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Aitkin Action Alliance moves Aitkin forward (Part 1 of 2)

A survey of community leaders in Aitkin last spring spurred an effort to improve the business climate and workforce and to brand Aitkin.

Apex consultants interviewed about 30 people working in many different areas of business and some conclusions were reached. Of the 30 interviewed, 70 percent were not natives of Aitkin. Males made up 70 percent of the group and most

of those interviewed were over 50.

Assets for the area include: the Industrial Park, the downtown, manufacturers, healthcare, funding, tourism, a sense of community and education.

Negatives were seen as a limited workforce, lack of a brand, lack of capital, wetlands, poor condition of buildings, housing, declining population and declining workforce.

On the upside, Aitkin has seen growth in healthcare, is the county seat, has a great lending environment, wonderful natural resources and lots of senior citizen living.

On the downside, there is a perceived decline of retail, regulations and wetlands that hinder peat harvesting and mining, competing economic centers, a seasonal economy and politics.

Top employers in the area include Riverwood Health-



New business have come to Aitkin in recent years. Here is the Brandt vehicle dealership, when it was under construction in 2014.

care Center, area schools, healthcare centers and nursing homes, Raveill Trucking, Savanna Pallets, Mille Lacs Energy, Floe International, Cedar Creek and county government.

Apex named Aitkin's top opportunities as manufacturing, small business, mining, tourism and recreation, creating a brand, education, a community center and forest products.

Many of the commentators noted that Aitkin was adverse to risk and trying new things, that everyone didn't always work well together and people think "How do I retire to Aitkin -- not how do I start a business in Aitkin?"

Implementation of a strategic plan and promoting the brand "Experience Aitkin" are next steps to be highlighted in Part II of Aitkin Action Alliance.

Mille Lacs Homemakers Club



The Mille Lacs Homemakers Club, made up of women living around the North and East sides of Lake Mille Lacs, celebrated a Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 13, 2017, at the Wahkon Inn in Wahkon. They completed "Christmas Mittens" for their friends at Aicota, Golden Horizons, Onamia and Scandia House Care Centers. A good will offering was also collected for local food shelves.

ATV goes through ice

An ATV operator escaped injury Sunday afternoon when the Polar side by side ATV he was operating broke through the ice on an Aitkin area lake. The incident was reported to the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office at about 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 17, 2017.

Michael Morrisette, 53, of Prior Lake was operating the ATV on Nord Lake on the

afternoon Dec. 17, when it broke through the thin ice. Morrisette was not injured. The ATV went down in about 30 feet of water.

It is but another reminder about the unusual and unsafe ice conditions this year. There have been a number of incidents around the state of tragedy due to ATVs and snowmobiles breaking through the ice.

Win a * Turkey!
for Your Table!

10 Turkey Giveaway!!

Friday, Dec. 22
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

*Ten fresh (10 - 12 pound average weight) turkeys will be given away. Participants must be 21 or older to be eligible to participate.

Merry Christmas!

Roberts-Glad VFW 1727
1/2 mile North of the stoplights in Aitkin

May your days be merry and bright

Happy Holidays

from Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative

"like" MLEC's Facebook page during the month of December and we'll donate \$1 to Operation Christmas

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Take time to give blood now to help save lives by next month

The American Red Cross is urging eligible donors to give more life to patients now and into the new year by giving blood or platelets.

Donations decline during the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day when busy holiday schedules cause regular donors to be less available to give and many blood drives may be canceled due to severe winter storms. "By taking just about an hour of time today, you can help save someone's life within a few weeks or even days of your donation," said Sue Thesenga, Communications Manager of the Red Cross North Central Blood Services Region. "We're asking donors to give now to help ensure blood is available when patients need it most."

Blood is perishable and can only be replenished by volunteer donors. Red blood cells, the most transfused

blood product, must be transfused within 42 days. Platelets, the tiny cells that form clots and help stop bleeding, must be transfused within just five days. More than half of all platelet donations go to cancer patients who may need platelet transfusions to prevent life-threatening bleeding during chemotherapy.

"Platelet donors don't have to wait a few weeks to make a difference in a patient's life," said Thesenga. "Someone could donate platelets on Monday, and by Friday, those same platelets can help someone's fight to kick cancer."

Kelly Ellison certainly knows that. Twenty-eight weeks into her third pregnancy, she was raced to the hospital with uncontrollable bleeding and received a doubly devastating diagnosis. Not only did she have aplastic anemia – a rare

blood disorder in which the body's bone marrow does not produce enough new blood cells – doctors also detected kidney cancer. Kelly received 43 units of blood and platelets. Five weeks later, she gave birth prematurely to her son, who also needed blood transfusions to survive.

"Our lives have been forever changed because of life-saving blood and platelet donations," said Ellison. "Every breath I take is a blessing!"

All blood types are needed this winter. Donation appointments can be quickly and easily scheduled by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a special thank-you for taking the time to donate, those who come to give Dec. 21 through Jan. 7 will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Donation opportunities CROW WING

Brainerd: Tuesday, Jan. 2 from noon to 6 p.m. at the National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright St.

Wednesday, Jan. 3 from noon to 6 p.m., National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright St.

Pequot Lakes: Tuesday, Jan. 2 from noon to 6 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 30985 Front St.

MORRISON Little Falls: Wednesday, Jan. 3 from

noon to 6 p.m., St. Francis Center, 116 8th Ave. SE

Thursday, Jan. 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Camp Ripley Armory, 15000 Highway 115

Thursday, Jan. 4 from noon to 6 p.m., St. Francis Center, 116 8th Ave. SE

Friday, Jan. 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., St. Francis Center, 116 8th Ave. SE

How to donate blood or platelets

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to

make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

"Young Frankenstein" auditions

Brainerd Community Theatre will hold auditions for the spring musical "Young Frankenstein" on Wednesday, January 17 and Thursday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Auditioners are asked to check in at the lobby of the Chalberg Theatre on the Brainerd campus of Central Lakes College.

"Young Frankenstein" is the stage adaptation of the Mel Brooks film of the same name. It is a parody of the classic horror films about the scientist and his creation. Brooks wrote the stage script and music.

The musical calls for the following characters, with their suggested ages and their top and bottom vocal ranges listed:

- Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, a scientist, 20's to 30's, G4, Bb2
- The Monster, a monster,

20's to 40's, Bb4 to Db2

- Igor, the hunchback assistant, 20's to 50's, G4 to Bb2

- Inga, an attractive resident of Transylvania, 20's to 30's, A5 to G3 (must also be able to yodel)

- Elizabeth Benning, Frederick's sophisticated fiancé, 20's to 30's, F5 to F#3

- Frau Blucher, mysterious woman, 40's to 60's, C5 to E3

- The Hermit, lonely blind man, 30's to 60's, F4 to Ab2

- Victor Frankenstein, Frederick's grandfather, 40's to 60's, F4 to G#2

- Ziggy, the village idiot, 20's to 60's, Eb4 to D3

- Inspector Kemp, local police, 40's to 50's, F4 to A2

There are also ensemble roles for several men and women of various ages and singing ranges.

Auditioners are asked to prepare at least 16 measures of an up-tempo song that best

demonstrates vocal range. Please bring sheet music to the audition. Also, please dress in clothes that allow for free movement, as there will be a dance component to the audition.

Those interested in auditioning are invited to attend an information session on the musical on Monday January 8. The session will begin at 6 p.m. in the Chalberg Theatre. Readings from the script, selections from the score, and parts of the film will be part of the session.

Auditioners are asked to sign up in advance for an audition time slot. To do so, or to seek further information, please contact the director, Patrick Spradlin, at (218) 855-8255 or at pspradlin@clcmn.edu

"Young Frankenstein" will be performed April 26-28 and May 3-5, 2018.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

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.

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, 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. 218-927-1383.

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, 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.

Co-dependants Anonymous meeting. 332 1st Av. NE Aitkin. Wednesday evenings. 5:30.

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 emer-

gency 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 each month at 7PM, EXCEPT January, February and July which are dark . 4th Tuesday in June and 2nd Tuesday in August also are dark. Meetings are held on 2nd floor of the

EyeCare Center 312 Minnesota Ave No. Aitkin, MN

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) Mon.: 10 Glory Baptist Church; 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 Immanuel 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.

December

2nd - Harding Horse'n Around Christmas Parade (Christmas equine parade) 5 p.m. on Main Street in Harding. Horses will go thru town with lights & music. For more info call Dondi Schubert at 218-831-8850.

30th - Fireworks over Lawrence Lake at dusk. Sponsored by the Outing Chamber of Commerce.

2018 January

9th - Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network Annual Meeting at Hallett House Bed & Breakfast, 6:30 p.m.

10th-Waukenabo Dance, "Jerry's Dance Band" will be performing 1-4 p.m. at the Waukenabo Community Center located 15 mi. north of Aitkin on Hwy. 169 to Co. Rd. 3, west 1 1/4 mi. on left.

20th - 2018 Ironton BarStool Races start at noon in Morningside Park.

27th - Brainerd Jaycees 28th Annual Ice Fishing Extravaganza on Gull Lake's Hole in the Day Bay, north of Brainerd, MN. This year's prize list is valued at nearly \$200,000. More information and official updates can be found at www.icefishing.org.

31st-Waukenabo Dance, Joe & Ross will be performing 1-4 p.m. at the Waukenabo Community Center located 15 mi. north of Aitkin on Hwy. 169 to Co. Rd. 3, west 1 1/4 mi. on left.

February

14th -Waukenabo Dance, "Two for the Road" will be performing 1-4 p.m. at the Waukenabo Community Center located 15 mi. north of Aitkin on Hwy. 169 to Co. Rd. 3, west 1 1/4 mi. on left.

16th&17th - Fishing for Ducks Ice Fishing Contest. Over \$100,000 worth of prizes to win!

17th - Annual Rabbit Lake Fishing Contest sponsored by the Woodtick Inn.

17th - Waukenabo Valentine's Dinner & Dance, dinner is 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Jerry's Dance

Deadline looms for \$20,000 college scholarship

High school seniors in the Northland have until Jan. 15 to apply for one of the largest academic awards in the region -- the \$20,000 Alworth fund scholarship.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, more than 240 students from 10 counties in northeast Minnesota will receive scholarship money from the Marshall H. and Nellie Alworth Memorial Fund. That's more than \$1.2 million for current college students seeking degrees in mathematics and the sciences.

The application process takes about two hours, said Patty Salo Downs, executive director of the Alworth Memorial Fund.

"That is a potential payoff of \$10,000 an hour," Salo Downs said. "With almost a 30-percent acceptance rate, applicants have a one-in-three chance of being awarded a \$20,000 scholarship. It's difficult to imagine a better use of time."

Applicants must meet the following criteria for scholarship consideration:

be a U.S citizen gradu-

ating from a high school in the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Lake, Itasca, Koochiching or St. Louis commit to major in a mathematics or science-based field of study (STEM) have a composite score of 25 or higher on the ACT have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher be from a family whose taxable income is less than \$120,000 apply by the Jan. 15 deadline

To read about the scholarship and about past awardees, and begin the application process, visit www.alworthscholarship.org

Salo Downs said the scholarship reaches beyond the obvious benefit of the \$20,000. "It's also about instilling self-confidence and motivation," she said. "It's about empowering students by believing in their abilities. We see their potential and want them to succeed."

Salo Downs said the money allows students the freedom to focus more on education and less on how they will pay for it. "There's also less worry about a crushing debt load

upon graduation," she said.

Students are also able to expand their options on where they want to attend, Salo Downs said. "The scholarship allows them to go to a school that suits them, one that may have been too far out of their price range."

Scholarship winner and University of Minnesota Duluth student Amy Gustafson, a 2015 graduate of Deer River High School, said having the

time to concentrate on her mathematics teaching degree has been invaluable.

"I have been able to devote all of my time to my class work," she said. "I don't have to worry about working a job or deal with the stress of how to pay for school."

That focus on learning can allow time for studying abroad, undergraduate research, and involvement in professional organizations, Salo Downs

said. "Scholarship students gain a greater depth of knowledge and the experience necessary for getting accepted into graduate school or landing that dream job."

New Farm and Rural Helpline

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture recently established a Farm and Rural Helpline, a resource Rep. Dale Lueck, R-Aitkin, said could help those facing a variety of challenges in Greater Minnesota.

The MDA created this helpline as a one-stop-shop of sorts for farmers to access to get referrals for mental health services, financial counseling, legal help and other resources that stressed farmers may be seeking.

"Farming a very challenging endeavor," Lueck said.

"The stress of dealing with many factors beyond one's control ranges from what Mother Nature dishes out to constantly changing market conditions. That generates a lot of stress. It's important that we make available the very latest information and help to those that work in this very demanding environment. The helpline is designed to provide that assistance. I strongly encourage those facing challenges to pick up the phone

and explore what options may be available for their specific situation."

The helpline is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling toll-free 8 3 3 - 6 0 0 - 2670.

Send the NEWSHOPPER Your Photos and Events!

Got an interesting photo and story to share? Just send it to hopper@crobyironton.net, along with your name, city and a description of the photo. We also accept news and community events. And who knows, you may see your submission next week in the NEWSHOPPER!



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OBITUARIES

EVELYN ADCOCK



Evelyn "Eva" Adcock, 92, of Aitkin died on December 14, 2017 at Riverwood Health-care Center in Aitkin.

A prayer service was held on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby. Burial was in the Pine Ridge Cemetery in Emily.

She was born in Ross Lake Township on March 16, 1925 to Thomas and Lillian (Ladd) Micklewright. Eva married Fredrick Adcock on October 16, 1943.

She is survived by her sons and daughter-in-

law: Joe and Mary Adcock and Randy Adcock, all of Aitkin; daughters and sons-in-law: Mary Ann Engemann and Carol Adcock both of Mesa, AZ; Sharon and Gary Kunkel, St. Joseph; Patricia and Jon Holmgren, Hastings; Julie Adcock, St. Cloud and Cindy Adcock, Aitkin; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Fred; three brothers: George, Robert, and Lewis Micklewright; and two sisters: Lillian Micklewright and Dorothy Anderson.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby.

ROBIN JOHNSON



Robin "Stubba" Dawn Johnson, 62, of Aitkin died unexpectedly, Saturday, December 9, 2017 at her home.

Memorial Service was held Friday, December 15, at the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home, Aitkin.

She was born October 12, 1955 in Moorhead to Orlin and Darlene (Osten-vik) Wasfaret. Robin graduated from Ulen High School. She married Jerry Johnson on July 2, 1976 in Watertown, SD. Robin worked at US Bank in St. Paul for over 15 years before buying a hobby farm in Aitkin. She then worked as a Dietary Aid at Aicota Health Care Center for a number of years. Robin enjoyed the outdoors, gardening, canning, sewing, campfires, playing

softball in her younger years. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family.

Robin is preceded in death by her father, Orlin Wasfaret and two brothers: Randy and Jeffrey Wasfaret.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Johnson; mother, Darlene Wasfaret; daughter, Kellie Wiethorn; granddaughter, Amanda Wiethorn; sister and brother-in-law, Angel and Jack Heim-buch; brother-in-law, Kevin Johnson; brother-in-law, Lyle (Elena) Johnson; sister-in-law, Noy Wasfaret; sister-in-law, Heidi (Tim) Hehr; sister-in-law, Cindy Larck; several nieces and nephews.

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

CHARLES THOMPSON



Charles N. Thompson, 97, of Cromwell formerly of McGregor and Esko died Thursday, December 14, 2017 at the Villa Vista Care Center in Cromwell.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at the McGregor Funeral Home with Rev. Hal Kamppi officiating. Burial was in the Rice River Cemetery. Military honors will be provided by the McGregor VFW and American Legion Posts.

Charles was born January 29, 1920 at Automba, MN. He grew up and attended schools in Lawler and then worked in the CCC Camps for a time and then worked in South Dakota on farms.

LEOTA KELSEY



Leota Arlene (Kelly) Kelsey, 92, of Aitkin and Venice, FL died Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Brookdale Assisted Living in Venice, FL.

Interment will be in Bennettville Cemetery, Hazelton Township, Aitkin County at a later date.

She was born January 18, 1925 in Perry, IA, to James Maxwell and Edith (Bolle) Kelly. She attended Aitkin Public school and graduated in 1943. As a young adult she enjoyed racing her horse "Tim" at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds and won races.

Leota married Bryce Kelsey on December 30, 1945. They enjoyed their house and cabin located on Farm Island Lake for many years while their children were young. She worked as a secretary at Aitkin County Social Services, Aitkin Independent Age, Shing-Wauk Village and Kelsey Abstract Company which later changed to Aitkin County Abstract Company.

She was very active at Pine Lake Chapel, teaching Sunday school; youth group; and on church board. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, sewing, china painting, quilting, hunting, fishing and canning garden produce. Leota and Bryce were named Aitkin Riverboat King and Queen

He served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1944. He returned to the McGregor area and operated the Trolley Bar for a time. He married Viena Hutar on October 4, 1947 in Aitkin. They lived in Esko and Charles worked for Crane Plumbing in Duluth. He worked for them as a sales representative for many years before he retired back to McGregor. He has resided at the Villa Vista in Cromwell for the past six years. He enjoyed fishing, camping, traveling and visiting friends and family.

He is survived by his brother, George Thompson, Duluth and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Viena, in 2013; eight brothers and one sister.

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

during the Riverboat Days celebration.

Once Bryce retired in 1982, they traveled south every winter first in a van and then later upgraded to a motor home. They enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and motorcycling around Aitkin County. They also traveled to Denmark.

They made many friends while living in Nokomis at Kings Gate, a gated community in Florida. She enjoyed weekly computer club, quilting and pool league.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Pamela Kelsey, Bemidji; daughters and son-in-law: Linda and Bill Coleman, Palmetto, FL and Kathleen Kelsey, Aitkin; grandchildren: Margot Kelsey, Max and Tracey Kelsey all of Bemidji; Chris and Marybeth Coleman, Las Vegas, NV; Shawn Lewis, Crosby; Marcus and Becky Lewis, Langdon, ND; three great-grandchildren; sister, Connie Hills, Aitkin; nieces and nephew: Steven and Amy Lehman, Sandra Lehman and Alexandrine Harris.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bryce E. Kelsey on May 21, 2002 and her parents.

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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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; 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 Espeseth; SS at 9:30; Worship at 10:45

Hill City — Rev. G. Valley; Worship 10 and 6:30 p.m.; Bible Study Thurs. 7 pm.

Palisade — Pastor Ed Sornberger; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

BAPTIST

Aitkin - 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* - Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Chris Erickson, 218-829-3191; SS 9:00, Worship 10:30 and 6 p.m., Wed. Classes and Clubs 6:30 p.m.; fbbrainerd.com

Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Terry Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchonthewiseroad.org

Brainerd — Eagles Nest, Pastor Bob Stockland 218-829-4673, Worship 11, SS 9:45.

Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Bob Stockland 218-562-5252, Worship 9:30, SS 9:30.

Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor G. Fisher; SS 9:45; Service 10:45 and 6 p.m., Bible Study and Our Kids for Christ Wed. 7 pm

Deerwood* — Pastor W. Skog; SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.

Glory* — Pastor Chris Meirose; 927-3678; SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 am.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 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 pm.

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; 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

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 — Jacobson Community Church, Pastor George Collins, 218-252-5938, 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; 99 South 1st Street (at the McGregor United Methodist church [shared] in downtown McGregor) 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, Pastor Stanley Mikles, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; Children's Sunday School 9:30; Clothes Closet 8 am - noon 4th Saturday, 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge

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, Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 9 *Brainerd - St. Paul's, Holy Communion Sunday 10

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

Wright — Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worshipping, 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* (ELCA) Pastor Darrell Pedersen, Pastor Jordan Gades; worship Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:15 & 10am, Wed. 5:30pm w/supper; communion every Sat. and 1st & 3rd Sun.; contemporary services 2nd & 5th Sun.; staffed nursery during 10am Sun. & Wed. services. Sun. school

10:30am, Wed. night youth activities grades 3rd - 9th. Sunday service broadcast on KKN (94.3FM) at 10am, and on TV cable channel 181 at 9am on Wed.; community meal every Mon. & Thurs. 5pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thurs. each month 9:30am - 5pm.

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 Ingelwood 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.pobaxter.org

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

Brainerd — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church, AFLC, Sunday School 9, Worship at 10, followed by coffee fellowship. Wednesday 7pm Adult Bible Study. Located at 5878 Pine Beach Rd, Brainerd, 218-824-3052, www.goodshepherdfreechurch.org.

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; 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 (ELCMS), 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 Petersen. Worship 10 with Communion Every Sunday; 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.

Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.

Hillman — Immanuel, (ELCA) 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.

Lake Shore — Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8327 Interlachen Rd.; Worship 9:00 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N)

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.

Rosburg — 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



Area Christmas Services

ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

Assembly of God Church in Crosby will have a Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

CATHOLIC

Holy Cross Catholic Church in Onamia will have Christmas Eve Mass at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24; and Christmas Day Mass at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 25.

Holy Family Catholic Church, located on Bulldog Lake, 1182 Co. Rd. 8 in Hillman, will have 10 a.m. Mass Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, located at 27332 Central St. in Garrison, will have 6 p.m. Mass Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wahkon will have Christmas Eve Mass at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 and Christmas Day Mass at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 25.

St. James Catholic Church, located at 299 Red Oak Dr. in Aitkin, will have 4:30 p.m. caroling, 5 p.m. Mass, 11:30 p.m. caroling and midnight Mass Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24; and 9 a.m. Mass Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Crosby will have a Christmas Eve Concert at 4:30 p.m. and a Christmas Eve Mass at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24; and

10:30 a.m. Mass Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Deerwood will have a 8:30 a.m. Mass Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25.

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Alliance Church of Garrison, located at 9475 Jefferson St. in Garrison, will have worship services at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24.

REFORMED

Lifespring Church, Crosby: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Christmas Eve Service, 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24

Hilltop Chapel, located at 49448 Osprey Ave. between Round and Esquagamah Lakes, will have Christmas Eve candlelight family service at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

LUTHERAN

Bethany Lutheran Church, located at 500 Lindquist St. in Onamia, will have Christmas Eve worship at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

Bethesda Lutheran Of Malmo will have a prayers and carols service at 9 a.m. and candlelight services at 3:30 and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24. There will be a communion service at 10 a.m. Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25.

Bethesda Lutheran Church of Rossburg, located at 35941 350th Ave. near Aitkin, will have Christmas Eve

candlelight service at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24. This service includes Christmas carols, the reading of the Christmas story and holy communion. The service closes by singing Silent Night by candlelight.

Located five miles east of Aitkin on Hwy. 47, turn left on County Rd. 5 and go one mile.

Bethel Lutheran Church, located on Main St. in Palisade will have Christmas Services at 9:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24; and at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 25.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located at 36696 320th St. near Aitkin, will have Christmas lantern services at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24.

Faith Lutheran Church, pastored by Kate Mensing and located at 220 East Lake St. in Isle, will have Christmas Eve candlelight service of holy communion at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

First Lutheran Church, located at 107 Second St. SE in Aitkin, will have traditional worship at 10 a.m., family candlelight worship at 3 p.m. and traditional candlelight worship at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24.

The 27th annual communion Christmas dinner will be from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 25. It will be a traditional meal with tur-

key, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing and all the trimmings. No reservations are necessary and free will offerings are accepted. Take-out and delivery will be available. Call 218-927-2028 for more information.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, located at 600 SW Fourth St. in Crosby, will have Christmas Eve candlelight services at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

Light of the Cross Lutheran Church, located at 27170 Monroe St. in Garrison, two blocks west of Garrison Family Foods, will have a candle light service with holy communion at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24; and festive carol worship with Holy Communion at 9 a.m. New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Outing will have a Candlelight Service at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Garrison will have Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24. Shepherd of the Lake is located on Hwy. 169, one mile north of the "Y" in Garrison.

St. John's Lutheran Church, located at 324 3rd St. NW in Aitkin, will have Christmas Eve worship at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24; Christmas Day worship at 9 a.m., Monday, Dec.

25; and New Year's Day at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 1, 2018.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Cedarbrook, located at 27452 St. John's Church Rd. near Aitkin, will have Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24, which will include the Sunday school Christmas program, "The Road to Christmas" and Holy Communion. Located six miles west of Aitkin on Hwy. 210, turn right on County Rd. 32, go two miles, then turn right onto St. John's Church Rd.

Tamarack Free Lutheran Church, together with Church of Christ in Tamarack, will be presenting the annual Christmas Eve service at the old country church on the Lawler Road, 41163 Kestrel Rd., in Tamarack. Service will begin at 5:30 p.m. There will be music, a play and a candlelight *Silent Night* ending.

There will be refreshments afterward. For more information, call Pastor Ron Staudinger at 218-426-5156. Note that there is no morning service.

Salem Lutheran Church, located at 21276 Archibald Rd. in Deerwood, will have traditional worship at 9 a.m. and candlelight worship at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24. There will be a service of lessons and carols at 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31.

Zion Lutheran Church of Crosby will have a Christmas Eve Divine Service on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m.

METHODIST

Aitkin United Methodist Church, located at 104 Second St. NW in Aitkin, will have Christmas Eve worship at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

Cascade United Methodist Church, Deerwood will have a Worship Service at 9:45 a.m. and Christmas Eve Worship Service, 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24

Pine Lake United Methodist Chapel, pastored by the Rev. Larry Foote and located at 43472 240th St. in Cutler/Aitkin, will have Christmas Eve worship. at 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

PRESBYTERIAN

Wahkon Presbyterian Church, located at 240 First St. W in Wahkon, will have Christmas Eve worship at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

"He appeared and the soul felt it's worth."



If you would like to have your church listed in the Easter or Christmas directory for 2018, please send the information (name of church, location, contact information and schedule) to hopper@crosbyironton.net. - Thank you!

OBITUARIES

ANTHONY BJERKNES



Anthony Paul Bjerkness, 34, of Ironton died on Monday, December 11, 2017 from the result of a snowmobile accident on Serpent Lake. A Memorial Gathering is being planned for the summer of 2018.

He was born on July 15, 1983 in Crosby.

Tony is survived by his parents, Robert and Patsy Thomas of Ironton; two sons: Colt Hallin of Deerwood and Eli Bjerkness of Ironton; one brother, Robbie Bjerkness of St. Cloud; two sisters: Theresa (Stacy) Handshoe of Hazard, Kentucky and Connie Bjerkness of Brainerd.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mark Lambkins and one brother, Jonathon Bjerkness. Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

LENORE CLOSUIT



Lenore Closuit, 102, of Aitkin, died Monday, December 11, 2017 in Aicota Health Care Center, Aitkin.

A gathering of family and friends was held Saturday, December 16 at the Celebration of Life in Journey North Church, Aitkin. Interment was in Bennettville Cemetery, Hazelton Township, Aitkin County. Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers to Children's Home Society of Minnesota, 1605 Eustis Street, St. Paul, MN 55108, The Dr. Fred and Lenore Closuit Dollars for Scholars Scholarship Fund for Aitkin students, 306 2nd St NW, Aitkin, MN 56431, Attn.: Karen Carlson and to the Journey North Church of Aitkin.

She was born September 10, 1915 in Jackson, Tennessee to L.L. and Grace (Petty) Fonville. Lenore graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Masters Degree in Bacteriology. She went on to complete two years of Medical School at Vanderbilt Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee. She was a member of Chi Omega Sorority and Daughters of the American Revolution. Lenore moved to Winona to work at Winona General Hospital. She met Fred Closuit and they were married six weeks later in Jackson, Tennessee on

September 23, 1939. They lived in Minneapolis while Fred completed medical school and then came WWII. Fred was a Captain and Medical Doctor to the troops in Burma and India. After the war, Fred and Lenore moved to Aitkin to set up a private medical practice. He built the Aitkin Clinic and practiced there for 50 years. During that time they adopted Fay in 1949 and Charlie in 1952. When Fred retired, Lenore spent the next 20 years working at Grandmas Pantry, a local health food store. Lenore was a member of both the United Methodist Church of Aitkin and Journey North Church of Aitkin.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Fred Closuit; parents; son, Charlie Closuit; sister, Jeanne Riddell.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Fay and Dick Morris, Edina; three grandchildren: Julie and Jane Closuit, Fairbanks, AL and Joel Bard, Austin, TX; two great grandchildren; nieces: Lyn (Bruce Martin) Clossway, Cave Creek, AZ, Grace Riddell, Kensington, MD and Jeanne Scott Riddell, Austin, TX; nephews: Bruce Clossway, Rochester and Dr. Chris (Cheryl) Riddell, Sandy Springs, GA. Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home of Aitkin. Go to www.srtfuneral.com to sign the online guest register.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Lueck's update and seasonal wishes

The Lueck family sends you and yours our wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Please join Linda and me in counting the many blessings we enjoy in this great nation as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Rep. Dale Lueck 10B

who are facing the financial and emotional stresses.

The helpline is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling toll-free (833) 600-2670. Click here for a news release from the MDA on this program.

It looks like the forecast is for snowy, bitter cold weather. Please plan accordingly. Make sure your car is equipped with a winter kit and be alert for those that might need assistance as we approach our first real hard winter weather.

On that note, also be aware that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture recently established a Farm and Rural Helpline. The purpose is to provide a one-stop-shop helpline to provide referrals for mental health services, financial counseling, legal help and other resources to assist farmers

This week I participated in a bipartisan meeting of Northern Minnesota legislators at Mountain Iron to discuss a pending rule change to an old sulfate discharge standard that has never been enforced. The rule change that would impose huge potential new costs on at least 46 rural municipal waste water treatment plants in our part of Minnesota and likely have no impact on actually protecting or improving our current natural wild rice beds.

The proposed change has went through a series of public hear-

ings and is currently under review by the Administrative Law Judge that conducted the hearings.

There was full agreement by our group that we must protect our natural wild rice beds. They are a Minnesota treasure, highly valued by both our native and non-native communities. The group will continue to work to find a common sense solution that focuses on preserving and enriching our natural wild rice beds. The current rule and proposed replacement does neither.

As we turn our attention to celebrating the holidays, unless something major arises, I will be signing off with further email updates until after the first of year. Until then, please stay warm and enjoy the company of friends and family during this holiday season.

Dale Lueck (R) is the State Representative in District 10B. rep.dale.lueck@house.mn

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DNR announces new special state angling regulations for the opener

Special fishing regulations will change March 1 on a number of Minnesota waters following an annual public input and review process, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

"Anglers need to know special regulations because they take precedence over statewide regulations," said Al Stevens, fisheries program consultant with the DNR. "We have special regulations to improve fish populations and make fishing better or more sustainable."

Special regulations for individual waters are listed in a separate section of the Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet and at mndnr.gov/fishmn, and are posted at public accesses.

For this spring, new statewide northern pike zone regulations that take effect on inland waters will make it possible to do away with several previously existing special regulations that apply to individual waters and aim for similar outcomes as the zone regulations. The new statewide pike regulations go into effect in time for the fishing opener on Saturday, May 12.

On waters that have a special fishing regulation, anglers are required to follow the special regulation and unless otherwise mentioned, all other regulations apply.

Public process for special regulations

Special regulations are put in place after fisheries

managers write plans for the lakes they oversee and each provides objectives for achieving management goals. Before changes are made to special regulations, the DNR evaluates each regulation, shares what's found in the evaluations and angler surveys, hosts public input meetings in the fall and reviews comments from the public about the regulations. Goals of individual lake management plans also are considered.

"We need the public to tell us what they want for the process to work well, and we do value the input," Stevens said.

For this spring, 29 lakes and connected waters were reviewed.

Changes detailed

Sissabagamah and Long lakes in Aitkin County: Special regulations on northern pike will be dropped in favor of the new statewide zone pike regulation. Some benefits to the sizes of pike have been seen since a protected slot regulation was enacted; however, the north-central zone pike regulations may provide a similar or even better outcome and also serve to reduce regulation complexity.

Moody Lake in Crow Wing County: This lake will reopen to fishing after having been closed to fishing since 2001. Entirely located within an aquatic management area, the lake has been used as a fisheries research lake and at times was used for rear-

ing walleye. It no longer is needed for that purpose and plans are to reclaim the lake by using rotenone to remove undesirable fish and then restock with walleye, yellow perch and bass, and implement a catch-and-release regulation to maintain quality sized fish for anglers to enjoy.

Little Boy and Wabedo lakes in Cass County: These lakes will have an 18-26 inch protected slot, with one over 26 inches, in a possession limit of four walleye – which will be in effect for 10 years and then re-evaluated. The regulation was proposed in response to local requests to improve and protect the walleye population, which will likely benefit from restrictions on harvesting walleye longer than 18 inches.

Pelican Lake in St. Louis County: A special regulation on bass will be made permanent, while a regulation on northern pike will be dropped. An evaluation of the regulations showed that the 14-20 inch protected slot limit with one over 20 inches in possession on bass maintained a quality bass fishery, while allowing for an opportunity to harvest smaller bass. The regulation was generally popular with anglers and will continue. The 24-36 inch protected slot limit on northern pike provided some benefit to the pike population; however, the benefits of the regulation are similar to the new statewide zone regulation, which

provides the opportunity to drop the regulation and simplify regulations complexity for anglers.

Sand Lake and connected waters (Little Sand, Portage, and Birds Eye lakes) in Itasca County: A special regulation for northern pike will be dropped, and the lakes will change to the statewide limits. The new statewide zone regulation for northern pike will likely be just as effective as the special regulation in encouraging harvest of abundant small pike while improving sizes of pike.

Big Swan Lake in Todd County: A 24-36 inch protected slot limit with only one fish over 36 inches will be made permanent after the review showed sizes of pike have improved. Also, the regulation's expanded possession limit of six, with only one fish over 36 inches, will remain in effect as the number of small pike has continued to remain higher than desired.

Balm, Big Bass, South Twin and Deer lakes in Beltrami County; Portage Lake in Cass County; and Flour, Hungry Jack and Two Island lakes in Cook County: These eight lakes with restrictive size regulations (either a 12-20 inch protected slot or catch-and-release only regulation) on bass will be modified to a less restrictive, 14-20 inch protected slot with one over 20 inches to allow additional harvest of small bass while still protecting quality sized fish. Although the existing

regulations were shown to be effective, the new protected slot is expected to provide a similar protection to quality fish and with the added benefit of allowing additional harvest of abundant smaller bass.

Itasca, Ozawindib and Mary lakes in Itasca State Park: Special regulations on sunfish, black crappie and bass for three lakes in the park will be standardized among the lakes. While the existing regulations largely have been effective and have been generally popular with park visitors, the DNR will standardize sunfish and crappie possession limits to five, drop a minimum size restriction on crappie for Ozawindib Lake and modify the current restrictive bass regulations (catch-and-release on Mary Lake and the 12-20 inch protected slot on Ozawindib Lake) to a 14-20 inch protected slot with one over 20 inches for both lakes. The goal is to simplify regulations for park visitors while maintaining fishing quality.

Bass Lake in Todd County and Cedar Lake in Morrison County: Trophy regulations (40 inch minimum length requirement, possession limit of one) on northern pike will be modified to a 26 inch

maximum with a possession limit of three. While trophy northern pike still exist, growth rates of smaller pike in these lakes have declined. Allowing harvest opportunity on pike under 26 inches may help the population while still protecting medium to large pike.

Kraut, Peanut, North Shady, Squash and Tomato lakes in Cook County: Catch-and-release regulations on trout in these five lakes will be dropped this spring. Additionally, the ban on winter fishing and special tackle restrictions for these lakes will go away. The catch-and-release with tackle restrictions and the winter fishing closure did not meet management goals for these stocked trout fisheries. They are remotely located and special regulations and the closed winter season did not provide quality fishing in these lakes. But the same special regulations will continue on three other lakes – Thompson, Thrush and Turnip lakes – that were reviewed at the same time.

Visit mndnr.gov/fishmn for more information on special fishing regulations. Special regulations that change March 1 will be listed in the 2018 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet.

Tell 'em you saw it in the **NEWSHOPPER**

LEGAL NOTICE

(Published in NewsHopper Sat., Dec. 23 & 30, 2017)
WEALTHWOOD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING FOR TOWNSHIP 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 13, 2018.

Fillings will be open January 2, 2018 and will close January 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.
 Filing hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the office of the Clerk Office will be closed on legal holidays.
 Call for an appointment 218-678-2880.
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