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WHAT'S INSIDE

COUNTERFEIT MONEY
Page 3

OBITUARIES
Pages 3 & 4

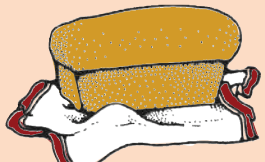
COMMUNITY EVENTS
Page 5

CLASSIFIEDS
Page 6

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Crosby hospital and clinics consider change in structure

Move to non-profit status would change the board make-up, allow much flexibility



A large crowd of over 120 people wanted to hear about the future of public community hospital, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby on April 20. Ann Schwartz photo

By ANN SCHWARTZ
Over 120 people attended a three-hour meeting on Wednesday, April 20, to hear the public's pros and cons about changing the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center from a public hospital to a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

The hospital board has been looking into this issue for some time, at the request of the physicians, said Richard Schiller, board chair, to the crowd gathered at Heartwood Senior Living Center.

"We're all here because we care about CRMC," said Schiller. He said the board

was in the midst of a careful and deliberate process to considering converting from a public hospital to a non-profit entity.

Dan McInerney and Sara Noel, attorneys from Stinson Leonard Street, explained the process.

With about 65 percent of its patients coming from outside the Crosby-based hospital district area, there are huge changes to CRMC.

Physicians merged their clinic with the hospital in 2009 and desire to have doctors on the board of directors, a move that isn't possible with the 18-member district

hospital board that is in place unless the doctors run for election in the districts they live in. The non-profit board would allow two physicians to serve on a new nine-member board, along with the hospital CEO, two members of the district board and four community members appointed by the district board. Expertise in such areas as finances and marketing could be recruited with the new community members.

A new non-profit corporation, referred to as "NewCo" would pay rent to lease the CRMC medical facilities and operations for 30 years. It

would guarantee that the Care Center remains open for at least five years, with a year's notice required if it were to close.

Other advantages of being a nonprofit is that hospital funds could be invested at a higher rate of return as now investing is restricted to government instruments only. It will be easier to enter into joint ventures with partners, offer more flexibility and incentives when recruiting doctors, and be better for fundraising, allowing applications to numerous grants and "Not being seen as part of the government."

Lakewood in Staples and Riverwood in Aitkin are both operated this way. Riverwood always has been and Staples converted about 10 years ago.

Attorney Sara Noel said the new corporation would be formed from the existing Longville Clinic structure, which has a 501(c)3 status already. All assets and liabilities would be transferred to NewCo and the hospital district would remain in place.

NewCo would not assume the hospital district's debt, but

would satisfy that liability through lease payments. "We would maintain the mission of the organization — for charitable purposes."

All staff would remain — subject to background checks — and current employees would be hired by NewCo.

Audience comments

The audience commented for hours and many were in favor of the conversion. Others wanted the board to slow down the process and some wanted the community to be able to vote on the conversion in a referendum that could be held with the November 2016 election. Speakers who tried to bring in past conflicts of disgruntled employees, Care Center staffing and trust issues with the new CEO were shouted down.

Schiller said that all audience members were to use the microphone. There was some confusion as there was only one mike and questions could be heard and answers not heard, or vice versa. But throughout the evening, although the room was packed

Continued on Page 2



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Crosby hospital and clinics consider change in structure | Continued from Page 1

and stuffy, the audience remained fairly civil.

Lorry Massa of the Minnesota Hospital Association said that over the last 10 years, 15 hospitals have converted from public to private non-profits. Of 143 hospitals in the state, only 26 remain publicly owned. And of the 143 hospitals in Minnesota, 105 are part of large systems: "through management agreement or lease they were acquired by a multi-hospital system."

Throughout the evening, fears were expressed of being swallowed up by a larger hospital group, where CRMC would only be used as a base for minor surgeries and lose its world-class status. Proponents of conversion said that it was the best way to keep CRMC viable and independent.

To sum up some of the comments:

Jacki Cluff: "Why don't you let the public who formed this hospital vote on this in November?"

Man's comment: "For physicians who want to be on the board, what prevented them from going to the district and signing up to get elected?" This man pointed out that with its new makeup, board members, physicians and administration would outnumber the public members of the board.

Attorney Dan McInerney pointed out that the hospital district will stay in place for a long time. He said any five members of the new board will make a majority, not just that particular configuration.

Sharon Roy, a 30-year nurse from Deerwood, has lived through three such conversions. She said Hennepin County Medical Center did it and still preserves its history and remains an active member of the community. "As an employee, once they converted I got the advantages — better retirement pay, better benefits...and I was assured I'd have a job."

She wants to live in the community and take care of patients and keep CRMC solvent, she said. "I want to make sure I can help people in the community I love," she said, noting she was favor of conversion.

Dr. Erik Severn said he loves the community and thinks the conversion will keep CRMC stable. He said the Aitkin hospital operates that way. Although the last year has been hard politically for CRMC, he asked people not to mix the issue of some people not liking the CEO with the conversion.

Dr. Howard McCollister said they had to grow and change with the times and weren't just a small public hospital any more. "It's not Miner's Hospital anymore and it will never be again."

Dr. Fawn Atchison said CRMC was started by "community dreamers decades ago. Decades later should you still be dreaming the same dreams?"

Jeannie Stanton of Perry Lake stated: "Did the board ever consider how the public feels about it? Why not put it to a public vote? The board is not listening to its constituents"

Throughout the evening, doctors and medical staff spoke in favor of the conversion, noting benefits of financial stability, independence, the ability to attract more doctors, raise more funds, and make a better return on investments and more. Also, patients that come from Brainerd Lakes Area and throughout the region and even other states are not now able to have geographical representation on the board.

Kathy Meyer who was born in Miner's Hospital and has worked in the CRMC kitchen for 12 years, was in favor of the conversion, saying it may help the old kitchen get fixed up. "We elected our board, they are our voice and we need to let them make this decision for us."

Gene Bordwell, who struggled to walk to the front of the room after dealing with many medical issues, praised



Sara Noel, attorney, explains how conversion to a nonprofit would work. Ann Schwartz photo

the medical staff for doing so much for him. Years ago, Dr. Nixon carried him down the stairs of the old hospital "My dad, at 72 years old, passed away in the Care Center. I don't want to see it go." He said he's had heart attacks and a stroke and others in the audience are in the same position and many will need the Care Center. "We cannot — I don't care if have to walk around with a basket asking for donations — we don't want to lose our Care Center. We've got to get involved or it will all go down the drain."

Mary Lou Houle, longtime nurse, said she carried people up and down the stairs at the old hospital. She is a third generation Ranger and has lived in Ironton all her life. "My life's blood has gone into CRMC. I took care of everyone I knew."

She wanted to be sure independence would be retained, to find out how the board will be structured and who will report to whom on the new organizational chart. "I want to thank the employees. A lot of us worked hard to put you where you are."

By 9:15 p.m., Schiller thanked all the speakers. "Be assured we will take this all under consideration."

"CRMC is not being sold," said attorney Sara Noel, when answering questions after the meeting about the possible sale of CRMC. "The lease does include a purchase option which could be exercised by Newco, no sooner than 10 years after the lease begins. All outstanding debt and associated fees would be paid by Newco at such time."

"The nature of the transaction being considered is a lease of medical center operations, real estate and related assets from the District to Newco," Noel said. "Except for the real estate and fixtures subject to the lease, all Medical Center assets and liabilities would transfer to the Newco. Existing bonds cannot be assumed by Newco. Newco would pay rent to the District in an amount sufficient to cover the debt service and required reserves on the existing bonds. Newco would also make other promises to the District under the terms of the lease."

The board of directors has a strategic marketing retreat planned for May 12 at the medical center and will meet in closed session to go over what was heard at the public meeting. The board's next regular meeting is the third Monday in May.

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center

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- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
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| Nancy Moritz | Teddy Skattum |
| Roger Twigg | Danno Mahoney |
| Al Ebnet | Dave Kauphusman |
| Floyd Hale | Richard Schiller |
| Mary Zillmer | Kathy Pierson |
| Andrea Bedard | Brian Dobson |
| Jolienne Lundquist | Lori Burgstaler |
| Brian Kimbler | Mary Lou Swenson |

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- Dr. Fawn Atchison – Chief of Staff Elect
- Dr. George Kuhlmann – Past Chief of Staff

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- 1 1/2 to 2 c milk
- 1 large egg
- 1 - 1 1/2 c self-rising flour
- 2 tsp onion powder
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 2 tsp chicken soup base
- 2 tsp poultry seasoning (optional)
- Canola oil for frying

Directions

- In a large plastic

container, dissolve 2 tbsp salt in about 2 c water.

- Remove skin from chicken pieces (optional) and place in container.
- Add more water if necessary to cover chicken. Place lid on container and place in refrigerator for about 1 hour.
- Pour milk into a bowl. Add egg and beat with fork until fairly smooth and set aside.
- In another bowl add flour, seasonings and

soup base. Mix well.

- Dredge chicken pieces in flour mixture, then dip in milk and egg mixture. Roll in flour mixture.
- In a large deep iron skillet add 1" oil. Heat oil to about 375 and add chicken pieces.
- Do this in batches so as not to overcrowd your pan.
- Cook chicken about 7 to 8 minutes per side or until juices run clear.
- Transfer chicken pieces to serving platter.

Submitted by: Elaine Bovender, Wilmington, NC (pop. 106,476)

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Counterfeit money in Garrison

Crow Wing County Sheriff Todd Dahl announced April 27 that within the last week counterfeit bills were being circulated in the Garrison area. The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office is investigating these incidents and asks the public to inspect currency and report all suspicious activity to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office at 218-829-4749.

OBITUARIES

EDWARD NOVAK



Edward L. Novak, 88, of Union City, CA died on April 16, 2016 at his home. He was born on November 16, 1927 in Egypt, PA.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at St. Emily's Catholic Church in Emily. Burial was in the Pine Ridge Cemetery in Emily with full military honors given by the Myrin-James American Legion

Post #443 of Ironton.

Ed is survived by his wife, Donna; sons and daughter-in-law: Mathew and Melanie Novak and Eddie Novak; daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Jess Dysert; one sister, Irene Novak; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Patrick; two brothers and two sisters.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

BESS BAKER



Bess Lubovich Baker, 94, of Brainerd died on Sunday, April 24, 2016 at Bethany Good Samaritan Village in Brainerd.

She was born in Ironton on October 23, 1921 to Serbian immigrant parents, Mike and Pera (Valdetich) Lubovich and was the last surviving of their seven children.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. Burial was in the Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby. Zbogom!

She graduated from the Crosby-Ironton High School in 1939. In the years following, she lived in several cities working various jobs, including a domestic in Minneapolis, in the Chicago offices of Johnson Brothers, and as a bookkeeper for the U.S. government at the Smyrna Army Base in Nashville.

In 1954, she met the love of her life, Reno

Baker, in Atlanta. They were married a year later on February 11, 1955. For three years of their marriage they lived in Wildflecken, Germany and were stationed in the Army Infantry Base. After returning to the U.S., they settled in Atlanta, where Bess worked as a bookkeeper for a brokerage firm. In 1980, Bess and Reno returned to Minnesota and made Brainerd their home. Most recently she worked as an apartment manager at her apartment complex and was a member of the Serbian Sisters-Lika, Ironton.

She is survived by her beloved nephews, nieces and Lubovich cousins; in addition to many great and great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Reno; five brothers: Danny, George "Razz", Joe, Mike and Andy; and one sister, Mayme.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

More Obituaries on Page 4

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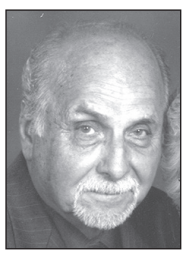
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OBITUARIES

EUGENE SCHMIDT



Eugene "Gene" F. Schmidt, 88, of Deerwood died on April 23, 2016 at his home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Deerwood with Father Dale Nau presiding. Military Honors will follow. Visitation will be at the church one hour prior to the service. Committal will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls, on Monday, May 2 at 11:00 am.

He was born on November 14, 1927 in Red Wing, MN to Edward A. and Blanche (Lange) Schmidt. He graduated from Red Wing Central High School in 1945. He was a WWII Navy Veteran. Gene married Janeth Ann Schlick on February 3, 1951. He worked for the City of Red Wing as a police officer attaining the rank of Sgt. Detective. He was also a self-employed painter and decorator until retiring in 1997. He was active in baseball in Red Wing as a player and manager of the

Scarlets and Aces. He was also a player for the Bay City, WI baseball team. In 2014, he was inducted into the Red Wing Baseball Hall of Fame. Gene was a member of the Red Wing Wildlife League, a lifetime member of B.P.O. Elks Lodge 845 Red Wing, and a member of American Legion Post 557 Deerwood, MN. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and was an avid sports fan. He had a love for dogs, especially his black lab "Sophie".

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Janeth; sons and daughters-in-law: Michael Schmidt, Hager City, WI; Christian Schmidt, Chaska; Joel and Kelly Schmidt, Inver Grove Heights; daughters and sons-in-law: Suzanne Anderson, Cold Spring; Kathleen and Daniel Gray, Eden Prairie; Amy and Randy Stanfield, Deerwood; 16 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Shirley "Polly" Nystrom, Austin and Katherine "Katy" (Curt Haller) Jorgensen, Red Wing.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers Stuart and William, and son-in-law Mitchell Anderson.

Arrangements were by Koop Funeral Home of Crosby, MN.

GERALD BURDICK

Gerald "Jerry" Burdick, 69, of Tamarack, died Sunday, April 10, 2016 at the Northland Village Assisted Living in McGregor.

At Jerry's request no services will be held. He was born November 19, 1946 in Aitkin, Minnesota to Roy and Doris (Guitare) Burdick. He married Kathleen Archer on July 28, 1990 in Tamarack. Jerry worked for a time on the Great Lakes and also with Dependable Surfacing Black Top, logged with the Brekke Twins and then worked for more than 30 years for the Demenge Sawmill. His last years, he hauled firewood to several people in the area. He was the happiest when he could be out in the woods working. He loved hunting, ice fishing with his brother Russ, bird hunting, picking

berries and feeding the birds and deer.

He is survived by his five brothers: Roger Burdick and Russ Burdick, both of Tamarack; David Burdick, North Augusta, SC, Wally Burdick of Pierz, Dewey Burdick of Wright; three sisters: Carol Hageman and Pearl Bruggman of McGregor, Joyce Shokes of Johns Island, South Carolina, numerous other relatives and friends and longtime friend Matt Suprina of Tamarack.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Kathy in 1997; brothers: Richard, Dale, Joe, Donnie, and sister: Jeanette Fredrickson.

Arrangements were with the McGregor Funeral Home in McGregor. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to sign the online guest register.

IONA KNOLL

Iona E. Knoll, 103, of Aitkin, died Friday, April 22, 2016 at the Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church at Cedarbrook with Rev. Sandy Berg Holte officiating. Burial was in the St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

She was born July 30, 1912 in Cottonwood County near Lamberton, MN to Richard and Ida (Matzke) Wendland. As a child, she lived in North Dakota for eight years, near the town of Woodworth. Her family returned to Minnesota in 1921 where they farmed near Storden, MN. Iona received most of her education here and she graduated from the Jeffers High School in 1932. She married William Knoll on June 20, 1937 at Jeffers, Minnesota. During WWII, they lived in California and worked in the Defense Plants. After the war they lived in Morris, MN for three years. In 1948, her husband accepted a job as caretaker of their church's Bible Camp

known then as the American Lutheran Bible Camp which is now known as Camp Onamia. Her husband Bill was soon made manager, a job which he held for 27 years. Iona was made manager of the food services at the camp and held that position until retirement in 1975. They moved to Aitkin where they built a home. They lived there until her husband died in 1986. Iona moved to Blackrock Terrace in 1987 and then to Aicota Assisted Living in 2009. Iona was a member of the St. John's Lutheran Church at Cedarbrook. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, was an avid reader and loved history.

She is survived by her brother, Maynard Wendland, Lamberton, MN and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; six brothers and four sisters.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home of Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to sign the online guest register.

DONNA WAGNER

Donna Jean Wagner, 81, of Palisade died Monday, April 25, 2016 at her home.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2016 at Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin with Reverend Charles Carlson officiating. Burial was in Waukenabo Cemetery.

She was born June 8, 1934 in Hutchinson to Morris and Helen (Hatfield) Musil. She married Gerald Wayne Wagner on June 24, 1950 in Aitkin. She worked as a homemaker taking care of her family, farmed, and worked for 32 years out of her home assembling sinkers for Water Gremlin Co. She enjoyed flower and vegetable gardening.

She is survived by her husband, Gerald Wag-

ner, Palisade; 5 children and their spouses: sons and daughters-in-law: Wayne and Linda Wagner, Palisade; Morris Wagner, Grand Haven, MI; David and Patricia Wagner, St. Paul; and Allen Wagner, Princeton; daughter and son-in-law: Karen and Lyle Ward, Aitkin; nine grandchildren; many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law: Roger and Shirley Musil, Newtonville, OH; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home of Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to sign the online guest register.



LOOK **baby** JUST WHOSE ARRIVED

ALAYNA VALENTINO

Alayna Ray Valentino, a girl, weighing 6 lbs., 9.6 ozs., was born April 15, 2016, in Aitkin, to Samantha McColey of Foley and Derek Valentino of Crosby. Grandparents are James and Tammy Matvick, Foley; Sheila Valentino, Crosby and the late, Rocky Valentino.

ELLEN JANKE

Ellen May Janke, a girl, weighing 6 lbs., 14 ozs., was born April 13, 2016, in Aitkin, to Elizabeth Marie Reimer and James Henry Janke, both of Aitkin. Grandparents are George Sap, Ellen Reimer, David Janke of Ramsey and Rainy Maki.

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Aitkin, MN
218-927-2614



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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

- ALLIANCE**
Aitkin* — New Life; Larry Burg & John Baker, pastors; Sunday School JAM session 9 am; Worship 10:15 am & 5:30 pm; Youth Group, Wed 6:15 pm; 112 - 1st Ave. SW 218-927-2823.
Garrison* — Pastor Michael H. Palkie; Worship 9; SS 10:30.
McGregor/Big Sandy — Rev. S. DeMars, 426-3408; E. of Sather's Store; Worship 9:30; Children's Church 10
Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Aitkin — Rev. Jason Erickson; SS 9; Worship 10:45; Wed. 7 p.m.
Crosby — Rev. Michael Towers; Worship 10:30
Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30; Worship at 10:45
Hill City — Rev. G. Valley; Worship 10 and 6:30 p.m.; Bible Study Thurs. 7 pm.
Palisade — Pastor Ed Sornberger; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726
- BAPTIST**
Aitkin* — Westside, Pastor D. Smith; Worship 10; Bible Life group 11:11; aitkinwestside.org.
Brainerd — Eagles Nest, Pastor Bob Stockland 218-829-4673; Worship 11, SS 9:45.
Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Bob Stockland 218-562-5252; Worship 9:30, SS 9:30.
Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor G. Fisher; SS 9:45; Service 10:45 and 6 p.m., Bible Study and Our Kids for Christ Wed. 7 pm
Deerwood* — Pastor W. Skog; SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.
Glory — 927-3678; SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 am.; Wed. 6 pm Glory Family night, Kids' Club age 4-6, MAD4Christ grades 7-12.
Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.
Isle — Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.
Opstead — Pastor P. Johnson; 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.
- CATHOLIC**
Aitkin — St. James, Fr. David Forsman, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 9 am.
Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Daniel Weiske, Sat. 4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00.
Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Anthony Wroblewski, Sat. 5:00; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.
Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
Crosby — St. Joseph's, Fr. Dale Nau, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun 10:30.
Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.ihmstemilys.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm.
Deerwood — St. Joseph's, Fr. Dale Nau, Mass: Sun 28:30.
Emily — St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101.
Garrison — Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. David Forsman, 218-927-6581; Mass Sun. 8 am.
Grand Rapids — St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 8 & 10:30. 218-326-2483
Hillman — Holy Family, Fr. David Forsman, 218-927-6581; Mass Sun. 10
McGrath — Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Paul Larson, Mass: Sun. 11 am.
McGregor — Holy Family, Fr. Paul Fruth, Mass: Sat. 5:30 p.m.; Sun. 9.
Vineland — St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Baxter, Lakes Area — Nondenominational; 7001 Highland Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-11:30. 218-828-1362
Tamarack — Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship 9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Aitkin — Co. Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Gentz Franz 217-371-4977; Sacrament Mtg. 10, SS 11; 10 Priesthood/Relief Society noon
COMMUNITY
Aitkin — Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE., Aitkin, Services Sun.10, 218-927-6959
Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9 May-Oct.
Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God, Pastor Robert Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30; Worship 10:30; Wed. BS 6:30 pm
Jacobson Community Church (the little white church in Jacobson), Sun. SS (All ages) 9:30, Worship 10:30; Family Time 2nd & 4th Sundays; Wed. BS 7 pm
Kimberly — Nature Ave. Rev. Rick Perry; Worship 9; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256.
McGregor — Amazing Grace Christian Church; Worship 10; 43242 Hwy. 65 N, 2 mi. N of Hwy. 210 on Hwy. 65. Pastor Joel Seibel.
McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.
Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.
Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 9:15; Service 10:30; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.
Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Dave Uhrich; Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10
Outing - Narrows Community Church, (non-demoninational), Pastor Stanley Mikles, 218-820-5365 Worship 11; Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6 pm; Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm Clothes Closet 8 am - noon, second and fourth Saturday
Palisade/Waukenabo Twp. — Hilltop Chapel, Pastor B. Hite; Service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; between Esquagama & Round Lake. Handicap Accessible.
Tamarack — Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.
CONGREGATIONAL
Aitkin — First (UCC) Rev. Susan Cline; Sun. 10; Comm. 1st Sun; Council Mtg. 2nd Sun. Spiritual fellowship, Sun. 9.
EPISCOPAL
Aitkin — St. John's, Rev. Karl E. Bell, Holy Communion Service 9
EVANGELICAL FREE
Crosby-Ironton — Lifespring Church, 9:30, 30 Hallet Ave NE 218-545-5433, visitlifespring.com
Crosslake — Interim Pastor Mark Holmen; Call for Service Times at 218-692-4141, email thelogchurch@crosslake.net
Isle — Pastor Charles Visser; Worship 9; SS 10:15; Wed. Youth Group 6 pm; Adult Prayer 6:30 pm
Malmo — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15; Young Families Fellowship 2nd and last Fri. of month, 5 pm
Wright — Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.
INDEPENDENT PENTECOSTAL
Emily Cornerstone Church — Pastor Earl Ready; Worship 10, 41536 Birchwood Drive, Emily; 218-763-2939.
Ironton — Iron Range Christian Center; Pastor Dwight Semler; 218-546-6523; meeting at Irondale Town Hall*, Co. Rd. 12, (Deerwood Shortcut); Worship 10 & Wed. 7 pm.
Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner; SS 1st & 3rd Sun. 10, Service 11, fellowship follows.
Malmo — Bethesda (ELCA), Rev. Jim Raisanen; Sat. Informal Worship 5 pm; Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10; Fellowship between services; Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun.
McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.
McGrath — Zion (ELCA), Pastor Elliott Malm; Worship 9; SS 9.
McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (ELCA), Pastor Ericka Foss; Worship 9, Fellowship follows, SS 10.
McGregor — Our Savior's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm
Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Michael Gustafson, Worship 9.
Palisade* — Bethel (ELCA), Rev. Wm. J. Sass; Worship 9:30; Wed. School classes 4:15 p.m.
Pequot Lakes-Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA), Rev. Donna M. Olsen, Worship 8 & 10; SS 10; Wed. Worship 5:45 pm; Free Community Supper Wednesdays at 5 pm.
Rossburg — Bethesda (ELCA), Rev. Sandy Berg-Holte; Worship 10:30; SS 2nd & 4th Sundays 10:30; Comm. 1st & 3rd Sunday each month.
Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210
Thor — Zion, Pastor G. Salmonson; Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.
Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.
Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.
PENTECOSTAL INDIAN
Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Ministry, 218-768-3585, Pastors Ken and Robin Fairbanks, Praise and Worship, Sat., 11. Everyone Welcome!
PRESBYTERIAN
Crosslake — Pastor Kate Stangl; Worship Memorial Day-Labor Day at 9:30; Worship September to May at 10:15; Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:1444 Daggett Pine Rd. 218-692-4769
McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9.
McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; No Sunday Service Worship Sat. 5 pm.
Tamarack — First, Rev. Y. Jingling; Worship 11.
Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm.
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Aitkin — Pastor J. Scoggins; Worship, Sat. 9:10; Sabbath School 10:30; Prayer Mtg. Tue. 7 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist.org; 218-927-4107
UNITED METHODIST
Aitkin — Pastor Dawn Houser; high school & adult SS 9; Worship 10:30; fellowship follows; handicapped accessible.
Crosby/Deerwood — Cascade, Rev. Brian Hazard; Worship 9:45; fellowship follows.
Cutler — Pine Lake Chapel, Rev. Laurence Foote; Worship 9.
Cromwell — Pastor Tim Homstad; Worship 10; SS 9 Emily — Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 8:45; fellowship follows; handicapped accessible.
Fleming—(Northern Lights Parish) SS 9:15; Worship 10:30; fellowship follows; handicapped accessible.
Hill City — Pastor Roger Lynn; Worship 10
McGregor—(Northern Lights Parish) Worship 8:45; fellowship follows; handicapped accessible.
Onamia — Pastor Rick & Judy Wilder; Worship 11; fellowship 10; 2 blks north of Post Office; handicap ramp; 320-532-3150; office: 218-546-7656; cell: 218-360-1947
WESLEYAN
Emily — Rev. Jeff Drake; Worship 9; Friendship Time 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

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 August 6 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.

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.

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.

3 - 5pm Sips, Sisterhood, & Savories at 3pm at Lutheran Church of the Cross. Enjoy afternoon tea, savory treats, & delectable desserts. Music, a silent auction, and a photo booth. Visit www.bridgesofhopemn.org for event details or to RSVP. Hats & gloves encouraged!

7th - Deerwood Lakes Lions Mother's Day Tea at the Cascade Methodist Church noon - 2pm. Entertainment, food and lots of door prizes. The theme is MARY POPPINS. Call Lion Diann at 218-838-4768 to order your tickets.

7th & 8th - Cuyuna Rock, Gem, & Mineral Society Rock Show at Crow Wing County Fairgrounds Curling Club Building Saturday 9 am - 5 pm & Sunday 10 am - 4pm. Admission \$1. Sharon Smith, 218-829-4992 Ed Opatz, 320-250-1363.

7th & 8th - Take-a-Mom fishing weekend

12th & 13th - Spring Rummage Sale at St. Joseph Church, Crosby. Thurs. 2-8pm; Fri, 8am- noon

14th - Walleye/Northern Pike Opener

14th - Spring Arts and Craft Festival 150+ artists/crafters with quality handmade items! FREE admission. Brainerd Sr. High School. Sponsored by Brainerd Public Schools Community Education 9:30 am - 4 pm

19th - Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network Business After Hours at the Soo Line Depot Museum, located at 101 1st Street NE, directly North of Super One Grocery Store from 5-7 p.m. Learn about the story of the Cuyuna Iron Range and its people, while you enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and a chance to win some great raffle prizes! To make your reservation, call the Chamber office at 218-546-8131 or email Jessica@cuyunalakes.com.

20th - Sons of Norway Tusenvann Lodge #1-659 Annual Banquet and Silent Auction at Wahkon Inn & Restaurant at 5:30 pm. Reservations are required at \$20.00 per person. The deadline to order tickets is May 16th. Call Bill Peterson to order or answer questions, at phone 1-320-679-2380.

20th & 21st - Officers Down 5K and Community Day will honor slain Aitkin Deputy Steven Sandberg and other officers who put their lives on the line to keep communities safe

22nd - Toolin' Tour Ride for Aitkin County Habitat for Humanity. To download the registration form, log onto www.habitatforhumanityaitkincounty.org. For more information, e-mail annschwartz@habitatforhumanityaitkincounty.org or call 218-927-5656.

30th - Chicken & Ribs Dinner and Music Benefit for Steve Sandberg, 3 pm Social Hour, Raffles & Auctions; 5 -7 pm Dinner; 8 pm - Midnight Music. Advance Tickets Only adults: \$25, kds 6-12 \$10, kids 5 and under free www.acleba.com Debra Exsted 218-927-7431

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Bathroom policies in the courts and the court of public opinion

A federal appeals court ruled in favor of a transgender teen. It's the first time a court has ruled that the term "sex" no longer applies to the biological differences between men and women, but rather how a person feels about their "gender identity."

Victoria Cobb is president of The Family Foundation of Virginia, one of Family Policy Alliance's nearly 40 state-based groups. She says the ruling simply puts women and children at risk.

"Even for most adults, preferring to shower or dress in the most private atmosphere possible is completely rational," she wrote in an op-ed for the Richmond Times. "Remarkably, that natural desire for physical privacy in public restrooms, locker rooms and showers shared by the overwhelming majority of Americans is being attacked as unreasonable, discriminatory — even bigoted. Worse, some are attempting to force our school children into vulnerable interactions with kids of the opposite sex in restrooms, locker rooms and showers, in addition to those who have suffered sexual abuse."

Target's decision to publicly share a long-standing policy allowing men entrance into women's restrooms and changing rooms brought a chorus of opposition from parents and concerned citizens.

The American Family Association has more than 600,000 signatures on a petition pledging to boycott because of the policy.

"Target's policy is exactly how sexual predators get access to their victims," AFA wrote on their website. "And with Target publicly boasting that men can enter women's bathrooms, where do you think predators are going to go?"

Izzy Avraham talked to his young daughter about Target's policy and suggested they go to the store and speak to the manager about it.

"We kept talking and I explained to her that we should be kind and loving to everyone," he said, "because everybody is a person with a heart and feelings. But that you can also disagree with the way they're acting, and think it's weird."

The Avrahams were disappointed with the manager's response, but thousands of people on Facebook shared his post and used his hashtag, #bytarget.

The Pennsylvania Family Institute, Family Policy Alliance's allied group in that state, shared a video from Defend My Privacy showing a mom and her daughter cutting up their Target REDCard because of the announcement. The video has gotten thousands of views and shares and continues to make the rounds on social media. You can view it through the link below.

By some estimates, one in 10 women have been the victim of sexual abuse. That leaves them particularly vulnerable to situations that make them feel unsafe. Stephanie, an adoptive mom of two girls in Virginia, says her daughters are at risk because of their abusive background.

"A particular risk to my daughters is exposure to the anatomy of the opposite sex," she said. "To my daughters, the male anatomy is a weapon by which they were assaulted. But the risk extends to even being in the presence of biological males in situations where my daughters feel vulnerable, such as when they are using the bathroom, changing clothes, or showering."

Despite the pushback, homosexual activist groups continue to push for bathroom policies that are uncomfortable at best and dangerous at worst.

"The privacy rights and safety of vulnerable school children shouldn't be cast aside or used as a political pawn for special-interest groups that desire to impose a genderless society," Cobb wrote. "Hopefully, a reasonable court will step in and reaffirm that our children have the dignity of basic privacy rights in bathrooms and showers. Anything short of that will put vulnerable children at tremendous emotional, physical and developmental risk."

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\$19,372



Mileage: 48,153 • SYNC • Heater Leather Seats • Power Seat • MoonRoof • Power Windows • Power Locks • Cruise Control • Keyless Entry • MyFord Touch • Dual Climate • Memory Seat #71669

2013 Ford Fusion SE

ONE OWNER

\$15,408



Mileage: 30,507 • 2.5L • ONE OWNER • SYNC • 10-Way Power Seat • Power Windows • Power Locks • Cruise Control • Air Conditioning • MoonRoof • Keyless Entry #71663

2010 Chevy Equinox LTZ AWD

ONE OWNER

\$15,705



Mileage: 82,708 • 3.0L V6 • AWD • BackUp Camera • Heated Seats • Power Seat • Tow Pkg • Aluminum Wheels • MoonRoof • Remote Start • Keyless Entry #55396b

07 Mercury Grand Marquis LS

ONE OWNER

\$6,878



Mileage: 104,684 • Power Seat • Power Windows • Power Locks • Cruise Control • Air Conditioning • Remote Start • Leather #55338a

2011 F-150 4x4 CrewCab FX4

ONE OWNER

\$24,690



Mileage: 83,045 • 3.5L EcoBoost • BackUp Camera • Soft Tonneau Cover • Tow Package • Spray-In Liner • Remote Start #55369a

10 Mustang V6 Convertible Premium

ONE OWNER

\$12,216



Mileage: 70,278 • 4.0L V6 • Heated Leather Seats • Power Seats • Power Windows • Power Locks • Cruise Control • Air Conditioning • Aluminum Wheels #55431b

2014 Ford Fusion SE

ONE OWNER!

\$16,299



Mileage: 29,658 • 1.5L EcoBoost • Heated Leather Seats • SYNC • Power Seat • Cruise Control • Air Conditioning • Keyless Entry #55431aa

2013 F-150 SuperCab 4x4

Lariat

\$29,999



Mileage: 33,639 • 5.0L V8 • 4x4 • BackUp Camera • SYNC • Heated Leather Seats • Spray-In Bed Liner • 18" Chrome Wheels • Remote Start #55456a

2014 Ford Escape FWD SE

ONE OWNER

\$15,999



Mileage: 49,873 • 1.6L EcoBoost • FWD • Rear Sensing • BackUp Camera • SYNC • Keyless Entry • Cruise Control • Air Conditioning • Power Locks/Windows #55439a



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Sat: 8am - 1pm

