Vol. 26 • Issue 05

Monarch lady and family to observe migrating butterflies track of data and releases witness monarch sanctuaries.

WINTER WONDERAMA Page 2

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UNLIMITED **LEARNING** Page 6



By ANN SCHWARTZ

Nothing says a summer afternoon like watching orange and black monarch butterflies waft around effortlessly and land on flowers in your garden or a nearby roadside. Sue Kanz, 68, a retired elementary school educator from Aitkin, has a hobby that combines science, curiosity, environment and culture.

She spends time observing them and devotes her property to monarch butterflies. "We all love butterflies, don't we?" Kanz observed in a recent interview.

She plants common milkweed, gathers eggs, keeps

butterflies back into the wild.

These orange and black beauties migrate all the way to Mexico from Minnesota and Canada and come back again, laying eggs for new generations to hatch along the way.



Kelly Sparks

Kanz, her eldest daughter Kelly, an engineer in Minneapolis; Sue's youngest daughter Amy, a kindergarten teacher out West and her daughter-in-law Betsy, a professor of nursing in Bismark, ND, will embark on a fantastic journey in February to

"We'll go up into the mountains to see the monarchs wintering in the mountains of Mexico. We'll also visit local

Sat., February 1, 2025

villages and learn about arts and culture." The monarchs roost at night in the limbs of the Oyamel pine trees. "When it gets too

cold they can't fly so they

roost until the temperature warms up again," Kanz explained. Kanz and other citizen scientists have contributed data to the Project Monarch Health effort based at the University of Georgia. Volunteers from across North

America sample wild mon-

arch butterflies to stop the

spread of the OE (Ophryo-

cystis elektroscirrha) parasite that kills them. While doing her best to assist monarchs to thrive in Minnesota and around the

world, Kanz also works with

Sue Kanz

students at Rippleside Elementary in Aitkin. First and second graders learn about the butterfly and its habitat, observe the caterpillars transforming into butterflies and release marked butterflies to follow their migration. They also learn how to plant and grow milkweed.

She and the other adult women of her family are looking forward to riding horses and hiking 30 minutes into the mountains to observe monarchs in their sanctuaries. James Binder, a

Minnesota native, takes small groups of 10 on these trips as part of the Monarch Odyssey movement.

Pesticides, habitat diminishment and parasites take their toll on monarchs, Kanz explained. Groups are looking at getting them listed as a threatened species.

While traveling, Kanz will keep a diary, and Betsy will be the photographer. Kanz has a notebook full of observations of monarchs she's taken over many years and submitted for national research projects.

How can you help monarchs?

Make your garden and property a welcoming habitat. Monarchs need milkweed for caterpillars, native nectar plans for adults and habitat protection.

You can join a project such as Journey North to report vour monarch and milkweed

Continued on Page 2

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Crosslake Lutheran Church hosts weekly free community meal

Crosslake Lutheran Church is extending a warm and hearty invitation to all members of the community to join its weekly Free Community Meal every Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. during the school year. This welcoming event is open to everyone, whether you're in need of a hot meal, a friendly chat, or simply a quick to-go dinner.

Held in the church's fellowship hall, the community meal is a chance to gather



with others in the spirit of kindness and support. Guests are welcome to stay and dine in the church or take meals to-go, with pickup available at the kitchen door on the east side of the building near the golf course.

"Our goal is to bring the community together and ensure that no one goes without a good meal," said Pastor Becky Swanson, Associate Pastor of Crosslake Lutheran Church. "We want this to be a space where everyone feels

welcome and cared for, no matter their circumstances."

In addition to providing meals, Crosslake Lutheran Church is also welcoming volunteers who are interested in helping with meal preparation, serving, or assisting with the event. It's a wonderful opportunity to get involved and give back to the community.

For more information or to learn how you can volunteer, please contact Brenda LaRock at 218-692-3682 or email clc@crosslake.net. You can also follow Crosslake Lutheran Church on Facebook for updates and more details.

By sharing a meal, we can help create a stronger, more connected community—one plate at a time.

Aitkin Winter Wonderama and warming house grand opening

The Aitkin Winter Wonderama, an annual community favorite, is back for another year of frosty fun, and this time, it comes with the grand opening of the new warming house at Aitkin City Park. Mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 8, because you won't want to miss this action-packed day of outdoor winter activities and community celebration.

The festivities kick off at 1:30 p.m. with a free movie showing at the Rialto Theater in downtown Aitkin. It's the perfect way to warm up and start the day with the family



before heading outside to enjoy all the winter wonderland activities at Aitkin City Park. Celebrate winter at the Aitkin **City Park warming house**

From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the action moves to Aitkin City

Glass

Colors

All

Park for the official grand opening of the new warming house. This newly renovated facility will be the heart of the Winter Wonderama, offering a cozy space to take a break and warm up.

This free-to-the-public event, organized by the Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce, promises to be a fun-filled day for families, friends, and winter enthusiasts of all ages. Whether you love ice skating or want to try something new like snowshoeing, there's something for everyone at the Winter Wonderama.

Winter Activities Galore

There's no shortage of activities to keep you moving and having fun during this winter celebration:

Ice Skating: Glide across thenice and enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends.

Luminary Trail: Stroll along a beautifully lit path and enjoy the enchanting glow of hand-crafted luminaries.

Snowshoeing: Try your hand (or feet!) at snowshoeing, courtesy of Long Lake Conservation.

Snowperson Building: Let your creativity shine and build the best snowperson in the park!



S'mores & Bonfires: Warm up by a bonfire and enjoy classic winter treats like gooey s'mores.

Hot Dogs & Hot Chocolate: Grab a hot dog and a cup of steaming hot chocolate to refuel for more fun.

The event is designed to encourage individuals and families to embrace the winter months, get outside, and be active in the communitywhether that means enjoying a quiet walk along the trail, racing around on ice skates, or simply cozying up by the fire. Join the Fun!

The Aitkin Winter Wonderama and Warming House Grand Opening is the perfect way to celebrate all things winter, connect with friends and neighbors, and make lasting memories in the heart of Aitkin. So, bundle up, bring the whole family, and join us for a day filled with laughter, outdoor fun, and community spirit

For more details, check out the Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce or call 218-927-

See you at the Winter Wonderama — where winter fun is always just a snowball away.

RECYCLE MO These Items may all be recycled in Crow Wing County: **Newspapers &**

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Installation

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Doors Decks

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 Driveways Ponds

• Rip Rap Demolition

ing

Gravel

• Stump Grinding

Aerial Truck

• Storm Damage Cleanup

Monarch lady and family | Continued from Page 1

sightings.

Become an advocate and teach others about monarch conservation, with the backing of national organizations. Advocate for strong environmental policies.



Amy Grginch

ucts you purchase and use in your life affect the water and land use that impacts butterflies.

You can keep track of monarch activity on your patch and report to Journey North, which tracks the northern migration of monarchs, including observations about eggs, caterpillars and adults.

Your sighting data should include the date, time, location and what the monarch was doing. Include photos, report the numbers of monarchs you see within a specified time interval and the direction they were flying. Reported



Betsy Kanz

sightings help scientists understand monarch migration and seasonal change.

Stay tuned in late February when we bring you Part II as the Kanz women tell us all about their Mexican adventure.





Call Greg for a FREE ESTIMATE 218-839-3371

Aitkin Public Schools launches new website for facilities planning

Aitkin Public Schools has launched a dedicated website, WeAreAitkin.org, to provide district residents with information and updates on its facilities planning project.

"Our goal is to have a onestop shop for information as we continue working closely with our staff and community to shape the future of Aitkin Public Schools," said Superintendent Dan Stifter.

"This website will offer easy access to resources, updates, and opportunities for engagement."

The launch comes as the district confronts significant challenges with outdated infrastructure and space limitations that no longer meet the needs of students, staff, or the broader community. In 2024, the Aitkin School Board launched a long-term facilities planning initiative to address these issues and plan for the future.

As part of the process, the district conducted a thorough assessment of its current facilities, analyzed projected enrollment, and reviewed educational and safety standards. Additionally, the district hosted 14 stakeholder listening sessions and conducted an

online survey to gather input from the community.

The assessment identified a number of critical issues, including inefficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, deteriorating roofs, undersized classrooms, safety concerns, and the need for upgrades to the high school auditorium and gymnasium. Many residents also expressed a desire for all schools to be located on a single campus to improve efficiency and accessibility.

"Our community has provided valuable input into our facilities planning process. They understand our challenges and want a plan to address them," Stifter said. "Our school board is working hard to develop a thoughtful, cost-effective plan to enhance our facilities and serve our students, staff, and community for decades." Looking ahead, the school board will evaluate and prioritize the identified needs, exploring a range of options to address them. Throughout this process, residents will have ample opportunities to learn more and provide their feedback.

To stay informed and participate in the planning process, residents are encouraged to visit WeAreAitkin. org, where they can submit questions and input through the site's "Connect Form." For more information, contact Superintendent Dan Stifter at dstifter@isd1.org or 218-927-7100.

READER RIBBETS

No show Democrats still get paid

For the third week in a row, Democrats in the House have refused to show up and work for their constituents, shirking their responsibility as legislators and public servants. To add insult to injury, they are still collecting a paycheck. Despite their absence, there is still important work being done. My colleagues and I have released our legislative priorities for this session, we've established a House Anti-Fraud Working Committee and introduced bills to address fraud and our state's affordability crisis.

Putting an end to government fraud, waste, and abuse

By now you are all aware of numerous cases of government fraud being uncovered these past few months. Republicans refuse to let this continue and will put an end to reckless and poorly vetted government spending that leads to scandals like Feeding our Future, Child Care Assistance Program, Frontline Worker Pay, Child Autism Centers, and more. For years, Governor Walz and Democrats have ignored Republican pleas for accountability. The Office

of Legislative Auditor has made countless efforts to warn Democrats of potential waste, fraud, and abuse in state government. House Republicans have drafted numerous bills that address said issues. Introducing mandatory fraud reporting

My bill requires state agency staff to immediately report suspected fraud to law enforcement and the chairs and ranking minority members of relevant legislative committees. It would also require state agencies to prominently post organizational charts on their websites and modify various state grantmaking requirements that are administered or enforced within the executive branch by the Office of Grants Management within the Department of Administration. The bill also lavs out strict mandates for the commissioner to follow, including unannounced in-person site visits for grant recipients. State employees who knowingly violate imposed requirements by the commissioner will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Republican press conference You can see, Representatives Nash, Anderson, Robbins, and I discuss this anti-fraud legislative package during Tuesday's [January 21] press conference here. https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-C2RwSZkaMI

Looking forward

While the Democrats hold out on serving the people of Minnesota, we will continue to work hard for our communities. Just yesterday, myself and members of the MN House Committee on Fraud held a press conference detailing the immediate success of our whistleblower hotline. Unfortunately, we can't capitalize on this work until the DFL members feel inclined to join us at the Capitol. This means the dozens of fraud tips we received will have to go unresolved for the time being.

See press conference here https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=K3yVZICT_zw

Want to contribute to our anti-fraud efforts? Follow us on Facebook at MN House Committee on Fraud and Oversight Committee and on X: @MN_Fraud_Cmteme.

> Ben Davis, District 6A State Representative



Connie Murray, 89, of Brainerd died on Thursday, January 2, 2025, in Brainerd.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Baxter. Burial was at the Hillside Cemetery in South Long Lake Township.

Connie was born to Peter and Magdalena Weiss on December 24, 1935, in Lastrup. She met and married Frank Murray while working at the Brainerd hospital. Together, they had five children and one stepson. She loved quilting and sewing. Connie gave her heart to her community through volunteer work with many different organizations. She won Senior Citizen of the Year.

She is survived by her children: Linda Murray, Laurel Allord, Wendy (Ron) Opheim; daughter in-laws: Kim Murray and Rhonda Murray, 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; sibling, JoAnn (Pat) Faust; and special friend, Karl Moon.

Connie was preceded in death by her spouse, Frank; children: Bradley Murray and Michael Murray; stepson, Wayne Murray; her parents, and More Obituaries on Page 4

Cuyuna Lakes Ice Fishing Contest

Get ready to cast your lines and enjoy a day of winter fun at the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber's Ice Fishing Contest on Saturday, February 8, from 12 to 3 p.m. on Serpent Lake near Crosby's Memorial Park.

This popular event brings together hundreds of anglers for a fun-filled day on the ice, with plenty of prizes and camaraderie to go around. Whether you're an experienced fisherman or a newcomer to the sport, there's a spot for you to join in the excitement.

What to Expect at the Con-

For just \$10 per hole, participants can fish up to two holes. Your entry ticket also gives you a chance to win one of five raffle prizes, along with awards for the biggest fish, most fish, and the smallest fish caught during the contest. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase on-site throughout the day.

The fun doesn't stop when the fishing ends—at 3:00 pansive format.

p.m., the awards ceremony will take place, where lucky winners will be recognized for their impressive catches. A New Twist for the Scorpion Homecoming

While the Ice Fishing Contest remains a staple of winter fun in the Cuyuna Lakes area, this year marks a change for another beloved traditionthe Scorpion Homecoming. After 20 years of celebrating snowmobiling's roots, the Scorpion Homecoming will shift to a summer open house format. The tentative date for this exciting new event is Saturday, June 21, 2025, in the Cuyuna Lakes area.

For over two decades, Scorpion Homecoming has drawn snowmobile enthusiasts from across the country to honor the iconic machines made in the Cuyuna region. This year's pivot to summer allows for even more opportunity to gather, reminisce, and showcase the history of Scorpion snowmobiles in a more ex-

If you're a fan of Scorpions—or simply enjoy a good blast from the past—mark your calendar for this exciting opportunity. To help with planning, be sure to visit the official Facebook event page here for more information and to stay updated.

Scorpion Homecoming will remain an informal, no-charge meetup, where Scorpion snowmobiles—running or not—can be proudly displayed. And don't forget to wear your Scorpion-themed apparel to show your support for this iconic piece of snowmobiling history.

To learn more about the Scorpion Homecoming or if you have questions about the Ice Fishing Contest, visit Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Website or contact the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce at info@cuyunalakes.com or call 218-546-8131.

Come for the fishing, stay for the fun—Cuyuna Lakes Annual Ice Fishing Contest is a must-see winter event!

1st - Brainerd Jaycees Annual Ice Fishing Extravaganza, noon - 3 p.m., Hole in the Day Bay, Gull Lake 8th - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce Ice Fishing Contest and Scorpion Homecoming. Call 218-546-8131 for more information.

8th - Winter Indoor Farmers' Market at Deerwood Auditorium, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. with hand-crafted items offered. 8th - Winter Wonderama at Rialto Theater in Aitkin starting at 1: 30 p.m.

8th - Winter Wonderama at the Aitkin City Park, 3-6 p.m. featuring ice skating, luminary trail, snowshoeing, s'mores, bonfires, hot dogs and hot chocolate

9th - Northland Arboretum Full Moon Snowshoe Hike, 7:30 8:30 p.m., guided by Bryan Pike. Bring snowshoes and/or winter boots, and a headlamp for an hour hike. Class size is limited. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Payment is due at registration.

15th - Rabbit Lake Fishing Contest, noon to 3 p.m., \$10 entry fee, cash prizes awarded. Call 218-772-0252

15th - Pikes for Pups Darkhouse Spearing Contest on Nokay Lake from sunrise to sunset. Two-man teams, \$40 per team. Prizes awarded on the lake at 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit Northern Lakes Rescue. 22nd - Crappie Flop, noon, fish on any lake 22nd - Fishing for Ducks on Mille Lacs Lake in Garrison. Lines down at noon. Tickets are available at fishing

forducks.org; cost is \$30 until Feb. 12. After Entry is \$40. 22nd - Annual Erin's Wish Bar Olympics at the Town Tavern in Ironton. Proceeds benefit CRMC Courage

Cabinet. For more information call the Town Tavern at 218-546-5997.

1st - Snow Bowl benefit for CI Special Olympics at the Town Tavern in Ironton. Two-person teams, \$30 entry fee per team. Sign-up by calling 218-546-5997 or stop in.

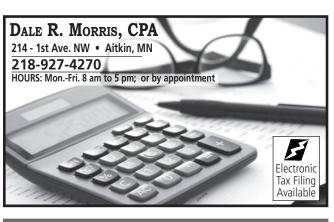
15th - Winter Indoor Farmers' Market at Deerwood Auditorium, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. with hand-crafted items offered. Send your community events to hopper@crosbyironton.net



Send Us Your Photos!

Got an interesting photo and story to share? Just send it to hopper@crosbyironton.net, along with your name, city and a description of the photo. We also accept news and community events. And who knows, you may see your submission next week in the NewsHopper!

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OBITUARIES

CAROLE ELISEUSON Carole A. Eliseuson died peacefully on Friday, January

3, 2025, just days shy of her 84th Birthday. Carole was born and raised in Brainerd and resided in later

years on East Gull Lake. Her Happy place was on the south side of Gull Lake where she would sit with Big Boy and watch nature and the

beauty of the lake. It is there, that in the Spring a fruit tree shall be planted as she requested.

Carole had a love of all sports, music and art. She enjoyed making fused glass jewelry, crafts and collecting art. Her favorite sayings "Its Time 2 Bloom"," Love, Laugh, Logic", "Everyday smile and laugh often"!

She is survived by her two daughters: Wendy and Cindy, four grandchildren: Marissa, Kylie, Steven and Kendra and four great grandsons: Mason, Dylan, Ryan and Zane and her beloved dog "Big Boy".

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wendell Eliseuson.

CAROL AHONEN



Carol Elaine (Gustin) Ahonen, 78, died on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

To respect her wishes, a funeral was not held. However, a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Carol was born to Thomas and Marion (Swanson) Gustin

of Aitkin on October 5, 1946. On Christmas Eve 1964, Carol married her lifelong husband, Mike, in Thor. She loved her family and always had a million questions to ask them to make sure she was always caught up on their lives. She was a wonderful lady, who was a great cook and welcoming person. Her strength, unwavering love, fun craft projects and the biscuits and gravy will be treasured memories. Mike and Carol have two children: Audra Smith

(Mike) of Palmyra, TN and Keith Ahonen (Jen) of Crosby; two grandsons: Kobe (Allison) Ahonen, Colton (Sara) Smith, and two granddaughters: Asher Smith and Karlee Ahonen.

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

JANET BONNEVILLE



Janet Lee Bonneville, 64, of Aitkin, died Friday, January 17, 2025 in Bayshore Residence and Rehabilitation, Duluth.

A celebration of life will be held at Pine Lake United Methodist Church, Aitkin in the Spring.

She was born August 2, 1960

in Aitkin to Donald and Romaine (Boyd) Bonneville. Janet loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Janet is survived by her mother, Romaine Bonneville; daughters, Jenna (Mark) Sharp and Jackie Bonneville; sisters, Debra Usher and Patricia Erickson; grandsons, Jaxson, Jaison and Markus; other relatives and friends.

Janet is preceded in death by her father, Donald and sister, Julie Bonneville.

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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Aitkin - Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE.,

Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene-

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

Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God, Pastor Robert

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

McGregor — The Lighthouse 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-

Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor

Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meet-

Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed.

2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.

Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256.

Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30, Worship 10:30;

16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005

Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10, SS 9;

218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10

Aitkin, Services Sun.10, 218-927-6959

COMMUNITY

May-Oct.

Seibel.

Wed. BS 6:30 pm

GREGORY MEEHAN



Gregory Molton Meehan, 72, of Pillager, died on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

Services will be held at a later date.

Gregory was born April 21, 1952 to Rudolph and Geraldine (Molton) Meehan in Wayzata. After graduating from Benilde High School, he became a general contractor and was an avid outdoor enthusiast.

Gregory is survived by his son, Chris (Carev) Meehan; and two grandchildren: Henry and Margaret Meehan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings: Sue Nykanen, Mary Meehan, and Jeff Meehan.

DANIEL WILEMAN



Daniel Eugene Wileman, 60, died on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd.

Funeral services were held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at Heritage Church with Pastor Heath Beard officiating.

Dan was born on January

23, 1964 in Hettinger, ND, the fourth son of Reverend Donivan and Darlyne Wileman. Dan spent the majority of his growing up years in Finley, ND mowing lawns, delivering papers, riding bike and playing sports. He graduated from Finley-Sharon High School in 1982. After high school, he worked in Finley for a couple of years before deciding to go into Radio Broadcasting. Evangel College in Springfield Missouri offered the degree he was looking for. He finished his associate's degree in 1986 and returned to North Dakota to pursue fame and fortune as a D.J. Dan worked for KFGO Light and Easy, Magic 103 and Lite Rock 105 in Fargo. In 1992 Dan got his big break and scored a morning show gig in Brainerd on 107.5 The Power Loon. He spent the next 32 years as Danny Wild, filling the morning airwaves with news, humor, advice for life and sparing with his morning partners Tim and Mac. He was often seen hosting local events and meeting and greeting his listeners. He was a fix-

ture at Moon Dance Jam for many years. In 1992,

Dan married the love of his life Joan Christensen in Breckenridge. They met at church in Fargo and the faith they shared formed the foundation of their life together. Dan's relationship with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was the most important thing in his life. He taught numerous Bible studies, served on the church board and ran sound. He was a mentor to many and had a sincere and loving concern for others to know Jesus and would often ask them "How is your relationship with the Lord?" Dan spent Friday evenings enjoying food and fellowship with his church Lifegroup. It was known to be the best restaurant in town. Dan found great enjoyment working with Joan restoring their 100 plus year old home, affectionately know as "the project". He and Joan enjoyed traveling, stopping at an antique shop or two, and maybe an ice-cream shop. Spending time with family was of

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Joan; brothers: Duane and his wife Jan, Dennis and his wife Ruth; sister-in-law, Jody; brothers-in-law: Jeffrey and his wife Rebekah, Jim and his wife Fran, Cameron Gage and his wife Ronda; nine nieces and 15 nephews, their spouses and children, in addition to aunts, cousins, friends and his church and Power Loon family.

great importance to Dan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; oldest brother, David; in-laws, James and Ione Christensen' and sister-in-law, Jane Gage.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

ALLIANCE

Aitkin* — New Life Church of the CM&A; Worship 10:15 am; Services on Sunday at 10:15am and 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

Pastor Andrew Jergenson; Sunday Morning Service 10.

Baxter — Heritage Church, Pastor Heath Beard; 8:30. 10 & 11:30 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; hillcityagchurch@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, Pastor William Verbeke, 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

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

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;

Isle - Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.

Wed., 7 p.m. CATHOLIC

4-4:45 pm.

Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Waweru, Sat.4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00.

day 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.

Crosby* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass: Thurs. and Fri. at 8; Tues at noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30.

ihmstemilys.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm.

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;

Vineland — St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.

Mass Sun. 8; Confessions Tues. 5:30-6:30 pm

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Baxter, Lakes Area — Nondenominational; 7001 Highland 11:30. 218-828-1362

9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.

Deerwood* — Jeff Shadrick, SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6

pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.

Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.

Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study

Aitkin* - St. James, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10:30. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 and

Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sun-

Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat.

Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.

Emily - St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101.

Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-

Tamarack — Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship

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, north of Hwy. 6 bridge

ing, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.

218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just 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 followed by Sunday school at 10:00 am. 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).

(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-

Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/

Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter.

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) 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) Rev. Paul Mattson; Sun. 9:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:15; 10:30 fellowship 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 September 8-Mid-May: Sunday at 8:30am

& October-Mid-May: Wednesday at 6:15pm 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 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), Pastor Josh Blair; Worship 9:30; handicapped accessible.

Isle — Holden (ELCA), Worship 9:15 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), 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,

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.

 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 SF 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. Pastor Walter Starr, 763-316-7270, Sunday Wor-

ship 10:00am, Wednesday Bible study 6:30pm 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 Josh Jeresek; Worship Sat. 9:30, Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.; www. aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933; 830 Minnesota Ave S Brainerd - Pastor Josh Jeresek; Worship Sat. 11:10, 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. www.uccbrainerdmn.org

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 Homstad; 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.

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year of discovery awaits through Unlimited Learning membership

Lakes Area Unlimited Learning is excited to announce its 2025 membership campaign, inviting both new and returning members to join in an incredible year of exploration and growth. After a remarkable 2024, which saw a significant increase in membership, program attendance, and community involvement, Unlimited Learning is ready to dive even deeper into a variety of engaging and thought-provoking programs.

Why become a member?

Unlimited Learning offers something for everyone whether you're looking to expand your knowledge, meet new people, or simply have fun. Here's why you should consider becoming a member:

• Support Lifelong Learning: Your membership helps sustain and expand programs that enrich the minds of Lakes

Area residents.

• Fuel Growth and Sustainability: As the organization continues to grow, membership dues ensure that Unlimited Learning can thrive for years to come.

- Learn and Discover: Their diverse programs are designed to spark curiosity and introduce new ideas to those who are never done learning.
- Make Lasting Friendships: Meet like-minded individuals who share your enthusiasm for continuous learning and meaningful engagement.
- Help Defray Costs: With operational expenses on the rise, your membership helps ensure that Unlimited Learning can keep offering great programs at minimal cost.
- Have Fun: From thought-provoking lectures to hands-on experiences, there's something for every-

one to enjoy. 2025 Winter-Spring Program Highlights

Unlimited Learning's Winter-Spring program schedule is packed with fascinating topics that promise to stimulate minds and spark conversation. All programs are held at Heartwood Senior Living in Crosby, and begin at 1:30 p.m. The upcoming events include:

- Monday, February 10: Keeping Crow Wing County Water Clean
- Monday, March 10: HuddlUp: Addressing the Mental Health Issues of Youth
- Monday, April 14: Vietnam and the 1968 Presidential Election
- Monday, May 12: The Phenology of Spring
- Monday, June 9: Author Will Weaver on his new book, "Power and Light"

These programs promise to

anyone eager to learn more about the world around them. **Membership Details**

Joining is easy and affordable! Annual dues are just \$60 for individuals or \$110 for couples. Even if you split your time between two homes or travel frequently, your membership is crucial in helping Unlimited Learning continue its mission. Members enjoy free access to monthly programs and

everyone has a chance to engage with the content and community.

Membership checks can be mailed to: Box 455, Deerwood, MN 56444

For questions or more information about membership, reach out to Ruth Ann Wefald at ruthann@ksu.edu. About Lakes Area Unlimited Learning

Lakes Area Unlimited Learning is a vibrant com-

entertaining—a perfect fit for many activities, ensuring that munity of lifelong learners who are passionate about expanding their knowledge, meeting new people, and making a difference. Guided by the philosophy of "learning without limits," Unlimited Learning offers an array of programs, events, and field trips designed to spark curiosity and foster meaningful connections. Members join for the learning opportunities—and stay for the friendships!

Center all for artists Jaques Art

The Jaques Art Center in Aitkin has reopened its doors with new winter hours: Wednesdays through Saturdays, until March 4. After that, the gallery will return to its regular schedule, Tuesdays to Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The much-anticipated "All

Jaques Exhibit," showcasing the work of renowned wildlife artist Francis Lee Jaques, will run through March 8, 2025, filling both galleries with his stunning pieces. Following that, a one-man exhibit by Gust Akkanen, titled "A Splash of Color," will take center stage.

Additionally, the center is calling for artists to submit work for the annual Juried Art Show, with the theme "For the Birds" open to fine art, photography, and sculpture/3D.

The Jaques Art Center is located at 121 Second St. NW in Aitkin.



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.



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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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Reservations recommended, call 218-678-4644 First Date Salmon & Tuna Crudo with a blood orange caper vinaigrette and oysters on the half shell with watermelon a mignonette Honeymoon Stage (select 2) Grilled Peach and Burrata Salad Mixed greens, arugula, grilled peaches, tomato confit, red onion, candied pecans, lemon herb vinaigrette and topped with a drizzle of honey and balsamic glaze -OR-French Onion Soup

> **Engagement** Dark Honey Molasses Bread served with honey cinnamon butter

> > Marriage "Opposites Attract"

Rosemary and thyme glazed Rack of Lamb, pan seared u-10 scallops, creamy asparagus risotto, served with a maltaise sauce

Happily Ever After Ancho chili dark Chocolate Cake with

Indoor

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The Daily Pool Pass \$7 · Adults

