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St. Joseph Parochial School 50th Anniversary Reunion



A special reunion on Saturday, May 17 is for anyone who attended St. Joseph Parochial School in Crosby. The event will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school's closure in 1975, marking the end of an era that saw the school play a significant role in the lives of many in the community.

The reunion will feature a variety of activities that will take alumni and guests on a nostalgic journey back to their school days. Highlights include a continental breakfast, guided tours of the school, displays of memorabilia, and the highly anticipated opening of a time capsule that was placed in the school's cornerstone when it was built. The afternoon will conclude with a Mass, followed by a dinner and program, providing ample opportunities for alumni to reconnect and reminisce.

St. Joseph Parochial School opened in the fall of 1959. initially enrolling 205 students in grades one through six. The school was constructed under the guidance of Fr. Joseph Cashen after a one-day fundraising drive, led by Carney Middleton, successfully raised the necessary \$100,000. The school's legacy continued to serve the parish long after its closure, with the building still housing parish offices, an adoration chapel, and educational classrooms.

Over the years, St. Joseph's was staffed by Benedictine nuns who lived in a convent on Serpent Lake, alongside some lay teachers. Students attended daily Mass and enjoyed hot lunches in the church basement, prepared by the women of the parish. To honor this part of the school's history, the reunion dinner will feature a recipe from those iconic hot

Invitations and registration information have been sent to alumni whose contact details are on file, though organizers are reaching out to help fill in the gaps. They are seeking assistance from alumni in spreading the word to their siblings and friends, particularly those whose contact information is not readily available. Additionally, the reunion committee is still gathering photos and

www.newshopper.net

memorabilia from the time when the school was open, to help enrich the displays at the event.

Anyone who attended St. Joseph Parochial School

and has not received an invitation is encouraged to reach out to reunion co-chair Mike Aulie at 763-498-2997 or via email at mikeaulie@ gmail.com.





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May 3, 2025 NewsHopper™ www.NewsHopper.net

Heintzeman wins special election for Minnesota Senate District 6 seat



Keri Heintzeman

In a decisive win Tuesday night, Republican Keri Heintzeman secured the vacant Minnesota Senate District 6 seat, defeating DFL-endorsed Denise Slipy in a special election that capped off a whirlwind month of political drama, campaigning, and fast-moving primaries.

According to unofficial results, Heintzeman garnered 12,751 votes—an impressive 60.27%—against Slipy's 8,376 votes (39.59%), securing a solid GOP hold on a district recently shaken by scandal. The seat was vacated abruptly in March by former Sen. Justin Eichorn, R-Grand Rapids, after he was arrested and charged with attempting to solicit a minor.

A political newcomer with deep ties to the conservative movement, Heintzeman is the owner of Up Country LLC in Nisswa and previously served as a district director for Donald Trump's 2024 presidential campaign. She is also the wife of State Rep. Josh Heintzeman, R-Nisswa, who represents House District 6B. In her campaign, Keri Heintzeman emphasized her commitment to "faith, family, and civic engagement."

Senate District 6 includes a swath of north-central Minnesota, encompassing cities like Brainerd, Grand Rapids, Baxter, Crosby, and Pequot Lakes—many of which turned out heavily in favor of Heintzeman.





Denise Slipy

Slipy, a local organizer and Democrat with deep roots in Grand Rapids, managed to carry several precincts, including three of the four in her hometown, as well as pockets in Brainerd and Cass County. But it wasn't enough to overcome the GOP wave that swept through the

The Republican primary leading up to Tuesday's election was itself a crowded affair, with eight candidates vying for the nomination. Heintzeman emerged victorious on April 15, consolidating party support just two weeks before the general election. On the DFL side, Slipy cleared the field early after securing the party's endorsement, with other Democrats bowing out prior

to the filing deadline.

Heintzeman also held the edge in fundraising, reporting over \$65,000 in contributions, compared to Slipy's smaller war chest.

Her campaign weathered a late challenge when the DFL filed a campaign finance complaint, alleging Heintzeman accepted contributions over the legal limit from nine donors. However, election officials clarified that special election limits are calculated separately from regular cycle caps, weakening the complaint's potential impact.

Now, with the dust settling, Heintzeman heads to St. Paul, where Republicans are eager to keep momentum in a state Senate that remains narrowly divided.

As Heintzeman prepares to be sworn in, questions loom about how she will position herself in a chamber grappling with contentious issues ranging from education to infrastructure and rural economic development.

Brainerd man arrested after bust



A 40-year-old Brainerd man is facing a series of serious felony charges following the seizure of over eight pounds of suspected methamphetamine at his residence on Thursday, April 24. The bust was part of an ongoing Lakes Area Drug Investigative Division (LA-DID) investigation into drug trafficking and distribution in Crow Wing County.

LADID executed a search warrant at Scott Edward Heyof Southeast 13th Street. There, authorities discovered two large bags containing eight clear plastic bags, each weighing approximately one pound, all testing positive for methamphetamine. The street value of the about 8.2 pound seized is estimated at

Heyer, who was arrested at the scene, now faces multiple felony charges related to drug possession and distribution. These charges include:

- First-degree aggravated controlled substance crime
- First-degree sale of drugs, involving 17 grams or more of methamphetamine within a 90-day period
- First-degree possession of drugs, involving 50 grams or more of methamphetamine
- Illegal possession of cannabis without a tax stamp Heyer's bail was set at

er's home in the 1000 block \$250,000 with conditions.

In addition to the drugs, investigators found a digital scale, suspected marijuana, and marijuana wax at Heyer's

The discovery of the drugs comes after an in-depth investigation by LADID, which included surveillance and a review of phone records. Investigators linked Heyer to a text message conversation in which a woman arranged to pick up a "smoke sack" from his residence, with a \$40 payment made through the Cash App. This was corroborated by a review of Heyer's Cash App account, which showed a transaction matching the date and amount.

This isn't Heyer's first brush with the law. In 2021, he was convicted of first-degree burglary and second-degree assault, further complicating his legal situation.



Games on the Green Opens - Family Crafts - and More!

lother's Day Brunch Sunday, May 11 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Chef Carved Blackberry Glazed Pork Prime Rilo; Chef Carved $Prime~\mathcal{R}ib$ with Au Jus & Creamy Horseradish; Made to Order $\mathcal{O}m$ elets; Made to Order Crepes; Baked Eggs over Sautéed Strictly mushrooms & spinach and topped with gruyere cheese; Duroc Applewood Smoked Bacon; Roasted Kielbasa, Bell Peppers & Onions, Herb Roasted Yukon Breakfast Potatoes, White Chocolate Croissant Bread Pudding Flakey Croissant in a Rich White Chocolate Custard and topped with Mixed Berries, Baked Teta & Egg Casserole Roasted Red Peppers, Cherry Tomatoes & Feta Cheese, Topped with Fresh Basil and Crispy Prosciutto, Traditional Benedict Thick Cut Canadian Bacon, Poached Egg & House Hollandaise, Chicken Cacciatore Breaded and Pan Seared Chicken Breast with red and yellow peppers, local mushrooms, Kalamata Olives, Tomatoes & served over linguini, Vegetable

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Vehicle window tint requirements

In a move that will streamline the process for Minnesotans with medical conditions requiring tinted vehicle windows, Governor Tim Walz signed a new bill into law on Thursday, April 24 that amends the state's window tint exemption policy.

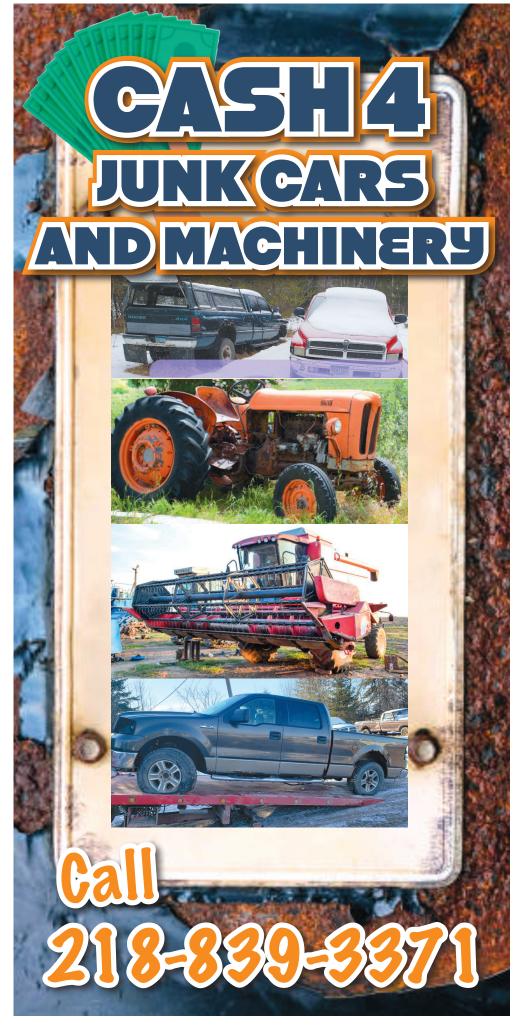
Under the old law, individuals with certain medical conditions—such as those affected by conditions like lupus or albinism—were required to obtain a doctor's prescription for tinted

renewed every two years. For some, this was a cumbersome process, particularly for those with permanent conditions that necessitate consistent protection from sunlight.

The new law, effective July 1, 2025, will allow doctors to designate qualifying medical conditions as "permanent," and issue a prescription for window tinting with no expiration date. This means that patients no longer need to seek out a renewal of their

windows, which had to be prescription every two years. The amended law sets clear guidelines for both doctors

and drivers. To qualify for the exemption, the doctor's prescription or statement of medical need must specify the make, model, and license plate of one or two vehicles that will have the tinted windows. Additionally, drivers will need to carry a copy of the prescription or statement with them in their vehicle at all times to show proof of medical necessity.



READER RIBBETS

Crosby taxpayers unfortunate charity

threw the taxpayers under the bus by approving four hundred grand worth of ice rink improvements at our Hallet Community Center. This after two decades of substantial financial bailouts and expensive unbudgeted annual repairs. This administration just refuses to accept that this tax payer sponsored charity will never really be profitable.

Poor governance costs money. The center's managers promises of finding grants, etc. means very little, as this very council has repeatedly stood by paying for various departments expenses with promises of imaginary grants being sought, but nothing ever evolved.

Just more cheap lip service to a

gullible city council? Perhaps part of this support rests on the fact one council member wants to protect his and his chamber buddies interests by hoping these hockey families buy food and drinks in their businesses, while yet another council member enjoys his free membership and

Apparently the mayor with her years of business savvy and her other two puppet council members just can't understand that continuous failures, poor management and dependency on the city's general fund will never lead to success.

This aging building is also rapidly decaying. Costly future maintenance costs keep surfacing, the biggest being a new roof. But at least its in

better shape than the Croft Mine facility that the D.N.R. left us to watch rot. This is, in reality, a business, that was creatively placed in Parks and Recreation so Crosby could use this departments funding to help support this venue after it was dumped on us.

It was from the very start never designed to be held accountable by business standards, nor was it ever intended to be just Crosbyls burden. Sadly this venture has cost Crosby taxpayers well over a million dollars and will cost us much, much more as long as our administration's ignorance, biases and personal agendas keep them engaged while making us taxpayers pay for this unfortunate charity.

Chris Ryan, Crosby

3rd & 7th - Bird Hikes at the Northland Arboretum, 8 a.m. Binoculars are provided or bring your own. Open to the public. Free for members, \$10 gate fee for non-members. Northland Arboretum is located at 14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd. Call 218-829-8770 for more information.

3rd - Celebrate Arbor Day at the Northland Arboretum, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. Free seedlings, live reptiles, demonstrations, activity booths, and refreshments. Tot Track and Adaptive Track will be open. Bring your bike and helmet and enjoy the trails. Follow the clues to find Sasquatch in the woods and win cash prizes totaling \$500! Northland Arboretum is located at 14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd. Call 218-829-8770 for more information.

3rd - Registration deadline for Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD Lakeshore Lunch and Learn event on Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. to noon ,at Heartwood Living, 500 Heartwood Dr., in Crosby. The event, which costs just \$5 (including lunch), is an ideal chance for property owners to learn practical tips, ask questions, and get inspired by success stories from others in the community. Space is limited, and registration is required by May 3. To register call (218) 828-6197.

5th - Local Author Mary Seifert to Discuss Mystery Book Series at Brainerd Public Library, "Maverick, Movies, and Murder," noon-1:00 p.m. This presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Brainerd Public Library through their volunteer and fundraising efforts. Attendees may bring a bag lunch or just enjoy the light refreshments provided. No registration is required, and all are welcome. For more information, contact the library at 218-829-5574

8th,9th & 10th - Friends of the Aitkin Library Used Book Sale Fri. and Sat. 9 a.m.-3p.m. at the Aitkin Library Community Room at 110 1st Ave NE in Aitkin. Books, DVDs, and CDS are \$.50-\$1.00. Proceeds help fund Aitkin library activities and supplies. A presale is offered Thurs., May 8 to members 3-5 p.m.

Send your community events to hopper@crosbyironton.net

Prioritize Minnesotans first

Minnesota taxpayers were told the expansion of MinnesotaCare to cover illegal immigrants would cost \$196 million over four years. I opposed this legislation. Now, after persistent questioning by House Republicans, we've learned the real price tag is approaching \$550 million - and still climbing.

The number of undocumented individuals enrolled in MinnesotaCare has skyrocketed to over 17,000, more than double the original estimate of 7,700. The Department of Human Services never disclosed this surge; it only came to light through Republican lawmakers' demands for transparency. You can view Monday's press conference on these findings. Let me explain why this is so con-

MinnesotaCare is a taxpayer-subsidized basic health plan. A similar private plan would cost hundreds or

even thousands of dollars per month. But with state subsidies, Minnesota-Care lowers that cost to about \$80 per month. Normally, the federal government covers 90 percent of the subsidy for eligible residents. But for illegal immigrants, the full cost is being paid by Minnesota taxpayers.

This means we are now spending hundreds of millions of dollars on individuals who are in our state illegally. With the enrollment numbers already more than double what was projected, we are quickly blowing past even the worst-case estimates. This is not something we can afford, especially with a \$6 billion budget deficit on the horizon.

Worse, offering these benefits risks attracting more illegals to Minnesota, further straining public services and taxpayers—both already stretched

This reflects a pattern of reckless

spending by Democrat legislators. With rural hospitals closing, ambulance services struggling, and working families grappling with healthcare costs, we must ask: who are we prioritizing?

The answer should be simple. We need to prioritize Minnesotans first. That means putting the needs of law-abiding citizens and legal residents ahead of unsustainable programs that drain our resources and undermine public trust.

I fully support the Republican-led legislation to repeal this expansion. We cannot continue down this path. I will keep fighting for transparency, responsible budgeting, and a government that serves We the People.

As always, please reach out to my office with your questions or concerns

Ben Davis, District 6A State Representative

CWC Commissioner Jamie Lee to host town hall on property taxes

Crow Wing County Commissioner Jamie Lee will be hosting a town hall meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Crosby-Ironton High School Forum Room, offering an opportunity for local residents to learn more about property tax issues and engage directly with the commissioner.

The primary topics for discussion will include property tax valuations, the impact of property taxes on residents, and options available for reducing your tax rate. Commissioner Lee will provide valuable information on how property valuations are determined, what residents can do if they believe their valuation is too high, and what programs or exemptions may be available to help reduce their

Residents are encouraged to attend, especially those who may be looking for ways to qualify for potential tax reductions or who are unsure about the details of their property valuations.

The event is free and open to

Celebrate Shabuoth

The second of Almighty Yahuah's three yearly sacred commanded festivals, Shabuoth (festival of weeks- Duet. 16:16) is being locally hosted by Proverbs 6:23 Ministry for scripture obedient people on May 31 and June 1.

Call 218-533-6029 for questions or information.

the public, and Commissioner Lee encourages all residents of Crow Wing County to take part in this informative session.



(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, May 3, 10, and 17, 2025)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP MAY MEETING

The Libby Township Board will meet online at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 to discuss matters that may come before the board. The May 20 meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Contact Jane Jewett, clerk, at willowsedge.janesfarm@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2025 Jane Grimsbo Jewett Clerk, Libby Township

Funds needed to feed hungry seniors critical funding. Please get in touch and reduce the number of meals Minnesota seniors need our help.

As the senior population grows, the number of frail older adults is increasing rapidly. Most live independently in their homes and communities. Home-delivered and group meals are essential for people to remain in their homes rather than moving to more expensive institutional settings. Funding for meals is not keeping up with the need.

The Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging projects that, at current funding levels, 487,000 fewer meals will be available to older adults in 2025 than in 2024, a loss of service for 1,900

The Senior Meals and Services Coalition (seniorservicesmn.org), a group of 50+ nonprofit organizations, has a bill in front of the legislature to provide \$11 million per biennium for the Senior Nutrition Program. The dollar amounts in the original bill have already been reduced to \$3.076 in the House version of the bill and even less in the Senate version. Funding at this level will close group dining sites

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served through Meals on Wheels and other programs. We cannot let this stand.

Meals provided through the Senior Nutrition Program go to the neediest: people with low incomes, in poor health or living in rural areas with limited access to healthy food. People receiving meals often don't drive, live alone or have physical conditions that prevent them from preparing nutritious meals. Home-delivered and group meals are one of the most cost-effective ways to support older adults, often preventing the need for more ex-

One recipient, a caregiver for her 93-year-old husband, notes, "The Meals on Wheels program was essential after my right shoulder replacement. I was unable to cook meals and help with everyday needs. Without the meals delivered to our door twice a week, it would not have been possible!"

The need is urgent. The health of vulnerable older adults in our communities depends upon this

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with your legislators today and ask them to ensure Meals on Wheels and similar services are available to those who need them

> Lori Vrolson, Executive Director Central Minnesota Council on Aging



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OBITUARIES

CLEMENT RODEN



Clement Joseph Roden, 69, of Crosby, died on February 8, 2025 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

A Memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at the Bible Baptist Church in Crosby. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service

at the church.

He was born on May 6, 1955 in Crosby to Gerald and Eleanor (Stofferahn) Roden. Clement was united in marriage to Lisa Christensen on May 22, 2004 in Aitkin. Clement was a former employee of North Central Transfer of Crosby and a retired employee of Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

Clement is survived by his wife Lisa; one brother, Tim Roden of Maple Grove; three sisters, Theresa Roden of Milwaukee, WI, Rita Roden of Maple Grove and Monica (Wayne) Richards of Rapid City, SD; niece and nephew, Natasha and Adrian Richards.

Preceding Clement in death are his parents.

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

DONNA JONES



Donna Rae Jones passed away Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 after a battle with the debilitating disease, Alzheimer's. Funeral Mass will be held at

11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 12, 2025 at St. Emily's Catholic Church, Emily. The family will greet friends one hour prior to

Mass at the church on Monday. Following Mass, refreshments and a luncheon will be served at the church. Interment will be at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Cedar Rapids, IA at a later date.

Donna was born on October 12, 1939 in Cedar Rapids, IA, the daughter of Ralph and Gladys Randak. Donna led a full life energetically chasing many endeavors, from co-owning a small chain of dry cleaners, to working at a bank, being a bookkeeper at a grocery store, she was a registered mediation consultant, she ran a teen center, and later owning and running a small family resort on Ruth Lake in Emily, MN, where she spent the majority of her most "happy days". Donna devoted herself to helping at her son's meat market, Emily Meats, to help keep

an eye on her son as she always did.

Donna served on the Emily City Council, Planning and Zoning Board, and was involved in various volunteer organizations such as the Lions Club, Red Hatters, Outing Senior's Club, Snowbirds, Ruth Lake Association, Emily Day Committee, CCW and many, many more. Donna always stressed that she needed to make a difference, and she did in so many countless ways. She wrote the grant for the City of Emily to fund the construction of the Fire Hall and the Groomers Shed as well. Above all else, she was a devout Catholic woman who attended Mass every Sunday without fail, helping out however she could.

She is survived by Tracy (Fawn) Jones, Karen (Ed) Martin and Laura (Steve) Salters, grandchildren: Kale, Cody, Lily (Dillon), Amanda (Catherine), Curt and Erica, great-grandchildren: Theo, Ellawin, Lincoln and Edgar.

Donna is preceded in death by her parents, husband William Tennis Jones and her former husband John Joseph Toms.

Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral Home

ERWIN NEPRUD JR.



Erwin "Buzz" Neprud Jr., 70, of Crosby, died at his home on April 21, 2025

A Memorial Gathering was held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. A prayer service will be held at 3:00 p.m.

He was born on October 22, 1954 in Crookston to Erwin and Marcella Neprud Sr. Buzz married Barbara Aulie n September 2, 1978 in Crosby.

Buzz was active in numerous organizations: life member of the Minnesota Trappers Association (MTA), National Trappers Association (NTA), an inductee into MTA Hall of Fame. He was also 2014 Trapper of the Year and He received the Presidential Award in 2021. For many years he was active in Local Ducks Unlimited. He chaired the Legal Defense Banquet for the MTA as well as the Summer Convention for the MTA. One of his favorite activities was being a youth instructor for the MTA, teaching kids proper trapping techniques.

Buzz was also a member of the Fur Bearers of America, Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association. He was a past member of the Crosby City

Council and served on the Housing Urban Development (HUD) Board for almost 30 years.

Buzz's pride and joy was being with his children and grandchildren; Jackson, Morgan and Tessa as they grew up. Jackson had become his trapping and fishing buddy. One of his favorite times of the year was Christmas, making lefse with his grandchildren. Many special memories of his time hunting every year with his best friend Bob, and his annual fishing trip to Adrian's Fishing Resort with the Crosby guys. Buzz will be missed by many near and far.

Buzz is survived by his wife Barb; son, Jacob (Samantha Bretheim) Neprud of Tofte; daughter, Shelly (Shawn) Schweigert of Murdo, SD; mother, Marcella Neprud of Shelly; three grandchildren, Jackson, Morgan and Tessa; three brothers: Dean (Jennifer) Neprud of Buffalo, WY, Jim (Kellie) Neprud of Crookston and Rob (Tanya) Neprud of Deerwood; three sisters: Marsha (Jim) Kapphahn of Fargo, Lori (Joe) Ardovino of Alabaster, AL and Kristi (Jerome) Freeberg of Lisbon, ND and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding Buzz in death is his father.

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



MICHAEL ALVARDO FLYNN

Michael Jose Alvardo Flynn, a boy, weighing 7 lbs., 9 ozs., was born April 24, 2025, in Aitkin, to Molly Flynn and Jose Alvarado of Aitkin. Grandparents are Michael and Sophie Flynn, Aitkin; Ramon Alvarado, Springfield, MA; and the late Carmen Isa Martinez.

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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

Worship 10:30am

Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Pastor Andrew Jergenson; Sunday Morning Service 10.

Baxter — Heritage Church, Pastor Heath Beard; 8:30. 10 & 11:30 Sundays, 6:30p Wednesdays, iamheritage.org Crosby — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; Worship 10:30 Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS

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

Palisade - Pastor Charlie Bell; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

BAPTIST

697-2662

Aitkin - Northwoods Community Church, Pastor William Verbeke, Worship 10:30, northwoodscommunitychurch.org Baxter - Eagle Brook Church, Worship 9 & 11, www.eaglebrookchurch.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 am.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12, aitkinchurch.com

Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.

Isle - Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m. Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study

Wed., 7 p.m. CATHOLIC

Aitkin* - St. James, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10:30. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 and 4-4:45 pm.

Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Waweru, Sat.4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00. Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sun-

day 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30. Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat.

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

Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www. ihmstemilys.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm. Emily - St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Con-

fession 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

HEBREW/MESSIANIC

Baxter — Lakewood EFC, Pastor Matt Nagel; Worship at 9:00 and 10:45. Wednesday for all ages 6:30 pm.

Crosslake — The Log Church 9:30, Pastor Troy Nelson; 218-692-4141,37218 County Road 66, www.crosslakeefc.org Isle — Pastor Mark Lee; Sunday School 9:00 am; Worship 10:30 am, Sun. Youth group 6:00 pm, Wed. Adult Prayer 6:30 pm and Kids Konnect 6:30 pm

Malmo — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15

Wright - Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

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.

First* — (ELCA) Pastor Reggie Denton, worship Sun. 9am (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. Office open M-Th 7:30am - 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 Inglewood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com. Baxter - Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday

School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.princeofpeacelutheran.church Beaver Township - Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st & 3rd Sun., 10:30.

Brainerd — First Lutheran Church (ELCA) Pastors: Patty Bjorklund and Jordan Gades, Sunday worship 9, Sunday School following worship. Services also available on YouTube and Facebook. 218-829-9552 flcbrainerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd

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

Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.llchurch.org) Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th St. Brainerd, Worship time September through May 8:15am & 10:30am; worship (June through August) 9 am. 218-829-5147. Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org. Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org

Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC. Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9

Brainerd - Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Steve Benson, Sunday Worship 9, Monday Worship 6 pm. Education hour Sunday 10:15 am. 220 N. 8th St. Brainerd. 218-829-4317. www.zionbrainerd.com.

Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct. Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC) Rev. Paul Mattson; Sun. 9:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:15; 10:30 fellowship

Crosby - Zion (LC-MS) Worship 9 (alternates with Immanuel Iron Hub) 218-546-6910.

Crosslake Lutheran Church (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran. com Kristin Oltmann, Pastor / Becky Swanson, Pastor 218-692-3682 • 35960 CR 66, Through Mid-May: Sunday at 9:30am & Wednesday at 6:15pm. Weekly Free Com-

munity 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. Lovaas; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month

Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.

Hillman - Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 11, fellowship follows. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible) Iron Hub - Immanuel (LC-MS) Worship 10:30, Pastor

Donald Klatt 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.

 St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.\ NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Brainerd-Oak Street Chapel, Pastor Todd Wooden,

Worship service is Sunday at 9:30, 523 SF 11th Street Brainerd, 218-454-0984 Brainerd—Remnant Ministry Center, Pastor Ben Davis. Worship service is Sunday at 10am, 512 S 8th St., Suite 2. 218-829-2989.

PENTECOSTAL Baxter — Christ Alive, 12485 Forestview Drive, Baxter, MN 56425. Pastor Walter Starr, 763-316-7270, Sunday 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.

Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11. **REFORMED** Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave

McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm.

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

Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30 1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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, Wednes-

days at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live. Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Youtube live streaming 10 am with fellowship to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please

call the office to sign up: 218-534-3507. Cutler* (South Aitkin County) — Pine Lake Chapel, Pastor Gary Taylor; Worship Sunday 1 p.m. Fellowship follows.

Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9 Emily* — Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Facebook live streaming 8:30 with fellowship to follow. UWF meet on the first Sunday of each month following worship. Men's prayer breakfast 2nd Saturday of each month at 8. Bible

Study Thursday at 6 pm. Fleming* — (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship

10:30; fellowship follows. Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10

McGregor* — (Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45; fellowship follows. Onamia — Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship 10; 2 blks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-

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

Emily — Rev. Jason Gressman; Worship 9; Friendship Time 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

OBITUARIES

JEANNE RISNES



Jeanne Lillian Risnes (Ruschmeier) died peacefully into Jesus' arms on April 18, 2025, at Essentia Health-St. Mary's Duluth Medical Center.

A Memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at the Immanual Lutheran Church in Crosby.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service on Tuesday. Burial will be at Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby.

Jeanne was born on October 20, 1938, in Plato, MN to Ernie and Lillian (Telthorster) Ruschmeier, and moved to Aitkin, MN in 1946 where she graduated from Aitkin High School. In 1954, she married Carl G. Risnes in Aitkin. Jeanne started out her career at 3M in Minneapolis until moving back to Crosby in 1974 where she was a dedicated employee of Scorpion until 1980. She then worked for Crow Wing County until her retirement in 2003. Jeanne was an avid reader, an active member of Immanual Lutheran Church of Crosby, and dedicated her life to taking care of her family. She consistently brought joy to those around her with her love of baking and her outstanding cooking.

She is survived by her children: Kurt Risnes of

Crosby, Scott (Becky) Risnes of Deerwood, Keith (Esperanza) Risnes of San Diego; daughter-in-law, Barb Risnes; siblings: Ilo Kyar of Aitkin and Ernie (Evyone) Ruschmeier of Aitkin; along with 12 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Carl

Risnes; two daughters: Kay Tougas (Risnes) and Denise Risnes; parents; brothers: Hank Ruschmeier, Allen Ruschmeier, James Ruschmeier, and Earl Ruschmeier.

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

ELIZABETH JACKSON



Elizabeth "Louise" Jackson, 94, of Aitkin, formerly of Eveleth and Minneapolis, died Sunday, April 20, 2025 in Rivers Edge Assisted Living, Aitkin.

Private services will be held. She was born May 11, 1930 in Eveleth to George and Mary (Znidarsich) Fleming. Louise

enjoyed crocheting, walks to the river with her dog and especially spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Louise is survived by her children: Robert (Lenore) Jackson, Richard (Nancy) Jackson, David (Virginia) Jackson and Lynn (Mark) Bleeker; grandchildren: Steven (Amy) Jackson, Leanne (Steve) Girard, Megan (William) Charles, Kyle Bleeker, Lauren (Trevor) Huset, Adam (Alissa) Jackson and Christopher (Katie) Jackson; great-grandchildren: Brody, Jasper and Emerson Girard, Connor and Stella Jackson and Charlie and Archie Huset, Camden, Walker and Carson Jackson and Emery Bleeker; sister, Kathy Venne; other relatives and friends.

Louise is preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Mary Ann Petersen and Margret Sinto.

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

GAYLE MOCABEE

Gayle Elizabeth Mocabee, 77, of Aitkin, passed away on April 21, 2025 at Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for a later date. Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral

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Women shatter ceilings and build bridges at She Leads conference

By ANN SCHWARTZ Women from around

Central Minnesota learned, shared and pitched their business ideas at the She Leads Shattering Ceilings Conference held at Madden's in East Gull Lake on April 26.

Hosted by Kristi Ackley of Growth by Design, the event provided a unique opportunity for networking and mentorship. Attendees participated in workshops designed to enhance their business acumen, build confidence, and empower them to take the next step in their career journeys. The goal is for women to support one another both professionally and personally.

Julie Page of Impact



Al Kristi Ackley of Growth by Design

Coaching led a session on "Elevating Team Performance — the Power of Connected Communication."

Successful communication at work leads to 146 percent better employee retention and 25 percent better productivity. Page described some toxic communication processes in her past workplaces. One time she went on a zoom call and was "crucified" by four managers about an email she sent. Four against one and she wasn't allowed to speak at all. At that time, she didn't know it was improper to use capital letters and highlight text in an email.

While employers give top billing to technical skills, it is the building of successful relationships that determine 70 percent of a team's success. "Who fits in with your team? It's important to value people and be present, to listen," emphasized Page. She said the one time she hired someone for their technical skills and not their ability to contribute to a team led to the worst hire she ever made. "I ended up having to fire that person six months later."



Stearns County Commissioner Tarryl Clark

Teams must first build trust, then manage conflict, be committed and demonstrate accountability. When all those blocks are in place, results follow.

Tarryl Clark is a Stearns County commissioner and a former Minnesota state senator. She is only the second woman elected to the county board in Stearns County's 170-year history.

Participants in her work-

shop chatted about changes they wanted to see, interests they wanted to expand on, positive results they wanted to stimulate and issues they care about. "We op-

erate from a spirit of abundance. Just because one person does well doesn't mean everyone else does poorly," Clark emphasized.

She talked about all the areas counties are involved in that citizens can be involved with: trails, transportation, bikes, parks, watersheds, public health, libraries and more.

"Educate local people about your issues and always have a story to share," Clark advised.

The next She Leads Ceilings Conference. is set for September

26, 2025, in Rochester at the Rochester Arts Center. Partnerships are being explored for another Northern Minnesota event in the spring of 2026.



With vibrant yellow glasses signaling her personality, this participant builds a house of cards to encourage teamwork at the She Leads Shattering

Ann Schwartz photos





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