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DNR to close Mille Lacs Lake walleye season September 6

After eight Chippewa bands expressed strong concerns, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reversed its two-week old decision and will close the Mille Lacs Lake catch-and-release walleye season on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Warm water temperatures and high catch rates on Mille Lacs during July and August led to higher-than-expected hooking mortality rates -- an estimate of the number of fish that die after being caught and returned to the water. The state's current estimated walleye harvest is 45,276 pounds, exceeding the original state quota by 16,676 pounds.

The state decided earlier this month to keep walleye fishing open out of concern for the impact of an early closure on the area economy. The catch-and-release-only regulations on Mille Lacs are successfully conserving the lake's future spawning population of walleye.

Given the strong concerns of band leaders, the state will close the lake's walleye season after the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The 2016 allocation established by the bands and the DNR in January was 40,000 pounds -- 28,600 for state-li-

censed anglers and 11,400 for tribal fishing. Eight Chippewa bands hold treaty fishing rights to Mille Lacs Lake.

"Although the state's estimated overage does not pose a conservation risk to the lake's walleye population, we recognize the impact that continued fishing could have on our relationship with the bands," said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr.

In reaction to the announcement, State Representative Dale Lueck, R-Aitkin, said, "Closure of the Mille Lacs Lakes' walleye catch and release season effective September 6, the day after Labor Day is disappointing. We have been using pretty much the same lake management model for almost two decades and still find ourselves reacting, rather than creating desired outcomes. The current model attempts to balance the lakes' biology, the economic impact of the fishery and treaty agreements, but to date has only produced short term measures. We need to put the entire management mechanism back on the table and focus on creating more sustainable results."

State Representative Sondra Erickson, R-Princeton said, "I am extremely disappointed

in Governor Dayton and the DNR's decision. Now, after a brief two-week reprieve, local businesses around Mille Lacs once again face uncertainty thanks to ongoing mismanagement from the state. I pledge to continue working with the governor and DNR on this critically important issue to ensure decisions are based on science and fishery management."

As of 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, the lake's catch-and-re-

lease-only walleye season will close. Fishing for other species remains open. The closure will remain in effect through Wednesday, Nov. 30.

In September, Mille Lacs Lake will host the Bassmaster Elite Series angler of the year championship.

"We certainly encourage anglers to continue visiting the Mille Lacs area this season to take advantage of the phenomenal fishing for other

trophy species," Landwehr said. "Last fall, a world-record muskie was caught and released on Mille Lacs by a fly-fisherman, and anglers are reporting excellent catch rates again this year."

As in past years, the DNR will conduct fall walleye assessments to determine the health of the walleye population. Data from those surveys will help determine future seasons.

Nursing home issues discussed

Minnesota Representatives Dale Lueck, R-Aitkin, and Joe Schomacker, R-Luverne, chairman the House Aging and Long-Term Care Policy Committee, met with Shelly Hanneken, administrator at Aitkin Health Services, to discuss nursing home issues Monday.

Last year, Lueck and Schomacker successfully worked to pass legislation that increased support for Minnesota's nursing homes.

"We have made progress in the area of elder care but it's clear we have more to do,"



Minnesota Representatives Dale Lueck, R-Aitkin, left, and Joe Schomacker, R-Luverne, right met with Shelly Hanneken, administrator at Aitkin Health Services, center.

Lueck said, "We are getting feedback that the support is helping, but as Shelly has outlined for us today, we still face challenges. Staffing issues remain an especially task for our smaller rural nursing home facilities to manage."

During 2015 budget ses-

sion, the Legislature passed a major reform to the nursing home rate structure and added an additional \$138 million in new money in support of the reform. The new rate structure and additional funding went into effect last January.

Despite the changes only having been in effect for less than a year, Lueck and Schomacker said they already are looking closely to see what the impact of those changes are and if any additional adjustments will be needed in the future.

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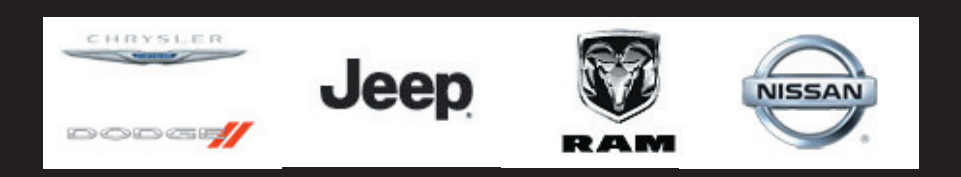


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CLC Cultural Thursday , Sept. 1

CLC instructor Lori Beth Larsen and her 10-year-old daughter, Maritza, will be giving a presentation titled "A Southeast Asia Duet in Discovery" on Thursday, Sept. 1 at noon in Chalberg Theatre, Brainerd campus. On Jan. 6, 2016, the pair traveled from a very cold Minnesota to a very hot Singapore. They spent the next nearly four months traveling through Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia. At the event, they'll be telling stories of their adventures, including training as mahouts in an elephant spa, pampering a baby elephant, taking a nine-hour bus ride through the mountains of Laos, spending two days on a slow boat on the Mekong

River, and much more. Find out why this duo has already started planning their next adventure.

Please contact CLC Cultural

Thursdays coordinator Tracey Kloeckl-Jiménez at 218-855-8183 or at tkjimenez@clcmn.edu if you have any questions or suggestions.



Maritza Larsen chops sugar-cane to feed to the elephants at an Elephant Rescue Daycare outside of Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Journey North brings changes to Aitkin's Westside Church



Pastors Lynfield Hines and Dallas Smith of the Journey North Church, Aitkin Campus. Ann Schwartz photo

bringing in millennials -- young families with teens and children," Smith said about the changes at an open house that was held on August 21.

When the church opens in October, an AWANA program will start for children aged 2 through fifth grade. Students in grades 6 to 12 can attend KHSOS student ministries.

Smith pointed out extensive renovations to the building. The southwest corner of the gym will be taken up with new classrooms, with one large classroom on a second floor. The gym will be three-fourths of its size with the kitchen left untouched.

The auditorium/worship space is reconfigured, with the stage on the east side of the building. State-of-the-art lights and sound equipment will be installed.

Mark Bjorlo leads the Journey North. Hines has been with the church for six years and in Aitkin since June 2016.

By ANN SCHWARTZ

In about six weeks, when extensive remodeling is finished, Aitkin's Westside Church will no longer exist. The building will open as an Aitkin Campus of the Journey North Church of Baxter and Lynfield Hines will be the

new campus pastor.

Dallas Smith, the longtime pastor at Westside, will be the associate pastor and will be preaching and teaching at the 9:15 a.m. service. Hines will preach and teach at the 10:30 a.m. service.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

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.
 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. 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.operationminnesotanic.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 (Osteoporosis exercise program) Tue & Thu: 10-11 First Lutheran Church, Aitkin; 11:30-12:30 Blackrock Terrace, Aitkin; 12:45-1:45 Journey North Church, Aitkin; Wed: 10-11 Malmo Evangelical Free Church, Malmo & Fri: 10-11 Bethesda Lutheran Church, Malmo. 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 Aitkin (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
 TOPS Ironton (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meet Monday, 4 pm weigh-in, 4:30 pm meeting at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crosby. Call Mabel Semler 218-546-6523 for meeting location information.
 Weight Watchers meets every Tuesday at 5:45 pm at the Sno-Serpents building in Deerwood at 24197 Mohs St (next to the Deer Stand restaurant). Weigh in begins at 5:15 pm. For more information, call 218-820-9725.
 White Pine Riders ATV Club meet 2nd Sat. each month (Feb. - Oct.) at McGrath Fire Hall, 10 am, open to public.

August

August 27 – Malmo Church's Outdoor Gospel Concert, Jim Lee, 7 pm. In case of rain or excessive heat the concert will be inside the air conditioned church Refreshments will be available and a free will offering will be received. Malmo church is located near the junction of Highways 47 and 18 on highway 18 near the north east corner of Lake Mille Lacs.
 26th - 28th - Cuyuna Lakes Crusher Race On, Pre-registration begins at 6 p.m. in Crosby's Memorial Park on Friday, Aug. 26 and a night ride will take place at 8 p.m. The Minnesota Series Race takes place in the Mahnomon Unit of Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area on Saturday, Aug. 27. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Also on Saturday, racers and the public are invited to celebrate at the Cuyuna Lakes Crusher Happy Hour and Awards Party, located at the Crosby Memorial Park from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Race awards will be at 5 p.m., free kids races at 6 p.m., Traveling Art Pub painting opportunities from 7 to 8:30 p.m., live music by Jackson and the Roosters, and food and craft beer provided by Maucieri's Catering throughout the evening. On Sunday, Aug. 28, there will be a Haul Road Time Trial near the Croft Mine from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cash and medals will be awarded to the top winners.
 27th - Staples Railroad Days 2
 27th - Jacobson Landing Day at Jacobson Recreation Area, 8 -11am Pancake Breakfast at Jacobson Community Church; 9 am Flea Market and Music by The 5th Mississippi Music Armada; 3 pm Parade and Free Ice Cream; 3:15 - 7 pm Music By "Still Kickin" , Beer Garden and BBQ
 28th - Trivia Night a Benefit for the Bay Lake Environmental Fund at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, 6:30 pm, \$15 per person. Includes appetizer buffet, cash bar available. Come alone or put together your own team of 8 people. All ages

welcome. Your team will compete to answer six rounds of 10 questions. Public welcome. For more information and to register, please contact Peggy Blistain 218-851-1208
 30th - Business After Hours 5-7 p.m. at Range Disposal Services new location 3 2nd Avenue S.W., Crosby (directly behind Barry's Properties). As a courtesy to the host, advanced registration is recommended. To make your reservation, call the Chamber office at 218-546-8131

September

1st - CLC Cultural Thursday at noon in Chalberg Theatre, Brainerd campus. CLC instructor Lori Beth Larsen and her 10-year-old daughter, Maritza, will be giving a presentation titled "A Southeast Asia Duet in Discovery."
 3rd - Great River Strings Garage Sale Fundraiser at the Aitkin American Legion in downtown Aitkin, 8 am - 4 pm. Bring your items to the Legion on Friday evening, September 2, after 4:30 p.m. (No electronics or stained clothing, please). Contact Mary Aulie, 218-839-1085 for further information.
 3rd - Ruttger's Fall Fashion Show & Luncheon at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge at noon. Call 218-678-2885 for reservations. Donations will go to the Ruttger's School Reading Fund.
 9th - Tusenvann Lodge #1-659 of Sons of Norway meeting at the I.R.E.C. Bldg. in Isle at 7 pm.

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OBITUARIES

WARREN TALASKA



Warren Gilbert Talaska, 85, of Aitkin died Thursday, August 18, 2016 at the Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 27, 2016 at 11 AM from First Lutheran Church in Aitkin with Rev. Darrell Pedersen officiating. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to the service at the church.

Burial will be in the Saron Cemetery. Military honors will be provided by the Aitkin VFW and American Legion Posts. Memorials may be directed to First Lutheran Church in Aitkin.

Warren was born March 25, 1931 at Ashland, Wisconsin the son of Clarence and Helen (Angvick) Talaska. He grew up in Ashland and graduated from the Ashland High School in 1949. He served in the U. S. Marine Corps during the Korean conflict. He then began a career with Bell Telephone Co. working in Min-

neapolis. He married Mavis M. (Weber) Tragethon on June 19, 1965 in Richfield where they made their home. Upon retirement Warren and Mavis became snow birds and lived between Sherwood Forest south of Aitkin and Mesa, AZ. He loved to travel and sports, especially the Vikings and the Twins.

He is survived by his wife, Mavis; brother, Clarence; daughter, Norma Lehmann; sons and daughters-in-law: Grant and Cheryl Tragethon, Don and Jan Tragethon, David and Debbie Tragethon; 10 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Russell "Bud" (Janice) Weber; nieces; nephews and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Robert and brother-in-law Donald Weber.

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

PAULINE LEY

C. Pauline Ley, 91, of Aitkin formerly of McGregor died Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at the Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin.

A memorial mass was held Thursday, August 25, 2016 at Holy Family Catholic Church in McGregor with Fr. Kuriakose Nediakala officiating.

She was born November 10, 1924 at Border, MN to John and Rosalie Delvina (St. Lawrence) Alich. She grew up and attended schools in Border and Indus graduating from the Indus High School in 1940. She then attended Bemidji State Teachers College graduating in 1945. She taught school in Menahga. She married Henry "Bud" Ley on March 16, 1968 in Anoka. They moved to McGregor where they lived on Big Sandy Lake at Ole's Resort for many years. She has resided at the Aicota Health Care Center since 2011. She had worked as a substitute teacher in McGregor and later she volunteered to work with students. She operated an Antique Shop in McGregor for many years, was known as the Button Lady and belonged to the Button Club, was active in the local writing club and wrote lots of poetry.

She had a book of her poetry published. She enjoyed sewing, reading and quilting. She had made quilts for just about every family member. She was a member of the Holy Family Catholic Church in McGregor.

She is survived by children and spouses: Julie (Robert) Lloyd, Aitkin; John Steinmetz, Kimball; Lisa Steinmetz, McGregor; Michael Steinmetz, Brooklyn Center; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; brother and sister-in-law, John and Jeanine Alich, International Falls; sisters: Sister Agnes Alich, Duluth; Margaret Koranda, Moorhead; and Sylvia Engbretson, International Falls.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry "Bud"; daughter, Laura Lea Steinmetz; brother, George Alich and sister, Marianne Christensen.

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

ROBERT ZOELLNER



Robert Lyle Zoellner, 80, of Aitkin died Monday, August 22, 2016 at Aitkin Health Services.

Memorial service will be 11 a.m. on Friday, September 2, 2016 at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin with Reverend Darrell Pedersen officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Military honors will be provided by Aitkin American Legion Lee Post #86 and Aitkin VFW Roberts-Glad Post #1727.

He was born August 20, 1936 in Washington Island, Wisconsin to Harold and Sylvia (Hansen) Zoellner. He was a U.S. Coast Guard Veteran and worked as a machinist. He married Teri Renee (Swedberg) on July 11, 1998

in Aitkin. He enjoyed woodworking, hunting, and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Teri; sons and daughters-in-law: Steve and Hope Zoellner, Robert and Emily Zoellner, and Norman Zoellner; daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Randy Matthiesen; step-children: James Larsen and Codie Larsen; seven grandchildren; great-grandchildren; sister, Marion Firchow; many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

LOVINA HOBSON

Lovina Elizabeth Eklund Hobson, 101, died Sunday, August 21, 2016 at the Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin.

Services will be held at a later date.

She was born July 26, 1915 in St. Cloud, Minnesota the daughter of Ray and Theresa (Aulis) Jackson. She grew up and attended schools in southern Minnesota and then moved to St. Paul for a time. She moved with her family to Aitkin County in 1931. She married Howard Eklund in 1935 in Aitkin. The made their home in rural Aitkin County and in 1960 moved to Aitkin. She worked at the turkey plant for many years and also did various other jobs throughout the years. Her husband Howard passed away in 1980. She married Ken Hobson in 1989 and continued to live in Aitkin. Ken passed away in 2002. She had been a member

of the church circle group and had been very active with the Aitkin County Fair and Aitkin County Seniors for many years.

She is survived by children: John Warner Eklund of Amarillo, Texas; Lorelei Eklund Stephenson of Amarillo, Texas; Patty Eklund Curran of Aitkin; Gary (Betty) Eklund of Aitkin; 17 grandchildren; and many great grandchildren and a number of great great grandchildren; 3 sisters: Shirley "Jackie" Carter of Illinois, Anna Mae Gerosa of Wisconsin and Mary Nies of Waite Park, Mn. She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Howard and Ken, four brothers and one sister.

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

General John Vessey dies at 94

Retired Army General John W. Vessey, Jr., 94, of Little Whitefish Lake near Garrison, died Thursday, August 18, 2016 of natural causes in North Oaks.

His funeral will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31 at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel, with visitation beginning an hour before. He will be interred the next day at 1 p.m. in the Minnesota

State Veterans Cemetery near Camp Ripley in Little Falls.

He was born in Minneapolis, on June, 29 1922. He enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard in May 1939 while still in high school, becoming a member of Headquarters, 59th Field Artillery Brigade, 34th Infantry Division. He was only 16 and fibbed about his age to join. With other members of his

unit he was called to active duty in February 1941. He fought in World War II and Vietnam. He rose through the ranks in a 46-year military career to become chairman of the joint chiefs of staff under President Ronald Reagan.

He married his high school sweetheart, Avis Funk of Minneapolis; and they had two sons, John III and David, and a daughter, Sarah.



CHASE JOHNSON

Chase Patrick Johnson, a boy, weighing 6 lbs., 3.4 ozs., was born August 15, 2016, in Aitkin, to Beth and Gary Johnson of Aitkin. Grandparents are David Grulke, Aitkin; Mary McDonnell, Aitkin; Gary Johnson, Sr. and Barb Johnson, both of Aitkin.

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Lakes Area Music Festival wraps up



By ANN SCHWARTZ
 For the first time in recent memory, professional ballet dances were on the stage in Brainerd.
 In front of an enthusiastic and packed house on August 17, classical musicians serenaded four dancers from the St. Paul Ballet in a concert entitled "Daydreams".
 The concert was one of the last of several put on by the Lakes Area Musical Festival in Brainerd and the surrounding area. The final concert of the 2016 season

was held on Sunday, August 21.
 The Lakes Area Music Festival ran from Sunday, July 31 to Sunday, August 21, with some pre-concerts in area communities held earlier in July.
 It included venues: Tornstrom Auditorium, Grandview Lodge, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge and after parties at Prairie Bay.
 Scott Lykins in the artistic and executive director and Taylor Ward the associate artistic director.

"The Lakes Area Music Festival now reaches thousands of audience members every summer," said Lykins in his program notes: "engages hundreds of the world premier classical musicians and provides arts education to hundreds of Minnesotans of all ages. The music this season focused on the power of visions and dreams to make the intangible real. Thus, each concert experience is a testament to how your investment in this organization has done the same."



Norson workers working on the exterior of the bank. It is on Hwy. 210 west in Aitkin. The building started as a funeral home and was later a daycare center. Ann Schwartz photo

Mid-Minnesota Credit Union

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union will open its 11th branch location in 2017 on a former daycare center property in west Aitkin on Hwy. 210. Nor-Son is currently renovating the property.
 According to MMFCU President Chuck Albrecht, the new branch will be a full-service location, complete with

a drive-through facility and 24-hour ATM access.
 Albrecht said the building will be completely remodeled and is expected to be open in early 2017.
 "To see this organization continue to grow and meet the needs of our members and neighbors is exciting," Albrecht said. "It is an honor and pleasure to extend our

reach into the Aitkin community and its neighboring cities, and we look forward to opening our doors in 2017."
 In October 2014, MMFCU's field of membership was expanded to include the counties of Becker, Norman and parts of Aitkin County – including the communities of Aitkin, McGregor and Palisade.

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