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Hopps appointed as next Crow Wing County Attorney



Crow Wing County Commissioners (left to right): Jamie Lee, Jon Lubke, Paul Koering, Chair Vice Chair Rosemary Franzen, and Steve Barrows appointed Kelsey Hopps (center) as the next Crow Wing County Attorney.

In a unanimous decision, the Crow Wing County Board has appointed Kelsey Hopps as the next Crow Wing County Attorney, effective upon the retirement of current County Attorney Don Ryan on September 12, 2025. Hopps will serve the remainder of Ryan's elected term, through December 31, 2026, with an election for a full four-year term scheduled for November 3, 2026.

At the August 12, 2025, board meeting, the County Board expressed their full confidence in Hopps, recognizing her as the ideal candi-

date to continue the work of the office.

"We knew the retirement was coming down the pipeline, and we took a close look at the deep bench strength of our staff and asked them to apply. Encouraging internal applications reflects our commitment to a healthy organizational culture and the incredible talent we've cultivated over the years," said County Board Chair Steve Barrows. "The board is extremely confident in Kelsey's ability to take the baton and ensure a smooth

Continued on Page 3

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Motorcycle club aims to prevent teen suicide through Smiles for Jake



Sarah Smith is pleased to see a \$2,000 donation for suicide prevention in the local area through Smiles for Jake. The Iron Range Motorcycle Club, Cuyuna Chapter, raised money from a May 24, 2025 ride. Ann Schwartz photo

By ANN SCHWARTZ

Moose, of the Iron Range Motorcycle Club, Cuyuna chapter, is saddened by teen suicide. “In my family and friends group we’ve had five in the last two years,” said Moose.

The Iron Range Motorcycle Club, Cuyuna Chapter, is affiliated with the Mesabi Range Club. Cuyuna maintains a clubhouse in rural Brainerd and has members from throughout the region: Hillman, Garrison, Pierz, Little Falls, Brainerd, Crosby, Aitkin and Cohasset. The Mesabi Range Chapter has existed since 1973, and the Cuyuna Range Chapter is five years old.

Moose explains: “We used to have a Sugar Ride where we donated the proceeds to diabetes-based charities. We like to keep our funds local and decided to donate this year’s funds to Smiles for Jake, to prevent teen suicide.

“We are a charity-oriented non-profit organization,” explained Goat Olson, club founder. “Our mission is to try to have an impact on our community in a positive way. All events and runs we do always pick a charity of some sort to help. In the past we’ve given to community food banks and to families who have lost their homes to fire. The proceeds from the next event will be to combat domestic violence and teenage suicide.

Sarah Smith, the new executive director of Smiles for Jake, met the club members at their clubhouse to accept a \$2,000 donation from their ride on May 24, 2025. Throughout the motorcycle riding season, the club has eight ride events hosted by themselves and the Mesabi chapter. They also meet and ride informally for companionship.

The May 24 ride convened at Dunnmires, Brainerd. They rode to the Pickled Loon Emily; Knuckleheads Hill City;

two bars in Palisade -- The Rustic and They Muni. They proceeded to Block North in Aitkin and finished off at the Garrison VFH

“We have lots of stops and we raise money through entry fees, raffles and donations of cash,” Moose said of the fundraising. All the money is raised through the ride with the establishments throwing in to increase the total.

About Smiles for Jake

Jake Haapajoki was your average 16-year-old kid. He was a son, a brother, a nephew, a cousin, a grandson, a friend, a boyfriend, an athlete, and active in his church. Jake had a family that loved and supported him in all he did. Jake’s smile was nearly constant when he was in the presence of his friends and social environments. His smile could light up a room like no other. His wild hair and a unique love for his shoes were dominant in his handsome self. He loved candy.

Jake couldn’t see an end to his pain. Jake made a mistake. Suicide is always a mistake. Jake took his life on February 21, 2018.

Jake’s family and friends, through their despair and grief, have launched the Smiles for Jake Movement to begin work to eliminate suicide and provide hope to all that suffer from darkness and despair. The hashtag #wearealljake was created to represent everyone needing an extra smile, a hug, a high five, kind words, or simply a moment of attention.

What does the S.M.I.L.E. Advocate Program Teach?

S.M.I.L.E. (Supporting, Mentoring, Inspiring Life in Everyone) advocates mental health awareness and suicide prevention programs to educate individuals on various aspects related to mental health and suicide prevention.

This program is taught to area businesses, teachers and bus drivers for a one hour CEU and they also teach directly to students in 9-12th grades.

Advocates who volunteer for Smiles for Jake learn to recognize suicide warning signs, such as mood changes, expressions of hopelessness, social withdrawal and giving away possessions. The program emphasizes taking any mention of suicidal thoughts seriously and seeking help immediately.

If you are feeling down, you can chat with a friend at <https://www.smilesforjake.org/get-support/>.

If you feel hopeless and are thinking about taking your life, call or text 988 now. Speaking with someone today will help.



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Minnesota DNR cautions wild rice harvesters to make sure rice is ripe

Wild rice season opened Aug. 15 and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds harvesters that rice stands must be ripe before they can be legally harvested.

“The green rice law helps protect wild rice for future years by requiring people to wait until rice is ripe before harvesting,” said Ann Geisen, Minnesota DNR wildlife lake specialist. “People interested in harvesting need to know the regulations and can check out our website and newsletter for wild rice conditions this year, tips on harvesting and other important information to know before heading

out.”

Harvesters are allowed to take ripe wild rice during the harvesting season that runs from Aug. 15 through Sept. 30, but Minnesota’s green rice law makes it illegal to harvest unripe or “green” rice, even within the dates of the harvest season. So, although rice beds might look like they are ready, ricers must make sure the grain is ripe and falling easily from the stalk before attempting to harvest it.

Harvesters are required to be licensed unless they are residents under 18 years of age and accompanied by a licensed harvester. Tribal band members who possess a

valid Tribal identification card from a federally recognized Tribe located in Minnesota are deemed to have a license to harvest wild rice, and do not need the additional state wild rice harvesting license.

Harvesters also need to know where it may be unlawful for them to harvest wild rice, including national parks, national wildlife refuges and on American Indian reservations. Details about these restrictions and other regulations are available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/regulations/wildrice/index.html).

Minnesota DNR Wildlife staff compile a wild rice

harvesting outlook report each year. The report will be available by Aug. 14 on the Minnesota DNR’s wild rice management webpage (mndnr.gov/wildlife/shallow-lakes/wildrice.html), along with license, regulation and safety information, and DNR contact information to call about local conditions.

Early reports from Minnesota DNR and Tribal biologists indicate highly variable conditions across central and northern Minnesota, with individual waters ranging from fair to great.

“Every year, DNR Wildlife staff remind harvesters of the importance of scouting

waters before the season begins,” Geisen said. “This year scouting will be especially important to find sites with harvestable beds.”

Higher water levels on lakes and rivers means most rice stands should be accessible by canoe.

The Minnesota DNR sends out periodic newsletters about rice harvesting topics. People can sign up to receive the email newsletters on the Minnesota DNR homepage (mndnr.gov) by finding the “Get email updates” box, entering an email address, and selecting the “Go” button. Then in the subscription list, check the box for “Wild rice

harvesting.”

Since wild rice is ripening at the same time as Minnesota’s early waterfowl hunting seasons, over-water waterfowl hunters are urged to be aware of wild ricers nearby no matter where they hunt. Those who plan to hunt the early teal season on the Leech Lake, White Earth, or Mille Lacs reservations should be aware of hunting restrictions on or near wild rice waters. Important information about these restrictions is available on page 9 of the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting).

Hopps appointed as next Crow Wing County Attorney | Continued from Page 1

transition. Her leadership will continue the upward trajectory of the County Attorney’s office, and we trust she will carry forward that responsibility with integrity, professionalism, and vision.”

Hopps, who has served as an Assistant County Attorney in the Crow Wing County Attorney’s office since March 2018, brings a wealth of experience to the role. Before joining the County Attorney’s office, she worked as a law clerk in the Crow Wing County Ninth Judicial District. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from St. Cloud State University and earned her Juris Doctorate from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul.

Her appointment marks a significant milestone in her

career, as she follows in the footsteps of her late grandfather, Glen Gustafson, who was a respected attorney in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Hopps has deep roots in the region, spending her childhood visiting a family cabin on Lake Hubert. She and her husband Adam are proud parents to four children.

“I am honored to have been appointed to continue this vital work. Ensuring the safety and well-being of every resident in Crow Wing County is my highest priority,” said Hopps. “The County Attorney’s Office is home to a team of deeply committed professionals who work tirelessly to hold offenders accountable and protect our communities from harm. Their dedication is a testament to the values

we uphold. Our mission is clear: to serve the people of Crow Wing County with compassion, integrity, and professionalism—while pursuing justice and prosecuting criminal activity. Together, we will continue to build a safer, stronger community.”

Don Ryan, who has served as Crow Wing County Attorney for nearly 31 years after being first elected in 1994, will retire after eight terms in office. He leaves behind a legacy of service and dedication to the county and its residents. As the county’s chief prosecutor, Ryan has been instrumental in leading the office and advising the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners and county departments.

Hopps will work closely

with Ryan in the coming weeks to ensure a smooth and effective transition before his retirement. With her

experience, leadership, and dedication to justice, she is poised to continue the essential work of the Crow Wing

County Attorney’s Office. For more information, please contact the Crow Wing County Attorney’s Office.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

August

- 14th-16th - Heritage Days. Enjoy Music in the Park, Night to Unite, Car Show, Arts & Crafts Show, Story Hour, Children’s Festival of Games/Activities, Heritage Highland Games, Loon Calling Contest and so much more!
- 16th - Lakers Lions Annual Corn Feed from noon to 4 p.m. at Pickled Loon Saloon in Emily.
- 16th - Woodtick Corn Feed in Cuyuna, noon to 4 p.m., ears of corn are \$2 each, brats and beans \$5, bounce house for the kids, live music by “From the Heart Potato Salad” and two meat raffles at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. featuring an all bacon raffle. Proceeds benefit the Cuyuna Fire Department (license #B02163). For more information call the Woodtick at 218-772-0252.
- 19th - American Cross Blood Drive at the Deerwood Auditorium, noon-6 p.m., sponsored by the Garrison Bay Lake Area Lions. Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org.
- 20th - Free *The Jumpin’ Jeehosafats* Concert featuring Dixieland, Gospel and Jazz at the Emily United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. following the community picnic at 5 p.m. Free will offering to benefit Minnesota Wounded and Homeless Vets
- 23rd - Manna For Malawi, benefit concert and meal at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 600 4th Street SW, Crosby, 2-6 p.m. Music by *Gigfoot*, Meal and beverages beginning at 3 p.m., activities for children, silent auction and raffle items. Free will offering. All proceeds benefit Malawi Orphan Care Project.
- 24th - Cuyuna Crusher Mountain Bike Race in the Rec Area near Ironton. Call the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber for sponsorship opportunities at 218-546-8131.

September

- 7th - Aitkin Flyers Wild Rice Pancake Breakfast Fly-in, 8 a.m.-noon at the Aitkin Municipal Airport located at 1190 Air Park Drive in Aitkin. Hosted by the Experimental Aircraft Association 965 called “The Aitkin Flyers.” If you’re interested in flying, want to mingle with local pilots, mechanics, builders or just enjoy great people and great food, come to the hangar.
- 9th - Coffee with a Cardiologist 2-3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Crosslake Lutheran Church, 35960 County Road 66, Crosslake. Featured speaker cardiologist Eric Fenstad, MD, MSc, FACC will present on the topic “Valve Disease – Diagnosis and Treatment!” This is a free community event and open to the public.
- 13th - Smoke on the Range Rib Cook-Off, music, and mega meat raffle at the Deerstand Restaurant and Bar in Deerwood. Call 218- 534-9253 to be a grillmaster.
- 20th - Cuyuna Range Lions’ Pancake Breakfast from 8-11 a.m. at Crosby Memorial Park on Serpent Lake.
- 20th - 7th Annual Car Show at Heartwood Senior Living Community located at 500 Heartwood Drive, Crosby, starting at 11 a.m.
- 21st - Blessing of the Animals Worship, 9 am, at St. John’s Lutheran Church of Cedarbrook, 27452 St. John’s Church Rd, Aitkin. Everyone is welcome to bring their animals to be blessed, with the exception of snakes.
- 25th - 27th - Crosslake Days including the Art & Craft Fairs, Chili Cook-off, Lost Chili Pepper Hunt, Cider & Candlelight Tour, Knights of Columbus Corn-Hole Tournament, and Crosslake Ace Hardware’s Street Dance to make this a weekend jam packed full of fun.

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(6) 4x8 sheets of pink Styrofoam insulation, Variety of misc. lumber, Large & small canning jars, (3) Food dehydrators, Two man crosscut saws, Collectible two station wash tub Large set of bull horns, (2) metal double runner sleds, Assortment of diamond willow walking sticks, Antique singer sewing machine, Smaller Haier chest freezer, Various kerosene lamps & other knick knacks

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Jumpin’ Jeehosafats concert Aug. 20

Get ready to tap your toes and lift your spirits on Wednesday, Aug. 20 as the Emily United Methodist Church is hosting a free concert by the beloved local band, The Jumpin’ Jeehosafats, at 6 p.m., right after a community picnic at 5 p.m. The evening promises a vibrant mix of Dixieland, Gospel, and Jazz that’ll have the whole town swaying.

The Jumpin’ Jeehosafats,

known for their infectious energy and soul-stirring melodies, are a staple in the Minnesota music scene. With their brassy horns, rollicking keyboard, and heartfelt vocals, they’ll deliver a performance that blends the foot-stomping joy of Dixieland, the soulful uplift of Gospel, and the smooth improvisations of Jazz. Whether you’re a longtime fan or new to their

sound, this is a show you won’t want to miss. The concert is free, but a free will offering will be collected to support Minnesota Wounded and Homeless Veterans, a cause close to the heart of the Emily community. Every dollar donated will go toward providing essential services and support for veterans in need, making this a night of music with a purpose.

Bethesda Lutheran Church corn feed

The Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo annual corn feed will be held on Saturday, Aug. 16 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

The menu features steaming piles of sweet, buttery corn on the cob, fresh from

the field, paired with juicy pulled pork sandwiches that melt in your mouth. Add a scoop of hearty calico beans, a crisp helping of coleslaw, and a sweet finish with homemade bars that’ll have you reaching for seconds. Wash

it all down with your choice of coffee, water, or refreshing lemonade. At \$15 for adults and just \$5 for kids 12 and under, this is a deal that’s as satisfying as the meal itself.

The Corn Feed isn’t just about the food—it’s about coming together. Families, friends, and neighbors will fill the church grounds, swapping stories and savoring the tastes of summer. The welcoming folks at Bethesda Lutheran Church know how to make everyone feel at home.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Malmo located at 21590 State Hwy. 47. The Corn Feed is a chance to support a community tradition while enjoying a hearty meal.

READER RIBBETS

On August 1, the Minnesota Department of Human Services announced it is shutting down the Housing Stabilization Services program after widespread fraud was uncovered. This program was, in theory, supposed to help Minnesotans with disabilities and mental illness find and keep housing. It was supposed to cost about \$2.5 million per year. Instead, costs exploded and it became another example of the waste, fraud, and abuse of your tax dollars that has been a hallmark of the Walz administration:

- \$21 million in 2021
- \$42 million in 2022
- \$74 million in 2023
- \$104 million in 2024
- \$61 million in just the first half of 2025
- Similar to other Minnesota

fraud cases, federal investigators uncovered a large scheme where providers billed for services that were never delivered. Investigators found multiple cases of forged documents, fake service logs, and billing for tens of thousands of dollars per client. The FBI has already raided multiple organizations, and DHS has suspended payments to 77 providers based on credible allegations of fraud. More than 1,800 providers had been part of this program.

DHS now says it will shut the program down and begin working on a redesign. They admit the current structure lacks the safeguards to prevent fraud or protect the people who were supposed to be helped. Despite all this, the public still has no clear

answers on how this fraud was allowed to grow or how much money has been lost. Once again, this is deeply frustrating. Minnesotans work hard and expect their tax dollars to be used responsibly, but instead they are watching their tax dollars get stolen in some new fraud scheme with each passing day. Catching these fraudsters isn’t enough. We need real oversight, real transparency, and real accountability. And above all, we need to restore trust and make sure public programs are actually serving the people they were created to help. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask! Sincerely, Senator Keri Heintzeman Minnesota Senate, District 6

Come and Eat Supper at Cascade

Cascade United Methodist Church is inviting the community to come together for its free monthly supper on Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

The Come and Eat program, held on the third

Wednesday of every month. Whether you’re looking to meet new people, enjoy a homemade dinner, or just want to share a moment of fellowship with your neighbors, this event is a perfect way to do so.

Cascade United Methodist Church, located between Deerwood and Crosby at 22781 Black Lake Road, is easy to find on Highway 6 and 210.

To ensure there’s enough food for everyone, reservations are encouraged. You can secure your spot by calling 218-534-3507.

Cedar Lake
Norwegian Lutheran Church
Everyone is Welcome to
Celebrate with Us!
Sunday, August 17

- Service 11 a.m. with Pastor Andrew Carlstrom
- Pie Social to follow Free will offering by the slice. Monies go toward repairs to the sanctuary ceiling.

-Bringing a pie to contribute, if able.-

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

ALLIANCE
Aitkin* — New Life Church of the CM&A; Worship 10:15 am; Services on Sunday at 10:15am and 6pm; 11-1st Street SW; newlifeaitkin.com 218-927-2823.
Baxter* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10; www.pointway.org
Garrison* — Worship 10:30am
Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Aitkin — Pastor Andrew Jergenson; Sunday Morning Service 10.
Baxter — Heritage Church, Pastor Heath Beard; 8:30, 10 & 11:30 Sundays, 6:30p Wednesdays, iamheritage.org
Crosby — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; Worship 10:30
Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30, Worship at 10:45
Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; hillcityagchurch@gmail.com; 218-697-2662
Palisade — Pastor Charlie Bell; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

BAPTIST
Aitkin - Northwoods Community Church, Pastor William Verbeke, Worship 10:30, northwoodscommunitychurch.org
Baxter - Eagle Brook Church , Worship 9 & 11, www.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; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.
Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
Crosby* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass: Thurs. and Fri. at 8; Tues at noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30.
Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.ihmstemilys.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 JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Aitkin — Co.Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Kevin Haffner 218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10
COMMUNITY
Aitkin — Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE., Aitkin, Services Sun.10, 218-927-6959
Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene- Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10, SS 9; 16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005
Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9 May-Oct.
Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God, Pastor Robert Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30, Worship 10:30; Wed. BS 6:30 pm
Jacobson — Jacobson Community Church, Pastor George Collins, 218-252-5938, Sun. SS (All ages) 9:30, Worship 10:30; Family Time 2nd & 4th Sundays; Wed. BS 7 pm
Kimberly — Nature Ave. Rev. Rick Perry; Worship 9; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256.
McGregor — The Lighthouse Christian Church; Worship 10; 99 South 1st Street (at the McGregor United Methodist church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel Seibel.
McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.
Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.
Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.
Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Richie Bean; Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10
Outing* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Kenny Holm, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge
Palisade —Hilltop Chapel (Waukenabo Twp)*- service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; 49448 Osprey Avenue, Palisade.
Tamarack — Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.
EPISCOPAL
Aitkin — St. John's, Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 9
Brainerd* — St. Paul's, Rev. Joyce A. Rush. In-person worship service at 10 am Sunday. Online at 5 pm Saturday. Call the church 219-829-3834 and leave a message with email to receive a Zoom invitation.
EVANGELICAL FREE
Baxter — Lakewood EFC, Pastor Matt Nagel; Worship at 9:00 and 10:45. Wednesday for all ages 6:30 pm.
Crosslake — The Log Church 9:30, Pastor Troy Nelson; 218-692-4141, 37218 County Road 66, www.crosslakeefc.org
Isle — Pastor Mark Lee; Sunday School 9:00 am; Worship 10:30 am, Sun. Youth group 6:00 pm, Wed. Adult Prayer 6:30 pm and Kids Connect 6:30 pm
Malmo — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15
Wright — Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.
HEBREW/MESSIANIC
Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, for information 320-684-2804
LUTHERAN
Aitkin — Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Rebecca Hinz; Worship 9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month.
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, Worship on Sundays at 9 am followed by Sunday school at 10 am beginning September 7. Blessing of the Backpacks on Sept 7. stjohns-cedarbrook.weebly.com, 27452 St. John's Church Road, Aitkin.
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 fbcbrainerd.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.lchurch.org)
Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th St. Brainerd, Worship time September through May 8:15am & 10:30am; worship (June through August) 9 am. 218-829-5147. Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org. 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 8:30, Pastor Donald Klatt 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. - All are welcome!
Crosslake —Mission of the Lake (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)
Malmo — Bethesda (ELCA) Rev Christina Kadelbach; Sun. Worship 9am. Fellowship following Service. Communion every Sunday.
McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.
McGrath — Zion (ELCA), Worship 9; SS 9.
McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (LCMC), Pastor Lorelie Robinson; Worship 9, Fellowship follows, SS 10.
McGregor — Our Savior's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm
Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Luke Lekander, Worship 9
Palisade* — Bethel (ELCA), Pastor Steven Teff; Worship 9:30.
Pequot Lakes - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Monte Meyer Worship 9 am, Fellowship 10 am, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:15 am
Pequot Lakes* - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Stephen Blenkush Worship 9:00 a.m., SS 9:15 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m.
Rossburg — Bethesda Lutheran (LCMC Congregations in

Mission for Christ) 11:30 service. Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.
Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210
Thor — Zion, Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.
Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.
Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.)
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 Irontade Town Hall", Co. Rd. 12, (Deerwood Shortcut); Worship 10 & Wed. 7 pm.
Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Ministry, Pastors Ken and Ron Fairbanks, Sat. 11. 218-768-3585
PRESBYTERIAN
Crosslake - Pastor Mark Ford, 218-692-4769; Worship 9; Fellowship 11. 14444 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, just passed the Community Center; www.crosslakepres.org.
McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9.
McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm. Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11.
REFORMED
Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave NE 218-545-5433, www.visitlifespring.com
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Aitkin — Pastor Josh Jeresek; Worship Sat. 9:30, Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933; 830 Minnesota Ave S
Brainerd — Pastor Josh Jeresek; Worship Sat. 11:10, Bible Study 10; Bible Study & Prayer Mtg. Wed. 6:30 p.m.; 2910 Oak Street, Brainerd, 218-829-1676

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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Brainerd — First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St, Brainerd. Sunday worship at 10. Pastor; Leslie Moughty. Handicapped accessible. www.uccbrainerdmn.org

UNITED METHODIST
Aitkin* — Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live.
Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Youtube live streaming 10 am with fellowship to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please call the office to sign up. 218-534-3507.
Cutler* (South Aitkin County) — Pine Lake Chapel, Pastor Gary Taylor; Worship Sunday 1 p.m. Fellowship follows.
Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9
Emily* — Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Facebook live streaming 8:30 with fellowship to follow. UWF meet on the first Sunday of each month following worship. Men's prayer breakfast 2nd Saturday of each month at 8. Bible Study Thursdays at 6 pm.
Fleming* — (Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Fellowship 10:30; fellowship follows.
Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10
McGregor* — (Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45; fellowship follows.
Onamia — Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship 10; 2 blks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947
WESLEYAN
Emily — Rev. Jason Gressman; Worship 9; Friendship Time 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Kimberly Township will be hosting a National Night Out at the Glen/Kimberly Townhall on August 19th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Township residents are encouraged to stop by for refreshments, conversation and some invited guests. We hope to see you there! Contact Mia Rapoport, Clerk, at 612-619-6742 with any questions.

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**MISCELLANEOUS
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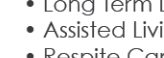
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Northland Foundation awards \$40,000 to McGregor KIDS PLUS

The Northland Foundation has awarded \$40,000 to McGregor KIDS PLUS Somethingcool, Inc., a McGregor-based nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting youth and families in Aitkin County. The grant is part of the foundation's latest round of quarterly grants, totaling \$680,000 distributed across northeastern Minnesota and Tribal Nation lands from April to June 2025.

Six of the 23 grants awarded went toward out-of-school-time activities and programs for children and youth across the region. The \$185,000 in funding is helping grantees provide summertime and after-school supports for thousands of children and youth from Itasca, Koochiching, and northern St. Louis Counties, as well as the sovereign Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

nation.

“After-school and summer services for kids are something rural and underfunded school districts and small communities just don’t have the budget to cover on their own,” said Michelle Ufford, Vice President of Grantmaking.

“We know kids thrive when they can participate in healthy, enriching activities beyond the classroom, and those experiences have a long-term positive effect on their development,” Ufford added. “Out-of-school-time is an area where relatively modest funding can make an outsized impact to sustain these important programs.”

The other 22 Quarterly Grants awarded April 1 through June 30, 2025, are listed below.

BASIC NEEDS Grants in support of services and

programming that address human needs essential to overall wellbeing, such as food security, housing, aging, homeless services, and more.

- Healthy Alliances Matter for All, Duluth received \$25,000 to support a community giving food garden project that enhances food security, cultural healing, and well-being in Duluth.
- Waawaate Programs, Ely received \$20,000 to support Bois Forte Band of Chippewa food sovereignty programming.
- Center City Housing Corporation, Duluth received \$25,000 to support housing and support services for families experiencing homelessness in the Duluth community.
- Damiano of Duluth, Duluth received \$30,000 to support programming and services for unhoused and low-income community members in the Central Hillside neighborhood of Duluth.
- The Salvation Army Duluth, Duluth received \$30,000 to support the operation of a new permanent supportive housing facility in the Duluth Heights neighborhood.
- Care Partners of Cook County, Grand Marais received \$45,000 to support basic-needs services and community engagement for older adults in Cook County.
- Sawtooth Mountain Clinic, Grand Marais received \$30,000 to support access to oral health care services and education for children,

youth, and older adults in Cook County and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

- United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, Chisholm received \$50,000 to support programming and initiatives that enhance youth opportunity, community health, resilience, and financial stability for families in northeast Minnesota.
- Well Being Development, Ely received \$45,000 to support services for Ely community members impacted by mental illness and substance use challenges.
- United Way of 1000 Lakes, Grand Rapids received \$35,000 to support work that strengthens volunteer engagement and partnerships that promote the health and well-being of children and families in Itasca County.
- Justice North, Duluth received 30,000 to support critical, no-cost legal services in Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Carlton, and Aitkin counties, and to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal nations.
- Minnesota Diversified Industries, Minneapolis received \$30,000 to support programming that helps people with disabilities in northeast Minnesota overcome societal barriers to employment.
- Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative,

Duluth received \$10,000 to support services and resources that enhance health and well-being for children and families in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Duluth.

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE INTERVENTION/PREVENTION Grants supporting prevention and intervention such as shelter, advocacy, legal, and other supports in relation to domestic and family violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

- Friends Against Abuse, International Falls received \$30,000 to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crime in Koochiching County.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION Support for programming focused on prenatal to age 5 that nurtures the whole child, including physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development.

- Amber’s Daycare, International Falls received \$5,000 in support of child care program expansion with funding provided by the State of Minnesota, with support from the Northland Foundation.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME SERVICES Grants supporting structured, consistent, and accessible out-of-school time educational programming and activities for broad groups of children and youth.

- Volunteers in Education, Virginia received \$20,000 to support volunteer tutoring

services for students in rural northeast Minnesota.

- Boys and Girls Club of the Northland, Duluth received \$35,000 to support programming that provides a safe, supportive, out-of-school environment for school-aged youth in the Hibbing community.
- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Nett Lake received \$25,000 to support the Bois Forte Boys and Girls Club including bolstering food security for participating children and youth.
- Friends of the Finland Community, Finland received \$30,000 to support youth and family programming and services in the Finland community.
- Smart North, Minneapolis received \$50,000 to support after-school programming with a focus on technology skills and digital literacy for Grand Rapids and Deer River youth.
- International Falls Schools ISD # 361, International Falls received \$25,000 to support summer and after-school childcare programming for elementary-aged students in Koochiching County.

OTHER CRITICAL NEEDS Grants in support of economic and community well-being for a more thriving region.

- Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, Saint Paul received \$15,000 to support nonprofit leadership and capacity building resources in northeast Minnesota.

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