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# NEWSHOPPER

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## Legends & Lore brings top storytellers to Long Lake CC



### LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER

Once upon a time—this January, in fact—a gathering of some of Minnesota's most captivating storytellers will take center stage at the Long Lake Conservation Center. The Legends & Lore Storytelling Series, running January 4–6 invites audiences of all ages to settle in, listen well, and live “happily ever after,” at least for an evening or two.

This free three-day celebration of stories features a trio of masterful storytellers, each representing a unique style and tradition. The series promises not only engaging tales but also glimpses into the artists' creative processes, offering audiences an interactive, behind-the-scenes look at how stories are shaped, shared, and passed on.

“Good stories connect us,” organizers say, “and at Long Lake, they also help us understand the world around us.”

**Stellar lineup of storytelling talent at LLCC**

**Beth Hautala** — Sunday, Jan. 4 at 5 p.m.

Kicking off the series is

northern Minnesota's own Beth Hautala, author of *Waiting for Unicorns*, *The Ostrich and Other Lost Things*, and *Miracle Season*. Known for her evocative young-adult literature, Hautala will read from her work and discuss her creative process—how a spark of imagination becomes a story that speaks to the heart.



Beth Hautala

**Hope Flanagan** — Monday, Jan. 5 at 5 p.m.

On Monday, the circle opens to Hope Flanagan (Seneca, turtle clan), a renowned Native storyteller whose repertoire of Ojibwe legends—Aadizookaanag—honors the natural world and the relatives we too often overlook: plants, insects, and

all living beings. With wisdom and warmth, Flanagan invites listeners into stories that have been shared for generations.



Hope Flanagan

**Michael Goldberg** — Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 5 p.m.

Closing the series is writer and storyteller Michael Goldberg of Grand Rapids, known to many as the voice behind KAXE-KBXE FM's “Stay Human – Words and Music for Spirit and Courage.” Goldberg will share spoken-word stories rooted in life in northern Minnesota, offering a blend of humor, grit, and heartfelt reflection. **Free to Attend—and a Chance to Give Back**

Admission to Legends & Lore is free and open to ev-

eryone. For those who wish to support the next generation of nature-lovers, donations will be accepted to fund scholarships for students attending nature school at Long Lake.

Organizers say that storytelling and nature education go hand in hand. Both spark



Michael Goldberg

curiosity, empathy, and a sense of belonging—qualities that benefit every child who comes through the Center's programs.

To sign up or learn more, visit [longlakecc.org/legends-lore](http://longlakecc.org/legends-lore), call 218-768-4653, or email [info@longlakecc.org](mailto:info@longlakecc.org).

And so, as the first week of January approaches, Long Lake Conservation Center prepares to turn its cozy meeting halls into story-filled sanctuaries. With tales old and new, spoken gently and boldly, the Legends & Lore Storytelling Series promises that for at least one winter weekend, everyone who attends will indeed live—if not forever—then happily ever after.

## SWCD greener future

The Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) ordering for its annual Tree and Plant Sale will begin on January 5. Whether you're looking to add native trees to your property, improve local wildlife habitat, or start a garden, this year's sale has something for everyone.

Orders will be accepted January 5, through March 31, 2026, or until supplies run out. The sale will feature most of the fan-favorite species offered in previous years, along with some exciting new additions to expand your planting options. New for 2026 are Tamarack,

**Continued on Page 2**

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## \$5.3 million in electric grid grants

The Minnesota Department of Commerce \$5.3 million in grant awards to improve the resilience of Minnesota's electric grid against severe weather events, malicious physical attacks, and cyber threats. The State Grid Resilience Grant Program is fully state-funded and administered by Commerce. It is part of a suite of 2023 legislative session initiatives to enhance the reliability, safety, and modernization

of Minnesota's energy infrastructure. The grants, established through 2023 Chapter 60, Article 12, Section 72 of state legislation, provide up to \$250,000 per project to municipal and cooperative electric utilities to strengthen their local distribution systems, increase capacity and reduce power outages. In total, 28 applicants were selected to receive funding, including 13 municipal utilities,

13 electric cooperatives, the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) and Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA). As of this release, all 28 awardees have projects moving forward across Minnesota.

"This program demonstrates how state-led investments can make a real difference for communities," said Commerce Commissioner Arnold. "By upgrading local power systems - often by undergrounding lines in areas vulnerable to storms - we're helping ensure Minnesotans have reliable, resilient electricity for years to come."

Many funded projects focus on undergrounding power lines in areas prone to storm damage, replacing aging infrastructure, increasing power capacity for development and improving local grid operations. One grantee, Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op, for example, was able to move immediately from storm recovery into a permanent undergrounding project after Commerce expedited its contract, avoiding the need for temporary power poles to restore power.

## LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Jan. 3 & 10, 2026)

### WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICE

Notice is hereby given for the time of filing affidavits of candidacy for the Township officers to be elected at the Wealthwood Township Annual Meeting and Election which will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Filings will be open Tuesday, December 30, 2025 and will close January 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Filing hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the office of the Clerk Office will be closed on legal holidays.

Call for an appointment 218-678-2880.

Offices to be filled are one Supervisor B for a three year term and one Special Election to fill Supervisor A for a one year term.

Filing fee is \$2.00.

Dated: November 14, 2025  
LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk  
Wealthwood Township 5.0

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Jan. 3 & 10, 2026)

### WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The Board of Audit for Wealthwood Township will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m. with the regular meeting to follow.

Dated: November 14, 2025  
LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk  
Wealthwood Township 2.1



hopper@crosbyironton.net

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### December

26th – 28th - Santa's Stop Over Weekend at Rutger Bay Lake Resort post-Christmas retreat for relaxation, treats, and family fun. Seafood Boil dinner on Saturday night. Deals await bargain hunters and keepsake collectors. Try your hand at Santa's Workshop. Space is limited, so guests are encouraged to call 218-678-2885 to reserve their spot.

27th - Whoville in Crosslake Town Square, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Join the gingerbread house scavenger hunt and collect sweet clues to build your very own sugary creation.

29th – 31st - Sparkle and Shine in the New Year at Rutger Bay Lake holiday fun for the whole family. The Sign up for Sparkle Craft Lounge and Journal Creations, space is limited, so guests are encouraged to call 218-678-2885 to reserve their spot. Family trivia, puzzle contest, Bingo, Glow Swim, pudgie pies plud indoor and outdoor fun.

29th - Prayer Quilting Group, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. This group makes full size quilts that are given to individuals with medical issues for encouragement. If you like to cut out fabric squares, match colors, pin quilts, hand tie, or sew on a machine while praying for the recipient your help is greatly needed. You can also support this great group with financial donations to cover postage and supplies. Located on the third floor Conference Room at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd.

29th - Cribbage players wanted, 1 - 2:30 p.m. at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd.

### 2026 January

1st - Prayer Quilting Group, 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Full size quilts are made for individuals with medical issues. If you like to cut out fabric squares, match colors, pin quilts, hand tie, or sew on a machine while praying for the recipient your help is greatly needed. You can also support this great group with financial donations to cover postage and supplies. Located on the third floor Conference Room at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd.

2nd North Country Icebreaker at Breezy Point Resort with ice fishing, pike spearing, winter camping, seminars, a Wild Game Cookoff Competition.

Send your community events to [hopper@crosbyironton.net](mailto:hopper@crosbyironton.net) or send us a message via [www.NewsHopper.net/contact/](http://www.NewsHopper.net/contact/)

Area Births, Open Houses, Engagements, Weddings & Community Events are published **FREE!**

### SWCD greener future | Continued from Page 1

Yellow Birch, Black Walnut, Balsam Fir, Quaking Aspen, and American Hazelnut. These new varieties join the SWCD's already popular selection of trees, shrubs, and plants, making it the perfect time to diversify your landscape and contribute to

local conservation efforts.

Orders will need to be picked-up on April 30 and May 1, 2026, at the Crow Wing SWCD office, located at 322 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN 56401.

You can place your order by calling 218-828-

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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.

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For more information, please call 218-824-1010.

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McGregor Funeral Home

& Cremation Services

McGregor, MN

218-768-3136

Traditional Funerals • Cremation Services  
Celebration of Life • Pre-Planning Services

Directors: Jason Brezinsky  
Jerry Thompson • Tad Brezinsky

www.srtfuneral.com

Santa's Stop Over Weekend

Dec. 26 – 28

A festive three-day celebration filled with family activities, holiday treats, spa relaxation, games, and memorable moments with Santa!

ruttgers.com/events/santas-stop-over-weekend

Friday, Dec. 26

Relax & Indulge with Cookies served at the Fireplace Lobby 4-6 p.m.

Seafood Boil 5–8 p.m.

Discover Christmas Deals at Santa's Souvenir Shop 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Bonfire & Pudgie Pies 7 p.m.

ALL WEEKEND LONG:

After-Christmas Retail Therapy 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Uncover irresistible “Last Chance” items before they're gone. Gift wrapping available

Pamper & Relax at Bay Lake Salon & Spa Spa Specials for the entire family! 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Book a time now: 218.678.4667

Fun with Santa 2–3 p.m.

“Reindeer Games”

INDOOR: scavenger hunt, corn-hole, pickleball, pool, Giant Jenga, ladder golf, cozy fires, board games & puzzles

OUTDOOR: ice skating, human bowling on the ice, ice bocce, snowshoeing, Hok skiing, hiking – weather permitting and safe ice –

Saturday, Dec. 27

Santa's Workshop 10:30 -11:30 a.m. Be an honorary elf as you craft ornaments, decorate cookies and make small gifts. (Pre-registration required.)

Fun with Santa 2–3 p.m.

Santa's Workshop 3:30 -4:30 p.m. Be an honorary elf as you make a snow globe or 3D snowflake. (Pre-registration required.)

Mystery Box Bingo 5:30 -6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28

Build Your Cinnamon Roll Bar 9.-11 a.m.

Sparkle & Shine into the New Year

Dec. 29 – 31

Holiday Fun for the Whole Family

Monday, Dec. 29

Sparkle Craft Lounge (Pre-registration required.) 1 p.m.

Journal Creations (Pre-registration required.) 3p.m.

Family Trivia 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

Sparkle Craft Lounge (Pre-registration required.) 11 a.m.

Pudgie Pies (Skating Rink ) 3 p.m.

Family Puzzle Contest (Pre-registration required.) 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Sparkle Craft Lounge (Pre-registration required.) 11 a.m.

Pudgie Pies (Skating Rink ) 3 p.m.

Glow Swim 5 p.m.

Last Chance BINGO 7 p.m.

ALL Sparkle & Shine Days

• Sparkle Scavenger Hunt

• Glitter & Shine Photo Station

OUTDOOR FUN: broomball-snowshoeing-Hok skiing-ice bocce-skating-human bowling – weather permitting and safe ice –

INDOOR FUN: pool-pickleball-corn hole-ladder golf-Spikeball-arcade

New Year's Eve

Dec. 31 5-8 p.m.

APPETIZERS

Lamb Lollipop \$24

with mint pesto, balsmic glaze, arguala salad, & toasted almonds

Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail \$24

Jumbo shrimp served with cocktail sauce.

ENTREES

Dry Aged Tomahawk Pork Chop \$54

Breaded, fried, and topped with house vodka sauce, burrata and fresh basil. Served with pasta topped with house vodka sauce & broccolini

Grilled Swordfish \$41

with bell peppers, spinach, risotto and fire roasted salsa

DESSERT

Pina Colada Cake \$10

Ruttger's Retail

ruttgersretail.com

The Garage Winter Hours

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Holiday Hours

Dec. 25 - Jan. 4

Bear Pine Bar & Ruby's

Friday, Dec. 26 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Saturday, Dec. 27 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Sunday, Dec. 28 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 29 - Saturday, Jan. 3 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Sunday, Jan. 4 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Serving Ruby's Menu

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

2 Indoor Pickleball Courts

Sunday-Wednesday 7 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday 7 a.m.- 10 p.m.

Call 218-678-2885 to reserve.

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

WINTER FUN CHALLENGE

SNOWMAN TRAIL

Help the children find their snowman.

SLED MAZE

Help Holly and Blizzard find their way.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				
16				17					18					
19									20					
21				22				23				24	25	26
			27				28					29		
30	31	32				33						34		
35						36					37			
38						39					40			
41				42				43						
44				45				46				47	48	49
			50						51		52			
53	54	55				56	57	58						
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Watering holes

5. Gave up

9. A way to hold out

13. Fatty

14. Cookie type

15. Eagle's nest

16. Fails to get attention

19. A way to give a benedic-tion to

20. A way to drink

21. The seed of an Asiatic legume

22. Brain test

23. Compass pt.

24. Compact discs

27. Score

28. A person of French descent

29. An unofficial association of people

30. Camera brand

33. Position on a baseball team

34. Be in debt

35. Throw forcefully

36. Reflected

37. Month

38. Fed

39. Rod used to resist longi-tudinal compression

40. Sylvan deity

41. Small cask or barrel

42. Skin

43. A quantity of money

44. Tax collector

45. Wrath

46. Angular shape

47. Nimble

50. Hostelry

51. Instrumentalist

53. Disguise

59. Any mature animal

60. Soviet Union

61. Oceans

62. Chief magistrate of Venice

63. Magpies

64. In a way, picks at

25. Fluffy

26. Direct the course

27. Crony

28. Evil spirit

30. Yellowish brown color

31. Furthest from the middle

32. Sediment

33. Figure

36. Bird genus

37. Preserve of crushed fruit

39. Early model with only one string per note

40. Sweeten

43. A vast desert in N. Africa

47. Transient cessation of respiration

48. Smooth brown oval nut of south central U.S.

49. A hairdo formed by braiding

50. A small island

52. Utter in a grating voice

53. Exaggerated zeal

54. Rapid bustling move-ment

55. A quadrilateral sail

56. An inexperienced young person

57. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet

58. Monetary unit of Chile

Answers can be found on page 3