



EAST CENTRAL SPORTS: Lady Eagles defeat McGregor 52-39. P2

East Central Alumna is a new face on school board



STAFF REPORT
COURIER@PINENET.COM

Genevieve (Genny) Swenson is the newest member to the East Central School Board. Genny is not new to East Central as she graduated in 2000 from the district school. Genny was raised in rural Bruno and remains in the same area. She was active in sports, academic excellence and also the Homecoming Queen.

When asked about her interest in school board governance, Genny emphasized the importance of parents participation in student activities. Genny has coordinated summer baseball for several years. She also volunteers with elementary basketball as a coordinator and coach. This service goes beyond the borders of East Central school, welcoming young athletes from the surrounding area. She recognizes that relationships are formed where caring adults can lead and foster our children. The students learn skills in athletic prowess, however the understanding of teamwork, self-esteem, resilience and trust are embedded in those young minds.

Genny is the COO/Cofounder of Nice Healthcare, a new model in healthcare. As a nurse family practitioner, Genny is versed in physical healing. Her compassion with patients and her leadership in healthcare reform are significant. Nice Healthcare provides virtual and in

home appointments, covering 12 states. Genny oversees the operations of a health system that follows ethical margins for costs. She serves on the American Nurses Association as an appointed member of the Innovation and Entrepreneurial Committee. The ever changing options offer a different model of health care that is expanding rapidly.

In addition to her executive position at Nice Healthcare, Genny is an author and writer. Her first book was a novel entitled, Frontline Angel, a story of a 1940s Wisconsin nurse as she serves in the Philippine Islands just prior to World War II and through the Japanese occupation.

She recently wrote an article, Lessons We Can Learn From the Challenges of Rural Healthcare detailing some of the significant barriers for rural health care. This included Limited Resources, Technology Division, Transportation and sparsity of Primary Care Clinicians. Her work is significant to our local rural areas.

Genny has a successful career and was honored and inducted into the East Central Hall of Fame. She is married to Jesse Swenson, another alumni of East Central. They have three children in the district. Her family enjoys camping, fishing and vacations together.

My final query was to ask about her

SEE SWENSON, PAGE 6

Quilt made of ties helps keep Sandstone man's hands busy

JENNIFER YOCUM-STANS
EDITOR@HINCKLEYNEWS.COM

Eighty-eight year-old Paul Ward may be in a motorized wheelchair, but that doesn't seem to stop him. Paul, a resident at Serenity Court Assisted Living in Sandstone, is working on his second quilt made out of men's ties. The first quilt he worked on was 25 years ago with his wife of 68 years. They donated that quilt to the Moose Lake Nursing Home where it hung on the wall. It was there for a few years, then it just disappeared. "No one knows what happened to it," said Paul. "It was just gone one day."

So Paul decided he was going to make another quilt. He is using the same pattern as they did years ago. "There are over 100 ties in this one," Paul said. The ties came from many sources, Paul explained, his wife had saved them for years, his friends shared some with him and they also bought quite a few from the second hand store in Moose Lake.

Sadly, Paul's wife passed away a few years ago and shortly after he had a stroke. He lost some of the use of his left side for a while, but through physical therapy he was



JENNIFER YOCUM-STANS | ASKOV AMERICAN

Eighty-eight year old Paul Ward Sr. shows off his quilt made of men's ties. Ward is a graduate of Willow River High School and lived in Moose Lake for many years.

able to regain the use of his hand. "I still don't walk well," said Paul, but with the help of his motorized wheelchair he gets around pretty good.

Over the past few months Paul has been working on his quilt in the community room at Serenity Court. "There is more room out here," he said. Many residents spend time

SEE QUILT, PAGE 6



PHOTO PROVIDED

The inaugural Pine County Collaborative Youth fishing event was held on Sand Lake earlier in February.

Youth ice event held on Sand Lake

MARY ELLEN DEWEY
RECIPE@PINECOUNTYCOURIER.COM

The inaugural Pine County Collaborative Youth Ice Fishing Event was held on Sand Lake on Saturday, February 5. Pine County Probation Supervisor Kevin Glass stated, "The day started out with a brisk wind, snow, and in the single digits. But we live in Minnesota and that is to be expected."

Nine youth from Pine County braved the elements for a chance to land the

big one and win a new ice fishing rod and reel. Cameron Norell caught the winning-sized fish, the species and size will be left up to him to tell his fishing story. Two other youth received new ice fishing rod and reels for their fishing efforts.

The fishing was slow, but everyone had a great time and plenty of food to go around. Events like this are truly a collaborative effort and could not

SEE ICE, PAGE 6



Minnesota School Board Recognition Week scheduled for February 21-25

PRESS RELEASE
EAST CENTRAL SCHOOLS

The Minnesota School Boards Association has set February 21-25 as Minnesota School Board Recognition Week to build awareness and understanding of the vital function elected school board members play in our society. East Central School District is joining other public school districts from across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their

commitment to East Central and its students. “Strong schools help build strong communities – and the East Central School Board devotes countless hours to making sure our schools are helping every child learn at a higher level,” East Central Superintendent Andrew Almos said. “School board members make the difficult decisions every month – and spend many hours studying education issues and regulations in order to provide the kind of accountability our citizens expect.”

Almos said the key work of boards is to raise student achievement by:

- Creating a vision for what the community wants the school district to be and for making student achievement the top priority;
- Establishing standards for what students will be expected to learn and be able to do;
- Ensuring progress is measured to be sure the district’s goals are achieved and students are learning at expected levels;
- Being accountable for their

decisions and actions by continually tracking and reporting results;

- Creating a safe, orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach;
- Forming partnerships with others in the community to solve common problems; and
- Focusing attention on the need for continuous improvement by questioning, refining and revising issues related to student achievement.

“Even though we’re making a special effort to show our appreciation this month,

school board members’ work is a year-round commitment,” Almos said.

The members serving our district are as follows: Peter Brown, Julie Domogalla - Chairperson, Doug Ecklund - Vice Chairperson, Angie Presley - Clerk, Judy Loken - Treasurer, Genevieve Swenson, Rich Thomsen and student representative Lori Grundmeier.



MIKE DRAHOSH | COURIER

Eagle senior Lily Podlewski goes for the shot on Senior Night. Podlewski scored four points in the Eagles loss to Braham.

Eagles defeat McGregor 52-39

MARY ELLEN DEWEY
RECIPE@PINECOUNTYCOUIRER.COM

EAST CENTRAL VS MCGREGOR

The East Central Eagles girls’ basketball team got a win on the road on Monday, February 7, at McGregor winning 52-39. The Eagles trailed at halftime 17-20, but came out strong in the second half, out-scoring them 35-19

Coach Peter Rogotzke said, “It was one of the better halves we played all year and we had good balance in scoring.”

Kenzie Ludwig and Izzy Olson led the way with 16 points each. Kenzie also had 13 rebounds while Izzy had 8 rebounds and 3 assists. Aly Huntington had 9 points all in the second half and 4 steals. Raina Zaudtke put up 4 points, Elsie Laursen had 3 points, Lori Grundmeier and Jemi Keranen each had 2 points.

“We had great ball movement having four different players with two or more assists led by Carly Watrin who had four assists. We also rebounded well with six different players having at least three rebounds each.” said Coach

Rogotzke.

EAST CENTRAL VS BRAHAM

Senior Night was held on Thursday, February 10, against Braham. The Eagles lost 25-65. The five seniors this year are Lori Grundmeier, Aly Huntington, Josie Ford, Lilly Podlewski, and Katelynn McAbee.

Ten minutes into the game Braham had a 14-18 lead. They started crashing the boards hard and broke the game open closing the half on a 26-1 run. The Eagles fought hard in the second half but couldn’t close the gap against the Braham team losing 25-65.

Aly Huntington and Carly Watrin led the Eagles in points each scoring 5 points. Lilly Podlewski and Elsie Laursen each had 4 points. Jemi Keranen and Raina Zaudtke had 3 points and Kenzie Ludwig had one point.

The Eagles played hard throughout the whole game and didn’t have many turnovers. The girls were able to get good looks, they just couldn’t get enough of them to fall.

“I would like to thank our five seniors for all of their time and dedication they have put in over

the years to this program and to this school. They are very hard workers and lead by example. I wish them the best of luck for the rest of the school year and their futures.” said Coach Rogotzke.

UP NEXT

The Eagles finished their regular season schedule on Tuesday, February 15, in Culver against South Ridge. Section 5A tournament games start Monday, February 28. The other teams in Section 5A are Ogilvie, Braham, Swanville, Upsala, McGregor, Mille Lacs, and St. John’s Prep.



Eagles face McGregor, Rush City, Braham

COACH DARREN FOGT

The East Central Eagles had three games last week and it didn’t go as planned. They went 1-2 with a win against McGregor and losses against Rush City and Braham.

McGregor was a close game throughout, the Eagles led by five at halftime. They were able to hold on in the second half and win by four, 53-49. The scoring was led by Nathan Zielinski with 28, Kyle McDonald with 14, Ben Carlin with 6, Warren Carlson 3, Jacob Dixon 2, Hunter Colton led in assists with 4, and Charles Higgins led in with steals with 5, Zielinski led the team with 6 rebounds.

Next up was a really tough Rush City squad. The boys were ready for the challenge, it was Parents’ Night and Senior Night. Tribute was given to the seniors for the hard work that they have put into

the program. Seniors honored were Hunter Colton, Damien Boggs, Charles Higgins and Nic DePaulis. They will certainly be missed next year. We truly are a family at East Central and I know that they’ll make time to stop back when they can and join in some practices, just like we have alumni doing now.

The boys came out firing and playing some good defense. With five minutes to go in the first half it was a very close game, however a couple of tough misses by the Eagles compounded by some timely three-point shooting by the Tigers put EC down by 14 at half.

The Eagles came out fired up in the second half also but gave up too many threes to Rush, they made 13 threes for the game. East Central lost 83-60.

The scoring was much more even in this game and that’s what the

team needs to make a push in the playoffs. Zielinski had 17, Colton 16, Dixon 11, McDonald 8, Higgins 3, Carlin 3, DePaulis 2. Jacob Dixon had 14 rebound and 4 blocks, while Hunter Colton had 4 deflections.

The Eagles played Braham on Friday night, February 11. The Eagles struggled to score, making one out of 24 from the three-point stripe. EC lost 52 to 37 because of their poor shooting. The team played hard, got turnovers, got rebounds but couldn’t get the ball in the basket. They will get in the gym and get it figured out. The playoffs are close and they need to tune things up. The scoring was led by Zielinski with 15, Dixon 10, McDonald 9, and Carlin 3.

Saturday, February 19, the Eagles play Upsala starting at 1:30 p.m.



MIKE DRAHOSH | COURIER

East Central 8th grader Ben Carlin, #32, goes for the block in the Eagles game against McGregor. Carlin scored six points in this game.

It Pays to advertise in the Askov American!

Pandemic brings more problems than just a virus

It was last week, on one of those “warmer” days when Janet Halonen stopped over to the Gary Meyer barn. I had asked her to come help pull a hay bale net out of the frozen dirt on the barn floor.



Finlayson News
Maxine Meyer

These huge nets wrap around large hay bales, and keep the horse from overeating hay, which my boys were experts at. Janet’s help was just what I needed to get the job done.

When we first got the Percheron-cross brothers, we watched in amazement as Prince spun the entire large bale into the biggest nest of hay you ever saw—in a spot where sunshine popped through the trees. He would plop down in the middle and sleep in great comfort. King would be left to stand on the outside and watch his brother, while nibbling on the edges. That was how we learned that Prince had the idea that a large bale of hay

handed over to them was to be used in any way he saw fit.

As Janet and I stood in the barn after successfully getting the net free, we were chatting when I noticed King’s one eyeball and length of his face, peeking around the corner of the barn door frame. I told Janet to turn around and look who is watching, she ran over and hugged him and King was clearly happy to see her. She has had a great friendship with the boys for years. Speaking of my horse Prince, I want to say a huge thank you to the folks sending condolences through cards, emails and phone calls. It’s heart warming to know so many enjoy reading about our horses.

On a totally different subject, the pandemic has brought more than just a virus. One thing is the littering of face masks. I get it—they can get lost or accidentally misplaced but I have wondered with seeing so many on the ground, are they being tossed down on purpose, is it intentional to punish the establishment for protecting you and their employees from getting sick. (I don’t have the answer.)

Other pandemic casualties

are not so obvious. Those easy to use wipes for sanitizing and what not, are not made to dissolve in septic systems or sewer systems—then again—neither is grease. If you do either (or heaven help you—send both down the sewer) you will have serious trouble.

I’ve learned people are doing both, the wipes (no matter if they say “flushable”) are not to be flushed. Compound that sewage problem with worker shortages, people overworked, repair parts unavailable, trucker issues, etc. and suddenly satellite units need to be delivered. So, morale of this discussion: no grease, no wipes=no running outside.

In the continuing story of The Mecl Store: I remember mom telling me the large logs needed to build that store came from Finlayson. Since the fire stopped short of Finlayson, that made sense to me. Those logs were long and large, very nice. Once the log structure was in place, the logs were treated with the popular treatment (at that time) to prevent rotting—creosote. A black tar-like substance that left the logs a dark color. Touching the logs was a bad idea—they were nasty

smelling and a sticky mess, which collected dirt from the air. We lived on a dirt road, so dry summer days threw a haze of dirt in the air when a car drove in. The accumulation of flying dirt cured some of the sticky-ness, but we always avoided touching.

The fireplace, artesian well and the chimney were constructed by the Finlayson local, John Ahlbom, known for his beautiful rock work in many circles around the state of Minnesota. For our house he split rocks using the flat side to be displayed on the fireplace and chimney. On the face of the beautiful rock work, he made a black circle and sculpted a side view of Abraham Lincoln in a gold tinted clay, just by using the young Marvin Mecl’s history book for a visual.

The well showed only the rounded side of the rocks as the huge bowl shaped artesian well collected water. The well was in the basement of the log structure, and was very slippery. I remember my father had to periodically go down and clean. Once cleaned, mom would flush the water through to remove all his sweeping/

cleaning of the well surface. I do remember that once we moved away from the store, my brother and I craved the wonderful taste of the water we had growing up.

My cousin Wayne Mecl remembered George A. repeating another story about John Ahlbom. The Mecl’s were nailing shingles on the roof, John was busy on the chimney when he noticed an exposed rock out in the field. He already had a stash of rocks but that one held his interest. Down John went dashing out to the field. Once he had the rock in his hands he sat down with his hammer, split the rock, and went right back up to the roof.

The floor in the living room was large, wide oak planks, separated with dark maple, approximately 4 inch wide. Grandpa, George A., was proud of that flooring, it was truly beautiful. Both the floor and the fireplace were varnished and kept shiny. Stay warm, wear a mask, the pandemic continues to claim lives.

MAXINE MEYER is a columnist for the Askov American and Pine County Courier. She can be reached at 612-590-6907, or email mnmax-gram@yahoo.com.

February is National Cherry Month



Food N' Friends
Mary Ellen Dewey

IF YOU have a favorite recipe you would like to share, send it to Mary Ellen at recipe@pinecountycourier.com. ENJOY!!

CHERRY PUDDING CAKE

- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 2-1/2 c. sugar, divided
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 c. whole milk
- 2 Tbsp. canola oil
- 2 cans (14-1/2 oz. each) water packed pitted tart red cherries, well drained
- 2 to 3 drops red food coloring, optional
- 1/8 tsp. almond extract
- Whipped cream or ice cream

In a bowl, combine flour, 1 cup of sugar, baking powder, milk, and oil; pour into a greased shallow 3-qt. baking dish. In a bowl, combine cherries, food coloring extract, and the remaining sugar; spoon over the batter. Bake at 375 degrees for 50-45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the cake portion comes out clean. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream. 12 servings.

FUDGY-GOOEY-CHERRY BROWNIES

- 1/2 c. butter, soften
- 1-1/4 c. granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/3 c. cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. chocolate chips
- 1 c. frozen cherries or fresh
- Powdered sugar (optional)

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl bring together butter, sugar, eggs, and vanilla extract. Whisk to combine. Add flour, cocoa powder, salt and chocolate chips. Combine well using a spatula. Add cherries, then fold to combine. Batter will be thick. Line a 9x9-inch baking dish with parchment paper or grease the baking dish. Bring batter onto baking dish and use spatula to spread evenly. Batter will be chunky but will even out after baking. Bake for 40-45 minutes, or until toothpick comes out clean. Let it cool completely in the pan on a wire rack and then cut brownie into smaller pieces. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Makes 9 servings.

MICHIGAN CHERRY SALAD

- 7 oz. fresh baby spinach (about 9 cups)
- 3 oz. spring mix salad greens (about 5 cups)
- 1 large apple, chopped
- 1/2 c. coarsely chopped pecans, toasted
- 1/2 c. dried cherries
- 1/4 c. crumbled Gorgonzola cheese

Dressing:

- 1/4 c. fresh raspberries
- 1/4 c. red wine vinegar
- 3 Tbsp. cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil

In a large bowl, combine the first 6 ingredients. Place the raspberries, vinegars, preserves, and sugar in the blender. While processing gradually add oil in a steady stream. Drizzle over salad. Toss to coat. Serves 8.



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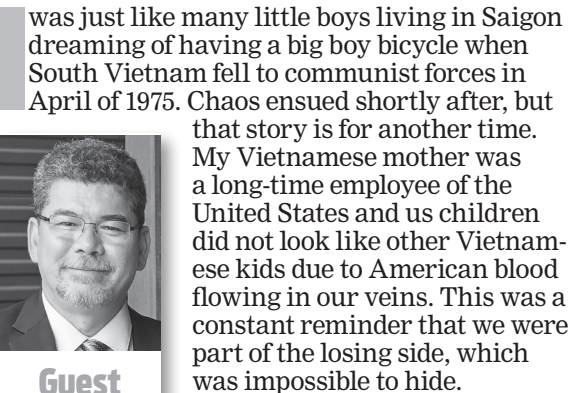
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An American perspective



Guest Column

Barry Burch

was just like many little boys living in Saigon dreaming of having a big boy bicycle when South Vietnam fell to communist forces in April of 1975. Chaos ensued shortly after, but that story is for another time. My Vietnamese mother was a long-time employee of the United States and us children did not look like other Vietnamese kids due to American blood flowing in our veins. This was a constant reminder that we were part of the losing side, which was impossible to hide.

Leading up to this, it was shocking to most of us how fast the end really did come and to suddenly realize that all was lost and that we were trapped.

Up until March of 1975 when the US Embassy began quietly closing its offices and evacuating most of their personnel, no one thought that the communists could take the city of Saigon easily. My mother was in the process of getting a visa to fly out with sponsorship, but that didn’t materialize.

New life began, at first hour by hour waiting for the communist troops to come knocking on our door like they were doing to so many others. All communication was cut and everyone was left uncertain of what was to come, our imagination running amuck with fear.

Hours turned to days inundated with new challenges as life as we knew it was no more. Everything became a matter of survival, of rumor in whispers; sometimes entire families went missing. It was a grim and desperate time when we found ourselves left behind.

Days turned to months, but the fear and uncertainty continued to dominate everything we did. It seemed certain we were completely isolated, and hopelessness began to set in with a feeling that all was truly lost; life-long careers, reputations, savings, fortunes, and futures no longer mattered if you were on the losing side. Sometimes, even friends and neighbors would turn on you, and people spoke only in whispers for fear of an impending raid to make you disappear. And indeed, we were raided, lucky to have lost everything valuable except our lives.

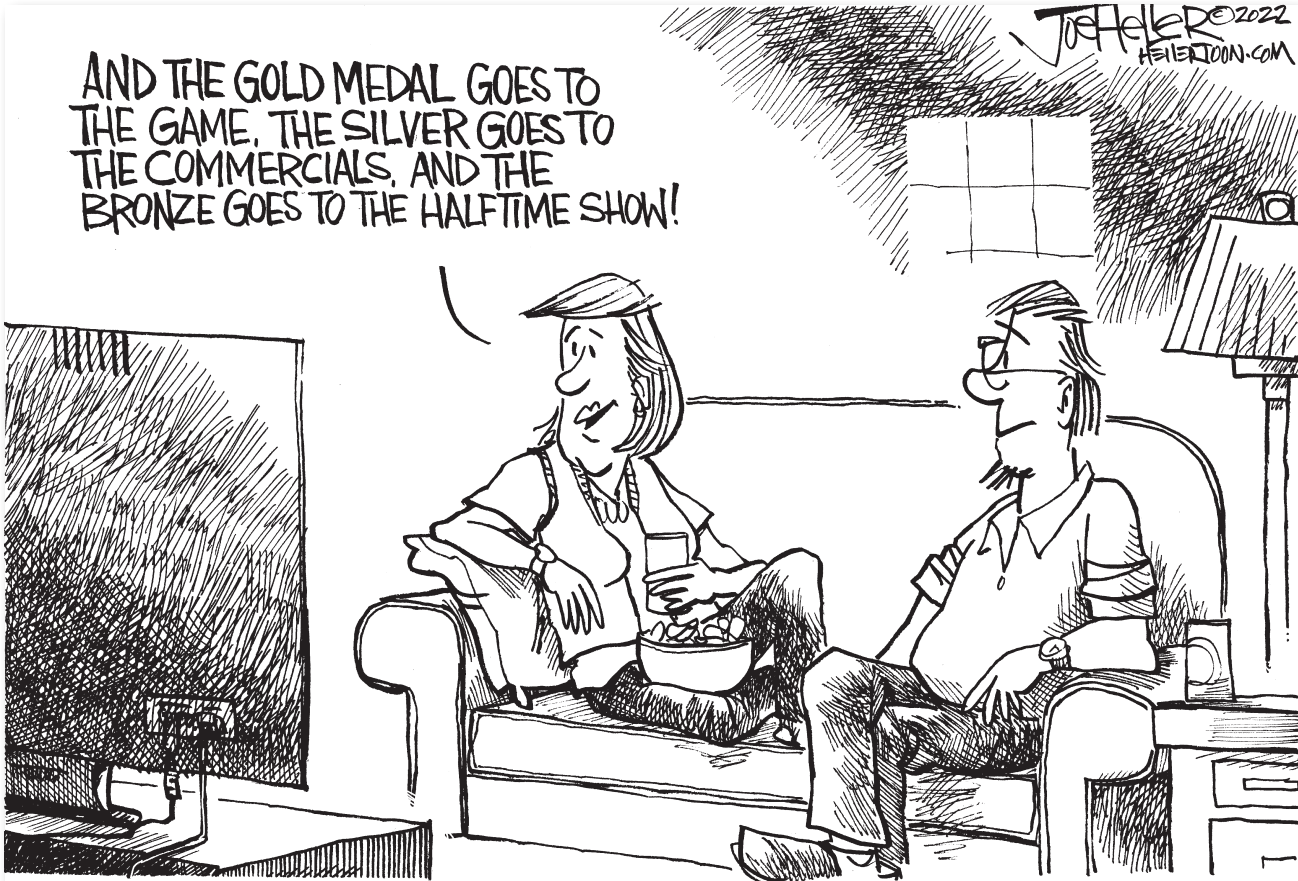
Then something remarkable happened.

One night my mother found a news program broadcast by Voice of America (VOA) on a shortwave radio. She suddenly had news about what was going on in Vietnam, and the view of the free world was available to us. We were still desperate, but I cannot overstate the feeling of renewed hope knowing the world was watching and that we were not forgotten.

We learned that not all of the tens of thousands who went missing were in the hands of the communists, because some were able to escape. We were sick with jealousy but also happy for them though we didn’t know the hardships these “boat people” were enduring until much later.

The news sparked so much hope about the possibility of escape that my mother eventually made her own plan – but fate intervened and we failed.

For years to come, this “illegal” VOA broadcast was our connection to the free world. It was an open secret everyone knew but kept silent because it was the only light we had in the darkness keeping us informed of the world outside Vietnam.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A great place to grow up

To the Editor:

On Christmas Day, the Askov Community lost a treasure when Lorraine Lund Petersen died. Lorraine grew up in a house my grandfather, F. Clarey Nielsen, built in 1914 when he, together with his wife and baby daughter (my mother, Ardis Petersen), moved to Askov to teach school and some years later serve as school superintendent. The Lund home was the third house south of the church, so it was easy for Lorraine to come to my house which was the parsonage next to the church.

Lorraine was my first babysitter, and I remember happy times playing with her when I was a young child. She used to tell me of the time she was afraid she had let me fall to my death. I was sitting on the concrete ledge of my front porch and fell over backwards into the shrubs below. I survived unscathed, and it certainly didn’t

diminish my admiration for her.

Lorraine’s death has caused me to reminisce about the many Askov people who influenced my life. When I visit Askov, I love to walk the beautiful cemetery. I remember the old people who served as surrogate grandparents, the parents of my friends who loved me like a daughter, some of my cherished friends, and the many people who showered me with kindness, wisdom, and good cheer. What a remarkable place to grow up. Those of us still living have big shoes to fill..

Asta Twedt
Ankeny, Iowa

Trucking industry in news

Dear Editor:

From supply chain issues to tragic accidents, the trucking industry has been in the news a lot lately. These stories do not represent the trucking community I have spent most of my life working in. What I believe they do represent is a failure by MNSCU to this

vital industry.

I attended 916 Intermediate Technical School in the mid 1970s for Auto Body and Painting. Back then 916 had vibrant Truck Driver Training and Diesel Mechanic programs--graduating students with entry level skills in these fields. These programs are no longer offered at the now Century College. In the 1980s I took a truck driver training course on weekends for people who already worked in the transportation field, allowing them to get their Class A license to drive semi trucks. This program is also no longer offered at Century College.

How many more truck mechanics and commercial drivers would be in the industry if MNSCU and Century College embraced these programs instead of cutting them?

There are of course other options. For around \$900.00 you can get an hour of classroom and two hours of practice driving a truck with a short flatbed trailer, not much bigger than a car hauling

SEE **LETTERS**, PAGE 8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

Letters must be submitted by 3 p.m. Mondays to askovamerican@scicable.com or via mail to P.O. Box 230, Sandstone, MN 55072

- Letters to the editor must be 400 words or less.
- Each letter writer may have one letter published every 30 days, or four print cycles (exceptions made for rebuttals).
- Anonymous letters will not be published. Letter signatures must include the writer’s first and last name, community

of residence and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published.

- Only letters originating from writers who live, work or have some other relevance to the *Askov American* circulation area will be published.
- An identification line may be added to the writer’s letter identifying his or her occupation or title as it applies to the topic of the letter.
- Special rules apply during election season.

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“The most important thing a community newspaper does is recognize the value of the lives of ordinary people.”



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CONTACT US:
Askov American
Phone: 320-245-2368
Fax: 320-245-2438
Email: askovamerican@scicable.com
Address: P.O. Box 230 •414 Main St., Sandstone, Minn. 55072

STAFF:
Jeff Andres, Publisher
Jeff@northstarmedia.net
763-689-1181
Jennifer Yocum-Stans, Managing Editor
320-384-6188
Lori Schmolke, Employment and Classified Specialist
Al Fritsche - Ad sales

NOTICES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION NORMAN TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Norman Township, County of Pine, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The election polls will be open from 5-8 P.M. at which time the voters will elect: one Supervisor for a three-year term; and one Clerk for a two-year term. The Board of Canvass will meet immediately following the closing of the polls to certify official election results. The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 P.M. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. Open discussion on future election methods will be encouraged. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election will be postponed until March 15, 2022. The Annual Meeting and Election will take place at the Norman Town Hall, 41455 Co. Rd. 43, Willow River, MN. Judy Nelson, Clerk Norman Township Published in the Askov American, February 17, 24, 2022

PARK TOWNSHIP MEETNG NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Park Township, County of Pine, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election will be postponed until March 15, 2022. The election polls will be open from 5-8 pm, at which time the voters will elect: One Supervisor for a three-year term; and one Clerk for a two-year term. The Board of Canvass will meet immediately following the closing of the poles to certify the official election results and the Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The Annual Election and Meeting will take place at the Kerrick Community Center (former Presbyterian Church), 5367 2nd Ave., Kerrick MN. All current safety recommendations with regard to the COVID 19 virus at the time of the election and meeting will be encouraged. Gregory Kvasnicka Clerk of Park Township Published in the Askov American on February 17, 24, 2022

PARK TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Board of Park Township will hold their February 2022 Regular and Board of Audit Meetings at the Kerrick Community Center (former Presbyterian church), 5367 2nd Ave. Kerrick MN, on Monday, Feb. 28th.. The Regular Meeting will convene at 7:00 pm with the Board of Audit Meeting to follow. All current safety recommendations with regard to the COVID 19 virus at the time of the meeting will be encouraged. Gregory Kvasnicka Clerk of Park Township Published in the Askov American on February 17, 2022

NOTICE OF FUEL TANK FOR SALE

BIDS CLOSE March 8th, 2022 Sealed bids will be received in the office of the Pine County Highway Department, 405 Airport Road, Pine City, MN 55063 until 2:30 P.M on Tuesday, March 8th for: A used 10,000 gallon aboveground diesel storage tank. The tank is located at the Pine County Maintenance shop at 75856 Fleming Rd Bruno, MN 55712. Bidders should inspect the tank prior to submitting a bid. Inspections will be by appointment only. For appointments and questions contact the Highway Department office at 320-216-4200. All property is offered for sale “AS-IS, WHERE-IS” with no warranty or guarantee as to its fitness for any use offered or implied. All sales are final. The County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities. By order of the Pine County Board of Commissioners, Pine County, Minnesota. Mark A. LeBrun, P.E., County Engineer Pine County, MN. Published in the Askov American February 17, 24, 2022

KERRICK TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given, to the qualified voters of Kerrick Township, County of Pine, State of Minnesota, that the Election of Township Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The election polls will be open from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Duquette Town Hall, at which time the voters will elect one Supervisor for a three-year term, and one Clerk for a 2-year term. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election will be post-poned until the 3rd Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Absentee ballots available by contacting Clerk, (218-460-6233) thru Mar. 7, 2022. The Board of Canvass will immediately follow the election. The Annual Town meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business pre-scribed by law. The annual Reorganization meeting will take place on Thursday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m. Cindy Darwin, Clerk Kerrick Township Published in the Askov American on February 17, 24, 2022

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS NICKERSON TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Nickerson Township, County of Pine, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 8, 2022. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March in which case notices will be posted. The Election poll hours will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at which time the voters will elect: One Supervisor for a 3 year term One Clerk for a 2 year term The Annual Meeting will begin at 8:15 p.m. following the election to conduct all necessary business

prescribed by law. The Election and Annual Meeting will be held at the following location: Nickerson Town Hall, 94218 Main St. Nickerson Barb Mercer Nickerson Township Clerk Published in the Askov American on February 17, 24, 2022

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION Bremen Township

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Bremen Township, County of Pine, State of Minnesota that the Annual Election of Town Officials and the Annual Town Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8, 2022. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until the third Tuesday of March (March 15, 2022). The election polls will be open from 5 PM to 8 PM at which time the voters will elect one (1) supervisor for a three (3) year term and one (1) clerk for a two (2) year term. Any voter who has not registered to vote may do so at this election. The annual town meeting will commence at 8:15 PM to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. Annual meeting and election will take place at Bremen Town Hall located on County Road 41, Willow River. Given under my hand this 17th day of February, 2021. Taylor Bednar, Clerk Bremen Township Published in the Askov American on February 17, 2022

MINUTES SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022 - 10:00 A.M. NORTH PINE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1602 HIGHWAY 23 NO., SANDSTONE, MINNESOTA

Chair Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Hallan, Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren and Matt Ludwig. Also present was County Administrator David Minke; County Attorney Reese Frederickson was present via electronic means. Due to an out-of-town commitment, Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm joined the meeting via interactive technology, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.02. Commissioner Waldhalm was seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means, at a location open and accessible to the public, and participated from 904 Calle Cruz Roja, Barrio Obrerro, Arecibo PR. The public was invited to join the meeting remotely by phone, Zoom, or watch via live stream on YouTube. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chair Hallan called for public comment. Ailene Croup commented on the replacement of election voting equipment and her concerns with several brands. Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to adopt the Agenda. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0 Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2022 Organizational and Regular County Board Meeting and Summary for publication, Minutes of the January 11, 2022 Special Joint Meeting--Pine County Board of Commissioners & Pine County

Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA)/Economic Development Authority (EDA), and Minutes of the January 12, 2022 Special Meeting-Committee of the Whole (Strategic Planning). Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Commissioner Mohr to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0. Fund December 31, 2020 December 31, 2021 Increase/Decrease General Fund 7,032,144 7,845,483 813,339 Health and Human Services Fund 2,545,198 2,746,208 201,010 Road and Bridge Fund 770,230 1,177,957 407,726 COVID Relief 0 2,550,242 2,550,242 Land 2,417,136 2,414,449 (2,687) Self Insurance 0 554,150 554,150 TOTAL (inc non-major funds) 16,484,318 21,070,995 4,586,677 The following vendors with claims of \$2,000 or more, and 534 claims under \$2,000 or not needing approval totaling \$983,672.33, were paid during the period of December 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021: AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 12,050.89; American Solutions For Business, 5,216.81; Aml Cleaning Service, Inc,8,000.00; Anderson Electric, 6,732.92; Arlen Krantz Ford Inc, 3,684.74; Askov Deep Rock, 2,128.38; Assoc Of Minn Counties, 4,947.67; BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESOTA, 9,720.50; BONKS SAND & GRAVEL, 4,663.20; Central Mn Jobs & Training Services, 36,404.55; Chamberlain Oil Co., Inc, 4,170.06; CLOQUET RIVERSIDE RECYCLING, INC, 6,480.50; COMPUTER INTEGRATION TECHNOLOGIES, 61,231.00; CROSS LAKE ASSOCIATION OF PINE COUNTY, 18,119.54; DIAMOND MOWERS INC, 2,114.96; DOOLEYS PETROLEUM INC, 41,610.86; East Central Energy Of Braham, 11,636.79; East Central Reg Juvenile Center, 35,560.00; East Central Solid Waste Comm, 2,937.75; Emergency Automotive Technologies, Inc, 41,414.62; ERICKSON ENGINEERING CO LLC, 2,452.50; FURTHER, 2,647.10; GUARDIAN, 8,750.96; Heartland Girls Ranch 2,353.50; Henricksen Psg, 9,885.18; JENSEN BACKHOE LLC, 6,860.00; Knife River Corp, 5,244.36; KRONOS SAASHR INC, 2,610.94; Lighthouse Child & Family Services, LLC, 6,338.41; LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC, 2,411.69; MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO INC, 3,833.98; MEDICAREBLUE RX, 5,747.20; MEND CORRECTIONAL CARE PLLC, 27,856.71; MICHAEL K PEPIN LAW OFFICES, 3,825.00; MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES CORP, 12,893.79; Mn Counties Intergovernmental Trust, 2,500.00; Mn County Attorneys Assoc, 4,397.00; Mn Life Insurance Company, 8,983.00; MN SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION, 3,571.00; Mora Psychological Services PLLC, 2,025.00; MPJ ENTERPRISES LLC, 19,850.00; Nexus-Gerard Family Healing LLC, 9,789.60; Nexus-Kindred Family Healing, 5,862.00; Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing, 20,551.50; Northwoods Children Home, 9,733.20; OFFICE OF MN.IT SERVICES, 5,124.08; OMG MIDWEST INC, 81,060.24; Pine Co

Highway Department, 10,845.59; PINE RIVER SALES INC, 7,642.43; Prairie Lakes Youth Programs, 9,800.84; PRECISION GRADE LLC, 19,800.00; PREMIER OUTDOOR SERVICES OF MINNESOTA, 8,500.00; Pro-West & Associates Inc, 2,001.42; Purchase Power, 6,055.00; Regents Of The U Of Mn, 19,657.60; Reliance Systems, 2,000.00; Rolling Hills Hospital LLC, 14,400.00; S & R REINFORCING INC, 29,887.05; SCHNEIDER GEOSPATIAL LLC, 5,698.00; SEH INC, 5,897.71; Solid Oak Financial Services, LLC, 3,266.57; Summerland Excavating, Inc, 3,360.00; SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT LLC, 33,351.83; TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL 32, 56,262.00; Therapeutic Serv Ag Too Inc, 4,019.94; TPM FLOORING, 4,588.16; TRIMARK HOCKENBERGS, 15,245.57; UNITEDHEALTH GROUP, 318,175.66; USDA RURAL HOUSING SERVICE, 38,072.32; Veolia Environmental Services, 34,270.91; Verizon Wireless, 10,725.62; VIKING AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER COMPANY, 7,150.00; WELIA HEALTH, 17,186.57; WILD RIVERS CONSERVANCY, 17,677.00; WSB AND ASSOCIATES, 12,457.17. Approve the Application for Exempt Permit for Pheasants Forever, East Central Spurs 624 to conduct Minnesota lawful gambling on May 7, 2022 at Wings North, 19379 Homestead Rd, Pine City, MN. Approve Resolution 2022-04 extending the following special assessments Lawrence and Nancy Milligan, PID 06.0314.000, \$16,500, Rachel Bedell and William Brethorst, PID 31.0068.001, \$19,800.Approve Commissioners' Expense Claim Forms. Approve acceptance of the following donations: \$1,000 donation from the American Legion Post 361 to support the Pine County Veterans Van Program; \$100 anonymous donation to support veterans outreach; \$100 anonymous donation for the annual Pine County Sheriff's Office toy drive. Approve the following 2022 waste hauler licenses: Cloquet Sanitary Service, Curt's Rolloffs, STEMM Enterprizes DBA Holdt's Disposal, Jones Construction Services, LePage & Sons Inc, Matt's Sanitation, Mike's Sanitation Inc, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Nordstrom's Sanitation, LLC, SKB Environmental Landfill, Inc, Talon Sanitation LLC, Tri-Township Disposal District, Vanderpoel Disposal, Veit Disposal Systems, Hartl Enterprises LLC DBA Ron's Rolloffs. Approve the following agreements: A. Joint Powers Agreement Between Pine County Sheriff and Attorney and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Approve Resolution 2022-06 approving the Joint Powers Agreement between the Pine County Sheriff and Pine County Attorney with the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for use of the State's Criminal Justice Data Communications Network (CJDN). The JPA will allow the BCA to provide access to the Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communication Network. This is a five-year renewal. B. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Renewal of the Evening Reporting Center grant. Funding is available for the following periods: \$175,970.95 from 10/2/21 – 9/30/22 and \$175,970.96 from 10/1/21 – 9/30/23.C. Agreement with Kanabec County Family Services Between Pine County Health & Human

Services and Kanabec County Family Services for the provision of psychiatric services at \$128.64 per hour. D. East Central Drug and Violent Offender Task Force Grant. Grant amount \$350,000, effective January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023. Approve the hiring of: A. Eligibility Worker Scarlet Oquist, effective January 24, 2022, Grade 6, Step 6, \$24.88 per hour. B. Social Worker Carla Rigato, effective February 22, 2022, Grade 10, Step 2, \$26.99 per hour, contingent upon completion of a successful background check. C. Office Support Specialist Sara Drexl, effective January 31, 2022, Grade 2, Step 2, \$16.92 per hour, contingent upon completion of a successful background check. D. Assistant County Attorney Kelli Jasper, effective January 31, 2022, non-union, FLSA exempt position, \$97,500, contingent upon completion of a successful background check. Approve Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder and Alison Hughes to attend the Secretary of State's 2022 County Auditor Election Training Conference. Total cost: \$1,134.62. Approve Social Worker Amber Andrews to attend the Minnesota Social Services Association Conference. Total cost: \$255. Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the naming of the new conference room at the courthouse the Steven Chaffee Conference Room. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0. Personnel Committee Report Commissioner Mohr provided an overview of the January 10, 2022 Personnel Committee meeting. The Personnel Committee made the following recommendations: A. Health & Human Services i. Acknowledge the retirement of Eligibility Worker Judith Tengwall, effective March 31, 2022, and approve backfill of the position and subsequent vacancies that may occur due to internal promotion or lateral transfer. B. Administration i. Consider Resolution 2022-03 setting the 2022 minimum annual salary for County Attorney at \$80,000 and County Sheriff at \$77,000 . Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the recommendations of the Personnel Committee. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0. Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to appoint Ruth Carlson, representing District 5, to the Extension Committee for the term January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0. With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., Pine County Courthouse, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, Minnesota. Stephen M. Hallan, Chair Board of Commissioners David J. Minke, Administrator Clerk to County Board of Commissioners Joshua Mohr, Vice Chair **The full text of the board's Minutes are available at the County Administrator's Office and the county's website (www.co.pine.mn.us). Copies may also be requested from the administrator's office.** Published in the Askov American February 17, 2022

SWENSON: EC's newest school board member hopes for return to normalcy

FROM PAGE 1

vision for her school board service. Genny responded quickly articulating her desire to understand and be an educated voice for our community. She hopes for a return childhood normalcy, particularly seeking how we can arrive at health and wellbeing.

ICE: Volunteers help make inaugural event a success

FROM PAGE 1

happen without the support of the great volunteers. Helping with the event were: Rod Williamson, Pine County Jail Administrator; Larry Pogones, Correctional Officer; Jim Reiser, Correctional Officer; Jami Tuve, Probation Officer; Jake Anderson, FCI-Sandstone; Gregg Campbell, Evening Reporting Center Director; Sherry Carlson, Evening Reporting Center Youth Counselor; Roberta Dunkley, Community Cultural Coach; and Chris Dagel, Community Member.

QUILT: Ward thankful for new friends, home and staff

FROM PAGE 1

doing puzzles, having coffee and visiting in the community room. Paul says they have all had a part in making the quilt. “They are a big help to me and a great group of people,” said Paul. They help him by laying the quilt out, threading the needle or even finding the needle if it falls.

Paul wanted to make sure that everyone knows how thankful he is for the wonderful staff at Serenity Court and the beautiful building they live in...”we think the world of the crew here,” he said. “We have the Lord to guide us through all of this,” Paul said. “we would appreciate it if everyone would keep all of us here in their prayers.”

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ANSWER:



BURCH: Proud to be an American

FROM PAGE 4

When news that President Ronald Reagan was elected came, we were ecstatic. We believed that he was going to be a tough president against the communists with his outspoken viewpoints, shifting the focus to those of us being oppressed under the yoke of communism – and he did not disappoint. It was like a breath of fresh air.

Indeed, my family was able to leave Vietnam shortly into his first term.

Just a few years later in early 1989, while stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, I watched President Reagan’s farewell speech about the “shining city on the hill” and how it was a beacon of light to the rest of the world wherever oppression existed. I was so

proud to be in uniform as a United States Marine that day because I knew exactly what he meant. I vowed right then that I wouldn’t be an “import” any longer; I wanted to be a part of this.

You see, President Reagan wasn’t talking about our economic strength or military prowess on the world stage. He was talking about you – the average American who loves

individual freedom above all else and would, in the words of J.F.K. “Bear any burden and pay any price” to preserve it.

We don’t think about the meaning of words like “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” because they are embedded in American DNA, but to someone who has earned his freedom like I did as an immigrant, these words are powerful.

I was sworn in as a U.S. citizen on a fine spring day in 1991, and it was one of proudest moments of my life to become an American.

BARRY BURCH is a Marine veteran and retired U.S. air marshal living in Pine County.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

FROM PAGE 4

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