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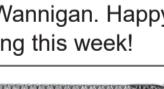
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of the Nisswa Chamber's

Welcome Wannigan. Happy

Erma hunting this week!

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Check our website
for stories and
photos you may
have missed.PINE
ANDLAKES.COM

Memorial Day services set in area communities

Memorial Day ceremonies will be held Monday, May 31, in area communities, with one service planned Sunday, May 30, at Crosslake Lutheran Church.

Crosslake Lutheran Church will host a more traditional worship service at 8:30 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary across from the campground. The 10 a.m. outdoor worship will feature a larger community-wide observance at 14019 Daggett Pine Road across from the Crosslake Community Center baseball field.

Both services are open to the public.

The outdoor service will feature John Carlson singing the national anthem, a contingent of the Crosslake-Fifty Lakes American Legion Color Guard firing an honorary salute to the dead and an aerial fly-over by the North Star Squadron, a group of four fixed wing aircraft flown by experienced pilots who participate in air shows throughout the Midwest. Steve Knight, who has been an adviser to the Civil Air Patrol and now lives in Mission Hill, South Dakota, leads the squadron.

Veterans from World War II to the present will be honored. Those attending may stay in their cars and listen via radio or be seated on provided chairs. Visitors are also invited to bring their own chairs and blankets.

Capt. Gail Smith, Army Situational Awareness Room-Army Nurse Corps, will speak on the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm. Smith was a member of the

311th Evacuation Hospital, which deployed to the Middle East during Desert Storm and served for four months in the United Arab Emirates. She served as the chief training officer for the medical unit and for the UAE joint medical team.

During her 14 years as a reservist with the Army Nurse Corps she also served at Brooke Army and Walter Reed medical centers in the intensive care unit. She was awarded an Army Commendation medal for her service in the Gulf War and a special award from the UAE Royal Guard for her work in training.

She is a member of Crosslake-Fifty Lakes American Legion Post 500. In her civilian life, she has enjoyed a 47-year career in the emergency room and ICU, currently working at the Minneapolis Heart Institute in Baxter.

Smith also serves as the parish nurse at Crosslake Lutheran Church and leads activities for the Health Ministry Team. She and her husband, Larry (also a veteran), live in Crosslake.

Monday services

Backus: Pastor John Rister, of the Backus Church of the Nazarene, will deliver the Memorial Day address at Backus and Ponto Lake cemeteries conducted by the Backus American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion.

The Backus service will

Rister

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The Backus service will

begin at 10 a.m. at Evergreen Cemetery, and the Ponto Lake service will follow at approximately 11 a.m.

The Backus Legion tribute to deceased veterans will include music by the Nazarene Church Praise Team, Rister's address, a tolling of the bell for community members deceased in the past year, a color guard rifle salute and the playing of taps.

In the event of bad weather, services will be moved to the Backus Legion clubrooms and Ponto Lake Town Hall.

Crosslake: The Crosslake Memorial Day ceremony, led by the Crosslake-Fifty Lakes American Legion Post 500, will be at 10 a.m. at the Crosslake Pinewood Cemetery on County Road 36.

The Crosslake Fire Department

will participate with its new 78-foot ladder truck displaying a large American flag.

Melony Butler, founder and executive director of Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Centre, will be the guest speaker. Eagles Healing Nest is a residence for military veterans with invisible mental scars, mostly suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, to heal and return as productive members of society.

This annual ceremony is to honor and remember U.S. military veterans who sacrificed their lives defending our country. More than 190 local veterans are buried at Pinewood Cemetery. They are

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