



The **NEWSHOPPER** furnished FREE, because of the advertisers. Please let them know you appreciate it.

First Copy FREE, subsequent copies \$1 per copy.

Vol. 27 • Issue 07

Sat., February 14, 2026

NEWSHOPPER

FREE

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brainerd, MN
ZIP CODE 56401
Permit No. 681

PO Box 562, Ironton 56455
218-821-1393 By Appointment Only

email: hopper@crosbyironton.net
www.newshopper.net

WHAT'S INSIDE

ARRESTS MADE
Page 2

LEGAL NOTICE
Page 2

CLASSIFIEDS
Page 3

COMMUNITY
EVENTS
Page 4

Long Lake Conservation Center strikes creative camping chord

As Minnesota experiences a welcome mid-winter thaw, it's only natural for thoughts to drift toward summer days spent in the great outdoors. This year, families have an exciting new reason to dream of warmer weather — and it comes with a beat.

Long Lake Conservation Center is introducing Camp Nature Rocks, a one-of-a-kind art and music family camp that quite literally rocks. Held in association with the Nature Rocks Concert for Conservation, this weeklong camp blends creativity, nature, and performance in an unforgettable experience.

During Camp Nature Rocks, campers will work alongside professional artists and musicians to create original music and visual art inspired by the natural world. From songwriting to painting, participants will explore their creativity while surrounded by the forests and lakes that make Long Lake a summer favorite.

The camp experience culminates in a show-stopping finale: campers will take center stage at the Nature Rocks Concert for Conservation on Saturday, July 18. Camp mu-



sicians will perform as one of the opening acts for the Jayhawks, while camp artists unveil murals displayed at the concert and individual works featured in the Nature Art Village.

"This is a unique opportunity for young people to learn from professionals and then showcase their talents in front of a large audience," said Beth Haasken, Education Coordinator at Long Lake Conservation Center.

Camp Nature Rocks is part of a robust 2026 summer camp schedule at Long Lake, offering a wide range of hands-on, educational experiences for families and youth.

Summer camp schedule

- Forkhorn I Firearms Safety Training Camp that mixes firearms safety training with traditional summer camp activities. Two sessions to

choose from June 14–18 and June 28–July 3. For more information log on to longlakecc.org/forkhorn-camps

- Family Camp, June 21–24, is for adventurous families interested in exploring nature. See longlakecc.org/family-camp for more details.

- Camp Nature Rocks combines music and art with a camp, July 12–19. Learn more at longlakecc.org/camp-nature-rocks.

- Outdoor Explorers Adventure Youth Camp will build camper's skills in nature and conservation, July 27–31. See longlakecc.org/outdoor-explorers-youth-camp for more information.

- Astronomy Camp were the great outdoors meets outer space, July 31–August 3. See longlakecc.org/astronomy-camp for more details.

Parents and campers can learn more and register for

any of the summer camps at www.longlakecc.org/summer-camps or by calling 218-768-4653. Long Lake Conservation Foundation scholarships are available to help ensure all interested campers can participate.

Even as winter lingers, Long Lake Conservation Center is already setting the stage for a summer filled with creativity, learning, and outdoor adventure.

Perch limit cut on Mille Lacs Lake

Anglers heading to Mille Lacs Lake will need to count a little more carefully.

Since Monday, Feb. 9, the daily and possession limit for yellow perch on Mille Lacs Lake was reduced from 10 to five. This regulation will be in place through Nov. 30, 2026.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is adjusting the limit to help maintain a healthy perch population for the future and to stay within the state's share of the harvestable surplus. In addition to being prized by anglers for the dinner table, the fish are a key species in the Mille Lacs Lake ecosystem and are a primary food source for predators,

especially walleye.

"Many anglers have enjoyed good perch fishing this winter on Mille Lacs Lake, even better than last winter," said Brad Parsons, Minnesota DNR fisheries section manager. "Our perch harvest each of the last two years has been more than double what it was in earlier years going back to 2012. The perch population being high enough to draw significant angler interest is a positive sign for the health of the lake."

State-licensed anglers share the perch harvest on Mille Lacs Lake with Ojibwe Tribes that retain fishing rights by treaty. To conserve the fishery,

the state and the Tribes cooperatively establish an annual safe harvest level through a government-to-government, co-management process. Each party then sets fishing regulations to stay within their share of the harvest. This year, the state's share of the perch harvest is 36,500 pounds. As of Jan. 18, the state had harvested more than 17,000 pounds of perch.

Anglers can find Mille Lacs Lake fishing regulations and regularly updated data on state-licensed angler catches of walleye, northern pike and yellow perch on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/millelacs).

SHIFT CLINIC

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

Drs. Murray & Shannon Smith • 23 West Main Street, Crosby • www.askdrsmith.com • (218) 851-9626

Functional Medicine • Chiropractic • Acupuncture • Massage • Guided Weight Loss • Slim Laser • Magnesphere Resonance Therapy • PEMF

Diet & Exercise May Not Be the Reason You Can't Lose Weight

Schedule your first appointment by February 27, 2026 and receive a

FREE Consultation*

*Up to 15 Minutes



Waiting to
Lose
Weight?

UNCLAIMED FREIGHT NORTH

HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 9-5 & Sun. 9-2 • Hwy. 210 West, Aitkin
218-927-6446 • UnclaimedFreightNorth.com

Now Open
Sundays 9-2

ICE HOUSES &
HUGE INVENTORY
OF ICE FISHING
TACKLE &
SUPPLIES



TAX REFUND
Furniture Sale



NEED STORAGE?
Stop in Today for a Quote on a
New Garage or Carport!



LIFT CHAIR \$669.98
WITH HEAT & MASSAGE



CHAISE \$569.98



Black Walnut
& Aspen
Slipup
Table

DINING
SET
\$2,979.98

WE HAVE
AMMO

PROPANE AVAILABLE
including for
Motor Homes

ALL SIZES
NOW ON
SALE

**Symbl
Mattress** TRUCKLOAD SALE

TOOLS • GIFTS • HOUSEHOLD • FURNITURE: LIVING ROOM • BEDROOM • DINING

PRESIDENTS DAY SALE



DEALS BIGGER
than Lincoln's Hat!

Sleeper sofas so comfy,
Washington would cross the Delaware for one.



Turn your
TAX REFUND
into a new
mattress!

Beds so good,
you'll wake up
feeling presidential.



371 FURNITURE & MATTRESS

Locally Owned and Operated
Buy It Today...
Have It Today!*

*on In Stock Items

16413 Highway 371, Brainerd, MN 56401 • 218-828-3020
2 Miles North of Baxter on 371 • www.371furniture.com

371sales@gmail.com • Hours: Monday - Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 11-4

Fresh Ideas for Your Business

Stellar Web Pros

We Help You Reach Your Goals!



Contact us today to request your
FREE no-obligation web design demo!

StellarWebPros.com



Author Frank Weber to speak at Brainerd Public Library March 2

The Friends of the Brainerd Public Library invite the community to an afternoon of suspense, insight and conversation when acclaimed author Frank F. Weber visits for a brown bag event on Monday, March 2 from noon to 1 p.m.

Weber will discuss his newest release, Heartbreak Hollow, a gripping psycho-

logical thriller inspired by a true story.

The novel opens with a chilling premise: Eliana Castillo was promised a future — an engagement to the heir of a powerful crime family — but instead wakes up battered and freezing in the woods of Detroit Lakes, with no memory of how she got there or who wanted her dead. As

investigators Jon and Serena Frederick work to untangle a web of secrets stretching from mafia ties to small-town vendettas, the race is on to uncover the truth before it's too late. Blending psychological suspense with procedural realism, Heartbreak Hollow explores themes of love, betrayal and survival.

Weber brings a rare depth of experience to his fiction. A forensic psychologist specializing in homicide, sexual

assault and domestic abuse cases, he draws on years of professional work analyzing criminal behavior and victim trauma. His expertise has been featured on investigative television programs including Snapped, Murdered by Morning and Crime TV, and he has profiled numerous cold case homicides. His novels have earned multiple awards, and in 2024 he received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Minnesota Psycho-

logical Association, as well as the President's Award from the Minnesota Correctional Association for his forensic work.

The event is free and open to the public. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided, and

attendees are encouraged to bring a lunch and enjoy an engaging midday break at the library.

For readers who enjoy true crime, psychological suspense or simply a compelling story behind the story, this promises to be an event not to miss.



Three arrested after assault in Garrison

Crow Wing County Sheriff Eric Klang reports that deputies responded Friday, Feb. 6, to a residence near the Mille Lacs/Crow Wing County line, south of Garrison, on a report of an assault.

As a result of the incident, a 20-year-old male was located during a traffic stop in Mille Lacs County. He was airlifted to a medical facility for treatment. His condition is unknown at this time.

Authorities executed a search warrant at a residence on Edgewater Circle

in Crow Wing County as part of the ongoing investigation.

Two juveniles were arrested in connection with the incident. In addition, a 19-year-old male was arrested on suspicion of first-degree assault.

The investigation remains active. The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office is being assisted by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Police Department.

No further information has been released.

Theft-by-swindle arrests made in Aitkin County



Aron Lee Melton



Kristi Ann Fox

On February 5, 2026, the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant in Aitkin County as part of an ongoing investigation into suspected theft-by-swindle involving online marketplace transactions.

The investigation involves allegations that items represented as gold or silver bars were traded. Two individuals, Aron Lee Melton and Kristi Ann Fox, are associated with the investigation and were placed under arrest.

The Sheriff's Office is en-

couraging the public to use caution when buying, selling, or trading gold or silver bars. Even individuals with experience buying or selling gold and silver may be unable to detect counterfeit items without professional testing.

Anyone who believes they may have had similar interactions or has information related to this investigation is encouraged to contact the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Sexual Assault Services community appreciation event in Brainerd

Sexual Assault Services of Minnesota will open its doors to the community on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, for a special Sexual Assault Services

Appreciation Event, honoring survivors, advocates, and the many community members who stand alongside them.

The free, public event will

be held from 4 to 6 p.m. at Sexual Assault Services of MN, 606 NW Fifth Street in Brainerd, and is designed as a welcoming space for connection, gratitude, and shared support. Organizers say the evening will focus on celebrating resilience while raising awareness about the ongoing work of advocacy

and healing in the region.

A special ceremony at 4:30 p.m. will recognize honored guests and the collective strength of survivors and supporters. The ceremony will include a prayer led by Reverend Jesse Jones of Light-house Beginnings, offering a moment of reflection and encouragement.

Guests can also enjoy complimentary pizza and treats, along with drawings for prizes donated by generous local businesses. The atmosphere is intended to be warm, inclusive, and uplifting for all who attend — whether they are survivors, advocates, family members, friends, or community members seeking

to learn more.

"This event is about coming together," organizers shared. "It's about honoring strength, saying thank you, and reminding one another that no one stands alone."

The event is open to the public, and community members are encouraged to help spread the word.

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, Jan. 31, Feb. 7 & 14, 2026)

LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Libby Township Board will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 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 22nd day of January, 2026

Jane Grimsbo Jewett, clerk

Libby Township

2.91

WOODTICK INN

24916 Minnesota Avenue, Cuyuna

FISHING CONTEST PRE-PARTY

Friday, Feb. 20 MEGA MEAT RAFFLE 6:30PM • LIVE MUSIC TO FOLLOW

RABBIT LAKE ICE FISHING CONTEST

Saturday, Feb. 21 noon - 3 p.m. Fishing is allowed on East or West Rabbit Lake. Entry fee \$10. Four species of fish will be weighed in: walleye, northern, panfish and bass. The weigh-in station is at the Rabbit Lake Landing off County Road 31 north of Cuyuna. All entrants must have a valid fishing license and all DNR rules and regulations apply. Fish must be live to be registered in the contest. Northerns must be within the allowed slot limit (24-to-36-inch northerns must be thrown back).

Sign-up today at the Woodtick before all the spaces are full!

For more information call the Woodtick at 218-772-0252.

ICE FISHING CONTEST AWARDS/AFTER-PARTY

Saturday, Feb. 21 4 p.m.

Winners will be announced at the Woodtick following the contest at approximately 4 p.m.

More Upcoming Events

MEAT RAFFLES

Fridays (MEGA) 6:30 p.m.
Saturdays 1 & 3 p.m.
Sundays 3 p.m.

See Ya at the Tick!

Join us for our CHILI COOK OFF CONTEST

Saturday, March 21 noon - 4 p.m. Meat Raffles 1 & 3 p.m. Prize Drawings 4 p.m.

DALE R. MORRIS, CPA

214 - 1st Ave. NW • Aitkin, MN

218-927-4270

HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8 am to 5 pm; or by appointment

Electronic Tax Filing Available

A-Z Precision Painting

Anthony Zontelli

Owner/Operator

218-513-6787

zontelli3201@gmail.com

- Experience
- Quality
- Service

Painting and Property Services

STEVE'S PAINTING LLC

INSURED

- EXTERIOR
- INTERIOR
- STAINING
- LOG HOMES

218 546-8130

Reasonable • Experienced • Reliable

Turner & Son

Call for a FREE Quote

Get on the list for Snow Removal!

Full Service Snow Removal

Blowing Sidewalks and Drives • Plowing Snow Blowing • Roof Snow & Ice Removal

Tim Turner 218-866-2349

David Turner 651-242-4796

Serving the Lakes Area

CASH 4 JUNK CARS AND MACHINERY

Call 218-839-3371

Hoppers Helper's Service Directory

CONTRACTORS

Radtke Remodeling & Construction

Custom Built Homes • Remodeling • Garages

New Additions • Pole Buildings • General Contracting • Insulation

Dean Radtke, Aitkin, Lic. #20108758

www.radtkeremodelingconstruction.com

218-678-3403 • 218-839-6103

2024w39

FLOORING

JEFF WIBERG HARDWOOD FLOORS

Installing, Sanding, Refinishing • Over 20 Years Experience

218-330-2576

Check Me Out On Facebook

WEBSITES

STELLAR WEB PROS

Website, SEO & Digital Design Agency in the Lakes Area - Offering high-quality, budget-friendly websites for businesses and organizations. Contact us for your FREE no-obligation site design proposal today.

StellarWebPros.com

SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES

5 lines for \$20.00 per week

4 lines for \$16.00 per week

3 lines for \$12.00 per week

SELL IT FAST

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

AUTOMOBILES

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-485-1046. (mcn)

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, nocost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-977-7030 today! (mcn)

AUTOMOBILES CONT.

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-429-2331 today! (mcn)

HEALTH & MEDICAL

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance -NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-973-9175 www.dental50plus.com/midwest #6258 (mcn)

HEALTH & MEDICAL CONT.

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-716-2411. (mcn)

MISCELLANEOUS

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6323. (mcn)

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$1000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-879-1534. (mcn)

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-228-5789 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (mcn)

MISCELLANEOUS CONT.

NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-855-577-1268 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 75% off installation and a bonus \$250 discount! Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details. (mcn)

MISCELLANEOUS CONT.

THE BATHROOM OF YOUR DREAMS in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-833-618-1178.

SAFES

NEW AND USED SAFES FOR SALE

- Safe repair and locked safes opened
- Heavy and light duty gun safes and vault doors on hand
- High security safes for gold and silver

Call 202-360-5431

SERVICES

GOT JUNK? CALL THE JUNK REMOVAL EXPERTS AT 218-833-9664 OR VISIT US AT elitejunkprosmn.com FREE ESTIMATES

Classifieds

GET THE JOB DONE!

A GREAT place to live and work!

Over 50 Years of Values Based Care, Serving the Aitkin Community:

Live at Aicota:

- Short Term Rehab/Recovery
- Long Term Living
- Assisted Living
- Respite Care

Work at Aicota:

- Nursing Assistant (free training)
- Social Wellness
- RN/LPN

Customer Service

- Anticipating needs and exceeding expectations

Attitude

- Having fun and working hard while giving 100% to our residents

Respect

- Supporting and understanding that we are all unique and special

Excellence

- Emphasizing quality and striving to always be better tomorrow than we are today

Stewardship

- Maximizing precious resources and ensuring we use them to their fullest

Aicota Health Care Center & Assisted Living

850 2nd Street NW • Aitkin, MN 56431

218.927.2164 • www.aicota.com

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY

\$1,500 OFF

PLUS

ZERO Interest, ZERO Payments financing for 12 Months

OFFER EXPIRES 3/30/2026

BATH CONCEPTS AUTHORIZED DEALER

CALL NOW (833) 618-1178

*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/30/26. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for these customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2026 Bath Concepts Industries.

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel

SPECIAL OFFER

FREE Fixtures and FREE Shower Door

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW 1.855.414.0768

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 3/31/26.

ALL MILITARY ITEMS WANTED

WWI • WW2 • KOREA • VIETNAM

Medals, knives, guns, helmets, daggers, uniforms, all items wanted. ALSO INDIAN ARROWHEADS & ARTIFACTS

Single items or collections. PAYING CASH.

563-581-9568

Anyone can say they can fix it, only we guarantee it...for life!

Basement Waterproofing

Foundation Repair

Crawl Space Repair

GUARANTEE

LIFE OF THE STRUCTURE WARRANTY

TOP RATED

Angi

SAFE BASEMENTS

Schedule your free inspection: (844) 839-1112

*Certain terms and conditions apply. Ask your Foundation Specialist for details. Contractor ID B007775

NewsHopper

Deadlines are Mondays at Noon

teleflora

20% OFF Valentine's Day Sale

Hugs and Kisses Bouquet

Whether for your significant other or your sister, aunt, or grandmother, this delightful floral gift is a sweet way to say "I love you." Sweet price, too.

The charming bouquet includes: white daisy spray chrysanthemums, pink carnations, red miniature carnations, red roses accented with fresh greenery.

SKU # TI1Z100C

Reg. Price: \$64.99

Your Price: \$51.99

Call 1-888-473-0409 to place your order

Use Promo Code MDVD089 to get 20% off

Promo code is only valid for phone orders.

Product availability varies by market and minimum order values may apply. A shipping fee of \$20.99 is applied to U.S. orders; additional fees may apply for same-day delivery.

DigiKey

More to offer

Discover your pathway to more. DigiKey currently has a wide range of available positions in a supportive and stable environment.

Best-in-class benefits include:

The region's best health plan

Up to \$8,000 in combined sign-on/relocation bonuses

Opportunities for career advancement

Generous paid time off

With multiple openings across key roles, there's never been a better time to find your more at DigiKey.

Find your more at digikeycareers.com

©2026 DigiKey. DigiKey is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

MCAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Statewide Classifieds

HELP WANTED

MDA HIRING FOREST PEST (SPONGY MOTH) SURVEYORS

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is hiring temp. intermittent Surveyors (Ag Technicians) for the 2026 Spongy Moth Trapping Survey season. \$20.51/hr. + mileage reimbursement. View job post (Job I.D. 91599) & apply online through March 2nd: https://mn.gov/mmb/careers. MDA is an equal opportunity employer & provider. Questions: 651/201-6692 or natasha.northrop@state.mn.us

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY HOUSES

for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683

MISCELLANEOUS

GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES!

Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!

SATELLITE TV + INTERNET!

Get Dish! Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 In gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309

DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!

Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506

MISCELLANEOUS

SAFE STEP

North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

Advertise here statewide in 200+ newspapers for only \$279 per week! Call 612-332-8844

CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER

Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 844/453-6983

NewsHopper Classified Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

All ads must reach our office no later than Noon on Monday with payment. Please type or print clearly. Your ad will be printed as you write it.

Classified Rates

75¢ per word one issue (10 word minimum)

Add \$1.00 each for bold type and/or CAPITALIZED type, whether one word or all words in your classified ad.

Add \$12.00 for your logo, artwork or photo! (1/2" tall x 1 1/2" wide printed maximum size)

To Figure the Cost of Your Ad

Number of Words _____

Rate per Word x 75¢ _____

Additional Costs + _____

Total Per Week _____

Number of Weeks x _____

TOTAL COST OF AD _____

www.NewsHopper.net • hopper@crosbyironton.net

Thank you for your order! Please make check payable to the NewsHopper

Send to:

NewsHopper

PO Box 562

Ironton, MN 56455

ADD A PHOTO FOR \$12.00 PER ISSUE

We are not responsible for error due to illegible copy or missing punctuation. Punctuation does not count as a word. Each phone number, e-mail and web address counts as one word.

Visa

Master Card

COMMUNITY EVENTS

February
16th - Cribbage players wanted, 1 -2:30 p.m. at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd.
18th - Cascade Church Cascade United Methodist Church Free Come and Eat Supper, 5:30 p.m. 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.
20th & 21st - Triple Fest Snow & Ice Drag Racing at Breezy Point Resort
21st - Woodtick Inn's Annual Rabbit Lake Ice Fishing Contest, noon to 3 p.m., entry fee is \$10. Cash prizes will be awarded for winning weight walleye, northern, panfish and bass caught on East or West Rabbit Lake. Winners will be announced at the Woodtick following the contest at approximately 4 p.m. For more information call the Woodtick at 218-772-0252.
21st - Fishing for Ducks Ice Fishing Contest in Garrison on Mille Lacs Lake, starting at noon. Visit fishingforducks.org.
23rd - Cribbage players wanted, 1 -2:30 p.m. at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd.
March
2nd - Cribbage players wanted, 1 -2:30 p.m. at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd.
7th - Ski Plane and Wheels Fly-In, Drive-In and Chili Contest, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., at the Aitkin Municipal Airport, 1190 Air Park Drive, Aitkin. Serving chili and hot dogs. Sample six kinds of chili and vote on your favorite.
9th - Cribbage players wanted, 1 -2:30 p.m. at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd.
14th - 52nd Annual Crosslake St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration. Event information available at crosslake.com/stpatsday
16th - Cribbage players wanted, 1 -2:30 p.m. at The Brainerd Center, 803 Kingwood St., Brainerd.
20th & 21st - Brainerd Lakes Home Show & Expo at the Essentia Health Sports Center
Send your community events information to hopper@crosbyironton.net or send us a message via www.NewsHopper.net/contact/

Area Births, Open Houses, Engagements, Weddings & Community Events are published **FREE!**
Send your community events information to hopper@crosbyironton.net

Flammable • Caution • Warning • Danger • Poisonous • Toxic • Explosive •

Never dump household hazardous waste such as pesticides, fertilizers, paint or solvents down the toilet, down the drain, into a storm drain, open waterway or ditch. Beyond posing a threat to our health and environment, such dumping is illegal.



Crow Wing County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
OPEN p.m. Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
November 1st to April 30th

Automotive • Paint • Home Improvement • Workshop Crafts • Lawn • Garden • Household Cleaners

Read the Warning Labels: A product has one or more hazardous properties, if it shows the single words: Corrosive, Flammable, Caution, Warning, Danger, Poisonous, Toxic, Explosive or Reactive. It does not become any less hazardous when you throw it away.

Please Note: The Household Hazardous Waste Facility DOES NOT ACCEPT Florescent Light Bulbs, Business or Farm Hazardous Waste.

The Collection Site is at the Landfill Nine Miles Southwest of Crosby on Highway 210

For more information call Crow Wing County Land Services at 218-824-1010.

Poisonous • Toxic • Explosive • Reactive • Flammable • Caution • Warning • Danger •

Cascade Methodist Church Come and Eat Supper set for Feb. 18

There's something special about a shared meal — the kind that brings neighbors together, fills the room with conversation, and feels a little like home. That's exactly what Cascade United Methodist Church is serving up with its next Come and Eat supper on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m.

The Come and Eat supper is a free monthly community meal, offered as a local mission of the church. Its purpose is simple and heartfelt: to gather families, friends, and neighbors around the table to enjoy a home-cooked meal and good company. No agendas, no pressure — just food, fellowship, and a warm welcome.

Held on the third Wednesday of each month, the supper has become a favorite tradition for many in the area, drawing people of all ages who are looking for connection as much as comfort food.

Reservations are requested to help with planning. To reserve a spot, call (218) 534-3507.

Cascade United Methodist Church is located between Deerwood and Crosby at 22781 Black Lake Road, Deerwood, near Highways 6 and 210.

OBITUARY

THOMAS JOHNSON

Thomas "Tom" Randall Johnson, 82, of Farm Island, Aitkin, passed away Wednesday, February 4, 2026 in Golden Horizons, Aitkin.

Private services will be held at a later date.

He was born January 27, 1944 in Minneapolis to Don and Dorothy (Bohline) Johnson. Tom graduated from Robbinsdale High School and later the University of Minnesota. Tom was united in marriage to Mary Soulen on March 28, 1980 in Minneapolis. Tom enjoyed sailing, boating and time with family and friends.

Tom is survived by his loving wife, Mary Soulen Johnson; sister, Sandra Commers; nieces, Leigh Hendrickson and Jayne Commers.

Tom is preceded in death by his first wife, Wendy Seagren and his parents.

To sign the guestbook online, go to: www.srtfuneral.com. Arrangements are with Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Aitkin.

Koop Funeral Home
32 East Main St., P.O. Box 7 • Crosby, MN 56441
Mary & Nick Zillmer, Owners/Directors

- Traditional, Graveside & Memorial Funerals
- Cremation Service
- Out-of-town Arrangements
- Pre-arrangement Plans

Caring Service on the Cuyuna Range & Surrounding Areas Since 1913

218-546-5531

Area Births, Open Houses, Engagements, Weddings & Community Events are published **FREE!**
Send your e-mail to hopper@crosbyironton.net

Locally Owned & Operated

Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home & Cremation Services Aitkin, MN 218-927-2614	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



Winter Specials

Thursdays 4PM-8PM All You Can Eat** Broasted Chicken Your choice of white or dark meat. Served with mashed potatoes & gravy, seasonal vegetable, coleslaw & a dinner roll \$19	Saturdays 4PM-8PM Chef's Choice Dinner Special
Fridays 5PM-8PM All You Can Eat** Fish Fry Served with coleslaw, french fries, seasonal vegetable & a dinner roll \$21 <small>(**No to go containers for reorders on AYCE specials**)</small>	Sundays 9AM-Noon Crepe Bar Crepe's filled with your choice of Peach, Strawberry or Blueberry compote. \$4/each



Ruby's & Bear Pine Bar

Winter Hours: Thursdays 4-8 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m.-8p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m.-8p.m., & Sundays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ruttger's Retail

ruttgersretail.com

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



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.



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.



Bay Lake SALON & SPA
at Ruttger's



Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
or by Appointment Call 218-678-4667

ruttgers.com/spa • 17455 Old Hwy. 6, Deerwood

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Signup at **www.redcrossblood.org**

Thursday, February 12
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Rockin' Ice Bocce

Saturday, February 14
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Games will begin at 9 a.m. sharp

A fun combination of bocce & curling.

The day includes ice games, bonfires, food and drink, music, and plenty of laughs.

Sign up here! by Monday, February 9

For questions call 218-678-4666 or email: rob.rathsack@ruttgers.com



PRIZES • PRIZES • PRIZES!

1st place \$500 - 2nd place \$250 -3rd place \$100

PLUS PRIZES The top 3 teams will ALSO get to pick from the following:
• Oktoberfest 2-Night Stay • 4-Person Round of Golf • \$50 Resort Gift Card

Sweetheart Supper

Saturday, February 14
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Treat your sweetheart to a gourmet meal at Ruby's on the Lake.

Menu includes:

- One complimentary glass of champagne per person.
- 1st Course** (Shared) Grilled Lamb & Shrimp
Garlic-herb marinade and house-made blueberry habanero reduction.
- 2nd Course** (Select Two) Winter Berry & Burrata Salad
Mixed greens, arugula, seasonal berries, toasted almonds, burrata cheese, mint vinaigrette and balsamic glaze.
-OR- Short Rib French Onion Soup
- 3rd Course** (Shared) Dark honey molasses bread served with honey cinnamon butter.
- 4th Course** (Select Two or One Surf n' Turf) Firecracker Shrimp
Roasted red pepper risotto, wilted spinach, aged Parmesan and micro greens.
-OR- Coffee-Chili Rubbed Ribeye
16 oz. Braveheart Black Angus coffee-chili rubbed ribeye grilled to your liking, topped with garlic herb compound butter, grilled asparagus and au gratin potatoes
- OR- Surf n' Turf (Shared)
20 oz. Braveheart Black Angus coffee-chili rubbed ribeye grilled to your liking, topped with garlic herb compound butter. Two 4oz broiled lobster tails with citrus herb butter, au gratin potatoes and asparagus for two.
- 5th Course** (Shared) Pistachio Honey Baklava Cake
Served with vanilla bean ice cream.

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

