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Vol. 16 • Issue 13

Sat., March 26, 2016

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Wishing You a
*Glorious
Easter*

DNR releases 2016 fishing regulations for Mille Lacs Lake

Regulations designed to protect the fish needed to rebuild Mille Lacs Lake's walleye population will require that walleye anglers use only artificial bait and immediately release all walleye when Minnesota's 2016 fishing season opens Saturday, May 14. "A catch-and-release walleye season allows us to protect future spawners yet acknowledges the desire that fishing remain open," said Don Pereira, fisheries chief for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Not allowing harvest is a difficult decision but it provides our best option."

From May 14 to Thursday, Dec. 1, anglers targeting walleye must use artificial bait and immediately release all walleye caught. Anglers targeting northern pike and muskellunge may possess and use sucker minnows longer than 8 inches but all other

anglers must not possess any other bait that is live, dead, frozen or processed.

Other changed regulations for the 2016 season on Mille Lacs include:

Walleye: Night closure beginning Monday, May 16, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and continuing through Dec. 1. Muskellunge anglers may fish at night but all baits, live or artificial, in possession must be at least 8 inches long.

Northern pike: Five fish with only one longer than 40 inches. All northern 30-40 inches long must be immediately released.

Bass: Four fish with only one longer than 21 inches. All fish 17-21 inches long must be immediately released. Last year on Mille Lacs, walleye anglers could use live bait and keep one walleye 19-21 inches long or longer than 28 inches. Walleye fishing closed in August

when fishing pressure, the number of fish caught and temperatures combined to push the state over its 28,600 pound walleye limit. Fishing re-opened on Dec. 1, 2015, with a walleye limit of one 18-20 inches or one longer than 28 inches.

This year's safe walleye harvest level established by the DNR and Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission remains at 40,000 pounds, with 28,600 allocated to state anglers and 11,400 to tribal anglers. Allowing fishing beyond those limits puts the walleye population at risk and a federal court decision requires that walleye fishing be suspended.

"The possibility of closing Mille Lacs to walleye fishing is greater this year than it was last," Pereira said. "Even with our catch-and-release approach, the risk remains considerable."

Concern stems from the additional pressure that hooking mortality – an estimate of the number of fish that die after being caught and returned to the water – has on walleye harvest. Hooking mortality rates also increase as water temperatures warm. Both factors are at play in Mille Lacs this year.

The DNR expects more small- and intermediate-sized fish to be caught, including fish hatched in 2013 that biologists are counting on to rebuild Mille Lacs' walleye population. These immature fish, which are approaching a more catchable, but comparatively small size of 14 inches and longer, need to be protected, so they can spawn. Ice is opening on lakes earlier this year, increasing the likelihood that water temperatures will warm faster and sooner.

"A low level of allowed harvest doesn't necessarily

mean slow walleye fishing," Pereira said. "As we saw last year, factors can combine to alter estimates and require adjustments. We believe that allowing no walleye harvest through catch-and-release is a reasonable yet cautious response based on in-depth analysis and citizen input from the Mille Lacs advisory committee."

As part of a more comprehensive study to better understand and estimate hooking mortality, the DNR will collect a variety of fishing information on Mille Lacs this summer. Temperature sensors will be placed in different parts of the lake at different depths to more accurately record temperatures where walleye congregate. Information on fishing methods and catches will be collected, too. Part of the information collection aspect of the research

Continued on Page 3



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By Janet Tharpe

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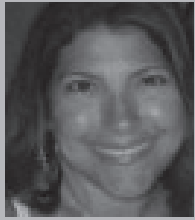


After taking one bite of Lisa Cancilla's Easter Knot Cookies, everyone will be wishing that the Easter Bunny left these cookies in their Easter basket. With a light, sweet anise flavor, they're delicious and the perfect way to end your Easter meal.

See step-by-step photos of Lisa's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at:

www.justapinch.com/easterknot

You'll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember, use "just a pinch"...



Lisa Cancilla
Parlin, NJ
(pop. 95,832)

-Janet

Easter Knot Cookies

What You Need

- 1/2 lb butter, softened
- 1 1/2 c sugar
- 6 eggs
- 2 tbsp milk
- 1 tsp anise extract
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 8 c sifted flour
- 6 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt

Butter Icing Recipe

- 3/4 box confectioners' sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 1 tsp anise extract
- Food coloring
- Milk

Directions

- Cream butter and sugar.
- Add eggs, milk, anise and vanilla.
- Combine the sifted flour, baking powder and salt. Add slowly to the wet mixture.
- Grease cookie sheets. Roll dough into 1/2" logs and form into knots.
- Bake at 400 F for 8 minutes.

- To make butter icing, combine confectioners sugar and butter.
- Add anise.
- Slowly add milk to desired consistency.
- Add food coloring of your choice.
- Dunk cookies in icing and let dry.

Submitted by: Lisa Cancilla, Parlin, NJ (pop. 95,832)
www.justapinch.com/easterknot

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Ironton approves Klunker Funk

At the Ironton City council meeting on March 16, Fire Chief Jeff Thompson was asked about the request for increase in the pension for the volunteer firemen from \$500 to \$650 per year in 2012.

Thompson said, "No, I haven't got any answer on that."

Thompson spoke about a tentative fire protection contract with Tromald for \$1,500 per year for up to six calls. Then \$200 per call after that. He also indicated most of the calls from Tromald would be private vehicle related and would most likely be billed directly to the owner's auto insurance and not at the expense of the City of Tromald.

Councilman Clark Hamdorf thanked Thompson for inviting him to go to a pipeline information meeting.

Councilwoman Angie Kugel asked about the status for a controlled burning of some fields. Thompson indicated he would ask permission to burn from the DNR.

Bruce Swanson presented information about this year's Klunker Funk bike event on August 6. Swanson said that Surly Bike Company had a booth at last year's event. This year Surly would like to help promote the event and have a booth again this year. They

were hoping to add a food vendor for the event this year. Some details of the event were still in the works and would be announced later. Council approved the event request.

There was some discussion about submission of the example of the Black Duck rental ordinance for the City Attorney for review. There was some discussion about including all rental properties not just short-term vacation rental properties in the property inspection requirements. Currently no city inspections are required for rental properties and no decision was made.

Four arrested in drug bust with four children place in foster care



Curtis Lee Hiltbrunner



Melissa Sue Hiltbrunner



Nicholas John Schuman



Trishanda Joelle Rude

Four people were arrested in Crosby following the execution of a search warrant on March 15.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., agents from the Lakes Area Drug Investigative Division (LADID), executed a search warrant involving the sale and distribution of methamphetamine at a residence on the 800 block of Pine Street in Crosby which resulted in the arrest of four individuals.

According to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office,

agents located approximately three ounces of suspected methamphetamine, numerous baggies and scales related to drug sale, a video surveillance system which was active at the time agents made entry into the house, a firearm and numerous items of drug paraphernalia. There were four children present at the house, ranging in age from 2 to 11 years old. The children were placed in emergency foster care.

The street value of the seized

meth is approximately \$9,000.

Arrested in connection with the drug investigation were Curtis Lee Hiltbrunner, 32, Crosby; Melissa Sue Hiltbrunner, 28, Crosby; Nicholas John Schuman, 35, Crosby; and Trishanda Joelle Rude, 30, Garrison.

Charges range from fifth degree possession of controlled substance to first degree possession of controlled substance along with child endangerment and weapons charges.

DNR releases 2016 fishing regulations for Mille Lacs Lake | Continued from Page 1

program will allow Mille Lacs' fishing launches to be exempt from the live bait restriction.

"Anglers fish close together on launches, making it extremely difficult to safely cast artificial lures rather than dropping baited lines into the water," Pereira said. "Since the DNR needs more data to refine its hooking mortality standards, asking launches to provide this data will allow a traditional, popular and enjoyable method of fishing on Mille Lacs to continue."

Launch operators receiving a permit can use live bait provided they agree to participate in efforts to collect data from fishing trips, launch customers and cooperate with the hooking mortality study. Their permits would be suspended if wall-eye fishing on Mille Lacs has to be closed.

Bass regulations compromise

Anglers can keep four bass in any combination of largemouth and smallmouth, down from last year's limit of six fish. The new regulations add a requirement that all fish 17-21 inches be immediately released, and the length restriction for the largest fish an angler may keep increased from 18 to 21 inches.

The early harvest offered on Mille Lacs also was eliminated, requiring that - like the rest of the state - all bass caught during the first two weeks of the season be immediately released.

Mille Lacs' exemption to the statewide fall closure of the smallmouth bass season remains, meaning that anglers may keep smallmouth bass they catch on Mille Lacs through Feb. 28, 2017.

DNR changed the regulation to balance bass angling groups' call for stricter regulations to protect Mille Lacs Lake's world-class smallmouth fishery with the desire and need to provide anglers opportunities to harvest fish.

"Bass regulations are a compromise," Pereira said. "Last year's regulations were biologically sound but it was important that DNR also factor in the emerging social aspects in this year's regulations."

The ability to exempt large bass tournaments from the size regulation and bag limits

remains.

Northern pike regulations change

Mille Lacs anglers can keep five northern pike, only one of which can be longer than 40 inches. All fish 30-40 inches must be immediately released.

The five-fish limit was initially enacted last December. The protected slot limit replaces the provision that allowed anglers to keep only one fish longer than 30 inches.

The earn-a-trophy provision that required anglers to harvest two smaller pike before one larger one was eliminated for the 2016 open water season.

More information about Mille Lacs is available on the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/millelacs.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

AA - Aitkin - 322 1st Ave. NE 218-927-2651
Sun. Women's Meeting 5:30 pm, Tue. Open Meeting 8 pm, Wed. Women's Meeting 6 pm, Thu. Sober Sailors Open 9 am, Friday Night Grape Vine 6:30 pm.

AA Garrison: Monday Night AA (open) 7:30 PM and Wednesday 7:30 PM at Community Alliance Church, 9475 Jefferson St.

ALANON - 322 1st Ave NE, Aitkin 6:30 pm
Thursday evenings.

ALANON Garrison: Wednesday 7:30 PM at Community Alliance Church, 9475 Jefferson St.

Aitkin Friends of the Library meet 4th Tue. each month, 1 pm, Aitkin Public Library.

Aitkin Women of Today meet 2nd Mon. of month, 6:30 pm, Mille Lacs Energy Coop, info call 218-927-4558. Evening care is available and free. All are welcome!

American Legion Aitkin Lee #86 & Unit 86, meets the 2nd Thurs. of each month at 7 p.m. "Ask an Attorney", Aitkin Co. Sheriff's conference room, 2nd Tue. of month at noon.

Bay Lake Area Lions are currently collecting items for their upcoming June 13 auction. If you have non-rummage items, please call 218-678-9090 to arrange a pick-up or drop-off.

Blow-Hards, a lung disease support group, meets the 4th Thu. of each month, Kanabec Hospital in Mora. Contact Carol, 320-225-3646.

Care N Share Community Cafe Community Meal, Wednesdays Located in the fellowship hall in the Wesleyan Church on Highway #6 in Emily. Please call Sharon - 612 669-3295

Caregiver/Memory Loss Support Group, meets first Wed., 1-2 pm, Aicota Rehab Center, Aitkin & 3rd Tue., 3-4 pm, DAC, McGregor. 218-927-1383

Circles of Support meets every Tue., 6-8 pm if you are living paycheck to paycheck and are ready for a change. Circles may be right for you, call Brandi, 800-997-5723.

Clear Lake Grange meets second Tue. each month, 6 pm potluck, 7 pm meeting. Meet in member's homes. Info call Vern 320-684-2244 or Roxy 218-927-4558.

Closet is open second and fourth Saturday of each month from 8 am - noon. Free clothing for men and women. Narrows Community Church, 6297 Woods Bay Drive NE, Outing (look for yellow signs). Call Pastor Stanley Mikles at 218-820-5365 for more information.

Cooks Night Out - 3rd Wed of month, McGregor Comm. Ctr., 5:30 p.m., no restrictions, donations welcome.

Cuyuna Rock Gem & Mineral Club, meet 2nd Sat. each month, 2:30 at Cuyuna Range Community Center, lower level.

Dance every second Tuesday at Moose in Grand Rapids.

Dance at Waukenabo the second and last Wednesday of the month.

Deerwood Lakes Lions meet the 2nd Monday of every month, 5:30pm social, 6:00 pm dinner/meeting, at the Heartwood Senior Living. Call 218-831-5683, if you need more information or would like to join our club. Lions affordable hearings aids available to those who qualify.

For more information, call Diann Bates 218-546-5237 or 218-838-4768 cell.

Evergreen P.A.C. ATV Club meetings 1st Thu. each month, 7 pm, Jackson Hole, Lawler, open to public.

FASD Caregiver Support Group - For caregivers of individuals with a diagnosed or suspected Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Meet with other caregivers (adults only please) for support, understanding, and networking. Meetings are 9 am the second Saturday of each month at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 418 8th Ave. NE, Brainerd. For more information, please contact Sheila York at 218-820-5903 or syork@mofas.org

Friends of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge meet 3rd Wed. each month, at 1 pm. at the Visitor Center at 36289 State Hwy. 65, McGregor 218-768-2402

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous Meeting Tuesday evenings, 6:30 pm small conference room at Aitkin Library. No dues, fees or weigh ins. For more information call: 217-248-6434. www.foodaddicts.org

Food Shelf: Community Food Shelf at First Lutheran Church open on 2nd and 4th Thurs, 9:30 AM-5 PM, at 107 2nd St SE Aitkin. Must register by 4:45 PM to be served.

Food Shelf: Emergency Food Shelf at St. James Catholic Church, Aitkin. Hours are Tuesday from 12 to 3 pm. To enter the food shelf go to the South side of the building, go to the 4th door and look for signs.

Food Shelf: Garrison Area Community Food Shelf open Tue. & Thu. 1-5 pm, at 9541 Madison Street; Garrison. For emergency Food Shelf, call 320-692-5399 and leave a message.

Gamblers Anonymous meets each Mon., 7 pm, First Lutheran Church, Aitkin, for info call 218-393-0935.

Garrison Fire Auxiliary meets 2nd Thu. 7:30 pm, Garrison Fire Hall.

Garrison Thrift Store, Thurs.-Fri. 10-4, Sat. 11-4.

Heart to Heart Support Group, 4th Tue. of month, 2 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.

Hope for the Future Support Group for those dealing with emotional issues, every Thu., 1 pm, 210 2nd St. NW, suite A, Aitkin, 927-3748.

Ironton TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meet Tue., 4 weigh-in, 9-9:30 a.m. Meeting 9:30-10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church Crosby Men & women invited. Call Mabel Semler 218-546-6523 for meeting location information.

Jacobson Seniors meets every Thu., 10-2 pm at Jacobson Comm. Ctr. Potluck at noon. Beverage provided. All are welcome. For more info., 752-1515.

Lymphedema Support Group, 3rd Mon. of month, 6:30 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.

Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club, Mon. 5:30 pm in Pequot Lakes, for more info call Brett 651-270-5648 or facebook/Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club

McGrath City Council, first Thu. of the month, 6:30 pm at fire station hall.

McGrath Senior Center meets every Mon. 1-4 pm, cards & games, all are welcome.

McGregor Community Meal served at the Community Center on Highway 65 on the Third Wednesday of each month serving from 5:30 - 6:00 pm.

McGregor TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) meets Thu., 4 pm weigh in, 4:30 meeting, Minnewawa Sportsman's Club, Goshawk St. (Co. Rd. 6), 218-768-2340 for more info.

MS Support Group, meets the 1st Thu. of the month at 7 pm, 606 NW 5th St, Brainerd, 218-824-5228.

Mystic Masonic Lodge meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm except June, July & August meet only 1st Tuesday at 7 pm over the Eye Care Center in Aitkin.

National Alliance on Mental Illness meet Fri., 2:30, Community Presbyterian Church, 703 Pokegama Ave., room 105, Grand Rapids, Call Terrence at 218-327-1347.

North Central MN Farm & Antique Assn. meet 1st Wed. of month, Blackberry Town Hall. Info: Bruce 218-752-6592.

Order of Eastern Star, Woodland Chapter 122 in Aitkin meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays September through May and 2nd Tuesday in June and 4th Tuesday in August at 7:30 PM above the Eye Care Center in Aitkin; dark July, January & February.

Operation Minnesota Nice meets 3rd Monday each month at 6 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hill City. For info call Tina Harcey at 218-697-8144. www.operationminnesotanice.com.

Praise & Worship Services, 101 S. Maddy St., McGregor, Intercessory prayer Wed 6-7 pm; Praise & Worship Services Sat. 2 pm, Sun 10 am.

Recovery Worship Service, Cascade United Methodist Church, Crosby/Deerwood, 1st Sat., 5 pm. Everyone is welcome.

RSVP Bone Builders Tue. & Thu from 10-11 am First Lutheran Church, Aitkin; 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 at Black Rock Terrace. Free of charge. Info call 218-927-1383.

Second Tuesday Card Party, Deerwood American Legion. Open to public, 1 pm social, card playing 1:30-3:30 pm. Cost \$3 per person. Refreshments. For info call Kathy at 218-546-5486.

Senior Dance at Deerwood Legion, 1-4 pm, 1st and 3rd Fri. each month.

TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Every Tues at East Entrance, First Lutheran Church, 101 2nd St SE, Aitkin Weigh in at 4:30pm and meeting at 5pm

White Pine Riders ATV Club meet 2nd Sat. each month (Feb. - Oct.) at McGrath Fire Hall, 10 am, open to public.

March

19th - Easter Turkey/Ham Bingo, Nisswa American Legion 6:30-8:30 pm www.nisswaamlegion.com

20th Hans Blix and the Weapons Inspectors will play a food shelf benefit concert at the First Con-

gregational United Church of Christ, Brainerd, at 3 pm.

24th - Living Last Supper at Aitkin United Methodist Church at 7 pm. The public is invited to this Maundy Thursday service will include communion. The Aitkin United Methodist Church is located at the corner of Hwy 210 (2nd Street NW) and 1st Ave. NW in Aitkin. For more information concerning the presentation please call (218-927-3242.

25th - Annual Outdoor Way of the Cross - gather at the Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Crosby parking lot at 2:45 p.m. At 3 p.m., we will walk a 2.2 mile procession through Crosby with scripture readings, singing, reflections and silence. We will return to St. Joseph's at approximately 4:45 p.m. Participants are invited to attend St. Joseph's Good Friday liturgy at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

25th - Aitkin Chamber Business After Hours will be hosted by Kirk and Amanda Schultz of The Beacon Arch

27th - Palisade Assembly of God Church invites the local community for a free Easter Breakfast of pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs and beverages, 8 am - 9 am.

29th - Vietnam War Commemoration 10 am - 2 pm, Grand Rapids Armory www.vietnam-war50th.com Lunch of Pulled Pork, Beans and Chips at noon. For more info contact Hughat Itasca County Veteran Services Office at 218-327-2858 or Jeff Hall at Duluth Vet Center at 218-722-8654.

April

8th - Fish Fry's at Light of the Cross in Garrison 5-7 pm for all-you-can-eat deep-fried fish and all the fixin's! The cost is \$9 for adults; \$4 for kids 5-10; and Free for kids 4 and younger. The menu consists of Deep Fried Alaskan Pollock, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Cole Slaw, Bread, Desserts and Beverages. Light of the Cross Church is located 2 blocks west of the Family Foods Grocery Store in Garrison.

22nd - Fish Fry's at Light of the Cross in Garrison 5-7 pm for all-you-can-eat deep-fried fish and all the fixin's! The cost is \$9 for adults; \$4 for kids 5-10; and Free for kids 4 and younger. The menu consists of Deep Fried Alaskan Pollock, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Cole Slaw, Bread, Desserts and Beverages. Light of the Cross Church is located 2 blocks west of the Family Foods Grocery Store in Garrison. 8th - Fish Fry's at Light of the Cross in Garrison 29th & 30th - Brainerd Jaycees Run for the Lakes, Nisswa Call: (218) 330-2604 www.runforthelakes.com



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North Carolina moves to protect women and kids' privacy rights

North Carolina lawmakers want to protect the privacy of women and children. They will hold a special session to consider undoing a troubling city ordinance. It could also stop other cities and counties from enacting similar rules.

In February, the Charlotte City Council passed a so-called sexual orientation/gender identity measure that allows men access to women's bathrooms, changing rooms and locker rooms.

John Rustin, president of the North Carolina Family Policy Council sent a letter to Gov. Pat McCrory,

urging him to stop these dangerous ordinances.

"These changes mean that men can enter women's restrooms, shower rooms, bathrooms and similar facilities in any 'public accommodation' in the City of Charlotte," he said. "This would place the privacy, safety and dignity of women, children, the elderly and others at great risk of physical, emotional and/or mental harms inherent with unexpectedly encountering an individual of the opposite sex in a facility that is deemed to be private."

Similar ordinances have been used in other states to drag Christian business owners to court.

Rustin explained that they have forced "small business owners such as florists, bakers, photographers, bed and breakfast owners and others who have sincerely held religious beliefs about marriage and human sexuality to either conform to a government dictated viewpoint or face legal charges, fines and other penalties. The Charlotte ordinance directly violates the constitutionally protected right to religious liberty, which our Founders considered to be our first and most cherished right."

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Lueck bill advances in House

Rep. Dale Lueck, R-Aitkin recently introduced legislation to resolve an issue created by the disestablishment of the Central Minnesota Community Corrections joint powers organization.

Both Crow Wing and Morrison Counties decided to withdraw from the three county organization in order to establish their own county based Community Corrections Act (CCA) program effective June 30, 2016.

Current law does not allow a county with a population of fewer than 30,000 citizens to establish their own county based CCA program. Aitkin County with a population of just over 16,000 is left to find another joint powers organization to join and go through an unnecessary and disruptive reorganization of the very effective group

of probation officers currently delivering corrections services in Aitkin County.

Lueck's bill (H.F. 2870) would remove that 30,000 population limit. That will allow Aitkin County probation officers to continue to operate as they have under the Community Corrections Act in same manner as their colleagues Morrison and Crow Wing Counties will do after June 30.

In a recent letter to Commissioner Tom Roy, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Lueck wrote; "As a former Aitkin County Commissioner, I have complete confidence that Aitkin County will operate an excellent corrections organization as a stand-alone CCA county."

During committee testimony during a House committee meeting Thursday, Aitkin

County Probation Director Elizabeth DeRuyck provided detailed testimony on why it makes sense to allow Aitkin County to seamlessly transition from a joint powers CCA organization to a county based CCA organization. Both DeRuyck and Lueck pointed out this matter needed to be resolved in a timely manner as the Central Minnesota Community Corrections organization will cease to exist after June 30.

The House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee moved the bill forward for consideration and a vote by the full House. The Senate's companion to Lueck's bill also passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee this week moving it forward toward a vote by the full Senate.

Silent auction items needed

Great River Strings is looking for donations and items of all sort for its Annual Spring Silent Auctions.

If you have quilt or craft items, furniture, lodging and

food certificates or business donations, please contact Executive Director Mary Aulie at 218.839.1085.

The concerts, "What's in a Name?" and silent auctions

are set for Saturday, April 23, at 7 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church, Deerwood; and Sunday, April 24, at 2:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Aitkin.

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