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NewsHopper

Dynamic and powerful *Footloose* takes stage in Aitkin



Béla May cast as Ariel Moore (sweet yet rebellious minister's daughter) and Jeremiah Cortez cast as Chuck Cranston (Ariel's boyfriend and local bad boy) rehearse in the Bryan "BJ" Johnson Auditorium at Aitkin High School for the Aitkin High School Concert Choir performance of *Footloose the Musical*.

By ANN SCHWARTZ
The Aitkin High School Concert Choir will present *Footloose the Musical* Thursday through Saturday, April 3, 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m. in the Bryan "BJ" Johnson Auditorium at Aitkin High School.

Tickets are \$10 each and they can be purchased by

following this link: https://buy.ticketstothecity.com/purchase.php?event_id=16490 The ticket link can also be found on the isd1.org website and on the "Aitkin Music" Facebook page. Tickets may also be purchased at the door prior to your chosen show.

Molly Vouk, 44, Aitkin, is the director. "I have lived in Aitkin for two years," she said

in an interview. "My kids go to Aitkin schools. I have been acting on and off since high school." Her son Tyce is a ninth grader at Aitkin and daughter Kennedy is a recent graduate.

Different than past years, the leadership for the spring Aitkin High School Musical is broken up into three parts. Vouk is the director. Jennifer Johnson, the AHS choir director, is the musical director. Loren Vonasek, longtime art teacher, is the set designer. The many dances are designed by a contracted choreographer—Ann Borash of Brainerd.

Some of Vouk's duties include blocking the show. Johnson works beside her to outline the musical numbers. There is not a live orchestra. The music, on a sound system, is purchased from the company where they get the scripts.

By the time the musical is on stage, staff, cast and crew have put in hundreds of hours working on it over the winter.

"We have put in a lot of time on this," explained Vouk. "The auditions were held the second week of January, a right after Christmas break. Monday, January 13, was the

first read through. Then the leads met every night from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. Starting on Feb. 22, the ensemble came into the rehearsals."

Extra work is done on the weekends, with one weekend devoted to learning dance numbers and another to painting sets.

"We work during students' homerooms, after school and in the evenings. It is a busy, busy time."

is helping with costumes." Vouk lived in Mankato for 14 years before coming to Aitkin and she studied theater at Mankato State University. "This is my first time directing a full-length two-act musical. I have directed smaller productions."

Joy Janzen, 79, a local seamstress, brought her sewing machine in to alter costumes during a dress rehearsal. Janzen has worked on numerous productions, and,



Working together (left to right) Jennifer Johnson, music director; Molly Vouk, director; and Loren Vonasek, set designer bring *Footloose the Musical* to the Aitkin stage.

The co-directors are overseeing hair, makeup and costumes. "I am blessed to have connections with the Lakeville South High School and the Mearly Players, a community theater group in Mankato. Molly Smith

in the past, has sewed entire costumes for shows. She has sewn for over 60 years since she was in high school.

Vouk notes: "I am so proud of these kids. They have persevered through concussions,

Continued on Page 6

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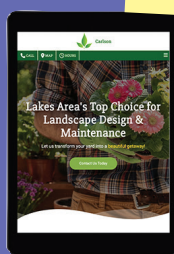
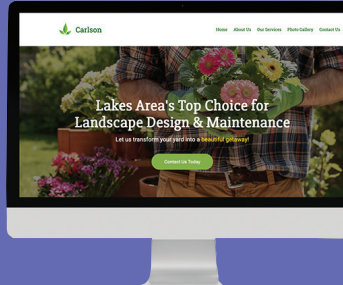
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Special elections set to fill vacant Minnesota Senate District 6 seat

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has called for a special election in April to fill the vacant seat of Senate District 6, formerly held by Sen. Justin Eichorn. Eichorn resigned after being arrested and charged for allegedly soliciting a 17-year-old girl.

The Special Primary Election will be Tuesday, April 15 for the vacated seat. The Special General Election will be Tuesday, April 29. District 6 covers most of Crow Wing County as well as parts of Cass and Itasca Counties. Minnesota Statute 204D.19, requires a special election be held within 35 days. mn.gov/statutes/cite/204d.19

Voting information:
Special Primary Election Absentee/Early voting will be April 9-14 and Special General

Election Absentee/Early voting will be April 23-28.

Due to the short timeline, voters are encouraged to vote early in person or drop off ballots at the elections office Historic Courthouse, 326 Laurel Street, Brainerd, during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- The office will be open additional hours for the special primary election: Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, April 14 from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- The office will be open additional hours for the special general election: Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Monday, April 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“Crow Wing County voters

have a history of being civically engaged, and absentee voting is a great way for residents to stay involved in the election process,” Administrative Services Director, Jory Danielson said. “It’s a good tool to utilize to allow voters the opportunity to cast their vote on their own timeline.”

Precinct changes:
Due to the sudden seat vacancy and strict statutory election timelines, some polling places are not available for this election and have changed since the November election. Find your polling location at mnvotes.gov. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day, unless the municipality voted to open their precinct polls at 10 a.m.

Crow Wing County will have six in person precinct changes. Please note these changes only apply for this special election.

1. Breezy Point City Hall – new location Breezy Point Public Safety Building 8361 County Road 11
 2. Unorganized Territory P3 The Woods Event Center – new location CWC Historic Courthouse 326 Laurel Street
 3. Unorganized Territory P4 The Woods Event Center – new location CWC Historic Courthouse 326 Laurel Street
 4. Unorganized Territory P1 Turn in Poachers building - new location CWC Historic Courthouse 326 Laurel Street
 5. Brainerd Ward 4 Precinct 1 St Andrews Church – new location Brainerd City Hall 501 Laurel Street
 6. Brainerd Ward 4 Precinct 2 St Andrews Church - new location Brainerd City Hall 501 Laurel Street
- Curbside Voting:**
If you cannot easily leave your vehicle to enter the polling place, you can ask to have a ballot brought out to you. This

is known as ‘curbside voting.’

Two election judges from different major political parties will bring out a ballot to your vehicle. If you need to register or update your registration, they will bring you an application as well.

When you are finished voting, election judges will bring your ballot inside for you and put it in the ballot box.

For more details on curbside voting, contact your municipal clerk or crowwing.gov/Elections before going to the polling place.

Candidate filings:
The candidate filing period for vacant Minnesota Senate District 6 seat opened March 26 and runs through Tuesday, April 1.

To run for office, a candidate must meet all of the following requirements:

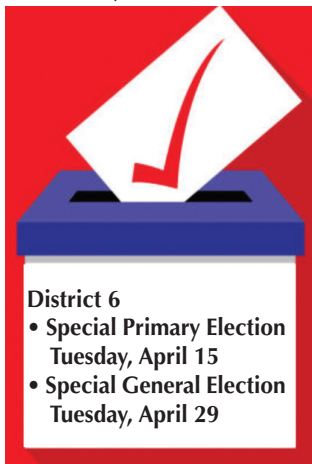
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be an eligible voter
- Must be a resident of Minnesota for at least one year before the general election
- Must be a resident of their district for at least six months before the general election
- Must be 21 years or older upon assuming office
- Must have maintained residence in their district for at least 30 days before the general election
- Pay all filing fees or present a petition in place of filing fee as allowed by statute
- Complete and file an affidavit of candidacy
- Complete and file campaign finance reports

Current candidate roster:
As of press time, nine candidates have filed to compete for the Minnesota Senate seat left vacant by the resignation of Sen. Justin Eichorn, R-Grand Rapids.

Emily LeClaire (DFL)
Among those entering the race is Emily LeClaire, a Brainerd DFLer who quickly announced her candidacy

following Eichorn’s departure. LeClaire, who previously ran for the Minnesota House District 6B seat in 2024, now seeks the Senate seat covering portions of Cass, Itasca, and Crow Wing counties.

Nicky Hardy (DFL)
Nicky Hardy is the second DFLer to announce her candidacy. Hardy is a native Minnesotan, mother, scientist, and substitute teacher with a passion for education and community service.



Jennifer Carnahan (Republican)
In the Republican field, a diverse group of candidates have emerged, including former Republican Party chair and Nisswa Mayor Jennifer Carnahan. Carnahan, who led the Minnesota GOP from 2017 to 2021, emphasizes her experience in both politics and business. She is committed to addressing the rising costs of living and advocating for stronger communities.

Steve Cotariu (Republican)
Steve Cotariu, a U.S. Army veteran and businessman, has also thrown his hat in the ring, pledging to bring practical solutions and leadership to the Senate. Cotariu, a graduate of West Point and the Wharton School of Business, supports job creation, tax cuts, and reduced regulation.

Josh Gazelka (Republican)
Brainerd resident Josh Gazelka, son of former Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka, entered the race after encour-

agement from community members. A former cider business owner, Gazelka aims to address regulatory burdens on small businesses.

Keri Heintzeman (Republican)
Republican Keri Heintzeman, wife of Rep. Josh Heintzeman, also announced her candidacy, emphasizing fiscal responsibility, government transparency, and personal freedoms. A 30-year district resident and business owner, Heintzeman has been actively involved in conservative political efforts, including as district director for the Trump 2024 campaign.

John Howe (Republican)
Grand Rapids businessman and retired veterinarian John Howe launched his campaign emphasizing gun rights, parental rights, and rural economic growth. A former Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine member, Howe advocates for conservative values, lower taxes, alongside restoring rural economies and protecting individual freedoms.

Doug Kern (Republican)
Businessman Doug Kern of Brainerd declared his candidacy, highlighting his commitment to child protection, law enforcement support, and election integrity. Kern, a former chair of Crow Wing County Republicans, emphasized removing diversity, equity, and inclusion policies in schools.

Angel Zierden (Republican)
Breezy Point’s Angel Zierden, a former mayor and small business owner, entered the race, citing her decade-long involvement in policy advocacy. Zierden has focused on housing, childcare, and economic development for rural Minnesota. She has also been instrumental in bipartisan legislative efforts, including increasing penalties for fentanyl exposure to children.

More candidates may enter the race as the candidate filing period continues through Tuesday, April 1.



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Sunday: Crepes 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Prizes! Thursday Night Trivia League
Teams of 4 will play every Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Fireplace Lounge located next to Ruby's on the Lake. Earn points that accumulate throughout the season. Prizes will be awarded to our top teams.

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POKE THE BEAR MAPLE TAP

Friday, April 4
Poke the Bear Social 6:30 - 8 p.m.
All attendees will be entered into a chance to win a **FREE 2-night stay for Oktoberfest 2025!**

Saturday, April 5
Sauna & Cold Plunge 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
\$60 for a 30 minute session for up to 6 people
Call 218-678-4666 to secure you spot.

Maple Syrup 101 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Learn the process from tree to bottle (this will be outdoors)

Craft spirit sampling 1 - 3 p.m.

Beer Poking & Pudgie Pies 2 - 4 p.m.


Dos Guys
LIVE at the Bear Pine Bar 6 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, Mn, April 6
Flapjack Feast 9 a.m. - Noon



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

March
29th - Clayhill Farm and Forest tours: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Harry and Judy Worm Farm located at 12607 Red Pine Road in Brainerd. Learn how maple syrup is made. Space is limited. Register on-line at northlandarb.org Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$15 adults and \$10 for children.
31st - Community Table Meal, every Monday doors open at 5 p.m. and meal served from 5:30 to 6p.m. in St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 617 Poplar Street, Crosby. For more information, contact: Tammy Ringhand at 218-838-0658, Jill Larsen at 218-851-1488 or Ann Silgen at 218-330-9610.

April
1st - Riverwood Healthcare Center Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom with participants signing in remotely via phone or computer. An election of board members whose terms are expiring will be held. To register for the meeting, go to www.riverwoodhealthcare.org. If you need to join the meeting by phone, contact Angie Kuppich at akuppich@rwhealth.org or (218) 927-5501 for the dial-in information and registration.
3rd - Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity Dancing with the Lakes Area Stars, 7 p.m. at the Gichi-Ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd. Early bird tickets at \$25 each; VIP tickets, \$100.
4th - St. Francis School fish fry fundraiser, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., at 411 North Tenth Street, Brainerd. Meal includes all-you-can-eat fried and baked fish, potatoes, vegetable, bread, beverage and dessert for \$15 per person ages 11 and older. Children 11 and under are \$8. A punch card is available for \$80 at check in. Carry-out is available.
7th - Community Table Meal, every Monday doors open at 5 p.m. and meal served from 5:30 to 6p.m. in St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 617 Poplar Street, Crosby. For more information, contact: Tammy Ringhand at 218-838-0658, Jill Larsen at 218-851-1488 or Ann Silgen at 218-330-9610.
11th - St. Francis School fish fry fundraiser, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., at 411 North Tenth Street, Brainerd. Meal includes all-you-can-eat fried and baked fish, potatoes, vegetable, bread, beverage and dessert for \$15 per person ages 11 and older. Children 11 and under are \$8. A punch card is available for \$80 at check in. Carry-out is available.
12th - Serpent Lake Association April Social, 4 -6 p.m., at the Woodtick Inn in downtown Cuyuna.
12th - Learn about the history and re-inhabitation of the Republic for the United States of America at 6 p.m. Aitkin Public Library at 110 - 1st Ave NE, Aitkin.
12th - Great River Strings Spring Concert, 7 p.m., at Cascade United Methodist Church in Deerwood.
12th - Cuyuna Range Whitetails Banquet held at the Hallett Center of Crosby. Social hour starts at 5 p.m.; dinner and raffles begin at 6 p.m. 14th - Community Table Meal, every Monday doors open at 5 p.m. and meal served from 5:30 to 6p.m. in St. Joseph's Catholic Church Social Hall, 617 Poplar Street, Crosby. For more information, contact: Tammy Ringhand at 218-838-0658, Jill Larsen at 218-851-1488 or Ann Silgen at 218-330-9610.
16th - Cascade United Methodist Church free supper, 5:30 p.m. brings families and neighbors together to enjoy a home-cooked meal. The supper is held the third Wednesday of each month. Call 218- 534-3507 for a reservation . Cascade is located between Deerwood and Crosby at 22781 Black Lake Road, Deerwood on Highway 6 and 210.
25th - Free movie night at Mayberry Auditorium. "Mufasa" at 6:30 p.m. Light concessions are available.

May
10th - 11th - Cuyuna Agate Mineral Show at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds in Brainerd. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 11. Admission is \$2; mothers are free on Sunday (Mother's Day). For more information go to www.cuyunarockclub.org

Send your community events to hopper@crosbyironton.net



Send Us Your Photos and Community Events!

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!**

READER RIBBETS

Leadership needed to restore faith

Currently, our local Republicans need an experienced leader, one with real Christian ethics and one who will work not only within their own party, but across party lines to serve Minnesotans and not their own personal agendas.

We cannot afford to fill Eichorns' empty seat with any individual that has a demonstrated history of drama, pettiness and back stabbing towards others, especially those who have tried to run against her husband. This of course is Keri Heintzman. If her political aspirations and future political career mirrors her past attempts of controlling our district's Republicans with mafia style control and intimidation, we would be better served to

vote Democrat than to vote for Keri Heintzman.

It is sad that both parties refuse to understand the public is tired of having the same ineffective candidates or thier cronies, besties, spouses, etc. who preach one thing but practice another, constantly pushed at them. The voting public deserves candidates that are in tune with our needs and not that of those who fill their campaign war chests.

In this particular unfortunate situation, we need non-biased, authentic leadership thats capable of restoring faith in the system. Keri Heintzman is not that person. I just pray a worthy candidate from our valued northern range steps up so that the Heintzmans idealisms and agendas don't corrupt and poison their districts politics, as they have ours.

Chris Ryan, Crosby

LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, March 22 & 29, 2025)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING & CONTINUED BOARD OF AUDIT

The Libby Township Board will meet in person at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at the Palisade Community Center. The purpose of this meeting shall be to discuss and decide matters that may come before the board. The board meeting will include completion of the continued Board of Audit meeting.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2025

Jane Grimsbo Jewett Clerk, Libby Township 3.2

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Better treatments urgently needed for Guillain-Barré Syndrome

By Lisa Butler

Five-year-olds can be goofy. That was my first thought several years ago when my son stumbled and fell to the ground.

But when he failed to get up and told us that his legs hurt, my husband and I grew worried. By the time we got him to a doctor, his mystery sickness had progressed. He couldn't walk down the hall to the exam room without bracing himself against the wall.

It's difficult to describe the sheer terror I felt in that moment. His body was seizing up, but he remained aware of his surroundings. Worst of all, there was nothing I could do to fix it.

Eventually we learned that we were among the thousands of American families affected each year by Guillain-Barré Syndrome, or GBS — a rare, debilitating neuromuscular condition that can strike anyone at a moment's notice.

Despite GBS's life-altering impact, treatment options today are limited, outdated, and often inadequate. Developing more effective therapies for this terrible disease should be an urgent public health priority.

Just diagnosing GBS is a challenge. An initial battery of tests on our son revealed nothing.

His paralysis progressed rapidly — within hours he could not stand or lift his arms above his waist. A spinal tap 24 hours after the onset of symptoms showed elevated protein levels. At that point, our doctor knew it was GBS.

GBS doesn't discriminate. Everyone from young children to the elderly can fall victim. GBS typically strikes without warning and moves at lightning-fast speed. Some patients experience only mild to moderate symptoms, while others lose the ability to chew, swallow, or even breathe without a ventilator. Ultimately, about one in 20 people with the condition die from it.

Since the disease moves at such a fast clip, it's critical to identify and treat it promptly. Sadly, however, patients who show up at the emergency room with symptoms of GBS are often told that they're suffering from stress or dehydration and sent home. In many such cases, the muscle weakness keeps intensifying, and patients end up back at the hospital practically paralyzed.

Despite abundant progress in many other disease areas in recent years, there is still no therapy approved specifically for GBS in the United States.

The two commonly used to treat GBS — intravenous immunoglobulin and plasma exchange — have to be administered in a number of courses and can take weeks to take effect.

With the current standard of care, 40% of GBS patients will still need to be admitted to the ICU. One-quarter will require mechanical ventilation. Close to one-fifth can't walk within one year of treatment, and about half experience pain for upwards of three years following recovery.

The good news is that scientists could be on the verge of a paradigm-shifting breakthrough. As we speak, researchers are working overtime to develop therapies that, for the first time, specifically target GBS. One experimental treatment has shown the potential to cut total recovery time, and thus the amount of time the disease has to progress, in half.

Lisa Butler is president and CEO of GBS|CIDP Foundation International, a global non-profit organization supporting individuals and their families affected by Guillain-Barré syndrome, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, and related conditions. (gbs-cidp.org).

Change to State telework policy

Governor Tim Walz announced on Tuesday, an update to the telework policy for state employees, requiring most state agency employees to work in-person for at least 50% of scheduled workdays beginning June 1. Around 60% of state employees already work in-person and did so throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This approach balances the flexibility of telework with the workplace advantages of being in office," said Gov-

ernor Walz. "Having more state employees in the office means that collaboration can happen more quickly and state agencies can build strong organizational cultures more easily."

The policy change provides an exemption for employees who live more than 75 miles away from their primary work location, helping the State

of Minnesota benefit from top talent in every corner of the state.

This policy change supports the economic vitality of office districts like downtown Saint Paul, bringing foot traffic back to businesses and public spaces. Many major Minnesota employers are also now requiring in-person workdays for their employees.

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OBITUARIES

RONALD EDWIN KAATZ



Ronald Edwin Kaatz, 89, died on March 12, 2025 at his home at *The Swamp* near Aitkin. No funeral service planned. Memorial gathering at *The Swamp* possible later this year. Ron Kaatz was a good man. He was born on September 12, 1935 to Edwin Raymond Kaatz and Helen Gustafson Kaatz in Worthington during the Great Depression. He lived as a boy through World War II in Minnesota, Arizona, and Arkansas. At 18, Ron joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He served three years, leaving as a Sergeant, chief of a radio communications unit. Ron then used the G.I. bill and hard labor as a construction worker to enter the University of Minnesota and study economics, probability, and statistics. He graduated and walked out of the University right into a job at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. There he was rapidly promoted into management and retired more than 30 years later as a Senior Vice President. He served as Chairman of the Board of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. In 1971, Ron bought 80 acres near the town of Aitkin. The place had swampland and trees, but no house, only a small “shack” with no water, no electricity,

no insulation, a wood burning stove, and a 2-seater outhouse. Ron loved it. Weekends year-round for nearly 20 years were spent there with his family and friends. In 2000, Ron moved from Minneapolis to live at *The Swamp* full-time. He bought 40 more acres of natural swampland, which he left undeveloped intentionally. On the 80, he spent time planning, building, remodeling and landscaping. To help him (and to do the real work), he hired talented locals who turned into friends: Dave Paulson, Charlie Jackson, and Toby Gabrio.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Kathy Rolfe; sons: John Kaatz (Peggy Kjorstad-Kaatz), Charlie Kaatz, and Paul Kaatz (Rose); sister, Linda Kaatz McGee; niece, Mary Copouls; nephew, Tom McGee; four grandchildren: Kris Macauley (Andy), Eric Kaatz, Spencer Kaatz, and Annalese Kaatz; great-granddaughter Elise Macauley; sister-in-law, Nancy Rolfe and her husband Frank Meyer; brother-in-law John Rolfe; cousin's daughter, Rosie Thibodo; and old friends: Carl Overman and Fritz Biermeier.

He was preceded in death by his parents; ex-wife, Sharon Bastys Kaatz; and old friends: Bill Dolid, Jack Wallingford, Stan Plys, and Tom Horner.

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

BARBARA ZEYLMAKER

Barbara Jeanne Zeylmaker, 90, of Aitkin, and formerly of Yuma, AZ died Thursday, March 20, 2025 at Golden Horizons in Aitkin.

There are no public services planned at this time. Burial will be in Sunset Vista Cemetery Columbarium in Yuma, AZ.

She was born February 2, 1935 Decator, IL, the daughter of Ernest and Patricia (McGuire) Ernst.

Barbara is survived by sons and daughters-in-law: Charles and Sue Zeylmaker of Renton, WA., Patrick and Midge Zeylmaker of Issaquah, WA; daughter

and son-in-law, Sally and Rick Bruesewitz of Aitkin, MN; six grandchildren: Hailey, Christopher, Shay, Shelby, Katherine, Nicholas; nieces and nephews: Cindy, Penny, Jovita, Tommy; other relatives and friends who mourn her passing.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister Marilyn Aguilar.

Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Aitkin. To leave a message of condolence please go to www.srtfuneral.com

MARY JANE LINDGREN



Mary Jane “MJ” Lindgren, 73, life-long resident of Aitkin died peacefully on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at Golden Horizons Memory Care, Aitkin.

A Celebration of Life will be held this Summer 2025. Details will be announced later.

She was born August 12, 1951 the daughter of Jeremiah and Effie (Davis) Sullivan. She attended Maryhill Academy and graduated from Aitkin High School and St. Cloud Beauty School. Mary Jane “MJ” Sullivan was united in marriage to Gary A. “Swede” Lindgren on July 6, 1974 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aitkin. She worked varied jobs including: as a beautician,

a teller at Security Bank, a farm wife and a book-keeper at Aitkin Implement. She led an active life snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, traveling, golfing, socializing with friends and snuggling with her cat Jasper. She was a member of the American Legion, the Moose Clubs in Aitkin and Yuma, AZ, the Eagles in Yuma and Aitkin Women's Softball.

She is survived by her husband Gary “Swede” Lindgren of Aitkin; siblings: Jerry Sullivan (Barb) of Aitkin, Greg Sullivan (Jean) of New Braunfels, TX., Nancy Palucki (John) of Perryville, MD., Tom Sullivan (Sue) of Durham, NC., Pat Sullivan (Noli) of Meridian, ID; other special relatives and friends.

Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Aitkin. www.srtfuneral.com.

SANDRA LUNDQUIST

Sandra Jeanne “Sandy” Lundquist, died peacefully March 22, 2025.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Room at Heartwood with a reception to follow. Sandy arranged whole body donation to the University of Minnesota Medical school Anatomy Bequeath Program.

Sandra Jeanne “Sandy” Lundquist, was born July 25, 1936, in Somerville, MA to Edward L. Traver Jr. and Frances Whitcher Traver. She grew up in historic Lexington, MA and was a 1954 graduate of Lexington High School. She earned a B.A. from Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa and that summer married Gene Gilbert. They settled in Warsaw, IL where she began her career as a public school teach in English before moving to Minnesota where the University of Minnesota certified her for Special Education. Their two children were born in the 1960s. In 1972, 12 families of the (now) Community of Christ church created a special neighborhood called “LaPaz” (peace) in Apple Valley, MN where all shared in family activities.

Sandy's husband succumbed to cancer in 1975 and the LaPaz community was a great source of support. Sandy and Clarence Lundquist were married on March 31, 1985, and lived on Shallow Lake in Warba. They spent the next decades in various service opportunities. In the mid '90s, Clarence and Sandy moved to Bella Vista, AR and enjoyed active participation in the Bella Vista Community Church. They moved back to Minnesota in 2006—first to Aitkin then to Heartwood Senior Living in Crosby since 2016.

She is survived by her husband, Clarence K. Lundquist; son, E. Glenn Gilbert and wife Diane of Falcon Heights; grandson, Evan of Minneapolis; daughter, Angela Heine and husband Mark of Cottage Grove, WI; four stepchildren 10 step-grandchildren, and 19 step-great grandchildren.

Sandy was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Eldon Gene Gilbert; brother, Edward L. Traver, III (Ted); and stepfather, David M. Haseltine.

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

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

ALLIANCE
Aitkin* — New Life 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
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
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 - Eagle Brook Church , Worship 9 & 11, 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
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
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
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.ihmstmilys.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
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 KGIN 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). Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter. (Corner of Ingelwood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com.
Baxter — Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.princeofpeace-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 424 8th Street South, Brainerd
Brainerd* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www.goodshepherdfreelutheran.church, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052
Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.llchurch.org)
Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th St. Brainerd, Worship time September through May 8:15am & 10:30am; worship (June through August) 9 am. 218-829-5147. Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org. Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org
Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9
Brainerd - Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Steve Benson, Sunday Worship 9, Monday Worship 6 pm. Education hour Sunday 10:15 am. 220 N. 8th St. Brainerd. 218-829-4317. www.zionbrainerd.com.
Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct. Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC) 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 • 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
Deerwood* — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Amanda Kempthorne; Worship: 9; Sunday School 9:50.
Garrison — Light of the Cross (ELCA), Worship 9 SS 9; 320-692-4773 or 877-406-9101.
Garrison — Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Caleb Worrel. Worship 10 with Communion Every Sunday. Adult Bible Study 8:30am, Sunday School Sept-May, 8:30am. Fellowship 11am. 320-692-4581. www.shepherdofthelake.org. Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovaa; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month 8:45.
Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.
Hillman — Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 11, fellowship follows. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)
Iron Hub — Immanuel (LC-MS) Worship 9, (alternates with Zion of Crosby) 218-534-3069
Isle — Faith (ELCA), 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, Worship 9.
Palisade* — Bethel (ELCA), Pastor Steven Teff; Worship 9:30.
Pequot Lakes - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Monte Meyer Worship 9 am, Fellowship 10 am, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:15 am
Pequot Lakes* - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Stephen Blenkush Worship 9:00 a.m., SS 9:15 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m.
Rossburg — Bethesda Lutheran (LCMC Congregations in Mission for Christ) 11:30 service. Communion 1st & 3rd

Sunday each month.
Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210
Thor — Zion, Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.
Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.
Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.\n**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 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; Monday 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 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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Kimberly Township is looking for lawn maintenance to be performed at the Kimberly Township Garage and Cemetery by either an individual 18 or older with valid MN Drivers License or a landscaping contractor. Individuals have work history; contractors have costs to Kimberly Township 30854 Dam Lake Street, Aitkin, MN 56431 by 5:00 p.m. April 10, 2025.

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

A director of the Cooperative shall among other things:

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• Be willing to devote such time and effort to the duties of a director as may be necessary.

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

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



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