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Walk, Run, and Rally— all three events in one

The STAY: a celebration of life, hope, and community a pledge to continue the vital

In the heart of Aitkin County, amidst the beautiful landscape and the warm embrace of a caring community, an event unlike any other is set to unfold on Saturday, July 20—the STAY: Walk, Run, and Rally. Not just an event, it's a tapestry of compassion, resilience, and unity, weaving together the threads of remembrance, vitality, and support.

The WALK, aptly named the Memory and Honor Walk for Wellbeing, is a poignant journey of remembrance and work of suicide prevention. As walkers stroll on the path at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to noon, they honor the memory of those lost to suicide while raising funds to support the Committee for the Awareness and Prevention of Suicide. It's not merely a walk, it's a step towards healing, adorned with the symbol of hope—a free t-shirt as a token of gratitude for their fundraising efforts.

But it's not just about walk-

ing, it's about community engagement. Businesses, agencies, and organizations are encouraged to rally together, forming teams to champion the cause and vie for the title of top fundraiser.

Walkers can also take orders for and pass out pinwheels that can be decorated to remember loved ones lost or to honor survivors of suicide. These pinwheels will be used to decorate the walking path. Community Corrections is supporting mental health and assisting with the



walk and pinwheels. They can be contacted at 218-927-7281 or corrections@ co.aitkin.mn.us.

There is no cost to participate in the walk.

Envelopes for pledges can Continued on Page 2





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Friday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Admission \$5, Children under 12 Free when accompanied by an adult.

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June 15, 2024 NewsHopper™ www.NewsHopper.net

Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat: A dream fulfilled in honor of veterans

On Saturday, June 15 at 1:00 p.m. the community of McGregor will come together at the Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat. If you wish to attend the ceremony, head to 23796-450th St., McGregor. Directions are available on the organization's website, www.ForgottenHeroesMN.org, guiding attendees 6 1/2 miles north of Hwy. 210 on Hwy. 65. In case of inclement weather, the event will relocate to the McGregor High School Auditorium at 148 S. 2nd St., ensuring that the tribute proceeds uninterrupted.

The highlight of the event will be a flag raising ceremony by the esteemed 934th Air Force Civil Engineer Reserve Unit, marking a solemn tribute to the nation's Forgotten Heroes.

Attendees will witness the official presentation and raising of the first flags, each having flown over the Nation and State capitals in honor of these revered heroes. Federal, State, and County Officials are expected to attend, highlighting the significance of this solemn occasion.

Adding to the reverence, the American Legion Honor Guard will perform a civilian fly over, casting a poignant tribute to those who have served. Meanwhile, a silent auction will offer attendees an opportunity to support the cause, with proceeds benefiting the Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat.

For those looking to take a piece of the event home, official Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat merchandise will be available for purchase. Additionally, attendees can commemorate their loved ones by contributing to the First Memory Tree, a touching symbol of remembrance and honor.

The Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat invites all to join in this poignant ceremony, honoring those who have selflessly served our nation. It's an opportunity for the community to come together, pay homage, and support a noble cause. Desire into reality

Behind every noble endeavor lies a dream, a vision fueled by passion and driven by purpose. For the founders of Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat, Chuck Evancevich and Bret Sample, their dream transcended personal challenges to create a sanctuary for veterans, a place to build a range where vetwhere bonds are forged, and memories are made.



Charles Joseph Evancevich

Chuck Evancevich, an Air Force veteran confined to a wheelchair, and Bret Sample, a combat veteran with a deep-rooted passion for firearms, shared a vision of camaraderie and healing. Bret, having served 21 years in the US Army as a weapons specialist, harbored a dream erans could gather, bond, and continue the legacy of service.

For Chuck, whose life took an unexpected turn, confined to a wheelchair for the last 12 years, the dream was to reclaim the freedom of the outdoors. With the support of his brother-in-law, Allan Porisch, Chuck found solace in the wilderness, but his longing to share that freedom with others persisted.

Tragically, Chuck's journev came to an end in October 2020, leaving behind a legacy of resilience and determination. Moved by Chuck's spirit, Bret approached his widow, Brenda, with a proposal to build a shooting range in his memory. Thus, Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat was born, a testament to the enduring bond between brothers in arms.

United by a shared passion, a team formed, dedicated to fulfilling Chuck and Bret's dreams. Their vision expanded to include not just a shooting range, but a haven where disabled veterans and individuals could partake in outdoor activities without limitations. With accessible ranges for rifles, pistols, and archery, Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat aims to provide not just recreation, but a sense of belonging and camaraderie.

For information on how to support this noble cause or get involved, contact Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat at 218-851-0969. It is a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization and donations are tax deductible, EIN #87-2167163.

The STAY: a celebration of life, hope, and community | Continued from Page 1

be picked up at Paulbeck's County Market in Aitkin, Roadside Market in Hill City, and Ukura's Big Dollar in McGregor. Walkers need to register online by searching for the event on Eventbrite. com.

The **RUN**, known as the Color Run for Life, is a vibrant celebration enjoyment of and encouraged continuation of life. Check in for the 5K un-timed race is 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and the start

timers will be given to each runner to time themselves, if they wish.) It's not a race against time, but a journey of self-discovery and camaraderie. Each runner receives a white t-shirt transformed is at 8:30 a.m. (Handheld into a canvas of memories

by vibrant splashes of color, which will be tossed over runners at six different points along the course from Paulbeck's County Market to the Aitkin County Fairgrounds. As runners travel the scenic Aitkin Walking Trail, colors dance in the air, painting a kaleidoscope of life's hues for a unique memento.

The course is uneven and rough in some areas. Runners must be able to navigate the terrain. Aitkin Fire Department will be assisting with the run and monitoring the course to ensure the safety of runners. They will also be setting up an Incident Command Post at the fire hall, in case an emergency should arise or anyone requires first aid. A donation is requested to help cover the cost of the event, but there is no required fee.

The RALLY, is the crescen-



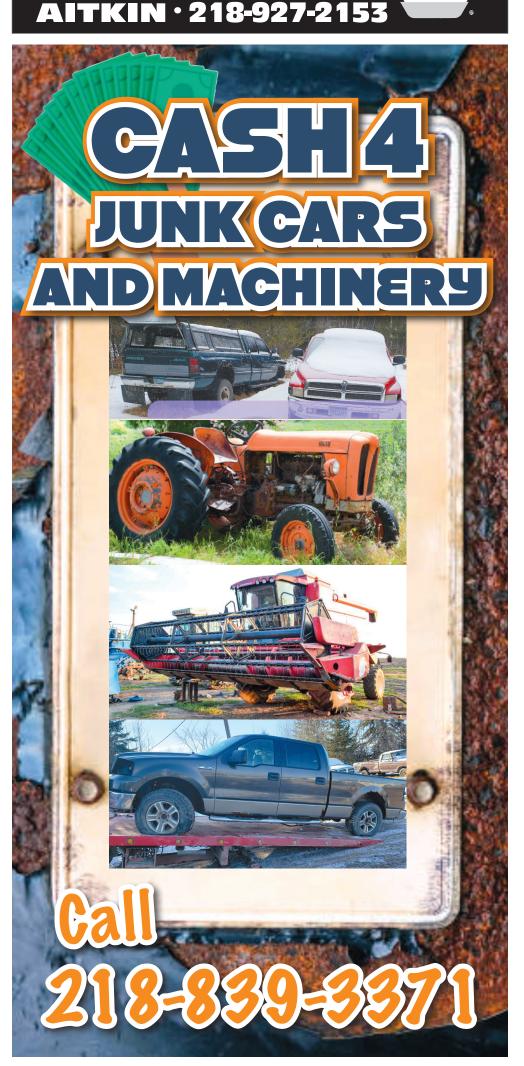
do of the event. Live music will fill the air, courtesy of talented local artists Mike and Jan Cherry, Christian McShane and Aurora Baer. Presentations by Face It Foundation and If We Can Save Only One shed light on mental health and resilience. There will also be craft and food vendors, resource vendors, inflatables, and kids' games by the Women of Today.

As the day unfolds, amidst laughter and shared moments, the STAY event becomes more than just an event—it's a beacon of hope, a sanctuary of support, and a demonstration of the resilience of the human spirit culminating in a celebration of life, hope, and community.

Sponsored by UCare and the Region V+ Mental Health Initiative, the event is the confirmation of the capacity of collaboration and compassion.

Volunteers, led by CAPS Facilitator Stacey Durgin Smith, embody the spirit of service and caring. If you are interested in volunteering for the event contact Stacey at 218-927-7224 or stacey. durgin@co.aitkin.mn.us. You can also contact Stacey with any questions and look for posts on the Aitkin County Public Health Education Facebook page.







Alec's is a Short Walking Only Par-3 Course.

25039 Tame Fish Lake Rd., Deerwood 218-678-2885 · ruttgers.com

Charles "Chuck" David

Beardsley, 85, of Aitkin died

on Thursday, May 23, 2024,

CHARLES BEARDSLEY

Nature Rocks Concert in Aitkin

Get ready to groove, because the Aitkin County Fairgrounds are about to come alive with the twang of guitars and the thump of bass. On Friday, June 21, 4:30 - 10 p.m. Nature Rocks A Concert for Conservation is hitting town with none other than the Grammy Award-winning and national recording artists, "The Kentucky Headhunt-

ers," leading the charge. But hold onto your hats, because the real stars of

the show are the local businesses, organizations, and individuals who are the backbone of this epic event, which aims to send kids to outdoor adventure camps and field trips at the Long Lake Conservation Center.

So mark your calendars, Nature Rocks promises a

toe-tapping, heart-thumping good time for a cause close to our hearts. Let's rock, roll, and conserve our way to a brighter future

For tickets and more information, visit naturerocksconcert.com or call 800-595-4849. And if you can't make it, no worries! Head over to llcfoundation. org to show your support.

in Brainard, surrounded by his family. A service for Chuck will be held on Saturday, June 15,

2024 at St. James Catholic Church in Aitkin, MN. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Mass at 11:00 A.M. Military Honors will

be provided by Aitkin American Legion Post #86 and Aitkin V.F.W. Post #1727. A luncheon will follow.

He was born on December 25, 1938, Chuck, a caring father and husband, will be remembered for his dedication to and love for his family and friends. Although he may not have told you every day how much he loved and cared for you, his actions spoke louder than words. He served for four years in the Army. After his military service, he pursued a career in finance. He graduated from Mankato State University with a degree in finance and later earned a Master's Degree as well. Many of the passions Chuck had involved his love for being outdoors, whether it be fishing, hunting, or watching his birds while sitting on his patio and enjoying a beverage. Chuck enjoyed spending many hours on lake Mille Lacs catching the elusive Walleye. Chuck took great pride in maintaining his lawn and enjoyed smoking BBQ ribs and grilling steaks for his many friends and family. Chuck truly was a master of the grill. He was a devoted Catholic and his faith was very important to him as well.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife, Teri Bickford-Beardsley, daughters: Teri Hall (Bradley), Sue Kaufmann (Brian); grandson, Ryan Beardsley (Danielle); great-grandsons: Kayden, Kyler and Kruz; stepchildren: Pamela Bickford Kuehn (Randy), Roberta Gronquist (Doug Hermanson). and Gregory Bickford; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; many other relatives and

He was preceded in death by his father, Court Beardsley, mother, Rose Beardsley, and son, Brian Beardslev.

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

COMMUNITY EV

June

8th - Merrifield Lions Market from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Lions Park located at 21318 Co. Rd. 3 in Merrifield 8th - Annual Woodtick Races in Cuyuna. Beer garden, concessions, vendor show and meat raffle. Jockey meetings begin at 10 a.m., races start at noon. There is a \$5 entry fee. Meat raffle and more. Cuyuna Fire Relief Association license #B02163. Call Bill at 218-546-5883 or e-mail: bbedard52@hotmail.com. 9th - Cuyuna Off-Road Triathlon. Paddle, shred and tread the red in the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. Visit www.cuyunaoffroadtri.com to register and for more details.

10th - Lakes Area Unlimited Learning: A review of the U.S. Supreme Court 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 sinnecharter.net or call 218-829-2544

15th - SAL Hog Roast Fundraiser at the Deerwood American Legion from 4 - 7 p.m. Food, fun, raffle tickets and more offered. Call 218-534-3215 for more details.

19th - Cascade United Methodist Church Free Supper, 5:30 p.m. For a reservation please call 218-534-3507. Cascade is located between Deerwood and Crosby at 22781 Black Lake Road Deerwood.

21st - Grammy Award Winners, "The Kentucky Headhunters" and "Pert Near Sandstone and Whiskey River" at Nature Rocks - A Concert for Conservation at Aitkin County Fairgrounds, 4:30 - 10 p.m.. Community support fuels the event, aiding scholarships for outdoor camps. Riverwood Healthcare tops sponsors, hailed as "rock stars." Local businesses provide concessions, while volunteers ensure its success. Tickets at naturerocksconcert.com.

20th - Music in the Park with "The Mighty Trains" band at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake, 5-8 p.m. Call Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218-546-8131 for more details.

21st - 23nd & 28th -30th - "Footloose!" on stage in the Pequot Lakes High School Theater with performances June 21 and 28 at 7 p.m. and June 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available online at www.glapa. org or by calling 218-568-9200. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors (over 60), and \$10 for students (under 18).

15th - Fifty Lakes Day. Enjoy live music, games, meat raffle, vendors, crafters, beer gardens, Nifty the Bear, kids' zone, family bingo, raffle and more.

20th - Music in the Park at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake from 5 to 8 p.m. with Mighty Traing performing. Those attending are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets as enjoy live music while overlooking Serpent Lake. Call Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218-546-8131 for more details.

5th - Hallett Freedom 5K run/walk bib timing race hosted by Hallett Center of Crosby. Early registration is \$35 plus \$3.10 signup fee includes a T-shirt and door prizes (\$40 after May 14).

Tell 'em you saw it in the NEWSHOPPER Deadlines are Mondays at Noon Send your photos, stories and community events to hopper@crosbyironton.net

Nightly construction brings delays to Highway 169 near Mille Lacs Lake

Travelers along Highway 169, especially those journeying overnight near west Mille Lacs Lake, are advised to brace for delays and periodic stops from June 17 to June 28. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) issues this advisory, outlining essential construction work slated for the area.

Nightly construction activities are scheduled from Monday evening to Friday morning, encompassing the stretch between Crow Wing County Road 26 and Ojibwe Drive. Crews will be engaged in milling and paving a fresh layer of asphalt during these hours. To facilitate the work, flaggers will direct alternate one-way traffic using a pilot car through the designated work zone. As crews progress, the work zone is expected to shift, so motorists are urged to remain vigilant and adhere to instructions.

Daytime operations will also cause short segments of alternate one-lane, one-way traffic managed by flaggers, extending through mid-July. Key points for safe travel through the work zone:

Slow down upon approaching any work zone. Maintain alertness; watch

for workers and slow-moving

orthland

uildings

Respect road closures marked with barriers or

Adhere to posted speed limits, as a violation within a work zone can result in a \$300 fine.

Minimize distractions while driving.

Exercise patience and anticipate delays, particularly during peak travel times.

For more information regarding the Highway 169 project, individuals can reach out to the project team and subscribe to email updates

via the MnDOT website at mndot.gov/d3/projects/millelacslake/h169/.

For real-time updates on travel conditions along central Minnesota highways, travelers are encouraged to visit 511mn.org or download the free smartphone application available on Google Play or the App Store.

As construction progresses, motorists are urged to stay informed and exercise caution to ensure safe travels through the designated work zones.

Kendahl (Ken) Duane Sweet. 60, of Brainerd died on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 as a result of an automobile accident in

A Memorial service was held at on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Crosby.

He was born in Brainerd on September 14, 1963. Ken dedicated his life to helping others. Ken was a foster parent for kids in need for 20+ years before founding Pinehaven Youth & Family Services in

2007 where he remained the Executive Director until his passing. Ken changed more lives than you can count and always put others before himself. His utter selflessness, caring and compassion, and witty, sarcastic sense of humor will be missed.

Ken was survived by his adoptive parents, Duane and Gayle Sweet and his family by heart: Bryan, Krista, Brooklyn, Casey, Haley, and Sydney Jones, as well as the Rod and Cathy Sturm Family. Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

More Obituaries on Page 4

Garrison ATV accident kills father

KENDAHL SWEET

On Saturday, June 8 at 9:40 p.m., Crow Wing County Deputies rushed to the 26000 block of Linden Street in Garrison following reports of a solo ATV mishap causing injuries. Investigations revealed that the ATV veered off the

individuals on board.

The driver, a 23-year-old woman from Becker, sustained minor injuries. Tragically, despite life-saving attempts, the passenger and the drivers father, a 52-year-

road, overturning with two old male also from Becker, died from his injuries at the scene.

> Garrison Fire, First Responders, Crosby Ambulance, and Minnesota State Patrol collaborated in response efforts.

READER RIBBETS Living in a Democracy or Republic?

In response to Minnesota senator Nathan Wesenberg, no wonder America and Minnesota are failing so fast. You say we are in a democracy, my questions to you is when did we become a democracy and do you understand what a democracy is? Because if you are in a democracy, you are getting exactly what a democracy is (Mob Rules).

All I have to do is say the Pledge of Allegiance, and it says "the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God". Benjamin Franklin said, we have a republic if we can keep, it .What happened to it? I'm sorry, but I still live in the Republic and I haven't seen anything that convinces me otherwise.

We are all being lied to, and we've been lied to our whole lives, wake up America. It's not about Democrat or Republican. It's not about black or white. It's all about standing up together

and getting rid of the corruption that is running our country. And apparently that includes you, if you think we're in a democracy.

Also, I ask everybody to go look up the 12 presumptions of a court, read it carefully, read it three times, and then ask yourself are we getting justice in America?

Brian Smith Brainerd



(Published in NewsHopper

Saturday, June 8 & 15, 2024) **LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

The Libby Township Board will meet online at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 to discuss matters that may come before the board. The June 18 meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Contact Jane Jewett, clerk, at willowsedge.janesfarm@gmail.com to request

the Zoom link. Dated this 30th day of May, 2024 Jane Grimsbo Jewett, Clerk Libby Township

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Be certain to attend and bring a friend Thank you in advance,

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OBITUARIES

DURWIN MATUSKA



Durwin Albert Matuska, 70, of Crosby died on May 18, 2024 at his home.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

He was born on February

1, 1954 in Minneapolis to Edward and Iona (Ahlbrecht) Matuska. Durwin was a retired employee of Ford Motor Company with 25 years of service. He enjoyed gardening, bee keeping, a good poker game, hunting and fishing.

Durwin is survived by six brothers: Daniel Matuska of Cheyenne, WY; Donald Matuska of Winona; Douglas (Debbie) Matuska of Minneapolis; Darrel (Pam Johnson) Matuska of Port Charlotte, FL; Dwayne Matuska of Crosby; and Delbert (Dawn) Matuska of Pillager; two sisters: Delores Seaman of West Pensacola, FL; and Denise (Tommy) Bryant of Summerfield, FL; many nieces and nephews.

Preceding Durwin in death are his parents; brother, David Matuska and sister, Danielle Benson. Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home

of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

PETER BROWN



Peter Wyman Brown, 91, of Aitkin, died Thursday, May 30, 2024 in Aicota Health Care Center, Aitkin.

Services will be Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 11 a.m. in St. John's Lutheran Church-Cedarbrook with Pastor Sarah Stadler officiating. Visitation will be

one hour prior to the service at the church. Military Honors will be provided by Aitkin American Legion Post #86 and Aitkin V.F.W. Post #1727. Interment will be in Cedarbrook-St. John's Lutheran Cemetery.

He was born June 17, 1932 in Brainerd to Oliver and Gladys (McGee) Brown. Peter was a veteran of The United States Army who served during the Korean War. Peter was united in marriage to Charlotte Marie Keil on February 14, 1953 in Aitkin. He worked as a Supervisor for Thermo King for many years until retiring. Peter and Charlotte loved traveling, mainly to Texas and Alaska where Peter homesteaded. He enjoyed woodworking and built many birdhouses. benches and tables for people. He also enjoyed lapidary and gave away many polished rocks and stones. Peter was also an avid ham radio operator.

Peter is survived by his children: Nancy Watts, Katherine (Greg) Gemlo, Marc (Kim) Brown and Teresa (Chris) Caroon; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; brother, Joseph; sisters-in-law, Bonita Besch and Lois Keil; several nieces, nephews, other relatives

Peter is preceded in death by his wife, Charlotte; parents; brother, Oliver "Jack"; and sister, Jennie

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

JEFFREY BECKER



Jeffrey Alan Becker, 59, died in McGregor on Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

A celebration of life will be held on June 14, 2024 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Fisherman's Bay, 50933 St. Hwy. 65, McGregor. A memorial service will be held at Lake of

He was born on February 7, 1965 in Minneapolis to Jerry and Sharon Becker. Jeff resided in the McGregor area most of his life. He graduated from McGregor High School in 1983. After high school, he went on to work as a logger with his lifelong friend, Mark DeMenge, and continued his enjoyment of logging by starting a business, Becker Forest Products, with his father, Jerry. After

his father passed away in 1997, he continued the

business for a couple more years and then went on

the Woods for the immediate family at a later date.

to work for Darlow Excavating for several years. He ended his career working for Rink Construction in Keene, North Dakota. When he wasn't working, Jeff enjoyed spending time with his children, Kalvin and Corrine. He truly loved his children and enjoyed sharing his passions of fishing at Lake of the Woods, hunting, and being outdoors with them.

He is survived by his children, Kalvin (Lindsey) Becker and Corrine (Steven) Nelson; 4 grandchildren, Walter, Avery and Ailee Nelson and Nora Becker; mother, Sharon Becker; siblings, Debi Becker, Doug (LaVonne) Becker, Robert (Vivian) Becker and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Jeff is preceded in death by his father, Jerry Becker Senior; brother, Jerry Becker Junior; and niece, Chanelle Pratt.

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

DUANE LINDSTROM

Duane C. Lindstrom, 85, of Emily passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 2, 2024 at his home. A Celebration of Life is being planned for July.

A full obituary will be printed in a later issue. Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral Home

VERNICE GRGURICH

Vernice M. Grgurich, 99, of Crosby died on Monday, June 3, 2024 at the Mille Lacs Care Center in Onamia.

A service is being planned for July 5, 2024. A full

obituary will be printed in a later issue.

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

LESTER RONO

Lester Rono, 80, of Crosby died on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at his home. A June Memorial Gathering is being planned.

A full obituary will be printed in a later issue. Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

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CHURCH DIRECTO

* 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 ${\it Crosslake-Crossroads\ Christian,\ Rev.\ Gary\ Espeseth;\ SS}$

at 9:30, Worship at 10:45 Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; hillcityagchurch@gmail.com; 218-

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.; fbcbrainerd.com Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org

Breezv 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 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.

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. ihmstemilys.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

- Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9

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

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 Konnect 6:30 pm Malmo — 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 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) Pastor Sarah

Stadler, 602-318-6876, 27452 St. John's Church Road, Aitkin. Worship on Sundays at 9:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. VBS Aug 5-8; register online at 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 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.princeofpeacelu-

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 flcbrainerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd

Brainerd* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www. goodshepherdfreelutheran.church, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052

Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.llchurch.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 9 (alternates with Immanuel

Iron Hub) 218-546-6910. Crosslake Lutheran Church (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran. com Kristin Oltmann, Pastor / Becky Swanson, Pastor 218-692-3682 May 19-Labor Day: Sun. Indoor 8:30am, Outdoor 10am Indoor: 35960 CR 66, Outdoor: 14019 Daggett 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.

 ${\sf Garrison-Light\ of\ the\ Cross\ (ELCA),\ Worship\ 9\ SS\ 9;}$ 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

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) Malmo — 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

McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (LCMC), Pastor Lorelie Robinson; Worship 9, Fellowship follows, SS 10.

 ${\sf McGregor-Our\ Savior's\ (Missouri\ Synod),\ Pastor\ Joshua}$ C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Luke Lekander,

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)

Palisade* — Bethel (ELCA), Pastor Steven Teff; Worship 9:30.

Bey 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 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 Irondale 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.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.

days at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live.

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.

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

Fleming* — (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship

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-

WESLEYAN

10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

UNITED METHODIST Aitkin* — Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednes-Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday

Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9 Study Thursday at 6 pm.

10:30; fellowship follows.

3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947

Emily — Rev. Jason Gressman; Worship 9; Friendship Time

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es, it's about embracing our unique culture with gusto. Vendors peddle apparel with catchy tick-related slogans, ensuring that everyone looks the part. And let's not forget the essential picnic food and, of course, plenty of ice-cold beer and cocktails to keep the festivities flowing.

As the excitement builds, staff members make their rounds, tempting attendees with Woodtick Shots—a concoction as wild and unpredictable as the races themselves. Raffle tickets are sold with gusto, adding an extra layer of anticipation to the day's festivities.

Underneath the sprawling big tent, families and neighbors gather, swapping stories and sharing laughs over lunch. It's a scene straight out of a Northern Minnesota dream-a celebration of community, camaraderie,

and good old-fashioned fun. And speaking of winners, congratulations are in order for Brend Babineau-Evans, Colleen Gottlieb, Marv Loidolt, and Travor Willhite—the lucky recipients of this year's raffle prizes. Their victories add an extra dash of excitement to an already thrilling



Cheers for charity as civic groups pour pints, raising funds for their causes at the Woodtick Races. Ann Schwartz photos



Cooling off in style: Bloody Mary's added a zesty kick to the summer heat at the Woodtick Races.



It is tradition to ride your motorcycle to Cuyuna for the Woodtick Races in June.

As the rumble of motorcycles fills the air and the unmistakable scent of pine trees wafts through the breeze, it's clear that the Woodtick Races aren't just an event—they're a celebration of everything that

makes Northern Minnesota special. So here's to another year of roaring engines, spirited races, and the enduring spirit of UpNorth Culture, which rule the second Saturday in June in Cuyuna.

CWC plat books and maps

about Crow Wing County by owning a 2023 plat book or wall map. The plat book's regular price is \$38, but it is now available for a discounted price of

\$35. The county

wall map size is 36 inches 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or x 54 inches and is available shop online at cwswcd.org.

Conservation District at 218-828-6197 Monday - Friday:

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