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## Large crowds, 10 air sleds at Scorpion Homecoming

One hundred and ten snowmobiles were on display on Saturday, February 4 at the 13th Annual Cuyuna Lakes Ice Fishing Contest and Scorpion Homecoming.

Several hundred participants enjoyed the mild weather and a strong showing of feature machines, including Trail-A-Sled's famed "airsleds" from the late 1950s and early 1960s. (The firm was known as Trail-A-Sled, Inc. before changing it's name to Scorpion Snowmobiles.)

Ten of these extremely rare machines were on display. Built before snowmobiles

became all the rage, these airsleds were a crucial early link in the evolution of snowmobiling. They were manufactured just off Serpent Lake's west end, in the Lakeview district.

#### Snowmobile Awards

At the on-ice awards ceremony, the following awards were presented:

Patrick Kramer, St Augusta received the Sno-Serpents Award for his 1972 Super Stinger 440 III.

Angie Dahn, Maple Grove, received the Chamber's



Continued on Page 2

Vintage Scorpion snowmobiles lined up on Serpent Lake. Ann Schwartz photos

Forty Club Entertainment Presents:

# CHURCH OF CASH

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**Saturday, February 18**  
at the **Forty Club Banquet Center, Aitkin**  
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Cash Bar

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Scorpion Homecoming and Serpent Lake Ice Fishing Contest| Continued from Page 1



A nice crowd was out on windy Serpent Lake for the Scorpion Homecoming and Fishing Contest.

Choice Award for her 1950's aluminum airsled.

C-I Royalty Award: Chuba Brothers, Emily, received the C-I Royalty Award for their 1971 Super Stinger.

The Bert Oliva Family, Miami FL received the Scorpion Traveler Award for traveling 1,913 miles.

**Trail-A-Sled Awards**

The Garner Family, Blaine MN, received the Trail-A-Sled Era – Original – First Place Award for their 1965 Trail-A-Sled.

Charles Bachmann, Brainerd received the Trail-A-Sled Era – Original – Runner-Up Award for his 1968 Mark I.

Tony Rolfes, Gull Lake received the Trail-A-Sled Era – Restored – First Place Award for his 1963 Trail-A-Sled.

Bog Busters, Aitkin received the Trail-A-Sled Era – Restored – Runner-Up Award for their 1965 Trail-A-Sled.

**Scorpion Awards**

Scott Tolve, Big Lake received the Scorpion Era – Original – First Place Award for his 1979 Whip TK.

Jon Hulett, Mahtowa received the Scorpion Era – Original – Runner-Up Award for his 1980 Sting.

Jason Johnson, Bell Plaine received the Scorpion Era – Restored – Runner-Up Award for his 1975 Super Stinger.

Doug Holicky, New Prauge received the Scorpion Era – Restored – First Place Award for his 1977 Massey Storm.

Bob Reine, Britt received Scorpion Custom – First Place Award for his 1967 Scorpion Indy. Ervin Van Heukenlom, Albany received the Scorpion Custom – Runner Up Award for his 1967 Sachs.

**Fishing results**

More than 750 people competed in the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Annual Ice

Fishing Contest on Serpent Lake in Crosby on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Northern winners included: first place, a 1.75 pound Northern caught by Betty Nelson; second place, a 1.60 pound Northern caught by Damon Reynolds; and third place, a 1.37 pound Northern caught by Erclut Johnson.

Panfish winners were: first place, a .09 Perch caught by Jill Hofstrand; second place, a .09 Perch caught by Dillian Nission; and third place, a .09 Perch caught by Mike Lattery.

David Udenburg won the Bass prize for catching a 1.47 Bass. Silas Wingert won the smallest fish prize by catching a .01 Perch.

The Eelpout and Walleye remained elusive, which benefitted the 12 Luck of the Draw recipients. When fish with designated prize money attached are not caught,

names of the people who caught a fish are drawn for the Luck of the Draw. Luck of the Draw winners included: Mike Brady, Jordan Bruns, Dru Curley, Ron Hoffstrand, Reina Irvine, Jason Larson, Joel Larson, Hunter Rohde, Susan Rossing, Sam Rysazy, Travis Sprowls, and Matt Wingert.

Raffle winners were: first place ice auger Marci Harrison of Pine River, second place underwater color camera Ross Beckstrand of Cannon Falls, third place flasher Dustin Hinman of Deerwood, fourth place portable fish house Julie Herold of Deerwood, and fifth place stay at Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Hinckley Michael Booth of Riverton and Eric Holmvig of Brainerd.

The Cuyuna Lakes Chamber is proud of all of the winners and grateful to its numerous sponsors, volunteers and attendees for making the event possible.



Remember when John Deere sleds were considered top of the line?



A teardrop Ski-doo brings back snowmobiling memories from the 60s and 70s. Ann Schwartz photos



First place raffle winner of an ice auger was Marci Harrison. Photo submitted by the Cuyuna Chamber of Commerce.



Second place raffle winner of an underwater color camera was Ross Beckstrand of Cannon Falls. Photo submitted by the Cuyuna Chamber of Commerce.



Fifth place raffle winner of a stay at Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Hinckley was Eric Holmvig of Brainerd. Photo submitted by the Cuyuna Chamber of Commerce.



A great collection of Scorpion memorabilia.



Fifth place raffle winner of a stay at Grand Casino Mille Lacs or Hinckley was Michael Booth of Riverton. Photo submitted by the Cuyuna Chamber of Commerce.

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Ongoing Events:**

AA- Aitkin - Meeting closed Wednesday 3 pm Aitkin Alano Club

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.

Buddhism-Nichiren meetings held at the Brainerd Public Library conference room on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 1 pm. For information contact Mike Engblom-Bradley 936-525-7843.

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 the first Wed., 1-2 p.m. at Birchstreet Center, downtown Aitkin. 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.

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 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 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 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 (Aitkin) Open every Wednesday, 10:30 am - 3 pm. 102 4th St. NW, Aitkin

Food Shelf (Aitkin) 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 (Aitkin) 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) Open Tue. & Thu. 1-5 pm, at 9541 Madison Street; Garrison. For emergency Food Shelf, call 320-692-5399 and leave a message.

Food Shelf (Hill City) Trinity Lutheran Church 3rd Saturday 8 am - Noon or by Appt.

Food Shelf (Jacobson) Carmel Lutheran Church 60346 240th Ave, 1st and 3rd Thursday, 4 - 6 pm

Food Shelf (McGregor) 45898 Hwy 65 2nd and 4th Wednesday of Month 9 am - Noon

Garrison Fire Auxillary 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Ameri-

can 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 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.

**February**

11th - Cascade United Methodist Church Pie Social, Pie, Ice Cream & Coffee 1-3 pm, Highway 210/6 Deerwood

11th - Norah Rendell and the Lost Forty to perform at Aitkin Library at 1 p.m. The trio features Live Ireland's "Best Irish Vocalist of 2011 and 2012," Canadian singer and flutist Norah Rendell, with multi-instrumentalists Brian Miller and Randy Gosa.

11th - Tusenvann Lodge #1-659 meeting at noon at the IREC Bldg in Isle. The program will be Carol & James Berry discussing their African Adventure. Coffee and a lite lunch will be served. If you have questions call Candice at 1-320-983-2886 or Gary at 1-218-927-6557.

11th - Valentine Dinner and Dance at Waukenabo Community Center/ Town Hall with Roast Beef Dinner 5:30 - 7 pm, Dance: Two for the Road 7:30 - 10 pm. Grand prize to be given away. Donation \$10 for adults and \$ for children age 12 and younger

16th - Community Blood Drive and Chili Feed The Palisade Assembly of God Church will be hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross noon - 6 pm. At the same time, the Palisade Lions will be putting on a free Chili Feed starting at noon and going until the chili is gone. The food was donated by Paulbeck's County Market. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, contact Charles at 845-3893. Appointments are not required but help to reduce waiting times.

16th-Weight Loss Seminar, 6 p.m., CRMC Clinic Conference Room

18th - Parenting the Love and Logic Way Resource Training & Solutions in Sartell 8:30 am- 4:00 pm to help parents and other adults who interact with children to learn more about raising the odds for teaching their children respect and responsibility, 320-255-3236

18th - "CHURCH OF CASH" Johnny Cash Tribute at 40 Club Convention Center, Aitkin \$10 doors open at 5 pm, show at 7 pm.

20th-Breastfeeding Class, 10 a.m., CRMC Ambulatory Conference Room

21st-Weight Loss Support Group, 6 p.m., Heartwood Senior Living Community

22nd-Memory Loss Support Group, 9:30 a.m., Heartwood Senior Living Community


23rd-Brain Injury Support Group, 6 p.m., CRMC Clinic Conference Room



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# OBITUARIES

## OVEDIA LUTJEN



Ovedia C. Lutjen, 95, of Crosby died on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at the Cuyuna Regional Care Center in Crosby.

Memorial services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. Burial will be at the Union Cemetery in Long Lake at later date. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services at the funeral home on Saturday.

She was born on January 22, 1922 in Reynolds, ND to Edward and Olga (Leen) Dewey.

Ovedia is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Brooks Martin of Merrifield; one grandchild, three great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Fredrick; two brothers: Ray and Jerry Dewey.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby.

## JOHN ELLIS



John Roger Ellis, 94, of Aitkin formerly of Palisade died Sunday, February 5, 2017 at the Aicota Health Care Center in Aitkin.

A funeral service will be held Monday, February 13, 2017 at 11 a.m. from the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin with Rev. Barry Hite and Rev. Charles Carlson officiating. Visitation will be Sunday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the funeral home and also one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in the Waukenabo Cemetery. Military honors will be provided by the Palisade VFW Post.

He was born February 13, 1922 at Waukenabo Township of Aitkin County, to James and Emmalissa (James) Ellis. He grew up and attended schools in Waukenabo Township. He then worked for a time in the Civilian Conservation Corps. He joined the U.S. Army and served during WW II. Upon his discharge, he went to the Dakotas where he worked for a time and then went to work for the Quaker

Oats Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He married Donna Loraine Schoonmaker on June 7, 1952 in Aitkin. They lived in Cedar Rapids for three years and then moved to the Palisade area where they have lived most of their married life. John worked for the McGarry Construction Company for a time and then went to work in the mines at Crosby for 15 years. He then went to work for the Coop station in Palisade as a mechanic and worked there for 15 years before he retired. He then worked in the rice paddies, after he had retired. He moved to the Aicota Health Care Center the day after Thanksgiving of 2016. He enjoyed hunting, reading, walking and mowing the lawn.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Ellis, Aitkin; sons and daughters-in-law: Wesley and Deb Ellis, Nisswa; William and Lynn Ellis, Zimmerman; James Ellis of Palisade; Raymond and Irene Ellis, Nisswa; 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers and three sisters.

Arrangements are with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin. www.srtfuneral.com.

## IRMA STINER



Irma L. Stiner, 96, of Emily died on Friday, February 3, 2017 at her home.

Graveside services were held on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at Pine Ridge Cemetery in Emily. Following the graveside service, a memorial service was held at The Narrows Community Church in Outing.

She was born to David and Katie (Getz) Beck on May 5, 1920 in Flat Branch Township, Shelby County, IL. She married Frederick Stiner on

March 19, 1938 in Bowling Green, MO.

She is survived by daughters and sons-in-law: Patricia and Brad Watson, Motley; and Cheryl and Melvin Chapman, Emily; 11 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and 41 great-great grandchildren.

Preceding Irma in death were her parents; husband, Fred; two sons: Roger and Gary Stiner; one grandson, Rex Stiner; two great-grandsons (twins); one great-great granddaughter; and three sisters.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

**Sorensen-Root-Thompson**  
Aitkin, MN  
218-927-2614

**McGregor Funeral Home**  
McGregor, MN  
218-768-3136

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**NEWSHOPPER** Deadlines are Mondays at Noon

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

Crosby — Rev. Michael Towers; Worship 10:30

Crosslake — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Eseseth; 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 - The Journey North, Pastor Lynfield Hines, 218-824-5617, Worship 9 and 10:30, thejourneynorth.com

Baxter - The Journey North, Pastor Mark Bjorlo, 218-824-5617, Worship Saturday 5, Sunday 9, 10:30, 11:45, thejourneynorth.com

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. 5 p.m.

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 Sat. 3 pm.

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; Sacramento 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

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

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-denominational), Pastor Stanley Mikles, 218-792-5530 Worship 11; 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 — 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

Malmö — 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.

### HEBREW/MESSIANIC

Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, Rabi Frank 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 KGIN (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.pobpaxter.org

Beaver Township — Finnish ELCA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st & 3rd Sun., 10:30.

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.lhchurch.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; Workshop 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. Lovaa; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month 8:45.

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

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; handicap 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.

Malmö — 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.

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. 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 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

Emily — Cornerstone Church; Pastor Earl Ready; Worship 9:30; Wed. School classes 4:15 p.m.

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.

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



# OBITUARIES

## BRANDON HARWIG



Brandon Russell Harwig, 21, of Crosby died Friday, February 3, 2017 at the Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 11 a.m. from the Journey North Church in Aitkin with Rev. William Sass officiating. Visitation will be Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin and also one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in the Pine Grove Cemetery near Palisade.

He was born March 14, 1995 in Aitkin, to Joseph Harwig and Melissa Cutter. He grew up and attended the Palisade school and then the Crosby Schools where he graduated from High School in 2013. He then started working in the construction industry and worked as a union laborer. He enjoyed hunting, fishing,

4 wheeling, snowmobiling, motorcycles, snowboarding, skateboarding, working with his hands and was always busy fixing things.

He is survived by his mother, Melissa Cutter, Crosby; father and step-mother, Joseph and Jodi Harwig, Palisade; brother and sisters: Paige Harwig, Brook Harwig, Logan Decent, Nevaeh Cutter all of Crosby; Elizabeth Harwig, Palisade; Natalie Halvorson, Aitkin; grandparents: Russell and Sandy Cutter, Crosby; Linda Harwig, Palisade; Roy Harwig, Olathe, Kansas; great grandparents: Yvonne and LeRoy Sanvig, Deerwood; girlfriend: Brandi Hallin, Ironton and a number of aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his great grandparents, Lamberth Mindrum and Lorraine Mindrum and brother, Luke Joseph Harwig.

Arrangements are with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin. www.srtfuneral.com

## Crosby man dies on snowmobile



A simple memorial has been erected on the site where Brandon Harwig was killed on February 3, south of Cuyuna.

A 21-year-old Crosby man was killed on Friday, February 3 in a snowmobile accident.

The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office reported the crash occurred about 4:10 p.m. on the 23000 block of County Highway 31.

Brandon Russell Harwig of Crosby, was traveling south-

bound in the ditch of County Highway 31 south of Cuyuna, when he struck an approach, causing the snowmobile to catapult through the air and collide with some trees.

Harwig was riding with a friend, who found Harwig after the accident and then called 911.

Harwig was transported to the Crosby Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the MN State Patrol, Deerwood Police, and the Crosby Police.

## DAWN ESPESETH



Dawn S. Espeseth, 63, of Aitkin died Friday, February 3, 2017 at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd.

Funeral services were held Friday, February 10, 2017 at 11 a.m. from First Lutheran Church in Aitkin with Rev. Darrell Pedersen officiating. Visitation was Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and also one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in the Rabbit Lake Cemetery.

She was born October 10, 1953 in Aitkin to Paul and Phyllis (Pavek) Hyytinen. She grew up and attended schools in Aitkin graduating from the Aitkin High School in 1971. She married Larry Espeseth on November 7, 1970 at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin. They lived in Minneapolis and Anoka for a time and then

returned to Aitkin in 1975 and have lived here since. Dawn worked with her husband in the masonry business for all of these years taking care of all of the office and book work that needed to be done. She enjoyed gardening, sewing and reading.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Espeseth, Aitkin; sons and daughters-in-law: Troy and Ann Espeseth; Jason and Kelli Espeseth all of Aitkin; seven grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; sister, Diane Landstad, Aitkin; brother, Craig Hyytinen, Aitkin.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Phyllis Hyytinen; brother, Gary Hyytinen and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Oscar and Alice Espeseth.

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

## Home condemned, 27 cats removed



The City of Crosby condemned a house at 908 Poplar Street in Crosby on Monday, February 6. It was determined that the interior of the home was not fit for habitation, due to cleanliness and no running water. Crosby and Deewood police officers, with the assistance of the Humane Society, removed 27 cats from the home.

## Lueck named to task force which examines aggregate issues

State Rep. Dale Lueck, R-Aitkin, has been appointed to a task force which addresses issues related to materials which literally provide the foundation for our everyday lives but often are overlooked.

The task force is officially known as the Aggregate Resources Task Force. It was created in 1998 to examine sustainable management of materials such as sand, gravel, clay, earth and bedrock. These substances are used to construct our transportation infrastructure, homes, offices, schools, factories and more.

Reports indicate the statewide annual demand for aggregates is over 50 million tons per year, an increase of about 50 percent since the early 1980s. That increase has outpaced previous projections, tapping mines sooner and causing mine operators to seek resources farther from where they are needed. "Just look at what is happening right now in the north metro," said Lueck, who also is vice chairman of the House Subcommittee on Mining, Forestry and Tourism. "They are moving farther and farther north to find aggregate for construction projects. We must be strategic on how we manage these important

resources and it starts with knowing what is there and understanding what the demand will be in the future."

The task force must study and provide recommendations to the Legislature prior by June 30, 2018. By law, the report must address:

The Department of Natural Resources' and Metropolitan Council's aggregate mapping progress and needs.

The effectiveness of recent aggregate tax legislation and the use of the revenues col-

lected by counties.

The use of state funds to preserve aggregate reserves.

Local land use and permitting issues, environmental review requirements, and the impacts of other state regulations on aggregate reserves.

"We need a balanced approach," said Lueck, who in 2016 successfully authored legislation to extend the task force instead of allowing it to statutorily sunset. "We must ensure access and availability of these materials and not



## Rueger retires after over 50 years

The Aitkin High School media center was full of well-wishers for Bev Rueger at her retirement party on January 26. Shown flanked by Superintendent Bernie Novak, left, Rueger, and former Superintendent Dr. Ed Anderson, right. Rueger started working for Superintendent Oliver Bakken in 1962. She also worked for Vernal Madsen, 66-71; Patrick DeSutter, 71-84; Anderson, 84-2005 and Novak, 2005 to present. Bev is known for always having a smile for everyone and helping out in every way possible.

## Superintendent Novak also to retire

Superintendent Bernie Novak said in an interview he'll be retiring as Aitkin's Superintendent of Schools this year, after a 12-year stint.

"I've had 35 years working in education -- 18 as an elementary teacher and 17 as an administrator," said Novak. He and his wife decided it was a good time to step down, he said.

Originally, Novak was

going to serve on more year and help the school board through decisions about new or remodeled facilities. The facility process is in a holding pattern now. The next step is to compile the results of a survey of area residents and then the board to hold a work session and decide on next steps.

Novak said his is not currently seeking a full-time job

in education nor planning to leave the Aitkin area right away. He and his wife have a large family with a few children left in college who like to come home for visits. "In four years with everyone done with college, things could change. Will we stay in the big house we have now or downsize or move? I'm not sure."

Novak said he will be doing something but is not sure the direction the end of his career will take -- maybe serving in interim roles.

## Honest young people return money

A group of young people found a bank bag of money near the Washington Street Bridge in Brainerd recently.

They turned the bag into the Brainerd Police Department, who found the owner and returned it. Data privacy does not allow the police to

reveal the name of the owner.

Helping with good deed were Drew Nordean, Brainerd; Matthew Vankeulen, Ghent; Samuel Peterson, Aitkin; Jeffrey McArthur, Baxter and Thomas Hice of Baxter. The young men are aged 18 and 19.

## LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Feb. 4 and 11, 2017)  
**LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT**

The Libby Township Board of Audit will be held at the Palisade Community Center on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2017  
Jane Grimsbo Jewett, clerk  
Libby Township  
2.0

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# Cold temperatures create ideal tree pruning conditions



This photo shows the correct pruning method.

Natural Resources.

"My rule of thumb is when winter weather conditions are less desirable for humans, the timing for tree pruning is great," said DNR forestry specialist Randy Schindle. "Pruning in the winter is less risky to tree health, and it's a good way to get some outdoor exercise and stay warm."

The reason for wintertime pruning is simple—it minimizes the risk that an open wound could invite decay or insects that carry oak wilt or Dutch elm disease—according to DNR forestry outreach specialist Jennifer Teegarden.

"In the spring and summer, tree sap from open wounds

can attract insects that carry oak wilt and Dutch elm disease. The moisture from the sap in a fresh wound can also encourage decay," Teegarden



Incorrect pruning allowed this tree to rot at the pruning site.

said. "Another consideration is that when trees lose sap, they lose energy to grow in the spring. Winter pruning reduces sap flow from a wound."

Winter pruning also allows the wound time to dry out before the sap runs and insects become active. "Much of the sap goes underground into the root system during a typical winter," Schindle said. "Sap stored in the roots moves to the upper part of the tree when the weather warms up. The more time a tree has to heal before the sap begins to run, the better."

**Tree pruning is done for the following reasons:**

Safety—to remove limbs that hang over walkways or

threaten to fall unpredictably.

Tree health—to remove diseased limbs or crossing and rubbing branches.

Aesthetics—to enhance the natural form or stimulate flower production.

**Tree pruning tips:**

Minimize wound size by trimming branches before they grow to be 2 inches in diameter.

Save the branch collar—don't cut flush to the trunk.

Use the 3-cut method for larger branches.



Incorrect pruning can damage trees

# Mille Lacs Lake bass limit goes from four to three in the month of May

Change will protect large fish and harvest opportunity

Anglers on Mille Lacs Lake will be able to keep three bass starting Saturday, May 27, when the bass harvest season begins. Catch-and-release bass fishing opens the same day as the walleye and northern pike fishing opener on Saturday, May 13.

"It's no secret that Mille Lacs is a nationwide destination for smallmouth bass fishing," said Don Pereira, DNR fisheries chief. "Knowing that we have something special here, we're proceeding with caution and dropping the possession limit from four to three, which is a good balance between desire to har-

vest fish and preserving the trophy-sized bass that have made Mille Lacs famous." Anglers can keep three bass in any combination of smallmouth and largemouth. All bass 17-21 inches must be immediately released, with only one bass over 21 inches allowed to be kept. Mille Lacs' exemption to the

statewide fall and winter closure of the smallmouth bass season remains, meaning that anglers may keep up to three smallmouth bass on Mille Lacs through Sunday, Feb. 28, 2018.

"We know some anglers are concerned with protecting bass through tight restrictions. We agree with

proceeding cautiously, encouraging more catch-and-release fishing while also recognizing that some anglers may expect the occasional fish dinner," Pereira said.

Bass in Mille Lacs grow fast relative to most populations in the state. The DNR plans an intensive tagging study this year to learn more about

bass populations and how they are affected by anglers.

"We think the lake's bass harvest is sustainable based on a biological standpoint, based on our angler surveys," Pereira said. "There is some uncertainty in the abundance of bass in Mille Lacs, and the tagging study this year will tell us more."

# New pollinator critical habitat license plate to be announced soon



Minnesota motorists will soon have another vehicle license plate option to choose from to show their support of natural resources conservation, this one featuring a native pollinator.

A panel of judges recently selected three finalists for the plate from a pool of 24 eligible entries submitted by artists in a design contest. The designs were evaluated on authenticity, originality, artistic quality and marketability.

Following the public comment period, the plate de-

signs will be assessed by law enforcement representatives for legibility and visibility. Finally, state commissioners Tom Landwehr, DNR, and Mona Dohman, Public Safety, will consider all recommendations to select the winning design.

The pollinator plate will be the newest in a series of 10 critical habitat license plates available for sale at deputy registrar offices statewide.

"Minnesota's native pollinators play a critical role in maintaining healthy food sources for humans and wildlife," said Crystal Boyd, DNR entomologist. "They also pollinate plants that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, store carbon and beautify our landscapes." The Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan currently lists 33 butterflies and moths and five bumble bees as species

in greatest conservation need.

Proceeds from the sale of critical habitat license plates have generated more than \$40 million for conservation projects in Minnesota since they first went on sale in 1996.



# DNR EagleCam captures eagle pair's first eggs of season

The first eggs of the year for a perennially nesting pair of eagles can be seen on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources EagleCam at [mndnr.gov/eaglecam](http://mndnr.gov/eaglecam).

This is the fifth year that the same pair of bald eagles has been live-streamed around the world by a small weatherproof camera mounted above their nest at an undisclosed location

in the Twin Cities' metro region. The first egg this year arrived at 4:57 p.m. Saturday and the second Tuesday at 2:50 p.m. A third is likely any time now.

The live video stream is paid for and maintained by the DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The program is largely supported

by voluntary contributions, especially those made when people indicate an amount to give on Line 21 of their state income tax form.

The Nongame Wildlife Program helps hundreds of Minnesota species through habitat restorations, surveys and monitoring, technical guidance, and outreach and education – critters such as bees, butterflies, songbirds,

loons, frogs, turtles and bats, as well as eagles. Donations to the program are matched dollar for dollar by the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) license plate fund. They're also tax-deductible.

"This pair of eagles, which has consistently laid their eggs in the dead of winter, really embodies Minnesotans' cold-hardiness," said DNR nongame wildlife spe-

cialist Erica Hoaglund. "It's a good reminder for us to get outdoors and enjoy the weather, and to do what we can to help our feathered friends and other animals."

Bald eagles typically lay one to three eggs, which incubate for about 35 days before hatching. Both male and female eagles, which mate for life, take turns sitting on the eggs to keep them warm. Last year, three eggs hatched

after being laid on Jan. 25. The female eagle has been identified by a leg band as having been rehabilitated at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, then released back into the wild in 2010.

In 2016, nearly half a million people from all 50 states and 155 countries tuned in to the DNR EagleCam to watch the family saga of America's iconic raptor unfold in real time.

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# Dayton proposes to bolster natural resources and outdoor recreation

Minnesota Resident Fees		
	CURRENT	PROPOSED
FISHING	\$22	\$25
DEER HUNTING	\$30	\$34
PARK PERMIT - ANNUAL PASS	\$25	\$30
PARK PERMIT - DAILY PASS	\$5	\$6
PLEASURE BOAT (3-YEARS) [17-19 Feet]	\$27	\$45
WATERCRAFT SURCHARGE	\$5	\$12
SNOWMOBILE (3-YEARS)	\$75	\$105
ATV (3-YEARS)	\$45	\$60
DAILY SKI PASS	\$5	\$7

Minnesota's natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities would be maintained and improved under a budget being proposed by Gov. Mark Dayton, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Minnesota has great fishing, access to millions of acres of public hunting lands and a growing deer herd, and a state park and trail system currently experiencing annual double-digit growth in popularity. Minnesotans enjoy 75 state park and recreational areas; 23,800 miles of snowmobile, cross-country skiing and all-terrain vehicle trails; and nearly 2,000 public water access sites and fishing piers across the state.

Minnesotans also count on abundant clean lakes, rivers and groundwater and healthy forests for a good quality of life and to support tourism and industry.

However, according to the DNR, these quality of life amenities are threatened in the near future with inadequate funding. The DNR funds many of these activities through licenses and user fees – many of which are facing deficits in the next few years.

Without raising these user fees – some of which have not been increased for more than a decade – Minnesotans and visitors will see deteriorating parks and trail facilities and reduced visitor assistance. There will be declining fishing opportunity and quality, less habitat management on wildlife areas and other public lands and waters, fewer hunting opportunities, and fewer conservation officers to protect resources from poaching and misuse.

The governor's budget also seeks to make key investments from the state's General Fund to replant forests, conduct studies to help protect water resources, and upgrade the DNR's technology.

"Minnesotans have come to expect top-shelf parks, trails, fishing and hunting experiences, clean water and healthy forests. These are an essential part of our outdoors culture and key to our state's economic future," said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr.

Landwehr said the governor's proposed DNR budget seeks to restore funding to programs that are slipping toward deficits, maintain

other programs at current levels and make strategic investments for the future.

Only about 15 percent of the DNR's budget comes from the state's general fund, but it is a critical part of the agency's budget, Landwehr said. The vast majority of state DNR funding (85 percent) comes from user fees, sales of licenses and permits, and dedicated funds from the Legacy amendment and the state lottery.

Here are key elements of Dayton's DNR budget proposal:

### Game and Fish Fund

The DNR's main fund for fish, wildlife and their protection, the Game and Fish Fund, relies primarily on sales of hunting and fishing licenses. This fund is critical to delivering the research, management and law enforcement necessary to maintain and improve healthy fish and wildlife populations and the quality habitats they depend upon.

The Game and Fish Fund is expected to slip into a deficit starting in 2019. To maintain the fund's basic level of services, the governor's budget proposes adjustments to fishing and deer-hunting license fees. Under this plan, a resident annual angling license would be adjusted by \$3 (from \$22 to \$25), while a nonresident annual angling license would be adjusted by \$6 (from \$45 to \$51). A resident deer hunting license would increase from \$30 to \$34; a nonresident deer hunting license would increase from \$165 to \$185.

A healthy Game and Fish Fund will allow the DNR to continue stocking of Minnesota's state fish through a cost-effective walleye stocking program; make improvements to more wildlife management areas, allow Minnesotans easy access to quality hunting opportunities;

ensure we keep deer herds healthy and the Minnesota "deer camp" tradition strong; and implement the new state-wide northern pike rules.

### Parks and Trails

Minnesota's state parks and trails are treasured places. They are highly valued by more than 10 million visitors each year. And, while the DNR is meeting its goal of getting more Minnesotans outdoors, the state's parks and trails have been stretched to a critical point where basic maintenance and staff services are no longer meeting visitor expectations. For example, due to failing infrastructure, Blue Mounds State Park no longer has safe drinking water for campers.

State park permit fees have not been raised since 2003, while visits, as evidenced by permit sales, have increased by about 30 percent in just the last three years. The governor's budget proposal would adjust daily park permit fees by \$1 (from \$5 to \$6) per day. Annual permits would increase by \$5 per year (from \$25 to \$30). The fee increase as well as \$9.3 million in new General Fund money will be used to support parks and trails operations in order to meet the needs and expectations of a wide variety of outdoor recreationists.

### Outdoors protection and safety

The governor's budget proposal includes \$5.5 million from the General Fund to assist in filling 21 empty conservation officer stations across the state. Each conservation officer's patrol area averages 650 square miles, which means there are 13,650 square miles in the state that don't have adequate natural resource protection. That is an area larger than the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined.

### Recreational and trail accounts

Snowmobiling, skiing and boating are among the most popular outdoor recreation activities in Minnesota. State funds that help maintain more than 21,000 miles of snowmobile and all-terrain grant-in-aid trails are projected to go into deficits starting in fiscal year 2018. The water recreation account, which supports boat access and safety programs and other water-related efforts, is also projected to go into a deficit in fiscal year 2018. Minnesota's cross-country ski fund, which maintains more than 700 miles of ski trails, currently is unable to cover trail grooming at DNR facilities across the state.

With account deficits, state trails and water recreation services and facilities, as well as local grant-in-aid programs, will be reduced. To make sure Minnesota's recreational trails are properly maintained for current users and future generations, the governor's budget proposes the following adjustments: to raise the three year registration fees for snowmobiles by \$10 per year (from \$75 to \$105) and ATVs by \$5 per year (from \$45 to \$60); three year boat registration fees would increase in a range from \$2 to \$60, depending on the length of the watercraft. For example, fees for a 17-19 foot watercraft would increase by \$18. The state's daily ski pass would rise by \$2 (from \$5 to \$7).

### Forests and clean water

The governor's proposed budget includes \$2.5 million from the General Fund to reforest state lands. This investment will help support the state's important forest-products industry and includes \$500,000 to complete a study of sustainable timber harvest on state lands.

The governor's budget also proposes to adjust the annual watercraft surcharge fee from

\$5 to \$12 to fight aquatic invasive species and support research for long-term control methods. (The surcharge was last increased from \$2 to \$5 in 1993.) The governor's proposal includes \$18.5 million from the Clean Water Fund for the DNR's work to fix and prevent water pollution and prevent overuse of groundwater. With this funding, the DNR monitors and manages water use and provides local government and other state agencies with the information, analytical tools, and expertise needed to focus their water quality efforts most effectively.

### Technology

The governor's proposal includes \$4 million to replace the agency's aging forestry data system. This will help improve the quality and timeliness of forest management decisions. This initiative is part of the governor's proposed \$51 million in IT improvements to build a modern digital infrastructure that will ensure state government works at the speed of business. Additionally, the governor's budget would invest \$2.1 million from the General Fund to upgrade and modernize the DNR's website so customers have greater access to recreation information and mobile-friendly applications.

"The DNR strives to protect and manage the public's precious natural resources, while ensuring that fees are kept at a very affordable level," Landwehr said. "We think the governor's budget proposal does a good job of balancing the needs to maintain and improve the system with the desire to keep outdoor recreation affordable. The quality of life in Minnesota is phenomenal because of these opportunities," he said, "and we need to ensure that we work hard to keep it that way."

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