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Sat., June 14, 2025

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IN PEACE SONS BURY THEIR FATHERS. IN WAR FATHERS BURY THEIR SONS.

Honoring our military

This year's Aitkin County Fair is set to be extra special as the Ripple River Quilt Guild proudly presents a Wall of Honor to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the military, both past and present.

From July 9 through July 12, visitors to the fair will have the chance to walk through the Creative Arts Building and see the faces of local heroes, immortalized in a moving display of photographs celebrating their service.

The Wall of Honor will showcase photos of Aitkin County's military members—whether they served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf War, or any other conflict, as well as those who continue to serve today. The display will be a poignant

reminder of the sacrifices made by our local service members.

You can help

If you have a photo of an Aitkin County service member—alive or no longer with us—you are invited to contribute. To be part of this meaningful tribute, simply send a photograph no larger than 4x6 inches (non-returnable) of your loved one in uniform, along with their branch of service and dates of service.

You can send your photo via email to dlamundson1@aol.com or ckbuhlmann@gmail.com, or if you prefer, mail it to: Cathy Buhlmann, 33966 Pioneer Ave., Aitkin, MN 56431

To ensure the photo is included in the display, please submit it by July 1.

GUN SHOW

Fri. & Sat., June 20 & 21

Brainerd National Guard Armory

1115 Wright Street, Brainerd

Friday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission \$5, Children under 12 Free when accompanied by an adult.
Not admitted unless 18 yrs. or with an adult.

Saturday is free with your hand stamp from Friday.

All local, State and
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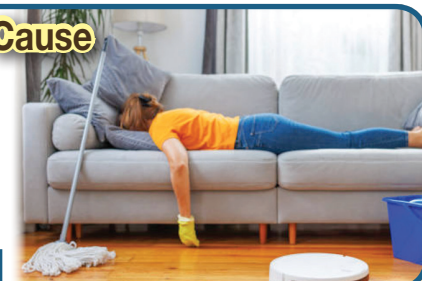
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Avoid longer wait times for service as the temperatures rise!



Popular Brainerd restaurant Front Street Café closed following fire

By ANN SCHWARTZ

A very popular local diner, the Front Street Café in downtown Brainerd, is closed indefinitely following a fire in the building on the morning of Wednesday, June 4. Two other businesses that flank the restaurant, Thairapy and Fusion Jewelry Studio, were also impacted by smoke and fire damage.

The café, usually full of local people Monday through Friday, posted this on their Facebook page following the fire:

“Dear Friends and Family, As many of you have probably already heard we were affected by the fire on Front Street. We will be closed for the foreseeable future, but we are thankful for the quick work by the numerous fire fighters who took part in this incident. We are thankful that everyone got out of the building and is safe. We will provide updates as things progress, and we are able to get back inside the building and assess things. We thank you for your thoughts and prayers. We look forward to having you back at our tables in the future.

Thank you, Bob and family Front Street Café”

Fusion Jewelry posted that they found another location downtown to work for the short term. Thairapy plans to post regular updates and return to normal as soon as possible.

Maintenance workers for the apartment units above the café on the 600 block of Front Street, discovered the fire at just before 11 a.m. on June 4. The Purlinger Investment workers called 911 and began evacuating residents. The 1910-era building houses 10 apartments and three businesses.

Through thick smoke, workers and the police knocked on doors and got all the tenants and one cat out. Firefighters, upon arrival, found smoke in the apartments’ hallways, utility room and attic.

Little Falls and Pequot Lakes Departments responded and firefighters fought the fire by pulling down ceilings and ventilating the roof. Deerwood and Nisswa also responded, with about 60 firefighters on the scene. Also assisting were Crow Wing County Sheriff’s Office, Brainerd Police, Brainerd Public Works, CenterPoint Energy, and Brainerd Public Utilities.

The fire was cleared about 2:30 p.m. and residents were able to return later for their belongings. They were only allowed in briefly to get essential belongings and were not able to move back in, according to Brainerd Fire Chief Tim Holmes. The residents were referred to the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Crow Wing County Public Health for help.

Apartments were damaged by fire and water and the businesses by water and smoke.

This is the comment from the Brainerd Fire Department;

“In the face of an unfortunate event, true collaboration shined through.

The Brainerd Fire Department is deeply grateful for the incredible support and teamwork shown yesterday by our mutual aid partners from the Deerwood, Little Falls, Nisswa, and Pequot Lakes fire departments. Your quick response and dedication made a difference when it mattered most.

A special thank you as well to our partners at the Brainerd Police Department, Crow Wing County Sheriff’s Office, Brainerd Public Utilities, North Memorial Health, and the team of county dispatchers who coordinated efforts seamlessly—your behind-the-scenes work is the backbone of every successful response.

And to the Lakes Area Heroes organization, thank you for fueling our team with lunch and encouragement. Your thoughtfulness doesn’t go unnoticed.

This kind of teamwork reminds us that while emergencies may be difficult, the strength of our community lies in how we come together.”



Beer & Bacon is Back!

Father's Day Weekend:
Beer & Bacon Bonanza

Saturday, June 14

Craft beer Tasting 12-3 p.m.
BBQ Cookout 12-3 p.m.
Live Music with Bruce Archer on the Deck 6 p.m.

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Saturday Night Rotating Cookout 5-8 p.m.
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READER RIBBETS

Ridiculous Reader Ribbet

With All Due Respect ... Why do you even publish something like the obviously false statement of Brian Smith, Brainerd (Vol. 26 • Issue 23, June 7, 2025)? It doesn't take a googling genius to verify that his absurd assertion that Canada is already a U.S. state is a lie. This can only serve to embarrass the man, but worse than that it gives oxygen to his other absurdities that far too many people are always ready to believe - that government is corrupt and our schools have failed us. A case might be made for corruption within the current government, but I don't think that's what he meant. As for failing schools, they do a surprisingly good job considering how they're always under attack and starved for funds. I can't speak to education outcome data in the State of Minnesota, but in fairness to Mr. Smith, whatever system of education he grew up with, it clearly failed him. Donald Lehnhoff Crosby

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- June**
14th - Pork 'n Ride hosted by the Over The Hills Gang ATV Club beginning at 9 a.m., Log Cabin Bar, Emily Proceeds are donations towards trail maintenance.
18th - 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.
19th - Music in the Park, 5- 8 p.m., at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake. Call Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218 546-8131 for more info.
20th - 22nd Midwest Mountain Bike Fest Expo, Croft Historical Park, Crosby. Scavenger Hunt Challenge and Vintage Mountain Bike Meetup and Group Ride
21st - Serpent Lake Association Annual Meeting at Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood, coffee and Mac-Daddy Donuts starting at 8 a.m. and meeting will begin at 9 a.m.
21st - Fifty Lakes Day Celebration. Food, vendors, games, bags tournament and more starting at 10 a.m. Pork roast begins at 4 p.m., fireworks at dusk Call Ann at 218- 763-3113 for more info.
21st - Dawson Strong Ride (motorcycle or vehicle) starting at 9 a.m. at the Moose Lodge located at 22 Fourth Street NE in Aitkin. Cost is \$25 for 130-mile ride at 11 a.m. and the after ride meal.
21st - Nature Rocks - a Concert for Conservation Block party and fundraiser in downtown Aitkin. Gates open at 5 p.m., 6 -7:30 p.m. - The Jorgensens and 8 - 9:30 p.m. - GB Leighton Some picnic table seating will be available, but PLEASE BRING YOUR CHAIRS. For tickets and information www.naturerocksconcert.com.
21st - Scorpion Homecoming Summer Edition, noon - 5:00 p.m. Open house format. Hosted by the Scorpion History Museum, 21950 Rocca Road, Ironton MN 56455. For more details visit: www.facebook.com/scorpionsnowmobiles
24th - Art in the Park at George H. Crosby Memorial Park in downtown Crosby, 2 to 4 p.m. All ages are welcome. The event offers free Craft Sticks art project, snacks fun activities for all ages. Connect, create and enjoy the ultimate community experience. For more information contact Tyler Scull at 612-212-5772 or Hallett Library at 218-546-8005.
July
1st - Art in the Park at George H. Crosby Memorial Park in downtown Crosby, 2 to 4 p.m. All ages are welcome. The event offers free Paint Day art project, snacks fun activities for all ages. Connect, create and enjoy the ultimate community experience. For more information contact Tyler Scull at 612-212-5772 or Hallett Library at 218-546-8005.
4th - Fourth of July Celebration in Crosby. Parade, live music, food, raffle, beer garden and more hosted by the Crosby Fire Department and Auxiliary.
5th - Fireworks display over Lawrence Lake in Out-ng at dusk
8th - Art in the Park at George H. Crosby Memorial Park in downtown Crosby, 2 to 4 p.m. All ages are welcome. The event offers free Kitchen Art project, snacks fun activities for all ages. Connect, create and enjoy the ultimate community experience. For more information contact Tyler Scull at 612-212-5772 or Hallett Library at 218-546-8005.
9th - Cuyuna Lake Chamber 25th Annual Golf Tournament starting at 8 a.m. at Cuyuna Rolling Hills Golf Course in Deerwood.
10th - Music in the Park, 5- 8 p.m., at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake. Call Cuyuna Lakes Chamber at 218 546-8131 for more info.
5th - Art in the Park at George H. Crosby Memorial Park in downtown Crosby, 2 to 4 p.m. All ages are welcome. The event offers free Painting without Paint art project, snacks fun activities for all ages. Connect, create and enjoy the ultimate community experience. For more information contact Tyler Scull at 612-212-5772 or Hallett Library at 218-546-8005.
18th -20th- Garrison Play Days. Live music, parade, car show, craft fair, food trucks, beer tent and family-friendly fun on the west side of Mille Lacs Lake.
19th-Celebrate Emily Day. Parade, live music, raffle, games for youth, Miss Emily contest, vendors, food, beer garden, fireworks and more. Call 218-546-8131 for more details.
19th - Joe Granholm benefit 4 to 7 p.m. at the Deerstand in Deerwood. For more information call The Deerstand at 218- 534-925
19th - Car Show in Emily, a.m.- noon by the Emily Fire Hall (located at 20837 County Road 1 east of State Highway 6). No entry fee to display your car or truck. Admission is free.

Send your community events to
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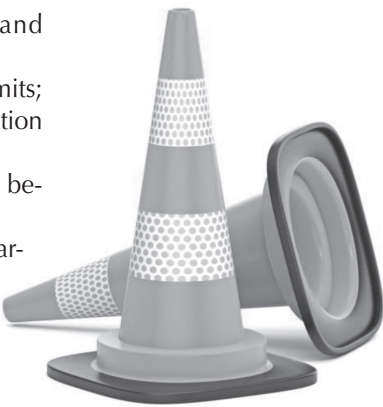
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Night work on Highway 210

Motorists traveling through Baxter on Highway 210 can expect crews working 24-7 as overnight paving operations begin Monday, June 16, reports the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Work will occur from 7 a.m. Monday to noon Friday with lane closures, 24-7, on both directions of Highway 210 through early July. The work will be done in segments, so expect the work area and traffic control to change and move. Slow down and watch for heavy equipment and workers, especially at night when sight distances lessen. All lanes be open on weekends with some changes to access; follow signs along frontage roads. MnDOT asks travelers to always slow down when approaching a work zone, then navigate through with care and caution. Other reminders: Never enter a roadway that has been blocked with barriers or cones Stay alert; work zones constantly change Watch for workers and slow-moving equipment Obey posted speed limits; fine for a work zone violation is \$300 Minimize distractions behind the wheel When complete in early July, motorists will benefit from a smoother road surface, updated drainage, and improved access and safety along



End of 2025 legislative session

The Minnesota House finalized the state's full two-year budget during a special session. Rep. Ron Kresha (R - Little Falls) highlighted that the negotiation process was marked by bipartisan cooperation which produced bills with provisions desired by both parties. Due to delays during the regular session, the special session became necessary to complete budget work before the new biennium begins on July 1st. Protecting non-public pupil aid and funding for rural EMS and hospitals were two main goals of House Republicans this session. Educational choice was protected by providing funding for non public schools, reaffirming parental/familial rights. Additionally, rural EMS and hospital services were protected from DFL proposed cuts. These services provide lifesaving care to Minnesotans across the state and the allocated funding comes at a time when many rural providers are sinking under the weight of unfunded mandates and increasing costs. "We passed legislation that works for all Minnesotans, not just those that live in the cities," said Rep. Kresha. "I am proud of the work that we did to deliver relief and support to our rural schools, small businesses, ambulances, hospitals, and more. As we transition into interim, I know that there is more work to be done, and I look forward to continuing this progress next session." "Against the backdrop of partisan disfunction in Wash-

Highway 210 through Baxter. For more information, visit the project web page: www.mndot.gov/d3/projects/baxter/. For real-time traffic impacts on Minnesota state highways, visit 511mn.org or get the free app at Google Play or the App Store.

LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, June 14, 2025)
CITY OF CUYUNA NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
All cities are required by law to monitor their drinking water for each year. For the period from January 1 to December 31, 2024, no violations of federal drinking water standards were found for the Cuyuna city drinking water. The full report of the City of Cuyuna's 2024 Drinking Water Report will not be sent to individual users, but is available upon request.
Please contact:
Bill Bedard,
Clerk-Treasurer
City of Cuyuna
P.O. Box 536
Deerwood, MN 56444
(218) 546-5883

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, June 14, 2025)
LIBBY TOWNSHIP JUNE MEETING
The Libby Township Board will meet online at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 to discuss matters that may come before the board. The June 17 meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Contact Jane Jewett, clerk, at willowsedge.janesfarm@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.
Dated this 4th day of June, 2025
Jane Grimsbo Jewett
Clerk, Libby Township 2.5

NewsHopper
Deadlines are normally
Mondays at Noon.
However, there will be an
EARLY DEADLINE
Friday, June 13th
for the issue of June 21.

3.48

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WRG opens new \$5 million office building in Deerwood Township



The new office building on the Deerwood Shortcut houses workers from a multi-million dollar firm with corporate headquarters in Deerwood. Submitted photo

By ANN SCHWARTZ
Water Resources Group (WRG), the parent company of Rice Lake Construction, has completed a new 10,000-square-foot

office building in Deerwood Township. The \$5 million facility is located on Highway 210, just east of Deerwood. The building will serve as the central office for approximately 40 WRG employees supporting the company's various subsidiaries. Staff recently moved into the facility and interior furnishing work is nearing completion. WRG provides a range of corporate services—including accounting, safety, virtual design and construction (VDC) modeling, col-

laborative delivery, human resources, and equipment management—for Rice Lake Construction, based in Deerwood, and Rice Lake West, based in Denver, Colorado. The company specializes in building water and wastewater treatment plants, infrastructure, and a range of commercial and industrial facilities. The company traces its roots to 1984, when John and JR Spalj founded Rice Lake Construction. WRG was later formed in 2018 as a holding company ahead of its acquisition of

Denver-based Stanek Constructors, which was subsequently rebranded as Rice Lake West. The company is currently owned by Luke Spalj, Wade Leonard, Paul Aanes, and Dustin Foss. WRG subsidiaries have completed over \$3 billion in construction work. More than 75% of that total has been in the service of municipalities and water districts. WRG now averages roughly \$300 million in annual sales. The privately-held company employs around 400 workers and collaborates with hundreds

of subcontractors and vendors across the Midwest. WRG is recognized as one of the top 400 contractors in the United States and is also ranked among the top 200 firms in the environmental water sector. According to Luke Spalj, the decision to build the new office came as WRG faced a growing shortage of office space driven by increased work in both water infrastructure and commercial markets. The new facility is expected to ease that strain and help attract new talent to the company.

Community comes together to support Joe Granholm after fire

A benefit event will be held on July 19 to help Joe Granholm, a Deerwood resident who tragically lost his home

in a fire on May 15. The fire, which broke out in the early hours of the morning, left Granholm with nothing but

the clothes on his back, but thanks to his quick-thinking dog, Molly, and the help of neighbors and local author-

ities, he narrowly escaped what could have been a much worse outcome.

Granholm was awakened around 1:30 a.m. by his dog, Molly, who was urgently pawing at his face. Disoriented, Granholm soon realized his home was filled with thick smoke and the sound of blaring smoke alarms. With no time to spare, he and Molly managed to climb out of a window to safety, assisted by a neighbor and responding officers from the police department.

After being airlifted to Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) due to smoke inhalation, Granholm spent the night in care but has since been recovering. The fire, however, left him with no belongings and no place to stay, devastating both his home and his sense of security. **The community rallies:**

In light of this tragedy, the Deerwood community has come together to support Granholm. On Saturday, July 19, a benefit event will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. at The

Deerstand in Deerwood. The event will feature a cash raffle at 6 p.m., with tickets available at The Deerstand and other local businesses. All proceeds will go directly to Granholm to help him rebuild his life.

Joe Granholm's story is a reminder of the power of community, and his resilience in the face of disaster speaks volumes about his character. Let's come together to show our support and help Joe rebuild what was lost in the blaze.

Mark your calendars for July 19, and let's make this benefit a success—because no one should have to face hardship alone.



THEA SIMENSTAD

Thea Marie Simenstad, a girl, weighing 6 lbs., 6 ozs., was born June 3, 2025, in Aitkin, to Heather and Joseph Simenstad of Aitkin. Grandparents are Gaylen and Leslie Goble, Aitkin; the late Raymond Simenstad and Betty Simenstad, Pequot Lakes.

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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; hillicityagchurch@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.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.; fbcbraainerd.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/Wabright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
Crosby* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass: Thurs. and Fri. at 8; Tues at noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30.
Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.ihmstemiys.org; 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. Wednesdays 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 Kconnect 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.
First* — (ELCA) Pastor Reggie Denton, worship Sun. 9am (also available via livestream on YouTube — First Lutheran Church, Aitkin) and (broadcast on KKN 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 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.lchchurch.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, May 18-Labor Day: Sun. Indoor 8:30am, Outdoor 10am Indoor: 35960 CR 66, Outdoor: 14019 Daggett Pine Rd., Weekly Free Community Drive Thru Meals-To-Go - Wednesdays from 5-6pm - 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 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 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)
Malmö — Bethesda (ELCA) Rev. James Muske: Sun. Worship 9am. Fellowship following Service. Communion every Sunday.
McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.
McGrath — Zion (ELCA), Worship 9; SS 9.
McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (LCMC), Pastor Lorelei 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.)

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Aitkin—Cedar Lake Norwegian Lutheran Church, service is the 3rd Sunday of the month May-October at 11am , 3100 Pioneer Ave., Aitkin.
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.uccbbrainerdmn.org

UNITED METHODIST
Aitkin* — Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live.
Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Youtube live streaming 10 am with fellowship to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please call the office to sign up: 218-534-3507.
Cutler* (South Aitkin County) — Pine Lake Chapel, Pastor Gary Taylor; Worship Sunday 1 p.m. Fellowship follows.
Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9
Emily* — Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Facebook live streaming 8:30 with fellowship to follow. UJWF 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 bks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947
WESLEYAN
Emily — Rev. Jason Gressman; Worship 9; Friendship Time 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

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SALES

New Life Church 11- 1st St. SW, Aitkin is having a Rummage/Bake/Plant Sale. Friday June 13th, 9am to 4pm Saturday June 14th, 9am to 1pm

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Drink beer, do good

Pints for Purpose to support Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew

It's easy to give back while sipping on your favorite craft brew. The Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew is teaming up with local spots for the annual Pints for Purpose event—and all you need to do is raise a glass (or two).

From now until the end of the month, \$1 from every Fat Tire or Voodoo Ranger IPA you purchase at participating bars and restaurants will go directly to supporting the Cuyuna Lakes MTB Crew. Whether you're an avid rider or just a fan of the stunning trails in the Cuyuna Lakes area, this is a simple—and delicious—way to help maintain and expand the area's world-class mountain biking trails.

Participating locations are Boulder Tap House, and Grizzly's Wood-Fired Grill in Baxter; Croft Kitchen, Iron Range Eatery, Rafferty's Pizza, Red Raven, and Trailside Tavern in Crosby; and Hudson Smokehouse in Ironton.

Each sip you take contributes to the continued growth of the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike system, which draws riders from near and far to experience some of the most scenic and challenging trails in the Midwest. Whether you're on the trails or just enjoying the view from the bar, your drink will directly support trail maintenance, improvements, and future development for the biking community.

The month of June also brings two exciting events that you won't want to miss:

- Cuyuna Fest presented

by New Belgium on Saturday, June 21 from 5 to 10 p.m. at Trailside Tavern in Crosby.

Bike by day, party by night! Head to Trailside Tavern for Cuyuna Fest, where you can enjoy live music, raffles, cold drinks, and all the trail-loving energy you can handle. It's a celebration of everything that makes Cuyuna Lakes special—community, biking, and, of course, craft beer.

Cuyuna Fest is free to attend and open to the public. Be sure to attend and bring your family and friends for happy hour at 5 p.m., backyard picnic-style dinner at 6

p.m., live bluegrass music by "The Lake Monsters" at 9 p.m., raffle with prizes including a custom medium Wilde Supertramp bike at 10 p.m.

- Tap into the Power of the Community on Tuesday, June 24 from 11 a.m.- 10 p.m. at the Boulder Tap House in Baxter.

As you eat, drink, you will support the crew, as 15% of all sales that day will be donated to the Cuyuna Lakes MTB Crew. It's a simple way to enjoy a great meal and give back to the trails you love—all while having a good time with friends and family.

So, grab your friends, hit

up one of these local spots, and raise a pint to both good times and a good cause. Because, as the saying goes—Drink beer. Do good.

For more information about upcoming events and ways to get involved, visit the Cuyuna Lakes MTB Crew website at www.cuyunalakesmtb.com/upcoming-events.

Elk-citement returns: Minnesota opens rare elk hunt lottery

Big dreams are built on broad antlers—at least for Minnesota hunters. But this year, those dreams will be harder to draw.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has officially opened applications for its 2025 elk

hunting season, offering just four coveted licenses for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to harvest one of the state's majestic wild elk.

Hunters have until Thursday, July 3, to toss their hat into the ring (or rather, the lottery) for a shot at one of

these rare tags.

"We are reducing opportunities for elk harvest this year to make sure Minnesota's elk populations continue to thrive," said Kelsie LaSharr, the DNR's elk coordinator. "The number of permits available is based on the lower-than-ex-

pected number of elk we counted during our 2025 aerial flights and recent trends in population growth."

Fewer herds, tighter odds

Elk in Minnesota roam only select areas of the northwest, where three primary herds—Grygla, Kittson Central, and Caribou-Vita—have long been managed through careful monitoring and limited hunting access. But two of those zones, Grygla and Kittson Central, are closed to state-licensed hunters this year due to population concerns.

It's a once-in-a-lifetime draw, those selected this year will not be eligible again—unless they decline the permit, in which case they gain preference points toward future draws.

How to Apply

Applications are available at any Minnesota license agent, online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense, or by phone at 888-665-4236. There's a \$5 nonrefundable application fee, and winners will pay \$288 for the full license.

Hunters lucky enough to bag an elk will also be required to register the animal within 24 hours and provide biological samples to help the DNR monitor herd health.

This year, no tags will be available through the DNR's 10-year preference pool or for eligible agricultural landowners within the elk range, making the 2025 season especially exclusive.

For more information on the hunt and Minnesota's elk, visit mndnr.gov/hunting/elk.

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

The landfill is open only to residents of Crow Wing County for recycling and disposal needs.



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Regional artisans consider “Uncertainty” at Ripple River Gallery



Fiber artist Kristen Anderson, Big Fork, created the felted wool panel, “Peace in the Entropy,” as a reminder to find calm amidst the chaos.

“Uncertainty,” the theme for Ripple River Gallery’s semi-annual invitational group show, opened Wednesday, June 11. While the theme was set way back in January, uncertainty has become the word of the day—just turn on the news and you’ll hear it. The show, which features 12 regional artisans, continues through July 13. The public is invited to meet the artists at a reception from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, June 14.

Artists often talk of the art of risk rather than of certainty.

The final outcome of a piece of clay depends on the kiln, for example. A block of wood on the lathe might result in a bowl or a vase, or might be relegated to the firewood pile. An idea may travel successfully from concept to creation, or it may not.

In this show artists consider this uncertain world where change is constant and unpredictable, where truth is nebulous and accepted norms seem to fall by the wayside. “Uncertainty” includes a range of viewpoints, expres-

sions and media—felted wool, glass, fiber, mixed media, photography, printmaking and painting—all exploring the show’s theme.

Margie Helstrom, Hermantown, who offers three paintings for the exhibit, says, “I have operated out of knowing that we do not know what the next second of life will bring. To navigate this un-certainty with some semblance of sanity and peace I continually choose to let go and trust in the higher power of my understanding.”

Several artists focused their work on uncertainty sparked by change. “Aquanaut,” a linocut print by Anna Marie Pavlik, features images of single cell diatoms, which can indicate change in water quality. Inspired by a poem, printmaker Emily Gray Koeher’s monoprint captures the loss of a family farm and the uncertainty of the future.

Kristen Anderson’s felted wool panel, “Peace in the Entropy,” and Judith Bergerson’s painting, “An Exercise in Hope (Finding Order)” both offer a reminder to find calm within the chaos.

Regional artisans whose

work is also included in “Uncertainty” include mixed media artists Brenna Busse, Rebne Karchevsky and Amy Sharpe; stained glass artist, Becky Sovde; photographers, Nancy Bundy and John Pearson; and fiber artist Beverly

Martin.

Ripple River Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

For more information call 218-678-2575 or e-mail ripplerivergallery@gmail.com.

Keep conservation efforts afloat

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is casting a wide net—and it’s not for fish.

In an effort to strengthen partnerships and protect local lakes and watersheds, the SWCD is calling on all lake associations within Crow Wing County to submit or update their contact information. The move is part of a broader initiative to ensure that key conservation news, program updates, and funding opportunities flow smoothly to the right people.

Unfortunately, the district’s current contact list has a few gaps—meaning some associations could be missing out on important updates that affect their lakes and surrounding ecosystems.

That’s where the SWCD needs the community’s help. Lake associations can easily check and update their contact details by visiting cwsxcd.org/news. It’s a quick step that can ensure a steady stream of support, resources, and collaboration.

The Crow Wing SWCD

plays a crucial role in local conservation, providing leadership and implementing voluntary projects that help protect soil, water, and natural habitats across the county and beyond. From shoreline restoration to erosion control, their work directly impacts the quality and health of the region’s beloved lakes.

So whether you’re part of a well-established lake association or just dipping your toes into organizing one, now’s the time to make sure your contact info is on file.



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