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Radiothon to End Child Abuse returns to Westgate Mall



Radio crews broadcast live from Westgate Mall during the 2021 Radiothon to End Child Abuse. This year's Radiothon returns Dec. 4–5 for a full 24 hours of live coverage, powered by the longtime partnership of B93.3, Cool 103.5, The Power Loon 107.5, and WJJY 106.7. Call 218-454-1584 to make your pledge and help support families across the Lakes Area.

One of the Brainerd Lakes Area's most impactful community traditions is preparing to take the airwaves once again. The 32nd Annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse



You can bid on this soft Norwegian wool blanket donated by Nord Hus in Crosby featuring an Edvard Greig score as the pattern.

is set for Thursday, Dec. 4, through Friday, Dec. 5 broadcasting live for 24 hours from Westgate Mall in Brainerd.

Organizers hope to match — or even exceed — last year's remarkable generosity. In 2024, the Radiothon raised \$106,921, with all proceeds supporting child abuse prevention programs in Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Morrison Counties, along with statewide efforts through Family Wise, home to Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota.

Since its start in 1994, the Radiothon has generated a stunning \$2,142,302 to strengthen families and protect

children across central Minnesota.

The Radiothon began with a partnership among four Brainerd-area radio stations: B93.3, Cool 103.5, The Power Loon 107.5, and WJJY 106.7. While the live broadcast remains at the heart of the event, the way people give has evolved.

Once dependent on call-in pledges, the fundraiser has adapted to the digital age. Today, supporters can still dial 218-454-1584, but many now choose to donate online at radiothon.brainerd.com, where it's easy to direct contributions to specific

local programs: Aitkin County Child Abuse Prevention Council, Cass County Children's Initiative, Crow Wing County Child Protection Team and Morrison County Family Connections.

If you are looking for a unique holiday gift with a meaningful impact, the Radiothon's popular Silent Auction has an impressive variety of items — everything from auto services and floral arrangements to restaurant gift cards and local experiences.

Bidding takes place online at 32auctions.com/radiothon.brainerd2025, where items can be browsed by category or county.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers, businesses across all four

A festive "Unofficial Elf Cookbook" gift basket is up for bid—packed with dozens of fun, movie-inspired dishes from breakfast to dessert, plus two premium olive oils and two balsamics from Loide's Oils & Vinegars to elevate your holiday cooking.



A Just For Kix Dance Basket adds pizzazz to the Radiothon's Silent Auction—one of the many fun, locally donated items helping raise funds to support families and keep children safe across the Brainerd Lakes Area.

counties have donated hundreds of items. Many start at half their market value, but competition tends to heat up fast — especially as the clock winds down toward Friday at noon.

Shoppers are encouraged to check back often to secure their favorite items.

Throughout the 24-hour broadcast, listeners can tune in to hear local musicians, community leaders, and members of county prevention councils share stories about the services available to families in need. For the participating counties, the Radiothon remains the single biggest fundraiser supporting year-round child abuse prevention efforts.

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Cookies!

The Aitkin County Historical Society will hold its annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 6, starting at 9 a.m. at the Depot, 20 Pacific Street SW. The festive fundraiser features tables of homemade holiday treats, and organizers are calling on local bakers to help make the event a success.

Volunteers are asked to donate four dozen cookies of any variety. Cookie drop-off times at the Depot are Dec. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Dec. 5 from 10 a.m.–noon.

For questions or to coordinate donations, contact Julie Hansen at 218-251-3375 or jjhansen53@gmail.com. The Cookie Walk offers a sweet way to support ACHS and kick off the holiday season.

LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13, 2025)
LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
The Libby Township Board will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at the Palisade Community Center. Township supervisor Tom Anderson may attend remotely via phone or Zoom. The purpose of this meeting shall be to discuss and decide matters that may come before the board.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2025
Jane Grimsbo Jewett, clerk
Libby Township
2.91

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(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025)
CITY OF CUYUNA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that the Cuyuna City Council will convene at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025, at the Cuyuna Fire Department, 24849 Minnesota Avenue, to conduct the following public hearing. The regularly scheduled council meeting will begin following the public hearing.

Rezone Application RZ 02-25 (Ordinance Amendment RZ 02-25) to amend the city's zoning map by reclassifying Property IDs 19300581 and 19300598 (located at 25454 County Road 31, Cuyuna, MN) from "Open" to "R-2, Single and Two Family Residential." The applicant/property owner is Vinh Chung.

All interested persons are invited to attend this hearing at the Cuyuna Fire Department, 24849 Minnesota Avenue, and be heard or send written comments to City of Cuyuna, PO Box 536, Deerwood, MN 56444 or via email at info@ci.cuyuna.mn.us. A staff report is made available at the Cuyuna Fire Department typically one week before the scheduled meeting.

Bill Bedard, Clerk/Treasurer
City of Cuyuna

COMMUNITY EVENTS

November
28th - Nisswa City of Lights downtown Nisswa start at 12 p.m. Sip cider by the bonfire, savor sweet treats, hop on a cozy train ride, and share a magical moment with Santa himself. End the night with fireworks painting the winter sky — the perfect start to the season.
28th - World Famous Fish House Parade in Aitkin, 1 p.m., 5K Fun Run / Walk 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Fish House 5K Fun Run / Walk. Also 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. Meet & Greet with Santa Claus, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Craft & Bake Sale Market by Aitkin County Friends of the Arts both at Ripple Center 301 Minnesota Ave. N.
28th - Mille Lacs Trails & Aitkin Sno-Drifters Vintage Snowmobile Show, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. on 3rd Street between Minnesota Ave. North and 1st Ave. NE
29th - Holiday Parade of Lights at 5:30 p.m. in Staples
December
2nd - Cuyuna Regional Medical Center Tree of Love Lighting at 3 p.m. in the hospital's main lobby.
4th - Holiday Gingerbread Houses, 5 p.m., in Staples
4th - Christmas Vendor Bingo at American Legion Post 86, Aitkin, 5 - 8 p.m., registration starts at 5 p.m.
4th & 5th - Annual MN Adult & Teen Challenge Christmas Concert 6 p.m. Heritage Church in Brainerd, Register <https://www.mntc.org/event/brainerd-christmas-concert-thursday/>
4th, 5th & 6th - Sensory Friendly Holiday Visit with Santa Claus at Northland Arboretum with adjust lighting, calming music, visual supports, adapted activities with a experienced trained Santa for neurodivergent children and their families. Register by Dec. 1 for your time slot a <https://sites.google.com/isd181.org/santa-at-the-arboretum/home?authuser=0> or contact 218-454-9264 or pbcecsensoryfriendlyevents@gmail.com.
5th - Tree Lighting Ceremony at Mall Plaza in downtown Crosby. Hosted by the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber. Call 218-546-8131 for additional information.
5th - Free photos with Santa at Fleet Farm, 14114 Dellwood Dr. N., Baxter, 4 - 7 p.m.
5th - Whoville in Crosslake Town Square, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus.
5th - Jack Klatt will perform at the Grassroots Concerts, 7 p.m. at the Journey Church, 5459 Lakers Lane (next to the school in Nisswa.) His unique sound defies genre with influences that pull from a wide range of American music, from rhythm and blues and early rock and roll, to country and folk music. Seating is first-come, first-served. Grassroots welcomes your nonperishable food, cash or check donation to a local food shelf. For information call 312-720-2849 or go to www.grassrootsconcerts.org.
5th - Mix and mingle at Central Lakes College's 5th Annual Jingle & Mingle event, 5:30 p.m., at Roundhouse Brewery, in Nisswa. Grab your favorite ugly sweater and hear music from the Central Lakes Jazz Orchestra. Held by the CLC Foundation and the Music Department, Jingle & Mingle supports performance opportunities for music students and scholarships for their next study abroad trip. A donation at the door of \$10 for adults is encouraged, and Roundhouse is donating \$1 from every pint and plate sold. Thank you to event sponsors: Mills Companies, CTC, and Roundhouse Brewery.
6th - Aitkin County Historical Society Cookie Walk at 20 Pacific Street SW in Aitkin starting at 9 a.m.
6th - Saint Joseph Catholic Church Christmas Market Cookie Walk & Gift Shop, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Also Specialty Coffee, Hot Chocolate Bar and Pastries 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Hot Soup with Fresh Bread 11 a.m - 2 p.m.
6th - Global Fat Bike Day 10 a.m. Red Raven, Crosby. Register at bikereg.com/73379
6th - Santa Day 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Motley United Methodist Church
6th - Palisade Area Christmas Craft Sale 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at 204 Main Street, Palisade.
6th - Cuyuna Christmas Snow Many Smiles at Memorial Park, Crosby, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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CWD sampling nears 10,000 as DNR thanks hunters for participation

Minnesota's effort to track and manage chronic wasting disease (CWD) reached a major milestone this fall. According to a Nov. 20 Minnesota DNR press release, mandatory CWD sampling in designated zones wrapped up after the opening weekend of firearms deer season — and participation was strong.

Statewide, hunters have submitted nearly 10,000 samples so far this year. DNR officials extended their thanks to the many hunters who took the time to have their deer tested, noting that widespread participation is essential for detecting and responding to the disease.

Thousands of test results pending

CWD test results are updated regularly on the DNR website, which displays statewide results, summary statistics, and maps indicating where positive cases have been found. The agency notes that roughly 4,000 samples are still pending, so hunters who don't yet see results for their deer are encouraged to check back soon.

All results collected this fall will appear on the DNR's online CWD results page, and any hunter whose deer tests positive will be contacted directly by the DNR.

Testing still available

Although mandatory sampling has concluded for the remainder of the 2025 deer seasons, hunters can still choose to have their deer tested.

The DNR offers several convenient CWD testing options:

- Mail-in test kits
- Partner sampling locations
- Appointments at area wildlife offices

These continued testing opportunities are part of the state's long-term strategy to monitor the spread of CWD and protect Minnesota's wild deer population.

With hunting seasons still underway, the DNR encourages hunters to stay informed, stay engaged, and take advantage of testing options as needed to help safeguard the health of Minnesota's herd.

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DNR keeps three-walleye limit for Mille Lacs Lake winter season



Anglers heading to Mille Lacs Lake this winter will find familiar rules waiting for them. According to a Nov. 20 Minnesota DNR press release, the state will keep the three-walleye limit in place for the upcoming ice fishing season — a sign that the lake’s walleye population continues to strengthen.

The regulation allows anglers to keep three walleye longer than 17 inches, with only one allowed to exceed 20 inches.

“Mille Lacs’ walleye population is trending in a good direction for both adult and juvenile fish,” said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “We’re pleased to keep the current regulation

in place for this winter and offer anglers this harvest opportunity.”

For yellow perch, the daily and possession limit will be 10. The change is a shift from last year, which began with a perch daily and possession limit of 20 that had to be reduced to 5 after the state in early March, exceeded its harvest allocation. The daily and possession limit of 10 is intended to provide state anglers the opportunity to harvest a meal of perch while also keeping the state within its harvest allocation.

Each year the state and the Ojibwe nations who retain harvest rights in the 1837 Treaty Area jointly set the harvest amounts for different fish species in Mille Lacs for the year. Fall netting data informs where harvest levels will be set when the state and Tribes meet in January.

Once harvest levels for the year and the state’s winter harvest are known, the state may need to adjust regulations for the open water season that begins on May

9, 2026.

With northern pike increasing in abundance over the past two years to the highest numbers ever measured by the DNR, the possession limit will increase from three to five fish. This regulation retains a length limit of 30 inches that has been in place since 2020, which protects Mille Lacs Lake’s

Minnesota deer hunters are off to one of their strongest starts in years. According to a Nov. 20 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources press release, the second weekend of firearms season has wrapped up — and the statewide harvest is noticeably on the rise.

During the first nine days of the firearms season, hunters harvested 123,634 deer, an 8% increase from last year and 5% above the five-year average. Preliminary numbers show that antlered bucks made up 64% of the harvest, does 25%, and fawns 11%.

trophy-sized pike, while the possession limit increase is intended to encourage additional harvest. Winter fishing regulations for walleye will be in effect from Monday, Dec. 1, through Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026. Yellow perch regulations will be in effect from Monday, Dec. 1, through Friday, May 8, 2026. Northern pike regulations will be in

In total, Minnesota’s statewide deer harvest has reached 157,983, putting hunters 8% ahead of last year’s pace. The most dramatic jump is in the northeast region, where harvest totals are up 14%.

Wildlife officials point to two mild winters and a strong growing season as likely contributors to the rebound in deer numbers — and, in turn, the successful hunt many are experiencing this fall.

Minnesota’s deer hunting calendar starts each fall with archery season in September, the state’s longest-running season and a favorite of

effect from Monday, Dec. 1, through Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Winter regulations for Mille Lacs Lake are set after completion of the DNR’s annual fall netting assessments. The 2025 assessment found a slightly lower adult walleye abundance than in 2024, along with strong numbers of year-old walleye that have good potential to contribute

roughly 100,000 bowhunters. The spotlight then shifts in early November to the regular firearms season, which draws nearly 400,000 hunters statewide, making it the largest and most visible of the state’s deer harvest periods.

A season many hunters miss

Minnesota’s 16-day muzzleloader season kicks off this year on Saturday, Nov. 29, and runs through Sunday, Dec. 14. While it receives far less attention, many hunters consider it one of the most rewarding times to be in the woods.

Participation is notably

to the fishery in the future. Forage species such as young yellow perch and tullibee also are currently abundant, allowing medium to larger walleyes to fatten up over the summer and be in good condition heading into the winter. Complete regulations are available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/millelacslake).

lower — only about 45,000 hunters typically head out with their traditional firearms. That reduced pressure, the DNR notes, offers four distinct advantages:

1. More predictable deer movement as winter approaches
2. Concentrated food sources, making deer easier to pattern
3. Better tracking conditions thanks to colder weather and the increased chance of snow
4. A quieter, calmer woods, ideal for hunters seeking solitude

Deer harvest climbs as hunters see strong season

American Legion holiday cheer

Get ready for a fun-filled evening of holiday spirit, local shopping, and a little friendly competition. On Thursday, Dec. 4, the Aitkin American Legion Post 86 will host a Christmas Vendor Bingo Night from 5 to 8 p.m. Registration kicks off at 5 p.m., and for just \$25, guests will enjoy dinner and two

exciting games of bingo. But that’s not all—this event is also a chance to shop local and find unique gifts for everyone on your list. A variety of favorite area vendors will be set up with their wares, offering everything from handcrafted goods to seasonal treats.

It’s the perfect blend of

holiday fun—good food, great company, prizes, and the joy of supporting local small businesses. So grab your friends, mark your calendar, and come out to the Legion for an evening that’s sure to get you in the Christmas spirit

Contact Jessi at 218-820-0997 to reserve a table of six.



Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet

Thursday, November 27

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Call Now 218-678-4644 to reserve your spot!

Carving Station: Rosemary & Sage Broasted Turkey with Cranberry-Jalapeno Relish, Triple Smoked Dark Cherrywood Bone-in Ham, Slow Roasted Rosemary and Sea Salt Prime Rib with Au Jus & Creamy Horseradish

Chef's Salad Bar • Chef's Sides: Mascarpone Mashed Potatoes with Creamy Mushroom Gravy, Winter Squash Agrodolce, Sweet Potato Streusel Casserole with Crispy Coconut, Charred Brussel Sprouts with Bacon & Maple-bourbon Glaze, Spinach & Artichoke Dip with Tortilla Chips, Crusted Rosemary Scalloped Potatoes, Fontina Cheese Mac & Cheese, Gruyere & Fourina Cheese Corn Casserole, Fresh Baked Sweet Potato Rolls, Peel & Eat Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce, Smoked Salmon and Lake Trout by Northern Waters Smokehaus

Desserts: Apple Pumpkin Pecan Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream, Vanilla Creme Brule, Flourless Chocolate Torte, Assortment of Fruit & Cream Pies



Ruttger's Retail

New Christmas Items Available

OPEN THANKSGIVING! 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Black Friday DOOR BUSTERS!



ruttgersretail.com

The Garage Winter Hours
Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

If you would like a personal shopping experience, please contact **Miranda** at 218-678-4673 or email miranda.caddy@ruttgers.com



CHRISTKINDMRKT

Annual Christmas Market

Saturday, December 6

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Craft Vendors 10 a.m.–3 p.m. (Ballroom Upper Level)
Visit Santa 11 a.m.–3 p.m. (The Garage)
Cookie Decorating 12–2 p.m. \$4 (The Garage)
Grab Lunch At Ruby's On The Lake
Spa Specials 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Bay Lake Salon & Spa)
Christmas Shopping Fun 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (The Garage)

Let Ruttger's do all the holiday cooking & cleaning!

Host Your Holidays at Ruttger's

Call **218-678-4626** to book your office holiday party/gathering.

POOL OPEN

Front Desk/ Lobby Shop/ Pool Hours
Sunday-Wednesday 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday 7 a.m.- 10 p.m.

Call 218-678-2885 to **BOOK A FUN POOL PARTY** for your kids, friends, or family celebrations.

Pool Punch Passes available for purchase at the Front Desk

25039 Tame Fish Lake Rd., Deerwood • 218-678-2885 • ruttgers.com

Bear Pine Bar & Ruby's Winter Hours
Thursday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. • Friday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Saturday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Serving Ruby's Menu



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at Ruttger's

Services provided include:

- Hair Color, Design, Cut and Style
- Facials and Head Spa
- Body Wraps • Massage
- Manicures & Pedicures



Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday by Appointment Call 218-678-4667

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