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Sat., May 6, 2017

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## Spring Rummage Sale

Thurs. 2-8 p.m.  
Fri. 8 a.m.-noon  
May 11th & 12th  
at St. Joseph's Church, Crosby

Donations for the sale may be brought to the Crosby church on Wednesday, May 10th, beginning at 9am. We are unable to accept heavy appliances or furniture. If you have questions, please call Millie Wassen at 218-866-0183.

## Aitkin Roundabout project on Highway 169 underway

Motorists who travel Highway 169 near Red Oak Drive/Southgate Drive south of Aitkin may encounter construction crews, slower moving heavy equipment and potential delays as a project to construct a new Highway 169 roundabout began Monday, May 1.



Construction for a new roundabout south of Aitkin began May 1. Schwartz Photo

Initially, Highway 169 near Red Oak Drive/Southgate Drive will be intermittently reduced to a single lane during daylight hours, Mondays through Fridays, as crews move materials and equipment into the area. Flagger will allow one-way

alternating traffic through the daily work zones while lanes are closed.

Later in the project, Highway 169 near Red Oak Drive/Southgate Drive will be switched to temporary bypass lanes. Access to local businesses will be maintained throughout the project.

Motorists navigating the Highway 169 work zone should expect changing conditions, watch for crews and equipment, and be prepared to slow down and stop if necessary.

The new Highway 169 roundabout project in Aitkin will replace the existing Highway 169/Red Oak Drive/Southgate Drive intersection with a roundabout, install new overhead LED lighting, pedestrian crossings and trail connections, and replace underground utilities. When complete, the project will improve motorist and pedestrian safety, mobility and drainage in the area.

### Project updates

For project updates and details, including information on navigating roundabouts, visit [www.mndot.gov/d3/aitkin](http://www.mndot.gov/d3/aitkin).

For updates and information about other MnDOT



Construction for a new roundabout is located on Highway 169 near Red Oak Drive/Southgate Drive south of Aitkin at the entrances to Paulbeck's County Market and Shopko.

projects in Central Minnesota, visit [www.mndot.gov/d3](http://www.mndot.gov/d3) and follow on Twitter @MnDOTCentral.

For real-time travel information anywhere in Minnesota visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org) or dial 5-1-1.

### MNDOT Road Restrictions

The Minnesota Department of Transportation started full summer overweight permits in the southeast, south and metro frost zones May 5.

Starting date for full summer overweight permits in the central frost zone will be May 8.

Spring load restrictions in the north-central frost zone ended May 1.

Spring load restrictions

are still in effect in the north frost zone.

Permits for over 80,000 pound gross vehicle weight will continue and new permits will be issued if all axle and group weights are legal.

Up to full summer overweight permits can be issued during the spring load restriction period only on interstate through movements.

Middle-range overweight permits become available within each frost zone when spring load restrictions are lifted.

Full summer overweight permits become available within each frost zone starting two to three weeks after spring load restrictions are

lifted. For questions about the legal weight and size heavy haul trucking, call MnDOT's Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations department at 651-296-6000 or email [ofcvpermits.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:ofcvpermits.dot@state.mn.us).

MnDOT will report dates on its 24-hour automated message center at 1-800-723-6543 for the U.S. and Canada, and locally at 651-366-5400 for the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Road restriction maps indicating the locations of weight restricted routes and those state highways open to maximum 10-ton axle weights are listed on the MnDOT Seasonal Load Limits website at [www.mndot.gov/loadlimits](http://www.mndot.gov/loadlimits).

## MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 14 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Glass All Colors  
Junk Mail  
Food Boxes (Non Refrigerated)

Plastics with the numbers 1-6  
PETE HDPE V LDPE PP PS

Recycling is good for the environment and our community. Learn what you can do at home!

To learn more about recycling in your area, you may call your local refuse hauler or Crow Wing County Solid Waste Management 218-824-1290. There are numerous recycling containers throughout Crow Wing County, check out our website [www.co.crow-wing.mn.us](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us)

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**Yvette Stoliker**  
Finance Specialist

# READER RIBBETS

## Have we been told the truth?

A petition of over 500 signatures was dismissed by the Aitkin Auditor for a technicality as no middle initials or birth dates.

I feel the voter/petitioner intent was clear, we want a vote. These commissioners don't need a petition to allow a referendum, they always could and still can schedule a vote.

Let's consider the cost of an election in comparison to the \$10.5 million courthouse construction, which I feel if completed could almost double.

I feel also, let's not swallow

them telling us about interest rates rising even the treasurer will not commit to where they are headed and when.

Ask about alternatives to the building plans as they are available. I feel they cost about half and provide the same public benefits. "Security", I feel is not a valid reason.

I feel this trying to shove that 10.5-million-dollar courthouse expansion down our throats without a vote is willful neglect of citizens request and voter disenfranchisement.

My goal is to get commissioners to agree that voter intent was clear in the petition, get a motion to rescind the March 28th decision to bond for \$10.5M, get a second to the motion, get a vote on who is willing to disenfranchise voters!

Please attend the next Aitkin county board of commissioners meeting, speak at the proper time before them and let your concerns be known.

**Georgia J. Johnson**  
Aitkin

## Aitkin County taxpayers be aware

As an Aitkin County taxpayer, my feelings is that there seems to be a major deception by our public officials regarding the construction or reconstruction of a court house building for the inflated price of \$10.5 million that was passed by a vote on March 28 by four county commissioners. These county officials are claiming we the people should go along with this as a "security issue."

(Really? Further investigation could probably prove otherwise with a separate building for less cost!)

As the author of the circulating petition to allow this county voting public their right to vote, I

was told by a county official that our signatures are begin thrown out because of technicalities!

**Vote! Vote ! Vote!**

There were well over 500 signatures of people that want a vote on this issue, which I feel is very significant for the people of Aitkin County.

**Call! Call! Call!**

If you want a vote, please make some calls to your district commissioners to let him/her know that you want to vote on where your hard-earned money goes!

Will this county board and their operatives continue to find more ways in which to stop what the people want? Taxpayers be

aware!

As sworn-in voting judges for city and /or townships, we are specifically instructed by a county official at the workshops (when performing our duties), to cover and protect the identifying markers of the voting public's private information. Yet, when writing a petition for change, it required by the powers that be to have each individual who sign the petition include specific information that I.D.s their personage on a circulating petition for everyone to see! What an oxymoron! Does this even make any sense?

**Robert "Bob" Harwarth**  
Aitkin

### Aitkin County Board Members Districts and Contact Information:

**J. Mark Wedel** - Chairperson, Commissioner District 1: (City of Aitkin and Townships of Aitkin and Spencer) call 218-927-6500 or 218-838-9324 (cell), email mark.wedel@co.aitkin.mn.us

**Laurie Westerlund** - Commissioner District 2: (Townships of Farm Island, Hazelton, Malmo, Nordland, and Wealthwood) call 320-684-2652, email laurie.westerlund@co.aitkin.mn.us

**Donald Niemi** - Commissioner District 3: (City of McGrath and Townships of Beaver, Glen, Idun, Kimberly, Lakeside, Lee, Millward North, Millward South, Pliny, Rice River, Salo, Seavey, Spalding, Wagner, White Pine and Williams and Unorg Townships - 47-24, 45-24) call 218-927-9947, email don.niemi@co.aitkin.mn.us

**William "Bill" Pratt** - Commissioner District 4: (Cities of McGregor and Tamarack and Townships of Clark, Fleming, Haugen, Jevne, McGregor, Morrison, Shamrock, Workman call 218-330-1759, email bill.pratt@co.aitkin.mn.us

**Anne Marcotte** - Vice Chairperson, Commissioner District 5: (Cities of Hill City, Palisade and Townships of Ball Bluff, Balsam, Cornish, Hill Lake, Libby, Logan, MacVile, Turner, Verdon and Waukenabo and Unorg Townships - 52-27, 52-25, 52-24, 52-22, 51-27, 51-25, 51-22, 50-27, 50-26, 50-25, 49-27, 48-27) call 218-256-0277, email anne.marcotte@co.aitkin.mn.us

Aitkin County Board meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Aitkin County Courthouse in Aitkin. **The next meeting is Tuesday, May 9.**

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## Thank You!

I would like to personally thank each and every one of you that came to the rally in support of me. It really means a lot to me, especially during this difficult time. I am honored to have such wonderful friends and loyal voters. Again, thank you.

I will continue to do the very best I can for the people of Crosby.

*James J. Hunter*  
City of Crosby Mayor

## Hypnotist harmful to graduates

The Aitkin Grad Blast traditionally hires a comedian/hypnotist to entertain the seniors for one hour while parents prepare the games for the rest of the evening. As a general rule, parents have not been informed, but yet their teens were invited to volunteer to be hypnotized. We were shocked!

This year we provided evi-

dence for concerns about hiring a hypnotist to the Grad Blast committee; but hypnotist was scheduled anyway! A registration letter was sent to parents asking them to sign a broad-based liability release, for an evening of "fun, food, and games", with absolutely no mention of a hypnotist.

We have done our research and believe this event could be very harmful for our seniors.

Counselors, medical professionals, and even some trained hypnotists agree, complications do occur. Even among professional counselors, the "jury is still out" on the short and long-term consequences for the use of hypnotherapy.

In February, Dr. Phil dedicated a whole show to the dangers of

hypnotism.

Once our teens are exposed to this humorous event, could it encourage them to be part of an unsupervised, mind control/hypnotic event at a later date, which may exploit their vulnerability?

We presented our concerns to the Grad Blast committee, but they were dismissed. At that point of frustration, we contacted a school board member; he was told the Grad Blast was not a school event and did not fall under School Board jurisdiction!

We would just like parents to be fully informed. This is not just a fun game, but a lucrative business, which can create direr consequences later for some people.

**George & Deb Carlberg**  
Aitkin

## Lammers Appliance Repair

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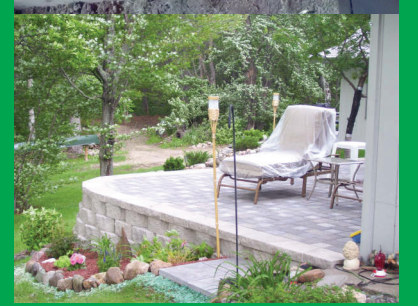
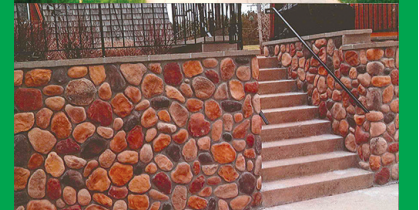
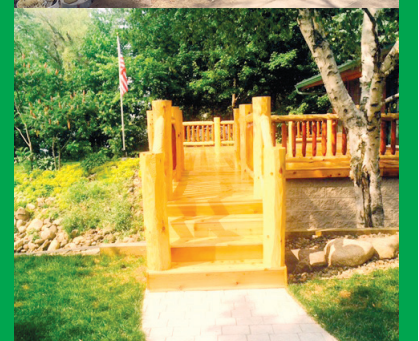
- Tree Removal and Clean-up
- Stump Grinding
- Storm Damage Cleanup
- Aerial Truck

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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 Jacques Art Center in Aitkin, 1-3 pm "Ask an Attorney," Aitkin Co. Sheriff's conference room, 4th Tues. 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. 218-9271383.  
**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, open the fourth Saturdays of each month from 8 a.m. - noon. Located at 6297 Woods Bay Drive NE, just north of the Hwy. 6 bridge in Outing. For more information call 320-857-0182. Donations of clean, repair free clothing accepted that time also.  
**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 Auxiliary** meets 2nd Thu. 7:30 pm, Garrison Fire Hall.  
**Garrison Thrift Store,** Thurs.-Fri. 10-4, Sat. 11-4.  
**Heart to Heart Support Group,** 4th Tue. of month, 2 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.  
**Jacobson Seniors** meets every Thu., 10-2 pm at Jacobson Comm. Ctr. Potluck at noon. Beverage provided. All are welcome. For more info., 752-1515.  
**Lymphedema Support Group,** 3rd Mon. of month, 6:30 pm, Kanabec Hospital, int. of Hwy. 65 & 23, Mora.  
**Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club,** Mon. 5:30 pm in Pequot Lakes, for more info call Brett 651-270-5648 or facebook/Marsh and Meadows Hunting Retriever Club  
**McGrath City Council,** first Thu. of the month, 6:30 pm at fire station hall.  
**McGrath Senior Center** meets every Mon. 1-4 pm, cards & games, all are welcome.  
**McGregor Community Meal** served at the Community Center on Highway 65 on the Third Wednesday of each month serving from 5:30

- 6:00 pm.  
**McGregor TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly)** meets Thu., 4 pm weigh in, 4:30 meeting, Minnewawa Sportsman's Club, Goshawk St. (Co. Rd. 6). 218-768-2340 for more info.  
**MS Support Group,** meets the 1st Thu. of the month at 7 pm, 606 NW 5th St, Brainerd, 218-824-5228.  
**Mystic Masonic Lodge** meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm except June, July & August meet only 1st Tuesday at 7 pm over the Eye Care Center in Aitkin.  
**National Alliance on Mental Illness** meet Fri., 2:30, Community Presbyterian Church, 703 Pokegama Ave., room 105, Grand Rapids, Call Terrence at 218-327-1347.  
**North Central MN Farm & Antique Assn.** meet 1st Wed. of month, Blackberry Town Hall. Info: Bruce 218-752-6592.  
**Order of Eastern Star, Woodland Chapter 122** in Aitkin meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays September through May and 2nd Tuesday in June and 4th Tuesday in August at 7:30 p.m. 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 p.m.; 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 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 Im-

manual Lutheran Church, Crosby. Call Mabel Semler 218-546-6523 for meeting location information.  
**Weight Watchers** meets every Wednesday at 5:45 pm at the Deerwood VFW. 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.  
**May**  
**6th** - Hallett Center of Crosby's Rock & Roll 1K Fun Run beginning at 9:15 a.m.; 5K begins at 10 a.m. Race starts and ends at the Hallett Center of Crosby. Block Party from 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
**6th** -12th - Friends of the Aitkin Library will host their used book sale during regular library hours.  
**9th** - Unlimited Learning: Crow Wing Energize Movement: Creating a Healthier Community, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Heartwood Senior Living Community, non-members \$5.  
**10th** - Spring Rummage Sale Donations Drop Off at St. Joseph's Church, Crosby, beginning at 9 am We are unable to accept heavy appliances or furniture. If you have questions, please call Millie Wassen at 218-866-0183.  
**10th** - Zentangle Pattern Drawing with Esther Piszczek, CZT, from 6-7:30 p.m. at McGregor Public Library. Participants will create this art on a 3.5-inch by 3.5-inch paper tile with pen and ink and pencil shading. No previous drawing experience is necessary. Pre-registration is required. Call the McGregor Public Library at 218-768-3305 or drop by the library on Center Avenue and 2nd Street.  
**11th** - Cuyuna Lakes Chamber Business After Hours at Cuyuna Brewing Company 5 - 7 p.m. at 1 E. Main Street, Crosby. Chamber members AND non members are invited to register and attend this event at 218-546-8131.  
**11th** - Scrapbooking basics workshop 6:30 pm at the Mille Lacs Lake Community Library in Isle. Pre-registration is required; call the Mille Lacs Library at 320-676-3929 or drop by the library at 285 2nd Ave. S. in downtown Isle.  
**11th & 12th** - Spring Rummage Sale at St. Joseph's Church, Crosby, Thurs, 2-8pm; Fri, 8am-noon.  
**May 12th** - June 2nd - Hallett Community Center Gardens Unclaimed beds are open for rental by anyone in the community. To reserve a bed, see Sandy at the Hallett Community Library on Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or for questions call Julie Dallas at 218-534-3584.  
**13th** - Crossing Arts Kids, Featured Artist, Exhibit Opening 10am to noon, The Crossing Arts Alliance will be exploring the magical world of watercolor with Alice Larson, \$3 per child/\$5 per family materials donation is requested



**Aitkin Moose Lodge**  
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**Wed., May 10 Sloppy Joes**  
 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Fri., May 12 Ribeye Steak**  
 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Wed., May 17 Chicken Wings**  
 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Men's Golf** 10 a.m. Meet at the Lodge **Every Tuesday**

**Hall Available for Rent** (Seats 250) Weddings, Reunions, Graduation & Other Events  
 Now booking for parties. Call Lodge for info.

**Woman of the Moose** Thurs., May 18 (1st & 3rd Thursdays)  
**NEW! Personal & Specialty Homemade Pizza**  
 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Meat Raffle**  
**Every Saturday 6 p.m.**



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# What do you do if you catch a lake sturgeon sporting a tag? Report it

Six feet – that’s the length of the longest lake sturgeon tagged by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and there’s a chance a Rainy River angler could catch that 6-foot fish or others out of the 8,959 sturgeon tagged to date as part of a long-term study.

“Spring sturgeon fishing on the Rainy River has been excellent this year,” said Phil Talmage, DNR Baudette area fisheries supervisor. “As if catching a lunker sturgeon isn’t enough, catching a tagged fish and reporting it gives anglers and the DNR an added bonus. Cooperation from anglers is an essential part of this long-term tagging and recapture study.”

Anglers who report the tag number on a sturgeon receive an email back from the Baudette office thanking them, along with maps and infor-

mation collected on their tagged fish and its history since tagged. The information tells a story of the sturgeon’s travels from when it was captured until it was caught and reported.

Of the 8,959 lake sturgeon tagged so far, 5,484 were longer than 45 inches at the time they were tagged. The longest sturgeon tagged was 72 inches – 6 feet – but weight was not recorded for this fish when it was captured on the Rapid River, near Clementson, in 2014.

The heaviest sturgeon tagged and weighed was 89.1 pounds, but only 63.5 inches long. This fish came from the Littlefork River in 2000. The



DNR sturgeon research tag.

largest sturgeon sampled was caught off of Pine Island in September of 2007. This fish was 73 inches long and estimated to weigh 120 pounds. Unfortunately, the DNR was not set up to tag this fish, so it was released without a tag.

“Our tagging program is part of an effort to monitor sturgeon as the population recovers,” Talmage said. “Besides understanding

sturgeon movement and reproduction cycles, the tagging effort also allows us to make population estimates.”

Population estimates of the number of sturgeon longer than 40 inches in the Lake of the Woods-Rainy River system were made in 1990, 2004 and again in 2014. The sturgeon population grew from about 16,000 in 1990, to about 60,000 in 2004 and about 92,000 in 2014.

The Lake of the Woods-Rainy River system is one of the few areas in the country that has a sturgeon population that is healthy enough to support a fishery.

“In Minnesota we are fortunate that sturgeon are beginning to recover in most watersheds throughout the state,” Talmage said. “This has been accomplished through improving water and habitat quality, stocking to reintroduce the species and improving fish passage through dam removal and modifications.”

Intense commercial exploitation during the late 1800s and early 1900s decimated the once abundant sturgeon population in Lake of the Woods and Rainy River. After the decline of the commercial fishery, the sturgeon population was unable to rebound due to water pollution and degraded habitat in the Rainy River, the primary spawning area and nursery habitat for young sturgeon. But because sturgeon are extremely long-lived, enough individuals managed to survive and reproduction was sufficient to maintain a small population.

With the passage of clean water legislation in the late 1960s and early 1970s, especially the Clean Water Act in 1972, the sturgeon population started to recover as water quality and habitat conditions improved. Now reproduction is successful in most years.

In Minnesota, lake sturgeon are listed as a Species of Special Concern. What

happened to sturgeon in the Lake of the Woods-Rainy River system also happened to many populations throughout the continent. In addition to water-quality and habitat degradation, the constructions of dams impacted populations throughout the world.

For statewide sturgeon fishing regulations, visit [mndnr.state.mn.us/regulations/fishing](http://mndnr.state.mn.us/regulations/fishing).

## Raccoon carried disease rising

Reports are on the rise of a disease in raccoons that can infect domestic dogs. Taking precautions can minimize chances of the disease spreading to pets.

The disease, called canine distemper, can be spread through the air or by direct contact with urine, feces, blood or saliva.

Cases have been confirmed in Olmsted and Yellow Medicine counties and sick raccoons also have been reported in Dodge, Winona and Kandiyohi counties, according to the Minnesota departments of natural resources (DNR) and health (MDH).

“Canine distemper virus does not affect humans,” said Dr. Joni Scheftel, state public health veterinarian at MDH. “However, distemper in animals can look like rabies, so it is import-

ant to stay away from sick wildlife.”

Pet owners should ensure dogs are current on vaccines. Pets should be kept away from sick or dead wildlife. Anyone unsure if their dogs are current on canine distemper vaccine should talk with their veterinarian about the vaccination status of their pets.

People should stay away from sick raccoons and dead wildlife should be left alone. If disposal is necessary, the animal can be buried where it is found or picked up with a plastic garbage bag using gloves and placed in the garbage. Some municipalities may have an animal control officer who can assist. The DNR and the MDH do not provide animal removal services.

“The canine distemper virus is found throughout the

state and a few cases are reported every year, but there seems to be a rise in reports this year,” said Dr. Michelle Carstensen, wildlife health supervisor for DNR.

Other states – including Tennessee, Virginia and Texas – also have reported increased cases of canine distemper virus in raccoons and foxes this year.

Canine distemper virus affects the central nervous system of mammals such as raccoons, foxes, wolves and skunks. Infected animals behave abnormally, losing their fear of humans, stumbling, shaking and can appear to be overly friendly. Other symptoms include sneezing, coughing and discharge from the eyes and nose.

Visit [bit.ly/CanineDistemper](http://bit.ly/CanineDistemper) for more information about the disease.



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<p><b>2014 CHEVROLET IMPALA</b></p> <p><b>\$18,750</b> #175030</p> <p>LT, V6, BOSE STEREO</p>	<p><b>2013 NISSAN MAXIMA</b></p> <p><b>\$17,989</b> #N165082</p> <p>LEATHER, MOON ROOF, V6, SV</p>	<p><b>2015 BMW 428I</b></p> <p><b>\$38,987</b> #N175024</p> <p>HARDTOP CONVERTIBLE AUTO, TURBO, GORGEOUS!</p>	<p><b>2010 ACURA</b></p> <p><b>\$15,989</b> #N175016</p> <p>NAVIGATION, V6, AWD</p>	<p><b>2012 TOYOTA PRIUS</b></p> <p><b>\$13,987</b> #N260219</p> <p>NAVIGATION, BACK UP CAMERA, HYBRID, ONLY 12,823 MILES</p>
<p><b>2011 BUICK ENCLAVE</b></p> <p><b>\$10,987</b> #N270081</p> <p>QUAD SEATING, BACK UP CAMERA</p>	<p><b>2013 NISSAN MURANO</b></p> <p><b>\$21,987</b> #N175085</p> <p>ALL WHEEL DRIVE, SL MODEL, LEATHER, MOONROOF</p>	<p><b>2013 NISSAN MURANO</b></p> <p><b>\$21,987</b> #N270143</p> <p>ALL WHEEL DRIVE, SL MODEL, LEATHER, MOONROOF</p>	<p><b>2012 TOWN AND COUNTRY</b></p> <p><b>\$14,779</b> #270144</p> <p>TOURING MODEL, QUAD SEATS, REAR DVD</p>	<p><b>2015 CHRYSLER TOWN&amp; COUNTRY</b></p> <p><b>\$18,973</b> #175036</p> <p>TOURING MODEL, NAVIGATION, QUAD SEATS</p>
<p><b>2015 JEEP CHEROKEE</b></p> <p><b>\$21,787</b> #N175028</p> <p>LATTITUDE, 4X4</p>	<p><b>2014 NISSAN PATHFINDER</b></p> <p><b>\$29,987</b> #N175033</p> <p>4X4, PLATINUM EDITION, LEATHER, MOONROOF, REAR DVD</p>	<p><b>2014 HONDA CRV</b></p> <p><b>\$19,976</b> #N270103</p> <p>ALL WHEEL DRIVE, EX MODEL, MOONROOF, 17,703 MILES</p>	<p><b>2012 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER</b></p> <p><b>\$18,997</b> #270356</p> <p>LIMITED, 4X4, MOON ROOF, LEATHER</p>	<p><b>2013 CADILLAC SRX</b></p> <p><b>\$29,983</b> #N175027</p> <p>ALL WHEEL DRIVE, NAVIGATION, SUN-ROOF, LOADED, ONLY 20,346 MILES</p>
<p><b>2009 JEEP WRANGLER</b></p> <p><b>\$14,987</b> #270362</p> <p>PW, PL, TILT CRUISE</p>	<p><b>2007 CADILLAC ESCALADE</b></p> <p><b>\$16,987</b> #N165088</p> <p>AWD, DVD, BOSE STEREO, LEATHER</p>	<p><b>2005 DODGE RAM</b></p> <p><b>\$10,996</b> #370037</p> <p>LARAMIE, 4X4, HEMI</p>	<p><b>2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE</b></p> <p><b>\$28,972</b> #175022</p> <p>V6, LIMITED, 4X4 NAVIGATION</p>	<p><b>2016 FORD F350</b></p> <p><b>\$47,987</b> #270377</p> <p>CREW CAB LARIAT, 4X4, ONLY 12,823 MILES!</p>

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