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# NEWSHOPPER

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**NEWSHOPPER**

## Man charged after allegedly stabbing wife, injuring another



Matthew Dean Liimatainen

Matthew Dean Liimatainen, 34, faces numerous felony charges in connection with a stabbing, carjacking and fleeing in Aitkin on Feb. 12. A review of court records shows he has, in the past, been charged with 32 crimes from domestic assault to arson and traffic offenses.

According to court records, police were called to 1st St. NW in Aitkin on February 12 at 10:56 a.m. North Ambulance was also dispatched to the home.

They found the female victim #1, Liimatainen's wife, stabbed. She was seated in the living room covered in blood with an open wound on her right cheek and multiple wounds on her right arm. She appeared to be badly injured and blood was pooling around her. "She was not very

responsive," police said in the criminal complaint.

Another female, Victim 2, a family member, said she physically tried to stop Liimatainen from attacking Victim 1. At first, Victim 2 thought Victim 1 was getting punched but then realized that there was a knife in use.

Victim 2 followed Liimatainen outside and tried to call 911. She reported that he grabbed her phone and put it in his pocket. He then ripped her purse off her shoulder, causing her to fall, and he got in her F150 truck and took off.

Victim 2 jumped on the running board, trying to shut off the ignition. He then pushed her and she fell, hitting her face on the road.

He got away and she ran to the neighbors to call for help. Victim 2 was brought to Riverwood Healthcare Center for treatment. She signed a stolen vehicle report.

Victim 1 was brought to Riverwood by North Ambulance and then, due to the extent of her injuries, was flown to Hennepin County Medical Center.

Meanwhile, Aitkin Police Chief Colter Riedel put out a statewide alert about

Liimatainen and the vehicle and also got the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension involved.

At 3:27 p.m. that day, Liimatainen was taken into custody by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. Chief Riedel and BCA Agent Chad Kleffner drove to Pine County to pick him up.

At first, Liimatainen was handcuffed but then cuffs were removed. He told officers he had consumed methamphetamine and ecstasy.

Kleffner told him they had a search warrant to obtain his DNA and blood and to search his clothes. He refused to comply with removing his clothes until he was "in the jail". He struck the agent with a closed fist and handcuffs were put back on.

Liimatainen was transported to Riverwood for a blood draw and his clothes and DNA were tested. He remains in the Aitkin County Jail.

He will appear on February 19 in Aitkin County District Court before Judge David Hermerding on a Rule 8 hearing. He faces charges of felony assault in the first degree; felony carjacking in the first degree while armed with a dangerous weapon and felony theft of a motor vehicle. Gross misdemeanor charges include assault in the fourth degree for hitting the police officer, domestic assault and interfering with a 911 call.

Chief Riedel said that the wife is from the Twin Cities area and remains there in stable condition.

Liimatainen is also facing

charges for a car theft in Shamrock Township. He refused to go to court on February 14 and Attorney Christine Bright appeared remotely as his public defender.

On October 16, 2024, Liimatainen asked an individual at Goshawk Street in the McGregor area for a ride to Carlton County. The person said he would bring him after his roofing job was finished. The victim and his son were working on a roof when they saw Liimatainen take off in their 2007 Ford 350.

The truck theft was reported and driving complaints came in from the truck's behavior on Hwy. 210. An arrest warrant was issued for fleeing and stealing a vehicle, but Liimatainen was not found at that time.

## Crosslake Red Cross Blood Drive

Crosslake Ideal Lions have announced the creation of a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, March 13 at Crosslake Lutheran Church. Appointments are available between 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Make your appointment at RedCrossBlood.org using sponsor code Crosslake Community.

The full address is 35960 Co. Rd, 66, Crosslake.

This March screening will include free A1C hemoglobin testing (used to screen for prediabetes and diabetes) to all donors who give a successful donation in March. Results will be available one/two weeks later through the Red Cross

Blood Donor App or a donor's account at RedCrossBlood.org.

Donors during March will receive a \$10 Amazon e-gift card.

"There are many ways you can help, but most importantly we hope you come out to donate," notes Team Leader Marty Duncan.

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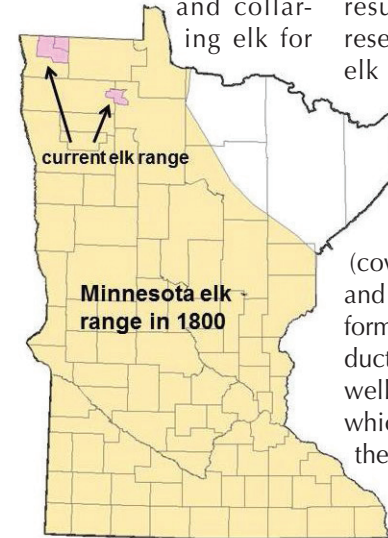
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## DNR to capture and collar elk for research in northwest Minnesota

Research biologists from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and University of Minnesota-Twin Cities will begin capturing and collaring elk for



an in-depth elk research project in northwest Minnesota beginning early March 2025. The research will allow managers to better understand the state's elk population. This enhanced understanding is important for efforts to maintain and strengthen the resiliency of

the elk population and will inform managers' consideration of the potential for future growth of the elk herds. The study builds upon the results from the first-ever research on the northwest elk herds conducted from 2016 to 2018. While the results from prior research provided an understanding of adult female (cow) elk home range size and habitat use, current information is lacking on reproductive rates and survival, as well as movements of bulls, which were not included in the first study. Additionally, this work will help managers understand herd dynamics, an important consideration given the small sizes of these populations. "Our overarching goal is to continue to improve our understanding of elk movements and survival to better manage Minnesota's elk population," said Amanda McGraw, DNR deer, moose and elk scientist. "The ad-

ditional data will provide more in-depth information on population health, pregnancy and survival rates, specific movement information on both bulls and cows, and insight into alternative population estimation methods." Researchers plan to capture and collar 25 adult cows and up to 15 adult bulls per year beginning early March 2025, and again in 2026. The number of animals the DNR intends to capture will provide

high confidence in the robust analyses necessary to answer various research questions. Elk will be captured via helicopter and fitted with GPS collars that will collect their locations every three hours and alert researchers of a potential mortality event. Biological samples will also be collected to assess herd health information. The capture effort is expected to take about a week. A vaginal implant trans-

mitter will be implanted in cows that are pregnant. The transmitter alerts researchers to when a cow gives birth, allowing them to quickly locate newborn calves. Up to 25 calves each spring will be fitted with a GPS collar to monitor their survival and assess what habitat types they are using. Funding for the 2025-2027 elk research project comes from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources

Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and approved by the Minnesota Legislature. The DNR is also providing in-kind support. More information on elk research and management in Minnesota or how to sign up for the DNR Elk Notes quarterly newsletter is available at the DNR elk management webpage ([mndnr.gov/elk](http://mndnr.gov/elk)).

## Avian Influenza confirmed in poultry at farm



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed a case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry from samples taken at a Crow Wing County farm. The site was

quarantined, and the 120 birds on the premises were depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health leads the state response on avian influenza and highlights the perseverance of the virus to continue infecting flocks. The Board strongly encourages producers to focus on their biosecurity, which is a series of proactive steps to reduce the risk of disease affecting

their birds. Biosecurity is paramount to stopping the spread of this and other viruses and disease. Flock owners large and small should consistently utilize biosecurity to maintain the health of their birds. The University of Minnesota Extension maintains biosecurity resources for commercial and backyard flocks. [extension.umn.edu/poultry/poultry-biosecurity](http://extension.umn.edu/poultry/poultry-biosecurity) Poultry producers and backyard flock owners should contact their veterinarian immediately if they see any signs or symptoms of disease in their flock:

- Decrease in feed or water intake.
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle, and hocks.
- Decrease in egg production.
- Sudden, unexplained death.
- Extreme depression.
- Very quiet.
- Difficulty breathing.

Federal, state and local partners are working together to find this devastating disease and test any birds with clinical signs as part of the avian influenza response plan. Crow Wing County is prepared to support the joint Federal and State response in our county should the need arise. If you are a veterinarian and receive reports of clinical signs of avian influenza, call the Minnesota Avian Influenza Hotline at 1-833-454-0156 or submit a sick bird report online. If it is after hours or on the weekend, call the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798. Subsequent HPAI cases will be posed on the Board's website. [bah.state.mn.us/report-sick-birds](http://bah.state.mn.us/report-sick-birds) The first Minnesota cases of HPAI were identified in March 2022. The last time there was a case in Crow Wing County was May 2022, with recent case detected in Wadena County in January of 2025.

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- Demolition materials may be disposed in the demolition landfill for a fee
- Large appliances, electronics, tires with or without rims, and scrap metals can be disposed at the site for a nominal fee for recycling.

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Murder mystery with a midwestern twist at CLC Performing Arts Center

It started with a book. Then a staged reading in 2023 at CLC. And now, *It's Murder, Dontcha Know* is ready for its full theatrical debut at the Chalberg Theatre. The adaptation, written by local playwright Mary Aalgaard and based on author Jeanne Cooney's novel, brings a cozy murder mystery with a distinctly Minnesotan charm to the stage. The production runs February 27 through March 2 at Central Lakes College, Brainerd campus.

Set in the small Scandinavian town of Hallock, MN, the story follows Doris Connor, a widow looking forward to a quiet retirement—until a murder shakes up her world, and her own children are dragged into the investigation. Doris, played by Aalgaard herself, is joined by an eccentric cast of characters including her sister Grace (Julie Jo Larson), their feisty friend Rose (Barb Mc-

Colgan), and Doris's daughter Erin (Kayla Luhrs). Andy Ellison, last seen in "Radium Girls", plays Will, while Mark Juel takes on the role of Karl. The cast also features M. Hollis Ford as Dr. Betcher, Blake Lubinous (from the staged reading of *The Ghost Light*) as Dr. Osgood, Bridgers Collins as Tweety, Joanna Collins as Berta, and Richard (Watson) Dreissig, also from *The Ghost Light* reading, as Gustaf. C.J. Nichols, who audiences might remember from *The Prom*, plays Ed/Buck, Rhonda Schmidt is Gerti, and Elli Salo rounds out the ensemble as Allie.

Director Guy Kelm, an experienced educator from ISD 181, leads the production with a hands-on, collaborative approach.

"With a new play, you don't have a roadmap," Kelm said. "We're building this world from scratch—figuring out

how the story moves, how the set works, even how the characters interact with each other. That's what makes this process so exciting."

Scenic designer Tim Leag-jeld took on that challenge by creating a set based around the prominent setting of the Hot Dish Heaven cafe that also adapts and evolves with the action, featuring walls that rotate to reveal multiple locations in the town of Hallock, and even a hidden set piece that provides a surprise mid-show reveal. Costume designer Nicole Grabowski makes her CLC debut, crafting looks that balance everyday Midwestern charm with each character's larger-than-life personality. Lighting design is handled by Joey Yow, who has designed previous productions like *Something Rotten!* and *Collected Stories*. Don Abbott, who was last seen in *The Prom*, serves as the

sound designer, and Shawna Sylvester, last seen in *August: Osage County*, serves as Stage Manager.

While this marks the play's full production debut, the cast has been developing their roles since September, reading new drafts of the script and giving notes to Aalgaard, who refined the script throughout 2024. The rehearsals helped the actors connect not just with their characters, but with each other. Over months of rehearsals, the group has formed a close bond, with a group text thread originally created for scheduling now doubling as a space for jokes, encouragement, and even commiseration over winter illnesses.

One cast member summed it up in a message: "This play has been the best thing I've done for myself in 15-20 years. I hope our love for this

project shines through on stage."

Another chimed in, "This has been a beautiful experience—an inclusive, positive space where we all support one another."

The cast toured the show to the One Woman Playwright Festival at Yellow Tree Theatre in Osseo, MN in February.

That sense of community is at the heart of why the CLC Performing Arts Center continues to develop new work. "Very few of us get to do theatre as a full-time career," said Yow, "but that doesn't mean it's any less important. It gives people a creative outlet, builds confidence, and honestly, it's just fun. There's nothing like watching a cast find their rhythm together and build something they're proud of."

The set crew for this production includes Kryston Wisely

(last seen in "A Christmas Carol"), Lynn Ellison (from "Radium Girls"), Cora Starns, and Laiken Bladow. Their work, along with the rest of the production team, has helped bring Hallock to life on the Chalberg Theatre stage.

"It's *Murder, Dontcha Know*" is presented as part of the CLC Performing Arts Center's Brainerd Community Theatre and is supported by Central Lakes College, the Five Wings Arts Council, and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Performance Dates: Feb. 27 & 28 at 7 p.m., March 1 & 2 at 2 p.m. (ASL Interpreted Performance on Feb 28 - please call box office if you would like to utilize this service.)

Location: Chalberg Theatre, Central Lakes College

Tickets: [www.clcperformingarts.com](http://www.clcperformingarts.com) or 218-855-8199

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**February**  
22nd - Fishing for Ducks on Mille Lacs Lake in Garrison. Lines down at noon. Tickets are available at [forducks.org](http://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.  
23rd - Free movie matinee at C-I High School Mayberry Auditorium. "Wicked" at 2 p.m. Light concessions are available.  
27th - Rescheduled Crow Wing County Central Lakes College Mobile Pantry Program, 10 a.m., CLC Parking Lot at 501 W. College Dr | Brainerd

**March**  
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.  
5th - Women Leading the Way, speaker and panel on women leaders in rural Minnesota, 11 a.m., at Rutger's Bay Lake Lodge. Presented by American Peat Technology.  
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](mailto:hopper@crosbyironton.net)**

**Tell 'em you saw it in the NEWSHOPPER**

Deadlines are Mondays at Noon

Send your photos, stories and community events to [hopper@crosbyironton.net](mailto:hopper@crosbyironton.net)

High school girls invited to compete in *Speaking Proudly* oratory contest

The stage is set for the fourth biennial *Speaking Proudly* oratory competition, and this year's theme takes a deep dive into one of the most fundamental principles of American democracy. As the nation approaches its semiquincentennial, the competition, slated for November 8, will challenge Minnesota high school girls to reflect on the core question: "The Consent of the Governed" in America's 250th Year.

Organizers of the event announced Feb. 18 that competitors will address whether the government truly func-

tions with the consent of its citizens—and if not, what actions should be taken to return governance to the ideals outlined in the Declaration of Independence.

"It's an important topic, one rooted in the very foundation of our country," said Sherie Wallace, a member of the *Speaking Proudly* steering committee. "Our competitors will explore what it means for a government to derive its power from the people. Are we living up to that ideal? What changes, if any, are necessary to realign with the vision laid out in 1776?"

The event will be held at

the Minnesota State Capitol, providing a powerful backdrop as young women from across the state take to the podium to voice their views. Three top speakers will walk away with cash prizes: \$2,500 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, and \$1,500 for third place.

This nonpartisan, non-profit project of the Metro Republican Women aims to empower young girls to engage with civic discourse. The competition is open to all Minnesota girls in grades 9 through 12 during the 2025-2026 academic year, welcoming participants from

public, private, home, and alternative learning schools.

"We want to encourage a broad range of voices," Wallace added. "This is an opportunity for young women from all walks of life to join in a meaningful conversation about the future of our nation. We believe that everyone has something important to contribute."

Applications for the contest will be accepted from August 1 through September 15. Interested competitors can find more information and register at [speakingproudly.org](http://speakingproudly.org).

As Minnesota girls prepare to take the stage and tackle

one of the most thought-provoking questions of America's future, *Speaking Proudly* is

sure to spark important discussions that resonate well beyond the competition.

LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Feb. 22, Mar. 1 & 8, 2025)

**LIBBY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Libby Township, County of Aitkin, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at the Palisade Community Center. The Annual Meeting will commence at 1:00 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.

Dated this 16th day of February 2025

JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT,  
Clerk Libby Township 3.5

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Feb. 22, Mar. 1 & 8, 2025)

**LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT**

The Libby Township Board of Audit will be held at the Palisade Community Center on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Dated this 16th day of February 2025

JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT,  
Clerk Libby Township 2.1

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Feb. 22 & March 1, 2025)

**HAZELTON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF 2025 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Hazelton Township, County of Aitkin, State of Minnesota that the Hazelton Township Annual Election of Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at the Hazelton Townhall

The Election Poll hours will be from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time voters will elect:

- 1 Supervisor - 3 year term
- 1 Treasurer - 2 year term

The Annual Meeting will commence at approximately 8:15 p.m., following the close of polls, to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March: March 18, 2025, at the same time and location.

The Board of Canvass will meet following the Annual Meeting to certify the official election results.

Dated this 12th day of February 2025

KAY OLSON,  
Clerk Hazelton Township 5.8

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Feb. 22, March 1 & 8, 2025)

**TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE PINE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting for the Township of Little Pine will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

In the case of inclement weather the meeting will instead be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at Emily City Hall 39811 State Highway 6, Emily, MN 56447

The meeting is also accessible via Zoom. Meeting ID: 780 450 6554 Password: 5644747

Dated: February 12, 2025

ABRA HAWLEY  
Little Pine Township Clerk 3.6

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OBITUARIES

KATHRYN FUTHEY

Kathy Futhey, 86, of Aitkin, died on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.


A celebration of life will be held this summer at their lake home with burial in Bennettville Cemetery. Kathy was born January 24, 1939, in Gilbert, MN. She grew up in Crosby, and went to Crosby-Ironton grade school and high school. She married Richard (Lee) Futhey on February 4, 1957, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. They made their first home in Aitkin. They lived in Brooklyn Center for the next 30 years. Kathy worked in the office at Pilgrim Cleaners for 25 years. After retirement, they moved back to their home on Farm Island Lake and traveled to Florida in the winter. Kathy was a member St. John's Lutheran Church, Aitkin Lions, and the Aitkin Hospital

Auxiliary and loved to hike across the U.S. Kathy is survived by her children: Keith Futhey (DelRose), Kerrin Brelje (Tim) and Patty Futhey (daughter-in-law); grandchildren: Ryan Futhey (Gayla), Randy Futhey (Megan), Aaron Futhey and Jesse Brelje; and great grandchildren (Jenna, Carter, Jace, Owen, and Cooper).

Kathy is proceeded in death by her husband, Lee Futhey (husband); parents, William and Mary Koski (parents); son, Kevin Futhey; and siblings: Robert Koski, Shirley Koski, and Steve Koski.

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

LENORE RAPOPORT



Lenore Lorraine (Pearson) Rapoport, 71, of Ramsey, died on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at Aitkin Health Services, after a 16-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, February 28, at 11 a.m. in Glory Baptist Church, 28053 360th Avenue, Aitkin. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials are preferred to the Parkinson's Foundation or a charity of your choice.

She was born on April 23, 1953, the youngest of five children, to Albin "Beanie" and Doris (Falk) Pearson. She grew up on a farm in rural Aitkin and graduated from Aitkin High School in 1971. In 1983, Lenore was united in marriage to Stuart Rapoport, and they were married for 41 years and resided in Brooklyn Park with their three children. Lenore loved gardening, singing, and spending time with family and friends. Lenore had a great sense of humor and brought love and kindness to everyone she


met. Lenore worked for many different companies throughout the years, beginning with the Aitkin Flower Shop. After moving to the Twin Cities, she worked for Reuben Meats & Feinberg Distributors, Taco Bell, Target, MoneyGram and, ending her work life, at TCF.

Lenore is survived by her husband, Stuart; son, Erik (Aimee) Rapoport of Dayton; daughters: Rebecca Rapoport of Maple Grove and Samantha (Shawn Rodriguez) Rapoport of Ramsey; six grandchildren: Izabella Rodriguez, Layla Rapoport, Aillison Rapoport, Julia Rapoport, Elijah Rodriguez, and Aislyn Rodriguez; siblings: Stephen (Evon) Pearson, Allen (Sandy) Pearson, Kathleen Campbell, Gregory (Cathie) Pearson, all of Aitkin, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Lenore was preceded in death by her parents, Albin and Doris Pearson; father and mother-in-law, David and Marilyn Rapoport; sister-in-law, Ellen Rapoport; and niece, Kristina Franzen.

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

JOHN ALLEN, LT. COL. RET. U.S. ARMY



John James Allen, 87, died Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at his home.

Interment with Military Honors will be held at a later date at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls.

He was born on November 30, 1937 in Brooklyn, NY to John and Elizabeth (Rooney) Allen. He graduated from Fordham University in the Bronx, NY and entered the Army by way of ROTC.


He served a tour in Korea, two tours in Viet Nam and taught ROTC at North Dakota State University. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves as a West Point Recruiter while acquiring his Masters Degree in the addiction field. He was a counselor and then

director of the program at St John's Hospital in Fargo and then on to become Director of North Dakota Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. His final years of service were spent teaching Addiction Counseling at Minot State University. He greatly appreciated living where he could enjoy the great outdoors hunting and fishing with family and friends. In his later years, John enjoyed reading mystery novels and cheering for the Vikings.

John is survived by his wife, Veronica (Gallagher) Allen; seven children: Veronica Reeves, Elizabeth Allen, John Henry (Debbie) Allen, Andrew (Wanda) Allen, Kevin (Julie) Allen, Colleen (Tim) Ref and Pdraig (Kim) Allen; many grandchildren and great grandchildren; brother, Michael (Char) Allen.

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

SHARON GUSTIN



Sharon Rae Gustin, 85, of Aitkin, died Friday, February 7, 2025.

A gathering to celebrate Sharon's life will be arranged this spring at Saron Cemetery.

She was born on March 1, 1939, in Aitkin Township to Thomas A. and Marion E. (Swanson) Gustin. Sharon attended the Long Lake and Thor schools, and graduated from Aitkin High School in 1957. She helped with the family turkey farm in Aitkin County before moving to Minneapolis with her sister Carol, where she attended business school. Sharon worked in the Claims Department of Allstate Insurance for over 30 years and called Bloomington home before retiring and returning to Aitkin to live near family. Sharon attended St. John's Lutheran Church and was a member of the

Riverwood Health Center Auxiliary. Sharon enjoyed decorating for holidays, especially Christmas, and treasured spending time with her family. You could often find Sharon playing cards, creating beautiful long-stitch artwork, embroidering, reading, and growing her collection of Boyd's Bears. She enjoyed a cold Diet Pepsi, and savored a warm dish of wild rice hotdish.

She is survived by her sister, Lavonne Randa; brother-in-law, Michael Ahonen; cousins, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Joyce Gustin; sister and brother-in-law Carol Ahonen and Eugene Randa.

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

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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](http://newlifeaitkin.com) 218-927-2823.  
Baxter\* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10:30; [www.pointway.org](http://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; 8:30, 10 & 11:30 Sundays, 6:30p Wednesdays, [iamheritage.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://northwoodscommunitychurch.org)  
Baxter - Eagle Brook Church , Worship 9 & 11, [www.eagle-brookchurch.com/locations/brainerd-lakes/](http://www.eagle-brookchurch.com/locations/brainerd-lakes/)  
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](http://fbcbrainerd.com)  
Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 [www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org](http://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  
Deerwood\* — Jeff Shadrick, SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.  
Glory\* — SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12, [aitkinchurch.com](http://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.ihmstemiys.org](http://www.ihmstemiys.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 — The Lighthouse 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](http://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  
Malmö — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15  
Wright — Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

**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](http://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](http://www.christbaxter.com).  
Baxter — Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 [www.princeofpeace-lutheran.church](http://www.princeofpeace-lutheran.church)  
Beaver Township — Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st &

3rd Sun., 10:30.  
Brainerd — First Lutheran Church (ELCA) Pastors: Patty Bjorklund and Jordan Gades, Sunday worship 9, Sunday School following worship. Services also available on YouTube and Facebook. 218-829-9552 [flicbrainerd.com](http://flicbrainerd.com) 424 8th Street South, Brainerd  
Brainerd\* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at [www.goodshepherdfreelutheran.church](http://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.lchurch.org](http://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](http://www.trinitybrainerd.org). Email: [trinity@trinitybrainerd.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.crosslakelutheran.com) Kristin Oltmann, Pastor / Becky Swanson, Pastor 218-692-3682 • 35960 CR 66, Through Mid-May: Sunday at 9:30am & Wednesday at 6:15pm. Weekly Free Community Meal - Wednesdays at 5:15pm - All are welcome!  
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](http://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](http://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 10:30; SS 10:30; Adult Bible 10:30.  
Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner; SS 1st & 3rd Sun. 10, Service 11, fellowship follows.  
Lake Shore — Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8327 Interlachen Rd.; Worship 9 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N)  
Malmö — Bethesda (ELCA) Rev. James Muske: Sun. Worship 9am. Fellowship following Service. Communion every Sunday.  
McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.  
McGrath — Zion (ELCA), 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; 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Pastor Walter Starr, 763-316-7270, Sunday Worship 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 Irontale 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Thursdays 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 bks 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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# Cochrane to discuss award-winning book at the Brainerd Public Library

The Friends of the Brainerd Public Library announce that on Monday, March 3, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., Timothy Cochrane will discuss his book, “Making the Carry: The Lives of John and Tchi-Ki-Wis Linklater.” The award-winning book is an extraordinary illustrated biography of a Métis man and Anishinaabe woman navigating great changes in their homeland along the U.S.–Canada border in the early twentieth century. John Linklater, of Anishinaabeg, Cree, and Scottish ancestry, and his wife, Tchi-Ki-Wis, of the Lac La Croix First Nation, lived in the canoe and border country of Ontario and Minnesota from the 1870s until the 1930s. During that time, the couple experienced radical upheavals in the Quetico–Superior region, including the cutting of white and red pine forests, the creation of Indian reserves/res-

ervations and conservation areas, and the rise of towns, tourism, and mining. With broad geographical sweep, historical significance, and biographical depth, “Making the Carry” tells their story, overlooked for far too long.

Timothy Cochrane was superintendent at Grand Portage National Monument for twenty years, where he worked closely with the Grand Portage Band of Anishinaabeg and the tribal council. His books include “A Good Boat Speaks for Itself: Isle Royale Fishermen and Their Boats” and “Gichi Bitobig, Grand Marais: Early Accounts of the Anishinaabeg and the North Shore Fur Trade,” both from University of Minnesota Press, and “Minong: The Good Place—Ojibwe and Isle Royale.” “Making the Carry” won the 2024 Emilie Buchwald Award for Minnesota Nonfiction from the Minnesota Book Awards and the 2024 Northeastern Minnesota Book Award for Nonfiction.

This presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Brainerd Public Library through their volunteer and fundraising efforts. No registration is required, and all are welcome.

For more information, contact the library at 218-829-5574 or visit the Friends of the Library’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Friendsofthe-brainerdpubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/Friendsofthe-brainerdpubliclibrary).

**Streamlining permitting process | Continued from Page 3**

munities across our state. That said, major reform is needed statewide instead of special treatment for just the green energy industry,” said Heintzeman. “Minnesota employees and job creators deserve a permitting process that is efficient and easy to follow not only for the green energy sector, but also for other important industries like mining, housing, construction, manufacturing, and more.”

House File 8 was referred to the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee where it awaits its next hearing.

Republican Senator Justin Eichorn (R-Grand Rapids) echoed the effort. “We need to work together to get the wheels of industry moving in this state again,” Eichorn said. “Minnesota has lost thousands of jobs to more competitive states and that shouldn’t happen—we have the best workforce in America. Permitting reform has been talked about for a long time, and this year we have one of the strongest coalitions I’ve seen thus far, so it’s time to get the ball rolling and the wheels turning.” House File 8 was referred to the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee where it awaits its next hearing.

Eichorn reported that reforms are needed across all industries in Minnesota. Democrats passed limited reforms in 2024 which focused solely on green energy projects to ease compliance with extreme, costly energy mandates further illustrating the need to make Minnesota’s regulatory environment more friendly.

In a press release Eichorn cited a Minnesota Chamber of Commerce report, between 2020-2022, Minnesota lost over \$6 billion in net expansion investments to other states, including over 4,500 jobs. Locally, Huber Engineered Wood announced in 2023 it would cancel its plans to build an oriented strand board (OSB) facility in Cohasset emphasizing the need to ease the burdensome regulatory process to expand economic growth in Minnesota.

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