23 years owning and

operating Lindberg Pharmacy in McGregor. They enjoyed time with family and together at home in the garden. They shared a love of God and were members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Aitkin.

John is survived by: Steve & Jenny LaFlamme of McGregor; Linda & Mike Lundgren of Circle Pines; Robert & Heidi LaFlamme of Superior; Debbie Hagen of McGregor; Al LePage of Minneapolis; Scott Watkins of McGregor and Erin Bruneau of Mora; Tina & David Jodell of Aitkin; Many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, 2 nieces and nephew, Many other special relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ellsworth and June, wife Ann, daughter Laura LePage, son Bill LaFlamme, grandson Robert "Robbie" LaFlamme and sister Joni.

Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Homes & Cremation Services in Aitkin. Go to srtfuneral.com to leave a message of condolence.

More Obituaries on Page 4

READER RIBBETS

School district's listening sessions

[Aitkin] Independent School District #1 wants to hear from you!

Our Community will have two opportunities in May to be a part of Aitkin Public School District's Listening sessions.

We invite the Aitkin Community to be a part of the process.

Opportunity #1

We will host a virtual session, where you can log into a zoom meeting and take part in the activity. You will

be asked a number of questions and asked to provide feedback through the chat option on the Zoom application. We will be hosting our first community zoom Listening Session at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 22. The link to join the zoom meeting is: <https://ics-builds.zoom.us/j/84728216814> The zoom session will take about one hour to complete.

Opportunity #2

We will host an in person Community Listening session

at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22 in the High School Media Center. This session will last about one hour.

We invite our community to join one of these sessions to help provide guidance as we prepare for the next steps for ISD #1.

We hope you can join us and share your input about your thoughts and your vision for the future of ISD #1.

Daniel J. Stifter
Superintendent
Aitkin Public Schools

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Bellows Falls VT, John Deere Van Brunt 5 hole seeder w/ tool all original in beautiful condition, Early 1800's Large tobacco shredder, Antique wooden one man drag saw horizontal or vertical, Cub Cruiser made by John Deere toy wagon replica (new in box), Marks wind up metal horse toy in working condition & Hop A Long Cassidy metal wind up toy, Keystone metal fire truck w/bell, Buddy L sand & gravel truck, Merton Berle metal windup w/box works as it should, Tonka #5 Metal fire truck, Keystone rail car, Skating Hobo wind up toy, Antique metal car & camper trailer, Coca cola carrier, Collectible Pepsi cooler used in airlines, Bag Balm metal flange sign, Little Jimmy acrobat metal toy works as it should, Wagner Children's cooking set scale size for children, waffle maker, flat iron, tea pot, kettle & fry pan, Metal airplane windup, flip over, Japanese squirt gin WWII era, Salesman sample JD plow 1800's, Singer sewing machine salesman sample or children's, Keystone battery operated wooden boat, Crescent salesman sample or children's stove, Eagle salesman sample or children's stove, Queen salesman sample or children's stove, Wooden Norwegian snow scooter 1930's, Antique wall mounted coffee grinder, Orangeette, Frostie Root Beer metal sign & Nugrape thermometer, Crate full of milk pint glass jars, Tri City Dairy WI, Collectible churn & mixer, Wooden Pepsi crate & collectible old Pepsi signs, Structo toy semi w/ metal trailer, Smaller tobacco grinder, Log, Ice tongs & ice/ wood saws, Small Collectible thermometers & small advertising pieces, Antique wall phones, (3) Primitive hay forks, Coca Cola & Pepsi 6 pack metal advertising stand, w/ wooden 6 pack holders sold separately **SHOP TOOLS & RELATED,** New scaffolding set, Heavy duty saw horses Variety of gas cans, Electrical cords, Soda blaster, Aluminum extension ladder **ITEMS OF INTEREST:** Maple Syrup supplies, 50 gallon sap holder, (2) burners, 5 gallon pots, 30 stainless pails & spouts, Large glass two tier display case w/sliding glass doors, (2) DQ Grill & Chill signs new in crates, one 4 ft. and one 8 ft. yellow black & white in color, English saddle, Billy Cook saddle & other saddles, Large spool fence wire, (2) Homemade land rollers, (2) wooden wagon wheels for decoration, Large variety of T posts, Lumber pile with all different sizes, Livestock waterer's, Misc. horse tack, bits, harness & lead ropes, 5x8 chain link dog kennel w/dog house & other covered dog kennel, 4x8 sheets of Luan, Collectible wooden windows, Large quantity of floor & wall tile **HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS & RELATED:** Maytag stainless refrigerator side by side w/ice maker, Power recliners, Kitchen table & 4 chairs, (2) Wooden bar stools, Hoosier style cabinet, Coffee & end tables, Leather couch & foot stool, Oak office desk, Wildlife artwork & other framed artwork, Antique fireplace utensils, Chainsaw carved horse statue, Large chainsaw carved horse bench, Queen bed w/wood head board, bunk bed set w/pull out trundle bed

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LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., May 18, 2024)

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SUMMARY CITY OF CUYUNA

On May 13, 2024 the City of Cuyuna adopted Ordinance Number 02-2024, Ordinance Number 03-2024 and Ordinance No RZ 01-24, amending the City of Cuyuna Zoning Ordinance No. 903 to modify Section 9.03.04, "Rules and Definitions," Section 903.13, "General Requirements," Section 9.03.03, "Jurisdiction, Application and Interpretation," Section 906.06, "Single and Two Family Residential District," and 906.07 "Multi-Family Residential District." The ordinance modifications define and regulate the use of recreational vehicles, storage containers, extend the permit expiration timeframe, and

establish an SSTS drainfield to road right-of-way setback requirement. The ordinance also amends the city's zoning map (RZ-01-24) to rezone PIN 19310893 (owner: Kim Wynn) and PIN 19290513 (owner: Soo Line Railroad Co) to "Single and Two Family Residential," and PINs 19310911 (owner: City of Cuyuna) to "Open." The ordinance also modifies Ordinance 402B, correcting spelling and reference errors in the city's Subsurface Sewage Treatment Ordinance.

This notice is a summary of the ordinance amendments that were adopted by the City. A full copy the amendment and the City Code are available at City Hall. This amendment goes into effect upon publication.

City of Cuyuna
Bill Bedard, Clerk/Treasurer
7.4

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OBITUARIES

PEPSI BENJAMIN



Pepsi Lee Benjamin, 41, died Monday, May 6, 2024 in St. Paul.

Tribal Rites were held on Sunday, May 12, 2024 at the East Lake Ceremonial Building, East Lake – McGregor. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery, McGregor.

She was born July 12, 1982 in Duluth.

Pepsi is survived by her son, Dakota Aportela; mother, Sharry Benjamin; father, Donald Graves; sister, Heather Benjamin; niece, Lila Benjamin; nephews: Jory, Victor, Daniel, Moses and Oso Benjamin; aunt, Lisa (John) Smekofski; uncles: Maurice, Frank, Tom and Kevin Benjamin; many other special relatives and friends.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home and Cremation Service in McGregor. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

ELSIE SPECHT



Long-time area resident, Elsie K. Specht 98, died Friday, May 10, 2024 at her home in Aitkin.

Services were held Thursday, May 16, 2024 in St. Johns Lutheran Church, Aitkin with Pastor David Becker officiating. Interment was in Spencer Cemetery, Aitkin.

neighbors. Throughout her life, she cared for others. She will be remembered as a hard-working, kind and caring person.

Elsie is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Joe Balk; sisters: Carol Jackson of Boca Raton, Florida; Karen Warelchalk and her husband, Don of Isle of Palms, South Carolina; long-time friend Bill Thompson (BT); special friend and caregiver, Brian Roettger along with several nieces and nephews.

Elsie is preceded in death by her parents, Hans and Caroline Hansen; former husband, George Specht; brothers: Charlie Hoffman, James Hansen and Fritz Hansen; sisters: Ruth Gray, Hazel Lofgren, Helen Johnson and Betty Beck.

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

RONN JOHNSON

Ronn Duane "Chipper" Johnson, 72, of Ironton died at the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby on May 11, 2024.

Services are pending.

He was born in Crosby on May 14, 1951 to Roy and Rose (Minarich) Johnson. He was a former in employee of Scorpion, the City of Ironton and Flannigan's Auto Body.

Ronn is survived by his two brothers: Teroy (Ruth) Johnson of Brainerd and Roger (Polly) Johnson of Sartell; two sisters: Ramona Finnila of San Marcos, CA and Renee (Tony) Mellinoss of Carlsbad, CA.

Preceding Ronn in death are his parents.

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

MARLENE MATTSON



Marlene Ann Mattson, 79, of Crosslake died at the Golden Horizons of Crosslake on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

A Graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Forest Cemetery in Aitkin.

Marlene was born in Aitkin on May 20, 1944 to Eli and Marjorie (Edwards) Jerry.

Marlene is survived by one son, DuWayne (Lorri) Mattson of Motley; two daughters, Carrie (Lynn)

Maalis of Deerwood and Jackie Snook of Deerwood; step daughter, Cindy Dorr of Bemidji; one brother, Francis Jerry of Virginia Beach, VA; one sister, Ellen Grulhke of Aitkin; 11 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

Preceding Marlene in death are her parents; her son, Scott Mattson; two sisters, Mary Fenstermaker and Jenny Wilson; and three brothers, William Jerry, John Jerry and Dan Jerry.

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

JAMES BLAKESLEY



James (Jim) Blakesley, 77, of Aitkin died Friday, May 10, 2024 surrounded by family.

Masonic service will begin at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 followed by the funeral service at Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home, Aitkin with Pastor Susan Cline officiating. Visitation will be 10 - 11am Wednesday at the funeral home. Military Honors will be provided by Aitkin American Legion Post #86 and Aitkin V.F.W. Post #1727. Private Inurnment will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery- Camp Ripley in Little Falls. Memorials are preferred to Legionville School Safety in memory of Jim.

business, Jim Blakesley Appliance & Repair. Jim was an active member of the city of Aitkin, serving on the city council and as a chamber member. He dressed up as Santa for the Fish House Parade for over 25 years and was captain of the riverboat. He volunteered as a lay pastor, was an Aitkin Jaycee and a Rotary member. He also served in many positions for the Aitkin American Legion Post #86, 6th District American Legion, Legionville Safety School, and the American Legion Department of Minnesota Color Guard of Aitkin. Jim was a member of the 40 & 8 Brainerd Mystic Lodge 213, Scottish Rite, Valley of Duluth, and Temple of Shriners International Duluth.

He is survived by his wife, Rosie Blakesley of Aitkin; daughter and son-in-law, Teresa and Chad Kleinschmidt of Little Falls; two grandsons: Adam (Lacy) Heglund of Little Falls and Alex (Raquel Rietveld) Heglund of Royalton; great-grandchildren: Janie, Ariyahna, Landon, and Jordyn; great-granddogs: Jerry, Kiki, and Scout; brothers: Larry and Gordon; sisters: Cindy and Vicky.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.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; www.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; hillicityagchurch@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.; fcbbrainerd.com
Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org
Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Zach Broom 218-562-5252, Worship 9:30, SS 11.
Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor Jon Thorsen; SS 9:45; Service 10:45 and 6 p.m., Bible Study Wed. 7 pm
Deerwood* — Jeff Shadrick, SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.
Glory* — 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.ihmstamilys.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 Haffner 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 219-829-3834 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
Malm — 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.

HEBREW/MESSIANIC
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 KFIN 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) Pastor Sarah Stadler, 602-318-6876, 27452 St. John's Church Road, Aitkin. Worship 9:00. Sunday School 10:00 Sept-May. VBS Aug 5-8. Bible Study 1st & 3rd Tues at 6:30 pm. stjohns-cedarbrook.weebly.com
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 Ingelwood 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-lu

theran.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 fcbbrainerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd
Brainerd* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www.goodshepherdfree.lutheran.church, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052
Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.lchurch.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, Norwegian 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) Worship 8:30; SS 10; Bible Study Wed. 7 pm; handicap accessible. 218-546-6910
Crosslake Lutheran Church (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran.com
Kirstin Oltmann, Pastor / Becky Swanson, Pastor 218-692-3682 May 19-Labor Day; Sun. Indoor 8:30am, Outdoor 10am Indoor: 35960 CR 66, Outdoor: 14019 Dagggett Pine Rd
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. Lovaa; 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 11, fellowship follows. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)
Iron Hub — Immanuel (LC-MS) Worship 9, (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)
Malm — 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 Lorelie 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.
Rossburg — 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 Irontone 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 Dagggett 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.visitlifespring.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; 320-528-3150; 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.

Fishing this spring | Continued from Page 1

"Anglers want to look at the relatively shallow spots in lake flats and rock-and-gravel flats and developing weed flats in 5 to 10 feet of water. The water temperature for opener was in the mid-50s, which should lead to great fishing. We see perch, suckers and fatheads coming into the spawning flats and foraging in the shallow water — which brings in the prey fish. We see lots of fish by the ledges in 8-12 feet of water. The fish collect there in the warm water, out of the wind and weather."

Linder recommends that anglers hug the shoreline and shoreline-related structures. After the baitfish spawn the bigger ones come in for the harvest. "I like to do a lot of crappie fishing and then catch-and-release of prey fish."

For night fishing on spring weekends, Linder recommends fishing off shore with



Lester Kachinske of Grand Rapids, formerly of Aitkin, shows off two 30-inch lake trout from the Sioux Narrows in Lake of the Woods Canada. Submitted photo

night fishing in shallow water.

"When I go out for crappies and bluegills, I normally don't see that much traffic." He was prepping for a tournament in Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin earlier this week. "I still love to fish and we do that at Anglers' Edge but there is more to the job than just fishing all day. We do lots of marketing." **Mille Lacs, Garrison Reef**

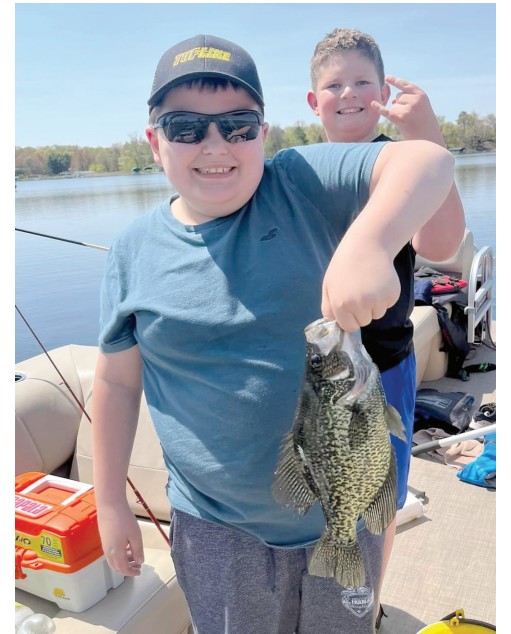
Wayne Schmaltz, Garrison, owns Garrison Sports at the northwest corner of Mille Lacs Lake. He carries crappie minnows, fatheads, shiners, small-medium-large suckers, leeches, crawlers, wax worms and angle worms.

"I'd be pitching a shiner with a leech and later in the day switch to a bobber and a leech," he advised anglers. Most anglers in his area go out on the northwest corner of Mille Lacs. "A quarter mile out is the Garrison Reef and we also have a sand break

Rapala baits, crank baits and mainstream jigs with a live shiner minnow. Or use a moon tail jig or hair jig or a mooneye jib and a soft plastic trailer such as a three-inch swim bait. He also likes Rapala crank baits, shad raps and original Rapalas. "They are very good for trolling in slightly deeper water or



Wayne Schmaltz of Garrison Sports dips some bait for Fishing Opener Weekend. Ann Schwartz photo



Logan Powell of Brainerd, holding a 13.5-inch crappie, was out for opening weekend with family friend Mason Vojtasek from Sartell). Submitted photo

out there. The reef is rock and gravel on the west side, switching to rocky gravel with larger boulders further



Anglers enjoyed fishing while a fashion show commenced at Ruttger's Resort on Bay Lake.

out. The center spine that runs through is shallow, with north and south side drop-offs. Mainly walleyes now and when weather warms up pretty darn good smallmouth fishing too." His customers fish Mille Lacs and surrounding lakes: Farm Island, Big Pine, Borden, Smith and all the lakes in Garrison, Pine Center and Aitkin areas.

"I think fishing is going to be good. Wasn't pressured very hard this winter. Time will tell," noted Schmaltz.

Garrison Sports is located near several boat-launching sites. "The south Garrison Launch is one quarter mile away as is the Boat Harbor Marina. The North Garrison Access is about two miles away. I am open seven days a week and don't get much time to do open water fishing."

Various road construction projects continue to impact traffic from the Twin Cities to Garrison and from Aitkin to Duluth. Check with MnDOT road maps before venturing out.

Here's to lots of fish in your pan for the 2024 spring and summer angling season.



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