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## Salem West fire tragedy turns to triumph and a new home

### New donation site thrives — old site becomes Habitat home for Salem West employee



By ANN SCHWARTZ

A little over a year ago, the Salem West donations center in Deerwood burned in an arson fire. So far, no one has been charged with that crime.

The ministry, supported by Salem Lutheran Church of Deerwood, provides free furniture and household goods to needy families. Mustard Seed, its thrift store in Deerwood, also supports the mission.

The building that burned down was the former Deerwood Laundromat, which was empty and deteriorating in 2002. Members of Salem Lutheran Church bought the building, and, along with community members, fixed up that building and added an

addition to it in 2004. From the first day of the fire, leaders vowed to carry on. They began accepting donations at the church and then in a temporary location in Deerwood across from the church. A semi-truck was filled with donations from the community and grants and donations poured in.

On May 22, 2017, they purchased the former UBC/Stenerson Lumber yard on the eastern edge of Crosby,



DeeDee Frahm, program facilitator at Salem West, displays a chicken sculpture that is one of many unique items that are donated. Ann Schwartz photos



Although it may look overwhelming, each donated item is put in a labeled spot in Salem West's donation center in Deerwood. Plenty of outbuildings at the old lumber yard site leave room to accept furniture and other large items. Bring your donated items in Monday through Friday from 9-4. Saturday hours will start on Memorial Day Weekend.

at 22348 State Highway 6, Deerwood.

As of last week, the donations center was thriving in the new Deerwood site.

"We officially opened last June 25," said DeeDee Frahm, program facilitator. "It's going well. It slows down during the cold of the winter but the lull in donations let us get organized. When the weather gets warmer the donation come in

fast and furious."

Salem West is open Monday through Friday from 9-4 to accept items. They will look through what you bring to make sure they can accept your items and then allow them to be unloaded. Starting on Memorial Day Weekend they will add weekend hours of 10-2 on Saturdays.

Frahm said to come in through the gate and have

your load checked and then you can unload smaller items in the main building and larger furniture at an outbuilding.

Right now, they are in need of beds of all sizes with bedding; and also couches, kitchen tables and chairs.

In a twist of fate, the old lot in Deerwood was donated to Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity.

Continued on Page 5

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# Dols named Minnesota National Geographic State Bee semifinalist



Colten Dols, 8th grade student at Forestview Middle School has been notified by the National Geographic Society that he is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2018 Minnesota Na-

tional Geographic State Bee at Minnesota State University, Mankato on Friday, April 6.

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 30th year. School Bees were held in schools with fourth-through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the State Bees.

To celebrate the 30th annual National Geographic Bee, the cash prize for the top three students in each state has

doubled. Each state champion will receive \$200, the National Geographic Visual Atlas of the World, 2nd Edition and a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Geographic Bee Championship to be held at National Geographic Society headquarters, May 20-23, 2018. Students that come in second place will receive \$150 and those that come in third will receive \$100. The first-place national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society, including a subscription to National Geographic magazine, and an all-expenses-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the new National Geographic Endeavour II. Travel for the trip is provided by Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic. Second-

and third-place finishers will receive \$25,000 and \$10,000 college scholarships, respectively. Visit [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org) for more information on the National Geographic Bee. National Geographic will stream the final round of the

National Geographic Bee Championship starting May 24 at [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org).

National Geographic Bee Championship starting May 24 at [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org).

## Handful for gun control in Aitkin



A little over half a dozen people turned out to March for Our Lives in Aitkin on March 24. They support increased school safety and gun control measures to stem the flow of gun violence. In Brainerd, about 300 marched. Protesters were led by student survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas recent school shootings in Florida, who marched in Washington, DC. They call for an assault weapons ban, closing the gun show loophole and a ban on the sale of high-capacity magazines in the United States. A large crowd also gathered at the Minnesota capitol in St. Paula and elsewhere around the state.

### Tragedy to triumph | Continued from Page 1



Volunteers keep Salem West humming. Lynn Leino works on washing donated items.

Through the Habitat selection process Dennis Peterson, Salem West manager, was the family chosen to live in the new Deerwood home. That build will start as soon as weather allows it.

Despite setbacks, this ministry was able to start again, creating a viable enterprise out of an empty building in the Deerwood area. And the old lot, which, once, sadly, held the burned remains of the former site that Salem Lutheran Church members worked so hard on will see new life as a new home for a local family.

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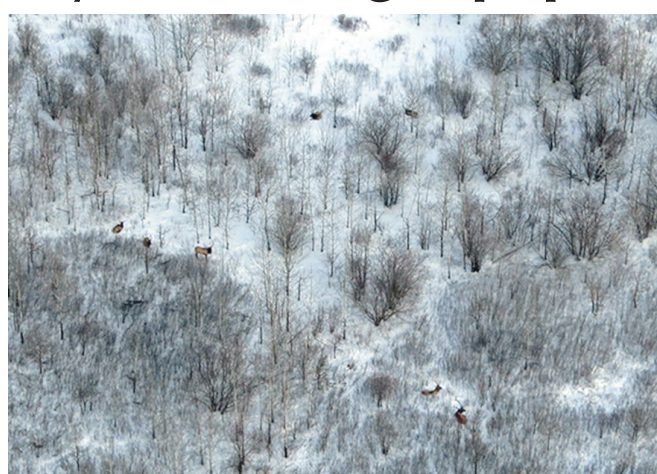
# DNR elk survey shows slight population increase in Minnesota

Minnesota's elk range in northwestern Minnesota has three herds with a total of 97 elk, according to the annual aerial elk population survey completed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Kittson, Marshall and Roseau counties.

Past surveys recorded 79 elk in 2017 and 83 elk in 2016.

"People often are surprised to learn we have wild elk in Minnesota," said Doug Franke, Thief River Falls area wildlife supervisor. "As biologists, our annual elk surveys are one way we collect information we can use to manage these large and often elusive animals."

Year-to-year, the survey results vary depending on the movement of the Caribou-Vita herd that travels back and forth across the Minnesota-Manitoba border. Meanwhile, the smaller Grygla herd in Marshall County



remains at low numbers.

"We continue to be concerned about low numbers of elk in the Grygla herd, which has not been hunted since 2012 and remains below our population goal," Franke said.

In Marshall County, observers counted 15 elk in the Grygla herd, down from the 17 elk counted last year and 21 elk in 2016. The current population goal range for the Grygla elk herd is 30 to 38

animals.

Another elk herd, the Kittson-Central herd, is located near Lancaster in Kittson County. Observers counted 75 elk compared to 61 elk in 2017 and 52 elk in 2016. The current population goal range for this herd is 50 to 60 animals.

Aerial surveys are a snapshot in time, meaning they are only an estimate of the population, not an exact number.

The DNR counts elk only on the Minnesota side during its aerial surveys.

Border herd results  
This year, the DNR was again able to conduct a joint aerial elk survey with Manitoba Conservation for the Caribou-Vita elk herd, also known as the border herd. The survey was completed on March 11 and March 12 for the areas close to the border. Manitoba Conservation wildlife staff counted 80 elk near the border, down from the 108 elk counted last year. There were 46 elk counted slightly north of Vita, Manitoba, which is down from the 55 elk counted there last year.

Observers counted a total of 126 elk on the Canadian side of the border, down from the 163 total elk counted last year. The Caribou-Vita herd is Minnesota's largest herd, with a current population goal range of 150 to 200 elk

inhabiting both sides of the border.

Depending on the year and day of the survey, elk numbers on the Minnesota side can greatly vary. Observers in Minnesota counted only seven elk this year in the Caribou-Vita herd. One elk was counted in 2017 and 10 animals were counted in 2016 in the state.

Research continues  
In 2016, the DNR radio-collared 20 cow elk in Minnesota's three herds to begin research into elk movements and habitat use that should help managers improve the effectiveness of elk population surveys, the knowledge of Minnesota elk biology and movements, and elk depredation management. The study is being conducted by researchers from the DNR

and Minnesota State University-Mankato. It will run through June 2018.

This research project is the first of its kind in Minnesota. The goal is to improve understanding of the species and ultimately develop management programs that benefit elk and their habitat, while also minimizing conflicts with landowners.

Funding for the project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and approved by the state Legislature. The DNR and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are also providing funding.

More information on Minnesota's elk management can be found at [mndnr.gov/elk](http://mndnr.gov/elk).

# Deep snow and cold winters increase fish kills



Cold winters with abundant snowfall can lead to fish die-offs and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has already taken reports of this process, known as winterkill, occurring in lakes near Brainerd, Hinckley and the Twin Cities area.

"While seeing lots of dead

fish can be disconcerting, we remind people that winterkill is normal and happens every year to some extent," said Neil Vanderbosch, DNR fisheries program consultant.

Once a lake is capped with ice, the amount of dissolved oxygen present in a lake depends on how much oxygen is produced by aquatic plants. Winterkill occurs when snow and ice limit the amount of sunlight reaching aquatic plants.

Without adequate sunlight, the plants produce less oxygen. If the vegetation dies from lack of sunlight, the

plants start to decompose, a process that further depletes oxygen dissolved in the water.

Trout species require high dissolved oxygen levels and may begin dying off when a lake's dissolved oxygen falls below 5 parts per million (ppm). Bluegill and largemouth bass are also sensitive to low oxygen levels. Walleye, yellow perch, northern pike, carp and crappie can tolerate dissolved oxygen levels as low as 2 ppm.

Winterkill rarely results in the death of all fish in a lake, but lakes with frequent

winterkill events tend to be dominated by bullheads.

Winterkill can have some benefits. In lakes with overabundant panfish, occasional winterkill can increase growth rates of the fish that survive. Winterkill can also greatly reduce carp abundance, which leads to increased water quality and more successful stocking efforts.

People who see numerous dead fish after the ice melts should report their observations to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at 800-422-0798.

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**NEW 2018 Nissan Rogue S AWD**

All Wheel Drive, Automatic Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert & Much More!

**SIGN & DRIVE LEASE**

**\$309\*** **ZERO DOWN**  
MONTH

\*36 MONTHS • 36,000 MILES  
-\$1,000 NISSAN BONUS CASH  
-\$875 NMAC LEASE CUSTOMER CASH

MSRP \$27,595  
Stock No. N18-0015  
Model No. 22218  
VIN: KNMAT2MV2JP508718



**NEW 2018 Nissan Pathfinder S 4x4**

Third Row - 7 Passenger Seating, 6,000 lb. Towing Capacity, 26 MPG Hwy. and Much More!

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MONTH

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-\$900 NMAC LEASE CUSTOMER CASH

MSRP \$33,865  
Stock No. N18-0010  
Model No. 25018  
VIN: 5N1DR2MM9JC614489



**NEW 2017 Nissan Rogue Sport S AWD**

All Wheel Drive, Vehicle Dynamic Control with Traction Control System, Hands-Free Text Messaging Assistant, Rearview Monitor, Siriusxm(R) Satellite Radio

**SIGN & DRIVE LEASE**

**\$279\*** **ZERO DOWN**  
MONTH

\*36 MONTHS • 36,000 MILES  
-\$1,050 NMAC LEASE CASH

MSRP \$24,765  
Stock No. N17-0506  
Model No. 27217  
VIN: JN1BJ1CR6HW137493



**NEW 2017 Nissan Altima 3.5 SL**

3.5 Liter, 270 Horsepower V6, LOADED with Power and Safety!

**\$9,000 OFF!**

-\$1,500 NISSAN BONUS CASH  
-\$1,000 NISSAN ALTIMA LOYALTY CASH REBATE (Must own any Nissan model to qualify)

MSRP \$35,500  
Stock No. N17-0148  
Model No. 13617  
VIN: 1N4BL3AP0HC200518



\*36 month/36K mile lease. \$0 down. Pay absolutely nothing. Includes tax, title, and first payment. See dealer for details. Pictures for illustration purposes only, actual vehicle color may vary.

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**2006 HONDA CRV EX-L**  
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CARFAX NO ACCIDENT VEHICLE. BRAKE ASSIST, HEATED FRONT SEATS, POWER MOON-ROOF, SPEED-SENSING STEERING, STEERING WHEEL MOUNTED AUDIO CONTROLS  
**LAKE COUNTRY'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$9,487**

**2016 SCION IM**  
#10AB744P  
CARFAX 1 OWNER NO ACCIDENT VEHICLE. AUTOMATIC TEMPERATURE CONTROL, EXTERIOR PARKING CAMERA REAR, FRONT DUAL ZONE A/C, FULLY AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHTS, OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE DISPLAY, STEERING WHEEL MOUNTED AUDIO  
**LAKE COUNTRY'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$14,998**

**2014 CHEVY TRAVERSE LT**  
#10AB743P  
A/C, NAVI POWER DRIVER SEAT, ENHANCED DRIVER INFORMATION CENTER, EXTERIOR PARKING CAMERA REAR, FULLY AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHTS, HEATED DOOR MIRRORS, OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE DISPLAY, REAR PARK ASSIST, REAR PARKING SENSOR, STEERING WHEEL MOUNTED AUDIO CONTROLS  
**LAKE COUNTRY'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$17,998**

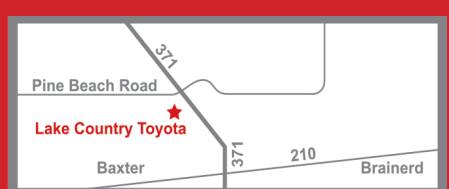
**2016 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE**  
#10AB810T  
CARFAX 1 OWNER NO ACCIDENT VEHICLE. AUTOMATIC TEMPERATURE CONTROL, BLIND SPOT MONITOR, EXTERIOR PARKING CAMERA REAR, FULLY AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHTS, 0 WIRELESS CHARGING CAPABILITY, RADIO, ENTUNE PREMIUM AUDIO, MINIVISION, POWER WINDOWS, POWER LOCKS, POWER MIRRORS  
**LAKE COUNTRY'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$18,498**

**2010 CHEVY SILVERADO LT**  
#55A727T  
13.1L I6 CRFV 1 OWNER NO ACCIDENT VEHICLE. 4.8L V8 FULY AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHTS, LEAN BODY COOLING PACKAGE, 4.8L V8 I6 7.3L EXTERNAL ENGINE IN COOLER, HEAD UP DISPLAY, HILL START ASSIST, TRANSMISSION IN COOLER, HEAD UP DISPLAY, HILL START ASSIST, TRANSMISSION IN COOLER, HEAD UP DISPLAY, HILL START ASSIST, TRANSMISSION IN COOLER  
**LAKE COUNTRY'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$19,998**

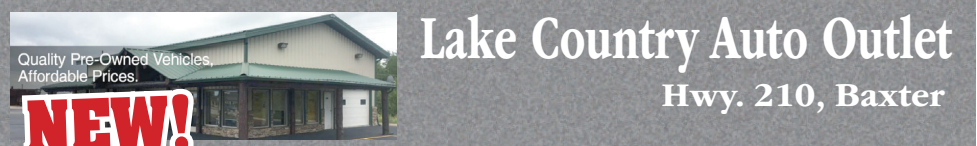
**2013 TOYOTA RAV4 LIMITED**  
#10AB759T  
A/C, ONLY 48K MILES, CLEAN CARFAX, BRAND NEW TIRES, AUTO-DIMMING REARVIEW MIRROR, HILLSTART SPOT MONITOR, FRONT DUAL ZONE A/C, FULLY AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHTS, MEMORY SEAT, SMART KEY SYSTEM, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, BACK UP CAMERA  
**LAKE COUNTRY'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$19,998**

**2005 CHEVROLET CORVETTE**  
#10AB188T  
SUPER CLEAN, LOW MILES, 6 SPEED MANUAL  
**LAKE COUNTRY'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$20,987**

**2013 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT**  
#10AB551T  
4WD, 5.3 LITER V8, 1 OWNER/CLEAN CARFAX  
**LAKE COUNTRY'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$23,487**



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**2008 CHEVY IMPALA LT**  
#10AB706T  
POWER DRIVERS SEAT, REMOTE START, ALLOY WHEELS  
**LAKE COUNTRY AUTO OUTLET'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$3,998**

**2005 CHEVY IMPALA LS**  
#10AB751T  
POWER DRIVERS SEAT, ONLY 91K MILES, REAR SPOILER  
**LAKE COUNTRY AUTO OUTLET'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$5,998**

**2009 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5S**  
#10AB767T  
INTELLIGENT KEY, AUX INPUT, PUSH BUTTON IGNITION  
**LAKE COUNTRY AUTO OUTLET'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$5,998**

**2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA**  
#9AA965T  
CARFAX NO ACCIDENT VEHICLE. DELAY-OFF HEADLIGHTS, HEATED DOOR MIRRORS, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY SYSTEM, HILLSTART, SPEED-SENSING STEERING, STEERING WHEEL MOUNTED AUDIO CONTROLS  
**LAKE COUNTRY AUTO OUTLET'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$7,987**

**2013 FORD TAURUS SEL**  
#10AB750T  
REMOTE START, POWER DRIVERS SEAT, BLUETOOTH  
**LAKE COUNTRY AUTO OUTLET'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$8,498**

**2013 HONDA ACCORD SPORT**  
#10AB654T  
CARFAX 1 OWNER NO ACCIDENT VEHICLE. AUTOMATIC TEMPERATURE CONTROL, FULLY AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHTS, SPEED-SENSING STEERING, STEERING WHEEL MOUNTED AUDIO CONTROLS  
**LAKE COUNTRY AUTO OUTLET'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$11,998**

**2015 DODGE DURANGO SXT**  
#10AB583P  
3RD ROW SEAT, ALL WHEEL DRIVE, V6  
**LAKE COUNTRY AUTO OUTLET'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$16,987**

**2013 RAM 1500 CREW CAB HEMI**  
#10AB580P  
TONNEAU COVER, IMMACULATE CONDITION  
**LAKE COUNTRY AUTO OUTLET'S LOW PRICE**  
**\$18,998**



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