

Sat., December 31, 2016 email: hopper@crosbyironton.net

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Less than smooth transition at Crosby City Council

At the beginning of the Crosby City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 27, the Mayor Joanna Lattery asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the Monday, December 12 council meeting. Councilmember Jim Goshey noted an innaccuracy in the minutes. Goshey went on to say that except for Sova's contract extension that was not passed at the previous meeting, he would move to approve the minutes with the revision to remove the sentence and amend Clerk/ Treasurer Sova's contract to expire December 31, 2019.

A motion was made by Councilmember PaulHeglund and seconded by Goshev to approve the contracts for Police Chief Kim Coughlin and Police Lieutenant Kevin Randolph from January 1, 2017 to December 31 2019 and amend Clerk/ Treasurer Lisa Sova's contract to expire December 31, 2019.

At the public comment portion of the meeting, John Radinovich asked if they were going to vote on the garbage ordinance since it was on the attorney report part of the agenda. Mayor Lattery indicated that they were not, since the council had decided to wait until they had the final rental ordinance completed.

Planning and Zoning

Planning and Zoning Specialist Justin Burslie said at their last meeting there was one request for a variance from Cuyuna Country Apartments to allow less parking spaces than required by ordinance. That application was tabled, so the planning commission will be reviewing that again next month. They also reviewed a meets and bounds subdivision application that was approved. Next month there is a rezoning application scheduled for a public hearing in the future.

Burslie then thanked Councilmember Dusty Paul and Mayor Joanna Lattery for the opportunity to work for the city for the past couple of years and wished them the best.

Building Inspector

Building Inspector Scott Sadusky introduced the crime free/drug free lease addendum that could possibly be put into the rental ordinance. Other cities have put this addendum in their rental ordances to require landlords to include this addendum language in their leases. Some cities require a copy of the landlord tenant lease be submitted to verify the language has been added before the license is approved.

Sadusky said Red Raven opened a week and a half

ago. They are under a temporary occupancy with small little issues to work out, but they are open for business right now.

Sadusky said Cuyuna Brewing will have a temporary occupancy inspection on Friday, December 30. After the inspection the Department of Agriculture will let them start brewing. It will be a full month before it's ready to pour, so they are still targeting around February 1 to be open for business.

Employees in the Limelight

"I have been accused of hogging all of the publicity that comes out of Crosby recently, " Police Lieutenant Kevin Randolph said. "And while I will admit, I had a front page newspaper article and several national TV appearances. I want to disprove that accusation by saying that I don't have a magazine cover. Our clerk, Lisa Sova, is

featured on NIPA's quarterly magazine, for saving the city tons of money by using shared services, such as our Planning and Zoning. So that's all I wanted to say."

Liquor License

Council approved the cancelation of Cuyuna Lanes 3.2% On Sale and Sunday liquor license submitted by Nancy Burgwald.

Council approved issuing of Cuyuna Lanes 3.2% On Sale and Sunday liquor license submitted by Gary Koering.

Donations and Grants

Council approved Resolution 2016-45-1227 acknowledging the donation from the Hallett Charitable Trust in support of the Library.

Council approved Resolution 2016-46-1227 acknowledging the donation from the Hallett Charitable Trust

Continued on Page 2



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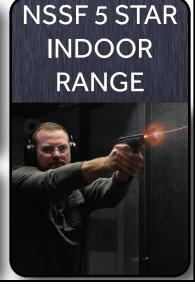
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Spaghetti benefit for Tae Kwon Do master at Harbor Inn in Garrison

There will be a benefit evening for Tae Kwon Do master, Theresa Dehning, of Cuyuna, on Saturday, January 21, starting at 6 p.m. at Harbor Inn in Garrison. The event includes a spaghetti dinner in the Tae Kwan Do martial



worked in the Deer-

for \$7 a plate, enter- art for 23 years. Before she tainment, and silent auction.

Theresa Dehning, added one in Aitkin recently. 59, has lived and Her friend and previous Tae Kwon Do student for 12 wood, Crosby, and years, Rebecca Weimer said Aitkin areas. She's that Dehning has lung cancer been an instructor and thyroid cancer.

"She is undergoing treat-

got ill, she owned a gym in

Crosby for many years and

ment at Hope Lodge, a cancer treatment facility," Weimer said. "She's enduring radiation and chemotherapy five days a week. At this point, she's just trying to make it through treatment, one day at a time — concentrating on that part."

Weimer said Dehning's

students were of all ages: children, adults, seniors, from a four-year-old all the way up to 99-year-old. Kids and adults did sparring and meets.

According to Weimer, students are taking the absence of Master Dehning hard. The gym is operating under a new person in Aitkin, but is not the same without her.

"I'd like to see the community come together and support this hardworking woman who touched so many lives," Weimer said. "Our Tae Kwon Do group is still a family."

Dehning has a husband, Ralph; one son; one daughter and two grandsons.

City of Crosby Council | Continued from Page 1

in support of the Community

Council approved Resolution 2016-47-1227 acknowledging the donation from the Hallett Charitable Trust in support of the tiling project.

Council approved Resolution 2016-48-1227 authorizing the City of Crosby to accept grand funds from the Blandin Foundation for the construction of mountain bike trails -Aaron Hautala, Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew.

Aaron Hautala spoke in some detail about how the \$50,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation would be doubled by the Hallett Trust to make \$10,000. That makes to date \$335,000 or with matching funds \$670,000 in one year. Accomplishing the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Crew one year goal.

Council accepted with regrets the resignation of Steve Perpich, Public Works Foreman.

Mayor Lattery said, "It's hard to see him go. He's been such a wealth of knowledge. And one heck of a worker. It's been a pleasure to work

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Gravel

with him." **City Administrator**

Mayor Lattery introduced the topic of hiring a City Administrator.

Lattery said, "We put it in our budget for next year, half year. It's going to take some time to put the requirements together, to figure all that out and so, I think, we've been talking about it for a couple of years anyway, and we have it in the budget. We should get the ball rolling. She's (Clerk/ Treasurer Sova) going to have to pull all the information together."

Councilmember Ron Prushek made the motion to add a City Administrator position to the city and have Sova "get the ball rolling on things and get it started." It was seconded by Councilmember Paul Heglund.

Councilmember Jim Goshey said, "I guess I'd rather see that we intend to pursue the option of hiring an Administrator rather than a motion to add one at this time. I think we should look into it and make sure it's feasible. And it's what we want to do." Goshey indicated he would be opposed to this

Councilmember Dusty Paul said, "I guess I would too, because I'd like the new council make that decision, not me."

Goshey directed a question to Councilmember Prushek, "Is that your intention Ron, is that you want to have one right now? Approve that we have one?"

Prushek responded "Well, we've been talking about it. And we've got it in the budget. And the administrator will actually help out in getting grants. Lisa has absolutely no time."

Goshey said "I'm not opposed to it."

Prushek said, "It's for the whole city, in getting grants and everything."

Goshey said "In saying we've been talking about it, last meeting was the first public comment that I recall."

Lattery said "I think at our, um, comprehensive plan meeting and I think, um, at the economic development go around, It keeps coming back up and coming back

Goshey said "I don't think we've had that."

At the vote Councilmembers Jim Goshey and Dusty Paul voted against the motion to hire. Councilmember s Paul Heglund and Ron Prushek and Mayor Joanna Lattery voted in favor of adding a city administrator.

Council approved the purchase of turn out gear for the Fire Department in the amount of \$17,016.81 from the Fire Department Donation Fund.

Sova's Contract Extended

Then Mayor Lattery turned the gavel to Councilmember Dusty Paul and made him deputy mayor, so she could

make a motion. Lattery then read from a prepared statement, "In light of the discussion the council made this evening to begin the search for city administrator, based upon the needs outlined in the organizational study recently completed and the recommendation of the personnel committee. I am now instructing the council to consider the employment contract of the City Clerk/ Treasurer Lisa Sova. I have

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passed the gavel to deputy mayor Dusty Paul. I move the council approve Lisa Sova's contract thru December 31, 2019."

Councilmember Ron Prushek seconded the mo-

Lattery continued reading, "I will take the liberty of opening the discussion. The personnel committee met with Lisa Sova and discussed her performance earlier this fall. We commend her on her performance and the dedication of support she has given this council over the last two years. The contract however is not a reward for a job well done. The personnel committee recommended to the full council that Sova's contract be extended, so that it parallels the employment contracts of Police Chief Kim Coughlin and Police Lieutentant Kevin Randolph. The contract was recommended, because it changed the arbitration from designated in Sova's contract, old contract to another less expensive arbitrator, should the need arise for arbitration. I don't ever see that happening, but it's a good business move. It changes the terms of the severance to parallel the other employment contracts and is a benefit. Not to Sova, but to the city. It locks her, basically, it locks her in at her current contract rate. She gets a raise every year, just like everybody else does, when we do the raises for the Teamsters for the whole

city gets it. Everybody gets it. Whether it's at 1.5%, 1%, .5% whatever it is. That's the only raise. This is not to increase their wage.

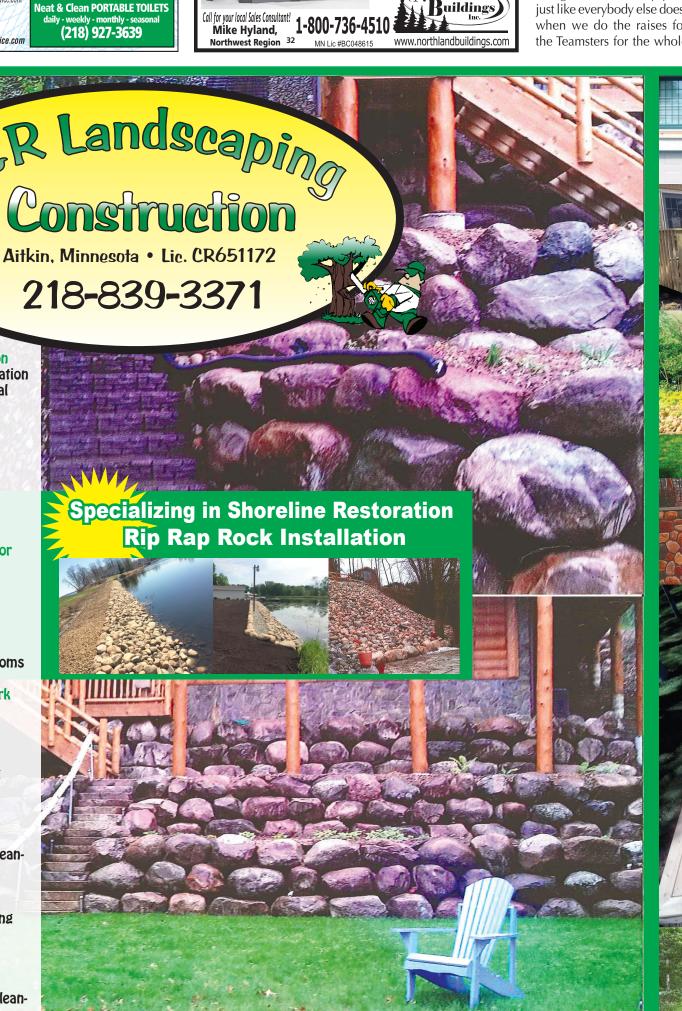
"We have just determined the City of Crosby will seek a city administrator. The majority of the work will fall to the clerks office to prepare the job description. Send out notices to newspapers and other publications that the city is seeking applicants, gather letters of interest on behalf of the council and perform other clerical tasks, so that the council can review the applications. Once a city administrator has been hired, it will fall to Sova to initiate the basic training of the administrator. Yet, the organizational chart proposed by the organizational study shows Sova reporting to the city administrator, which, in fact, will be the case once the city administrator is trained in.

"When Lisa Sova was hired as clerk/treasurer the financial records of the city were in disarray. The outside financial audit had listed several concerns, the city's bank accounts had not been reconciled in months. All is now in order.

"The morale when Lisa began her employment with the city was low. And staff and departments didn't work together and work was not completed time[ly]. All that has now changed. Yet I remind you the contract I call upon you to approve is not a

Continued on Page 7





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MMUNITY EV

Ongoing Events:

AA- Aitkin - Meeting closed Wednesday 3 pm Ait-

AA - Aitkin - 322 1st Ave. NE 218-927-6240 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.

Art Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Jaques Art Center in Aitkin, 1-3 pm "Ask an Attorney", Aitkin Co. Sheriff's conference room, 2nd Tue. of month at noon.

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 Weslayson Church on Highway #6 in Emily. Please call Sharon - 612 669-3295

Caregiver/Memory Loss Support Group. Meets the first Wed., 1-2 p.m. at Birchstreet Center, downtown Aitkin. 218-9271383.

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.

Clothes Closet offers free clothing to men and women in need. We are open the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 8 a.m. noon. NARROWS COMMUNITY CHURCH, 6297 Woods Bay Drive NE, Outing (follow the yellow signs). Call 320.857.0182 for more in-

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 VFW in McGregor every 1st Monday of the month, except holidays which will be on the following Monday

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 availalible to those who qualifiy. 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: Open every Wednesday, 10:30 am -3 pm. 102 4th St. NW, Aitkin

Aitkin 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,

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

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

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

Rosary is ongoing the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 pm at the Big Fish, Garrison, contact Jean at 218-764-2665 for more info.

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 Deerwood (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Mondays 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Deerwood Legion, 23659 Forest Rd, Deerwood. For more information, please contact Lucy Bartz 218-839-2218 or Gwenn Smith 218-246-2180.

TOPS Ironton (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meet Monday, 4 pm weigh-in, 4:30 pm meeting at Immanual 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.

9th - Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the Lakers Lions of Emily, Outing and Fifty Lakes, 12:30- 6:30 pm at the Emily City Hall. To schedule an appointment or to volunteer to help at the blood drive, please call Nancy Moritz at 218-763-3097 or Kathy Harvet at 218-792-5314.

14th - Vespertine tribal-style modern dance troupe from the Brainerd lakes area and Sestri Slavic choir from Little Falls performing CLC.More details at 218-568-9200.

14th - Sons of Norway Tusenvann Lodge #1-659 meeting at I.R.E.C. in Isle, MN. Program will be Jerry Jacobson regarding the Drarken Viking Ship that sailed here from Norway this past summer. We will have installation of our new officers and coffee with light lunch. If you have questions call Bill @ 1-320-679-2380 or Candice at 1-320-983-

19th - 21st - Annual Antique Snowmobile Rendezvous, Pequot Lakes includes trailride, show, races, swap meet. Hosted by the Pequot Brush Pilots Snowmobile Club.

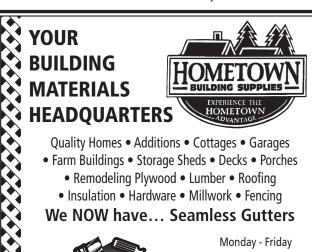
21st - Benefit for Theresa Dehning, Tae Kwon Do Master, with cancer. Spaghetti dinner for \$7 with entertainment and silent auction, 6 p.m. at Harbor Inn in Garrison.

27th - Dueling Pianos Fishing Extravaganza Kick-off Party 5:30 9:pm Grand View

28th - Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravganza on Gull Lake. The contest is from Noon - 3 pm. Place in the top 150 and take home a prize. The contest raises money for Confidence Learning Center and other local charities.

29th - Annual Lumberjack Jaunt Northland Arboretum, 14250 Conservation Drive, Brainerd **February**

2nd- 4th - Crosslake 14th Annual WinterFest 25th - Comic juggler Alex Clark sponsored by the Brainerd Dispatch and Echo Journal. More details at 218-568-9200.



7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. VISA

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OBITUARIES

DOROTHY SMITH



of Aitkin, formerly of Springville, New York died Monday, December 26, 2016 at the Aicota Health Care Center.

A funeral service washeld Thursday, De-

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cember 29, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Aitkin with Rev. David Becker officiating. A service and burial at Maplewood Cemetery in Springville, New York will be held at a later date.

She was born on August 3, 1924 at East Concord, New York, to William and Amelia (Meehl) Reed. She grew up in East Concord and attended schools in East Concord and Springville. She graduated from the Springville Griffith Institute in 1940. She

Dorothy R. Smith, 92, married Donald N. Smith on September 15, 1951 at the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Springville. Dorothy had worked at Cook-Waite, M&T Bank, and the Springville Village Office. After the death of Donald in 1998, she married Stanley Lazell

She is survived by her daughters and

old Reed, Charleston, WV.

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

Sr. on January 2, 1999. She was a member of the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Springville where she had been active in Sunday school and the church choir and she had served on various boards. She had also volunteered for the Rural Transit in Springville as a dispatcher for many years.

son-in-law: Tracie and Rev. David Becker, Aitkin; and Kimberlie Smith, Savannah, GA; two grandchildren: Christopher Becker, Salt Lake City, UT; and Jamie (Peter) Stephenson of Athens, GA; and brother: Har-

She was preceded in

death by her parents; husbands; sister, Amelia Wiese and brother, Kenneth

Arrangements register.

ARDEN WESTERLUND



Cemetery.

84, of Malmo died Thursday, December 22, 2016 at his home in Malmo Township. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 28,

2016 at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Malmo with Rev. Paul Andell officiating. Burial was in the Malmo

He was born March 8, 1932 in Malmo Township of Aitkin County, Minnesota to Edwin and Dolores (Messersmith) Westerlund. He grew up in Malmo Township and attended the Malmo School. He then worked on farms in the Dakota's and also on a pig farm near Cedar, MN. He also worked construction having worked on the Garrison Dam in North Dakota. He married Arlene Nyberg on June 25, 1955 at Malmo. He then made his home near Malmo and took over the operation of the family farm. While he operated the farm, he also worked for the

Arden Lyle Westerlund, township. He retired from operating the farm in 1976 and he started Westerlund Construction and had stayed active in operating that until his death. He enjoyed raising his Belgian Horses, refurbishing the old leather harnesses and resurrecting old hose drawn equipment. Arden was a very hard worker all of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Arlene Westerlund, Malmo; daughters and sons-in-law: Debbie and Russell Riggs, Malmo; and Karla and Paul White, Malmo; sons and daughtersin-law: Greg and Donna Westerlund, Malmo; and Jared and Kate Westerlund, Sammamish, WA; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; brother, Gaylard Westerlund, Malmo and sisters-in-law: Loretta Westerlund and Marilyn Andrews both of Malmo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, six sisters and four brothers.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home of Aitkin.

ELIZABETH STERLING

Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Sterling, 89, of Aitkin and formerly of Prior Lake and Minneapolis died Thursday, December 22, 2016 at Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin.

A celebration of Betty's life will be held later in 2017.

She was born February 24, 1927 in Minneapolis to James and Eleanor Hessburg. She attended and graduated from the School of the Deaf in Faribault. She married Alton H. Sterling on April 30, 1949 in Minneapolis. They lived in Bloomington, then moved to Prior Lake in 1966 and retired to the Aitkin area in 1985.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her parents.

Betty is survived by her sons and daughtersin-law: Jack and Sue Sterling, Naples, FL and Jeff Sterling, Aitkin; daughters and sons-inlaw: Jill and David Ryan, Prior Lake; Jean and David Kichler, Stacy; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sister and brother-in-law: Clair (Melvin) Kriz, New Brighton.

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

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* 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

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-

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Aitkin — Heritage Church, Rev. Jason Erickson; Sunday Morning Service 9:30

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

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 - Pastor Chris Meirose; 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 — 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.

Crosby — St. Joseph's, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun 10:30. Crosslake - Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www. ihmstemilys.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession

Deerwood — St. Joseph's, Mass: Sun 8:30. 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.; Sat. 6 pm (Memorial Day through Labor Day) 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. Kuriakose Nediakala (Fr. KK), Mass: Sun. 11:15 am.

McGregor — Holy Family, Fr. Kuriakose Nediakala (Fr.

KK), Mass: Sat. 5:30 p.m.; Sun. 8:45 am 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

Aitkin — The Journey North; 810 2nd Street NW, Aitkin; 9 &10:30 am (218) 824-5617 thejourneynorth.com Baxter — The Journey North; 6785 Woida Road, Baxter;

Sat. 5 pm Sun 9, 10:30 & 11:45 am (218) 824-5617 Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene-Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10:45, SS 9:30 -16549 Johnson Rd -church phone 218-829-9005

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

Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9

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-denomina-

tional). Pastor Stanley Mikles, 218-792-5530 Worship 11; Clothes Closet 8 am - noon, second and fourth 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.

Aitkin — St. John's, Rev. Karl E. Bell, Holy Communion

Service 9 **EVANGELICAL FREE**

Crosby - 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 Kerry Johnston; 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;

HEBREW/MESSIANIC Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, Rabi Frank

Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

Dell, for information 320-684-2804 LUTHERAN

Aitkin - Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Kari Foss; Worship 9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month. Aitkin - First* Pastors Darrell Pedersen & Bob Munneke;

worship Sun., 8:15 am and 10 am: Sunday School 9:45

am; Wed. 5:30 pm; Sat., 5 p.m; communion every Sat.

and 1st and 3rd Sun.; contemporary services 2nd and 5th Sun; nursery staffed; Sunday service broadcast live on KKIN (94.3FM) at 10 am and on TV cable channel 181 at 9 am, Wed; community meal every Mon. and Thurs., 5 p.m.; food shelf second and fourth Thurs. each

month, 9:30 am - 5 pm

Aitkin — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor D. Becker;

Worship Sun. 9, SS 10 Baxter — Christ Lutheran Church (WELS). Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter. (Corner of Inglewood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www. christbaxter.com.

Baxter - Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.popbaxter.org Beaver Township - Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st &

Brainerd — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church-AFLC Affiliated, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Pastor Gary Jorgenson, 218-824-3052, Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Bible Study at 9, Worship 10, Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday's. Wednesday 7pm. Bible Study.

Brainerd - Laestadian Lutheran Church; 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 11 am. (www.llchurch.org) Brainerd - Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th Street Brainerd - Pastor David P. Holte and Pastor Hans Anderson - Summer Sunday Worship Time is 9 a.m. and Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. - Phone: 218-829-5147 Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org

Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9 Breezy Point* - Eagles Nest, Pastor Jonathan Lemaster,

218-562-5252, Worship 10:30 a.m. SS 9:30 a.m. Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct.

Cedarbrook — St. John's (ELCA), Rev. Sandy Berg-Holte; Worship 8:30; SS 9:30; Saturday SS; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun. Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC, NALC) Rev. Paul Mattson;

Sun. 9 & 10:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:40. Crosby —Zion (LC-MS) Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 8:30; SS 10; Bible Study Wed. 7 pm; handicap accessible. 218-546-6910

Crosslake — (ELCA), Indoor worship 8:30; Coffee Fellowship 9:30; outdoor worship 10. 218-692-3682. Crosslake - Mission of the Cross (LCMS), Pastor Leslie

Uhrinak; Worship 9:30 with every Sunday Communion, Fellowship 10:30, Adult Bible Class 11, 218-692-4228, www.missionofthecross.org Deerwood — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Michael Briggs;

Worship: 8:15 (traditional) & 10 (contemporary); Sunday School 9:15. Garrison — Light of the Cross (ELCA), Pastor Juli Sutton-Deem; Worship 9 SS 9; 320-692-4773 or 877-

406-9101. Garrison — Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Tom Peterson. Worship 10 with communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays. Adult Bible Study 8:30am, Sunday School Sept-May, 8:30am. Fellowship 11am. 320-692-4581. www.shepherdofthelake.org.

Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovaas; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month 8:45.

Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15. Hillman — Immanuel, (ELCA) Pastor Jean Megorden; Sun. Worship 9:30, SS 10. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)

Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert;

Iron Hub — Immanuel (LC-MS), Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 10:30; 218-534-3069. Isle — Faith (ELCA), Interim Pastor Rev. Henry French; Worship 9:30; handicapped accessible.

Isle — Holden (ELCA), SS 9:30; Worship 10:30.

Isle — Trinity (Missouri Synod), Rev. Mark Maunula; Worship 8:30; Fellowship follows; SS 9:45; Adult Bible 10. Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner: SS 1st & 3rd Sun. 10, Service 11, fellowship follows.

Malmo — Bethesda (ELCA 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.

 Zion (ELCA), Pastor Elliott Malm; Worship McGrath 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. Peter Rosenkvist, Worship 9:00 a.m. SS 9:15 am.

Adult Ed - 10:15 am. Wed. Worship 5:45 pm. Free Community Supper Wednesdays at 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 and 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

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

Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Mishtry, Pastors Ken and Ron Fairbanks, Sat. 11. 218-768-3585

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;14444 Daggett Pine Rd. 218-692-4769

McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9. McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm.

Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11.

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30 1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476

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; fellow-

ship 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

Emily — Rev. Jeff Drake; Worship 9; Friendship Time 10; SS 10:30; Wed. Activities 6:30 p.m.; 218-763-HOPE.

We ask you to support these sponsors of the church directory:

To become a sponsor of the church directory contact Eric at 218-821-1393 or hopper@crosbyironton.net





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on Nov. 21.

5

Palisade man accused of murdering baby makes court appearance

After staff at the Midwest Children's Resources Center determined that an infant girl from Palisade didn't die the way her dad said she did, the father was charged with murder.



son Peterson, 33, Palisade, has been charged with sec-

John - ond degree murder and has his next court appearance is Jan. 30 in Aitkin County court. He is married to the mother of the baby, with whom he had a long-term relationship.

According to the criminal complaint, the mother ran to the store and Peterson and the baby were left home alone Nov. 18. When the baby got fussy, Peterson claimed he acci-

dently dropped the baby and injured her head on the sink. Finally, he admitted to throwing the baby, who suffered abusive head trauma and physical abuse and who died at Children's Hospital

Peterson was arrested and booked into the Aitkin County Jail. His bail was set at \$1 million without conditions or \$250,000 with conditions.

VanPortfliet gets probation, community service after shooting accident

Dennis VanPortfliet 36, Aitkin, will do no jail time in the accidental death of his son, Dawson, age 14.

VanPortfliet was charged with second degree manslaughter in the May 31, 2015, shooting death of his son, Dawson VanPortfliet. He pled guilty to second degree manslaughter in October 2016.

At the time he was

charged, the state claimed VanPortfliet used "culpable negligence creating unreasonable risk."

After the shooting, Dawson, injured in his neck and jaw areas, was airlifted to Hennepin County Medical Center and died on June 4, 2015. The Aitkin County Sheriff's Office reported at the time that Dawson was shot while his father was handling his .40 caliber Sig Sauer pistol.

The community rallied around the family, holding a candlelight vigil for Dawson while he fought for his life in the hospital and later throwing a spaghetti supper benefit for the family at the Aitkin Moose Lodge. The sheriff's office said at the time that the shooting was believed to be accidental.

in Boy Scouts and his funeral was held at the St. James Catholic Church in Aitkin.

His father will serve 10 years on probation and complete 500 hours of community service. He

Dawson was very active must also remain law abiding, advise authorities of his location, cooperate with searches, give a DNA sample and not possess firearms, ammunition nor explosives. He may not vote until after probation

is completed.

A mental health evaluation and individual therapy are to be completed.

County Attorney Jim Ratz wanted 180 days of jail time ordered but Judge John Solien did not award it.

Onion compound shown to inhibit ovarian cancer progression

Mary Ann Koop, 57, of Crosby died in her home on Tuesday, December 20,

at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 30, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby. Burial was in Lakewood Cemetery in Crosby. Visitation was one hour prior to the services

Funeral Services were held

at the church. She was born on December 30, 1958 to Phil and Mitzi (Fish) Koop. Mary attended St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School in Crosby and the Crosby Ironton High School, graduating class of 1978. She was employed with Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge for all her working years, retiring in 2016. Mary was a life member of St Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby. She is survived by her brothers and sisters-

in-law: Rick and Deb Koop, Tom and Kristen Koop, Jamie and Cheryl Koop, and John and Kelli Koop; several nieces and nephews.

Preceding Mary in death were her parents. Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

Onions may not be the nese researchers looked at among women, this is prommost glamorous (or best smelling) pieces of produce out there, but that doesn't mean they aren't good for your health. These pungent bulbs are packed with vitamins C, B6 and fiber; are the highest veggie source of quercetin, a phytochemical which may reduce the risk of diabetes and heart disease; and have even been shown to mitigate brain damage from stroke. Another reason to slice right in: possible

In a 2016 study published in the journal Nature, Japa-

anti-cancer benefits.

onionin A (ONA), a natural compound in onions, and its effect on ovarian cancer progression. Lab work showed ONA could both reduce the extent of and directly suppress the spread of ovarian cancer cells, and may also help prolong survival time in those with ovarian cancer. One of the ways this may be happening is by ONA inhibiting a compound called STAT3, which is involved in cancer cell spread and chemo-resistance.

With ovarian cancer ranking fifth in cancer deaths ising news. Though researchers are investigating treatments using isolated ONA compounds, it never hurts to add more whole produce to your diet. Onions add flavor to everything from sauces to casseroles to soups and come in a variety of colors, sizes and shapes.

In addition, a study from the University of Illinois at Chicago found ovarian cancer patients who ate the most fruit and vegetables before diagnosis were 39 percent more likely to enjoy a longer



ELLA SCHULTZ

Ella Rae Schultz, a girl, weighing 7 lbs., 5 ozs., was born December 16, 2016 in Aitkin, to Rachel Ernster-Schultz and Clarence Schultz of Onamia. She is welcomed by her sister, Alexis. Grandparents are Raymond Ernster, St. Cloud; Lynn and Tim Bretzman, Onamia; Kelvin Schultz, Isle; and Kelly and Jeff Allen, Bonita Springs, FL.

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(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Dec. 31, 2016 and Jan. 7, 2017)

WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING FOR TOWN-SHIP **OFFICE**

Notice is hereby given for the time of filing affidavits of candidacy for the Township officers to be elected at the Wealthwood Township Annual Meeting which will be held

Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Fillings will be open January 3, 2017 and will close January 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

to 5:00 p.m. at the office of the Clerk Office will be closed on legal nolidays. Call for an appointment

Filing hours from 9:00 a.m.

218-678-2880. Offices to be filled are one

Supervisor for a three (3) year term and one Clerk/Treasurer for a two (2) year term. Filing fee is \$2.00.

Dated: December 25, 2016 LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk Wealthwood Township

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Dec. 31, 2016 and Jan. 7, 2017)

WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The Board of Audit for Wealthwood Township will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m. with the regular meeting to follow.

Dated: December 25, 2016 LINDA WENDLANDT, Clerk Wealthwood Township

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Dec. 31, 2016 & Jan. 7, 2017) **NOTICES**

BAY LAKE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL AUDIT AND BUDGET MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL

JANUARY 24, 2017 6 P.M. Alternate Date Due to Inclement Weather JANUARY 25, 2017 6PM

ABSENTEE VOTING AT THE TOWN HALL MARCH 11, 2017 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M

ANNUAL ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS

POLLING HOURS WILL BE OPENED BETWEEN THE **HOURS OF** 4:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL ON MARCH 14, 2017 Alternate Date Due to Inclement Weather for Annual **Election of Town Officers** MARCH 21, 2017 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE BAY LAKE TOWNSHIP WILL BE HELD AT THE BAY LAKE TOWN HALL MARCH 14, 2017

8:30 P.M. Alternate Date Due to Inclement Weather for Annual Meeting/ Election/Board Of Canvass Meeting MARCH 21, 2017

BAY LAKE TOWN HALL BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING

MARCH 14, 2017 AFTER ANNUAL MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL

REORGANIZATION MEETING MARCH 29, 2017 7:00 P.M.,

BAY LAKE TOWN HALL Alternate Date Due to Inclement Weatherr for Rorganization Meeting MARCH 30, 2017 7:00 P.M., BAY LAKE TOWN HALL

MARCH MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

MARCH 7, 2017 7:00 P.M. BAY LAKE TOWN HALL Dated: December 26, 2016 CAROL PUNDT, Clerk Bay Lake Township 218-678-3256

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City of Crosby Council | Continued from Page 2

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"We were hired by the citizens of Crosby through the election process. It is our duty to enter this council chamber and perform the duty we've been elected to accomplish. We do not bring politics into the chamber, neither do we bring friendships or alliances. We make decisions based upon the information in front of us at the time. And try to determine what is best for the citizens of Crosby, not what is best for friends and family.

"I urge this council to accomplish one more good thing before some of us leave elected service. I urge the council to approve the extension of the employment contract for Lisa Sova until December 31, 2019. I know Jim[Goshev] it could change her duties and that."

Goshey said "Yep."

Lattery continued, "But it's not. She is the Clerk/Treasurer that's not going to change. She has taken on the administrator stuff."

Goshey responded, "That's going to change."

Lattery said, "And she wouldn't have to do that anymore. That is what she was hired to do. She was hired to be the Clerk/Treasurer."

Goshey said, "I believe that wage allowed for additional administrative type things she was doing."

Lattery responded "I do not." Then Lattery asked, "Does anybody else have anything to say?"

Heglund responded, "I'd like to see it extend, because I think she's doing a great job. And I don't want to see the city lose her so. I'm voting to extend it."

Prushek said "I agree."

Goshey responded, "Can you justify her wage at just guessing around \$73,000 plus a \$100,000 administrator for the city to sign up for?"

Heglund said, "We budgeted for the administrator already."

Goshey said, "We don't have to spend it."

Heglund said, "I know that. I just think it's a good idea Jim. You got an employee like that and the employees in the police department. I think we better hold on to them."

Goshey said, "I'm not saying, this isn't personal.

Heglund said, "I'm just stating how I feel about it." Lattery said "When she was hired, I believe the administrative portion was not included in the clerk/treasurers position and that's why."

Deputy Mayor Dusty Paul said, "I don't know about the administrative job. We can maybe afford it. But I don't know."

Goshey said, "We haven't had a serious discussion about it at all, yet. A contract that's already good for two more years already."

Paul said, "And none of the council knew about it, at least me and Jim didn't until now." Lattery said, "I just decided to do this."

Roger Bentley in the audience said, "I think it should come up before the new mayor and the council myself."

After the discussion, Paul and Goshey voted no, Lattery, Prushek and Heglund vote yes and Sova's contract was extended and additional year to 2019.

City Atttorney Tom Pearson said he was waiting for documents from both the Serpent Lake Sewer District land conveyance and Graphics Pack-

aging International, Crow Wing County, Independent School District 182 and City of Crosby land exchange at the next meeting. There was one more check leaving a balance of around \$400 on the radiator repair refund matter.

Council approved the 2017 Final Levy, the 2017 Budget, the mileage reimbursement rate \$.535 per mile, the fund transfers and Paul Heglund to be a signer to replace Dusty Paul on the bank account. Swearing in and Background checks

At the end of the meeting, Mayor-elect Jim Hunter and Councilmember-elect Jim Traylor were to be sworn in. However, neither of the newly elected had provided the signed paperwork allowing the for background checks to done.

Prushek said, "It is to my understanding that background checks weren't done."

City Attorney Tom Pearson responded, "You have in your code, sections that speak to criminal history data. There is a universe of city employees and other people that are subject to ordinance requirements. This is chapter five of your code. The City of Crosby Councilmembers [are] part of the universe of people who are by ordinance obligated to give consent for the requisite background check. I understand that hasn't been done in a couple of instances, although I don't really have a comment on that, other than to say you appear to have an ordinance that isn't being complied with in a couple of different respects.

Then Lattery asked question "as a resident". She said, "..why the ordinance has not been complied with? Is there a reason?"

Mayor-elect Jim Hunter responded, "If you read your ordinance, it doesn't say elected official. It states employees of the city and volunteers."

Lattery said, "It says City of

Crosby Council Members."

Hunter said "If you call the League of MN Cities they say you don't have to a background check. And if we do we can choose the [police] department we have do the background check. We can do a background check, but at this time I would not like the Crosby Police Department do it."

Lattery said, "Mr. Traylor?". Councilmember-elect Jim Traylor responded, "Yeah, I hold with the same. You didn't follow your own guidelines for your own employees. Where it gives you the layout, what's required and the repercussions, it's not in writing. And number two the League of MN Cities stated to use the state statute. You can contact them."

Lattery responded, "Oh we have. And, um, they would have to represent us on this."

Police Lieutenant Randolph said, "I looked into this extensively, because what's happening here. The City of Crosby is being put in a legal and ethical quandary over the fact we, do in fact, have a city ordinance that states that all city employees must have a background investigation. It does state city council members as well. There was a decision in 2012 by the council to declare all members of the board as employees. And under the state administrative board who governs things like elections and things like council rules, it essentially states, if a city council decides council members are employees. Then they are employees under state statute. And if they are not, then they are not. The council decided in 2012 that council members were in fact employees. Now as far as the league of MN Cities goes. The city is actually the client in the League of MN Cities. When a citizen calls the league with a question they

council, they notify the city of the questions and answers to that. And they contact us after Mayor-elect Hunter called them and said that while the constitution lays out the minimum requirements that State does not require that a background check be done. However under State law 364 both 09 and 021 that govern public service. It says this chapter does not supersede a requirement of law. To conduct a criminal history background investigation or consider criminal history records in hiring for particular types of employment. This does not prohibit an employer from notifying applicants that law or employers policy will disqualify an individual with a particular criminal history background from employment in particular positions. Since there is actually no case law on this. The League of MN Cities has basically forwarded a guess. State Law says you can't back-

elected officials." Randolph repeated his researched topic statement and suggested that it puts the police in a difficult position if the elected officials don't follow ordinances then why should the residents?

ground check candidate for

office. It doesn't say anything

about background checks for

In the audience, John Radinovich said, "What I don't understand is, if the mayor and the council won't swear in, then how can you make any employee do it then? Unless you got something to hide, then don't do it. Why do you want to stir up a hornet's nest?"

Crow Wing County Commissioner Doug Houge was in the audience and was asked by Councilmember Paul, if he had a background check at the County.

Houge said, "I never signed anything for a background check."

Lattery asked Houge again, "Did you have a background check?"

Houge responded, "Not to my knowledge. This is kind of embarrassing coming up in the ninth inning of this, where it's obvious what's going on."

Lattery responded, "There is nothing going on here."

Houge said, "It's very obvious. This whole meeting, what's been going on."

Ultimately Mayor Elect Jim Hunter and Councilmember Elect Jim Traylor both filled out the paperwork following much discussion. The meeting was not adjourned. It remained opened until they resumed the meeting following a day and a half recess. Swearing in of new Council Member and Mayor Elect was delayed until 1:30 p.m. Thursday, December 29 to allow time for a background check.



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