



ASKOV AMERICAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

VOL. 108 NO. 04 \$1.00

VETERANS DAY: Take the time to thank a veteran for their service this week.

Invisible wounds can last decades after war

BY JAMIE LUND

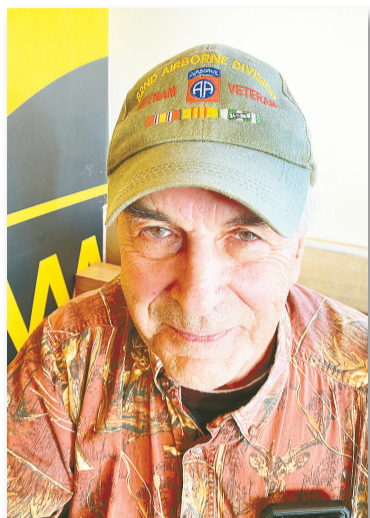
NEWS@HINCKLEYNEWS.COM

Dave Will, 72, sat in a booth with his back wedged into the corner as he started talking. He explained that he was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder about 10 years ago from a war that ended about 45 years ago for most people.

"PTSD is a mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event, either experiencing it or witnessing it," according to mayoclinic.org. There can be a variety of symptoms, including flashbacks, which means reliving the event as if it were happening again, nightmares and severe anxiety.

As with many young men in the late 1960s, he joined the military due to the draft shortly after graduating Finlayson High School and was promptly sent to Vietnam.

"I graduated in June and left for the Army July 3, 1968," Will said. "I was a combat engineer and used a mine sweeper to find hidden mines." He explained a mine sweeper is a metal detector. When the sweeper picked up a possible bomb, it was his job to deter-



JAMIE LUND | ASKOV AMERICAN
Dave Will is a Vietnam Veteran and the commander of the Sandstone American Legion.

mine whether it was real or a fake. Many times he simply used C-4 to blow it up to be on the safe side.

"The biggest one left an eight foot crater," Will said. "It would have blown up a tank. If I missed one, the infantry could have found it." He said he would have felt guilty if that happened, but it didn't.

His flight landed in Saigon in July. He said it felt like 120 degrees and the odor from the fish markets mingled with

the high heat smelled terrible. Later, the monsoons brought pouring rain for three months. The men slogged through wet, marshy land and pulled leeches off of themselves. Will was also diagnosed with a serious case of Typhus during his time overseas.

He was first stationed at Lai Khe with the 1st Infantry Division in an old rubber factory. After four months he was sent to Mekong to help the 82nd Airborne Division. He described the area as a lot of water, thick jungle and a hotbed of Viet Cong.

"I was just focused on surviving," Will said.

Within 20 minutes of arriving he was on a helicopter and instructed by his superiors which target they wanted him to demolish. The 18-year-old was dropped off alone in the thick jungle and the helicopter flew away while he set the charges to blow up the bunkers.

"I yelled 'fire in the hole' three times," Will said. "Then I hoped all of the charges went off and that the guys who dropped me off came back to pick me up."

A few times Will worked in areas that were previously de-

foliated by Agent Orange. He said he has not been diagnosed with any health issues linked to Agent Orange yet.

There were many snakes in the jungle of Vietnam. Once Will found a nest of slithering baby cobras in his bottom bunker while on guard duty. Will is not a fan of snakes. He picked up the pencil sized babies one at a time and moved them to a container so they could not escape. He slept

"I am very proud that I served with the 82nd Airborne."

Dave Will
Vietnam Veteran

fitfully that night, worried that the mama snake might come back. At the break of dawn, he peered at the baby cobras and to his surprise he found several little skeletons instead. Ants had discovered them during the night and ate them.

Will continued to do what was asked of him.

"I am very proud that I served with the 82nd Airborne," said Will. "I had to live up to their standards and I did. They accepted me as one of their own."

He said he saw a lot of action in the nearly two years he was overseas.

HOME

When he came back to the United States, the plane landed in Oakland, Calif. The anti-war protesters were very vocal and active in the area. They decided to just refuel the plane in California and brought the veterans to Washington to catch their flights home instead. The men were advised to remove all signs that they were fresh from Vietnam and blend in with the civilians as much as possible before they got on their planes home. However, they were forced to have their hair cut before they left.

"There was no way to hide that I was a Vietnam veteran," Will said. "My brother picked me up and that was it. I just tried to adjust."

SEE VETERAN, PAGE 5

Walz spends deer opener in Pine County

STAFF REPORT

NEWS@PINECOUNTYNEWS.COM

Governor Tim Walz took part in Minnesota's 2021 firearm deer hunting season opener on Saturday in Pine County.

Governor Walz hunted with Brady Crocker and Kevin Hinze on the Hinze family's private property. The family permanently protected their land by donating a conservation easement to Minnesota Land Trust, a voluntary program that protects habitat and wildlife on private land for the benefit of this and future generations.

Following the hunt, Walz, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Sarah Strommen, and Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen visited one of the state's chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling sites at the Pine City Armory.

Walz, Strommen and Petersen highlighted the efforts to reduce the risk of CWD transmission and protect Minnesota's wild deer herd.

"Deer hunting is a treasured annual tradition that brings Minnesotans together around our shared love for the outdoors and camaraderie of the hunt," Walz said. "This is also a time to remember that hunters can play a big role in preventing the spread of CWD. I ask all Minnesota deer hunters to be aware of CWD regulations and use one of the state's sampling sites if hunting in a mandatory or voluntary sampling area. As a lifelong hunter, I understand the seriousness of this disease and my administration is committed to doing everything we can to reduce the continued risk in Minnesota."

The governor then visited the CWD sampling site in Pine City, one of many sampling sites for deer hunters across Minnesota. During opening weekend for the firearms season this year, people hunting in CWD surveillance, control, or management zones must bring their harvested deer to sampling stations to be tested for CWD. Voluntary sampling options are available outside



SUBMITTED

Kevin Hinze and Governor Tim Walz pose for a photo in a field. Walz decided to hunt in Pine County this year for deer opener.

of opening weekends for deer harvested within a CWD zone.

"CWD monitoring is a critical part of the DNR's commitment to limit the spread of the disease and keep Minnesota's wild deer healthy," Strommen said. "Deer hunters are encouraged to make a plan for their season and to get details on CWD sampling options across the state on our website. We appreciate the

partnership DNR has with Minnesota's deer hunters in important conservation efforts. We wish everyone a safe season."

Hinze had just one word to describe the experience: "Awesome."

More information on deer hunting in Minnesota and CWD testing is available at mndnr.gov/deerhunt.

Meth conspiracy sends area men to prison

STAFF REPORT

NEWS@PINECOUNTYNEWS.COM

Three men – two with local ties – have been sentenced to prison for their roles in a methamphetamine distribution ring in east central Minnesota.

The U.S. Attorney's Office reports that, from May 2020 through September 2020, Aaron Michael Stenquist, 50, of Isanti, Gerald Allen Jensen, 58, of Brook Park, and Juan Jose Paniagua, 25, of West Covina, California, and others conspired together to sell methamphetamine in the Twin Cities as well as Pine and Kanabec Counties.

Over the summer of 2020, members of the East Central Drug and Violent Offenders Task Force (ECDVOTF) began developing information that Jensen was selling large amounts of methamphetamine out of his Brook Park residence.

SEE METH, PAGE 2



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OBITUARIES

Jack L. McCullough

May 17, 1936 - November 2, 2021

Jack L. McCullough, age 85, of Eyota, Minn. passed away Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 at his home.

Jack Lee McCullough was born May 17, 1936 in LeRoy, Minn. the son of Dean and Cathryn (Hunter) McCullough. In 1955, he graduated from Hans Christian Anderson High School in Askov, Minn. where he was senior class president and captain of the basketball team.

He was united in marriage to Nancy Pearson on August 11, 1956 and in their union were blessed with four children. He owned and operated Jack's Texaco Station and later

Jack's Mobil Station on N. Broadway in Rochester, Minn. until retiring in 1998. Jack's station was the social meeting place for visiting and having a meal.

Jack enjoyed fishing, boating, water skiing, snowmobiling and spending time at the cabin. When grandchildren arrived he included them on the tractor and snowmobile rides and was their biggest cheerleader at their sporting events.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy McCullough of Eyota, Minn.; children, Cyndi (Greg) Wick, Rita Larson, and Matthew McCullough all of Eyota, son-in-law, Robert Wheeler of Oak Grove, Minn.; eight grandchildren, Jessica Kuhlmann, Tom (Tori) Wick, Kaytlin Wick, Jack Wheeler, Andrew (Christie) Larson, Alyssa Larson, Taylor McCullough and Colton McCullough; five great grandchildren, Nayah, Sofia, Maizee, Charleigh and Kyleigh; brothers, Donald McCullough and Richard McCullough; extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; step father, Arnold Moorhead; daughter, Julie Wheeler; sisters and brothers-in-law, Betty (Erling) Birkholm, Barbara (Ronald) Putratz; brother and sister-in-law, Dean "Pete" (Darlene) McCullough; sisters-in-law, Phyllis McCullough and Jule McCullough.

A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, November 8, 2021 at Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Homes, 5421 Royal Place NW, Rochester, Minn. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. A private interment was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Viola, Minn. Memorials are preferred to Salvation Army. The funeral service will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/Ranfranzandvine/

Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is honored to be serving the McCullough family; to share a special memory or condolence please visit www.ranfranzandvinefh.com.

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Your best source for community information
320-838-3151
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AARP Foundation
For a future without senior poverty.

AARP Foundation now recruiting volunteers for in-person and Virtual Tax-Aide services

AARP Foundation is kicking off its annual volunteer recruitment for its Tax-Aide program, the nation's largest volunteer-based tax preparation service.

Choose your satisfying role in helping seniors to file:

- Like working with numbers? We are always looking for **counselors/preparers**. Training is online and averages about 40 hours.
- More of a people person? We always need **greeters** at the host sites.
- Do you want to stay at home? We have virtual positions to help maintain our **portal** or **schedulers** who set up our appointments.
- Are you a retired teacher or administrative professional? Volunteer to set up **training** or coordinate **virtual meetings**.

Many hands make light work. Join our local all-volunteer team and receive:

- FREE training, support and equipment
- Training is largely online now through January
- Tax season is February 1 - April 30
- Flexible hours / flexible days, depends on the site.

Email tainfomn2@gmail.com or call (651) 419-6661 and leave Lou a message; she's eager to hear from you!

Clara F. Moehrke

March 1, 1920 - October 24, 2021

Clara Frahs Moehrke of Barnum, Minn. passed away October 24, 2021 at the Augustana Nursing Home Moose Lake, Minn. She was a patient there for three months.



Clara was the daughter of Henry and Agnes Frahs Askov, Minn. She was born March 1, 1920 and attained the age of 101 and seven months.

Clara attended H.C. Andersen School and was a member of the Vilstad Lutheran Church Askov. Her brother Richard Frahs of Bettendorf, Iowa preceded her in death December 31, 2010. Her sister Barbara Morgensen Sodolak lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Clara met her husband Walter P. Moehrke of Ashland, Wisc. They were both employed at Spruce Shadows Farm, home of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly (Hamm's Brewery Family, Minneapolis). Clara and Wally were united in marriage July 27, 1940. To that union four children were born: Bruce - Barnum, Minn., Henry - Barnum, Minn. (Deceased May 11, 2021), Douglas - Camp Comfort, Wyo. (Deceased May 9, 2013) and Vicky Lynn - Barnum, Minn. (Deceased September 8, 1986).

Clara and Wally also operated the Koffee Kup Restaurant in Cloquet, Minn. During that time they were building their forever home on Crystal Lake, Barnum, Minn.

Clara and Wally had a very unexpected turn in their life when their daughter-in-law Mrs. Bruce Bonita Moehrke unexpectedly passed away leaving five little grandchildren to raise. There was always a buzz of activity with seven grandchildren and many great and great-greats around. Clara lost her beloved Wally on December 19, 1999.

Clara was a great cook, baker, gardener and artist. She loved to read. Clara and Wally were members of a Square Dance Group in Askov.

She said her home, the lake and woods were a beautiful gift from God, what more could I ask for, and so she passed from this life to the next. In Peace May the Perpetual Light shine upon her.

Lois M. Parsons

July 18, 1936 - October 31, 2021

Lois Marie Parsons, age 85, of Sandstone, Minn. passed away on Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021, at the Sandstone Health Care Center.



Lois was born in Friesland, Minn. on July 18, 1936, to Harrison and Alvina (Hedtke) Chesbrough. She resided in Friesland then Finlayson throughout her life until she moved to the Sandstone Health Care Center in 2017. Lois started school in Friesland and then transferred to the Finlayson school district in high school. On June 28, 1957, Lois married Alvin Ralph Parsons. Lois enjoyed working with children

and adults alike, she held a position at the Sandstone schools in the food service department and did carry out and Chris' Food Center.

Family was one of the most precious gifts to Lois, she enjoyed teaching cribbage to her grandkids, spending quality time with her family, friends, and grandchildren. Lois enjoyed many hobbies which included but weren't limited to baking pies, playing cards, creating Russian embroidery, listening to Alan Jackson and laughing at the Grand Ole' Opry Show.

Lois is preceded in death by her husband, Alvin Ralph "Bud" Parsons; parents, Harrison and Alvina Chesbrough; twin sister, Lorraine Keller; brother, Kenneth Chesbrough; and son, Thomas Parsons.

Lois is survived by her daughter, Linda Vork; grandchildren, Amanda (Shawn) Eckerman, Justin (Cassie) Parsons, Bianca (Rick) Cervantes, Adrian Olesen, Katie Parsons, Kori (Domonic) Parsons; great grandchildren, Maddie, Klara, Shane, Averi, Benjamin and Camdin.

A memorial service was held for Lois on Friday, November 5, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Sandstone Evangelical Free Church, with Pastor Chris Cundiff officiating. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the church.

Arrangements by Methven Funeral and Cremation Services of Sandstone, MN. www.methvenfuneral-home.com.

METH: Drugs continue to plague Pine County

FROM PAGE 1

On July 29, 2020, Stenquist was stopped by a Minnesota State Trooper near East Bethel. During a subsequent search of Stenquist's vehicle, the trooper found approximately 355 grams of methamphetamine, which he had purchased from Jensen.

On Sept. 16, 2020, ECDVOTF agents searched Jensen's home and seized approximately 3.5 kilograms of methamphetamine hidden inside PVC pipes.

On Sept. 18, 2020, Paniagua - along with alleged co-conspirator Miguel Eduardo Del Real, 26 - arranged for a methamphetamine delivery from the Twin Cities to Jensen at the Grand Casino in Hinckley. The attempted delivery was brought by co-defendant Ivan Lopez, 26, and was intercepted

by ECDVOTF agents. The agents arrested Lopez at the scene. Paniagua and Del Real fled the scene.

After a 90-minute manhunt involving a police canine and thermal imaging, law enforcement found Paniagua and arrested him. Agents separately recovered approximately seven kilograms of methamphetamine in vacuum sealed bags from within the trunk of Lopez's vehicle.

Defendants Lopez, Stenquist, Jensen, and Paniagua each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Stenquist was sentenced yesterday to 120 months in prison, Jensen was sentenced on July 14, 2021, to 112 months in prison, and Paniagua was sentenced on Oct. 8, 2021, to 80 months in prison. Lopez is awaiting sentencing.

On Nov. 2, 2021, alleged co-con-

spirator Del Real was arrested in San Diego, California, pursuant to a federal warrant.

Acting U.S. Attorney W. Anders Folk for the District of Minnesota made the announcement after Senior U.S. District Judge Donovan W. Frank sentenced the defendants.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen A. Slaughter, and was the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, the East Central Drug and Violent Offender Task Force, the Kanabec County Sheriff's Office, the Pine County Sheriff's Office, the St. Paul Police Department, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the Minnesota State Patrol.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
LOOKING FOR PLAYERS
<https://d20.metaspot.org/1fp.html>

**Annual Holiday Bazaar
Craft & Bake Sale**
Saturday, November 13th • 8:30am - 2pm
Peace Lutheran Church, Finlayson
Join us for famous homemade soup,
sandwich & pie luncheon.
Drawing for door prize
WE HAVE SOUP, SANDWICHES AND PIE "TO GO"

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Rodent tunnel temporarily takes down large horse, scares owner

heard that 400,000 people were expected (state wide) to participate in this year's firearm deer hunt. That's quite a big number. I was driving north Friday afternoon on I-35 and I think quite a good portion of that number was ahead of me. The traffic was bumper to bumper, but for the most part, moving. I haven't heard how the harvest went.

Here at our place, it was an occasional shot here and there. The season goes through November 21 so if you didn't get your deer yet, there is time. We had our first snowfall over a week ago, but this last

weekend, was pure heaven. Temperatures in the 60's, sunshine, almost no wind, and no bugs either – you just had to remember to wear red or orange.

Earlier last week, before that nice weekend weather, as I made my morning glance out the window to check on my rascal horses I spotted one was laying down and trying to eat the grass around him, not real unusual, but I made a note of it. Another two glances out that way and I see it's Prince, laying on his side now, not trying to eat. It was barely sun up that morning and it was 23 degrees, yet here I was, headed out to see what was wrong. As I approached Prince I noticed the fence lines were down near him, trailing up to where he laid. I think my heart stopped beating when I spotted the huge fox hole with evidence a hoof had gone in.

Several times a week all summer I drove the pastures in my side-by-side, ridding the pasture of gophers/moles. Sampson, our German Shepherd, would happily point out their holes and Gary and I filled them. The rodents are hunted by our local fox and badgers who dig huge holes into the ground seeking their prey. The holes are often as large as a draft horse sized hoof. So you get the idea, but now Prince found one of those huge holes and my worst nightmare was about to unfold. Prince could have suffered a broken leg, and that would be really bad news.

In our 16 years with King and Prince, Prince has gotten several injuries. The serious injuries he calmly waits for me, this was no different. He was waiting with legs straight out and ready for his human to check him out as I do whenever

he is injured. I began checking the legs first, all the way down to the hoof. No wounds were found, no hot spots, no tenderness. His overall body seemed fine. Yet he continued to lay there, so I grabbed a hoof pick and cleaned his hooves. One hoof had the tell-tale green grass stain on the white hair from going through that hole. But that hoof and leg seemed to have nothing wrong, and he demonstrated no sensitivity. You cannot imagine my relief, yet he continued to lay there.

Well, at this point there was nothing else I could do but watch over him. I went for supplies and a bucket of dirt for that hole and I got busy making repairs near Prince. It wasn't long before Prince jumped up and began testing the tender leg. In seconds he began using it. I quickly finished repairs as I watched Prince catch up to King who

was leading the way to a different pasture. I went in the house to have my first cup of coffee and take a deep breath. What a start to a day, but so glad this had a happy ending. Then I had to smile. I have a feeling that those two horses think I fixed him. Wow, what powers I have.

November 13th, the Peace Lutheran Church Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Homemade soup, sandwich and pies will be available, and a drawing for a door prize.

The pandemic report card as of November 1, 2021 is 5.2 million deaths world-wide attributed to COVID-19. I have no words to express my sadness at so many losses.

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



Finlayson News
Maxine Meyer



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!!

November is Sweet Potato Month

EASY SWEET POTATOES AU GRATIN

- 2 large uncooked sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 1 large egg
- 2 c. heavy whipping cream
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
- Pinch of pepper
- 3 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
- Minced fresh thyme, optional

Place potatoes in a greased 8-inch square baking dish. In a bowl, beat egg. Add cream, salt, nutmeg and pepper; mix well. Pour over potatoes; sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, at 375 degrees until the potatoes are tender, 40-45 minutes. Top with fresh thyme to serve. Serves 6.

SWEET POTATOES WITH FLUFFY MERINGUE

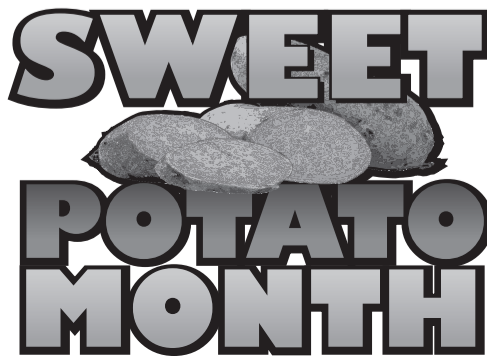
- 4 lbs. sweet potatoes
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 4 Tbsp. butter, cubed and room temperature
- 1/2 tsp. grated orange peel
- 1/4 c. fresh orange juice
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. freshly ground nutmeg
- Meringue Topping:
 - 4 large egg whites
 - 1/2 c. granulated sugar
 - Pinch of fine salt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Put a rimmed baking pan directly under oven rack to catch drips. Scrub sweet potatoes well. Prick each potato in a few spots with a fork. Place directly on the oven rack and bake until soft, about 1 hour. Remove from oven and let cool a few minutes. Hold the warm potatoes with a towel. Scoop out the flesh of potatoes into a mixing bowl. While mixing add salt, butter, orange zest and juice, and spices. Place the mashed sweet potato mixture into a 3-quart baking dish. Heat oven to broil with rack in upper-third of the oven. In a clean mixing bowl, put the egg whites. Beat with mixer until it starts to foam. Once it foams, gradually add granulated sugar and salt and continue mixing on high speed until it reaches medium-stiff peaks. Don't over whip it. Should be glossy and not sponge-like. Carefully spread the meringue over the top of the mashed sweet potatoes. Put under the hot broiler for 40-60 seconds to lightly brown. (Do not walk away, this happens quickly.) Serves about 10.

SWEET POTATO BITES

- 4 large (about 2-1/2 lbs.) sweet potatoes
- 2/3 c. packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 Tbsp. grated nutmeg
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/2 c. toasted and crushed pecans (optional)
- 2 c. sweetened, shredded coconut
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 8 large marshmallows

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Place the sweet potatoes in a medium baking dish and bake until they are soft to touch, about 45 minutes to 1 hour. Once sweet potatoes cool to room temperature, peel them and place them in large bowl, mashing well. Stir in brown sugar, nutmeg, egg yolks, vanilla and crushed pecans. In a medium bowl, toss the coconut with the granulated sugar and cinnamon. Press the sweet potato mixture around each marshmallow to create 8 balls, then roll in the coconut mixture. Place on a baking sheet lined with foil. Bake until bubbling, 15 to 20 minutes. Makes 10 servings



OUT & ABOUT

NOVEMBER 11, 2021

Sandstone History Center Veterans recognition
Sandstone History Center will be honoring Veterans on Nov. 11 following Veterans Memorial Service. Loren Else will speak. Coffee and cookies will be served.

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

Everyone's Table
Come to Everyone's Table for a FREE community meal and a chance to get together with friends and neighbors every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at the John Wright Building, 130 Oriole Street East. Drive all the way around to the back of the building. A ham dinner is on the menu for November 16, serving from 4:30 – 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Pine County Genealogical Society

The Pine County Genealogical Society will meet Wednesday, November 17th at the Pine County Historical Museum, Askov, at noon for lunch followed by a brief Business Meeting. Julie Berglund will show how her Grandmother was an Orphan Train Rider and tell how she proved it.

This is a fascinating story, so bring a friend.

DECEMBER 4, 2021

Pine County Historical Society Christmas Tea

The Pine County Historical Society is hosting a Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 4, 2021. The event is from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Doors open at noon. Please call 320-838-1607 between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. to make reservations. Due to COVID restrictions there will be assigned seating.

SUDOKU

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Level: Beginner

Celebrating a bittersweet holiday

Veterans Day in the “Minnesota White House” is a bittersweet day. My dad is a veteran and I am immensely proud of him, but for the last several years it has been a struggle to be proud while dealing with the trial that is brain cancer.

Coming up in February of 2022 my family will have been living with a terminal brain cancer diagnosis for three years.

Dad is a veteran of several military campaigns in the Middle East. Waste disposal during military campaigns in the Middle East was done using burn pits. Soldiers were responsible for burning things like leftover fuel, trash, equipment and much more in giant pits. He was one of the soldiers involved in the operation of these disposal burn pits. Many of the soldiers who were exposed to these burn pits have developed a range of long term illnesses. He was diagnosed in February of 2019 with terminal brain cancer. That year he was given six months to live.

Every day, we as a family, have been grateful for the time that we have had together. When we passed six months after his diagnosis we were even more grateful for the time.

During the past few weeks things have gotten much more difficult health wise for Dad. At the same time I have been planning this edition of the Star-Gazette and struggling with how to express just some of the feelings that I have been having leading up to Veterans Day.

At the Star-Gazette there has been a practice of writing a story about a local veteran. This year I couldn't quite wrap my head around taking on another veteran's story when I was living with one every day at home. While I deeply appreciate the sacrifices of service men and women, along with their families, I just couldn't move past some of the big feelings that were going on in my own life.

These feelings, are something that I think get lost in the celebration of Veterans Day every year. I would think that there are other family members and service members that struggle to balance the pride they feel in service and the hurt and anger they feel in illness and pain. Especially when that illness or pain is caused by something so easily avoided, like exposure to toxic smoke from the mandatory burning dangerous materials.

Every year, even before Dad's diagnosis, I have been hesitant to approach and thank veterans for their service. Not knowing where these individuals are at mentally in their struggle, has been why I have been hesitant.

I know that Dad will be reading this and I want him to know that I am beyond proud of him for his service and continued strength. The pride that I feel in his service is also extended to all members of our armed forces.

ALANEA WHITE is the editor of the Moose Lake Star-Gazette. She loves hearing about upcoming events in the community from readers. Her email is editor@mlstargazette.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Delighted to serve community, students as H-F School board member

To the Editor:

Thank you to all the Hinckley-Finlayson School District voters who supported my candidacy, and campaign platform by going to the polls and selecting me as one of your newly elected school board members.

I see a number of things that need to be changed for the better in order to improve the student experience and educational opportunity.

We can start with something small. Little things really do make a big difference. Currently, doors at the Hinckley-Finlayson High School are locked until 8:10 a.m. with first hour class beginning at 8:20 a.m. This means over 400 students have at most 10 minutes to enter the building and be ready for first hour class. This is not at all reasonable and creates various safety related issues.

Let's be reasonable and open the high school doors no later than 7:50 a.m. to allow not less than a 30 minute window to enter the building prior to class start so our children can have the opportunity to

ask their teachers questions about previous nights homework if needed, develop face to face interpersonal social skills, feel welcomed by an unlocked door when they arrive, step in out of the freezing cold or pouring rain and not feel rushed or stressed about getting to class on time in the morning.

Pine City High School allow their students 70 minutes prior to class start to enter the school.

East Central High School allow students 45 minutes. Again, Hinckley-Finlayson High School currently only allow students 10 minutes to pile through the doors and get to class.

This will be the first small step in restoring the student experience and educational opportunity that these students deserve and that I had back in the glory days of the 1980's while walking through many of these very same halls and class rooms.

I'm delighted to have the privilege to serve the students and tax payers of the Hinckley-Finlayson School District. I look forward to sharing my fresh ideas and policies that I feel should be implemented with Leo, Shelly, Dave, Angela, Jodie and Heather.

Toby Hickle
Hinckley, Minn.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

The Askov American encourages readers to share their viewpoints of community issues by writing letters to the editor. Publishing decisions are made on questions of free speech, good taste, public interest and public sensitivity.

The Askov American reserves the right to edit for accuracy, clarity, libel, and civility and reserves the right not to publish a letter. Personal complaints or attacks, plagiarized material, religious treatises or submissions from organized letter-writing campaigns will not be published.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

Letters must be submitted by 3 p.m. Mondays to askovamerican@scicable.com or via mail to P.O. Box 275, Askov, MN 55704

- 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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CONTACT US:
Askov American
Phone: 320-838-3151
Fax: 320-838-3152
Email: askovamerican@scicable.com
Address: P.O. Box 275 • 6351 Kobmagergade, Askov, MN 55704

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

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9 a.m.-4 p.m.
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ASKOV
AMERICAN



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



VETERAN: Many veterans discover they have PTSD years after they served

FROM PAGE 1

Will said he didn't speak to anyone outside of a small circle of friends and family about his veteran status for 25 years due to the memory of the vocal protesters.

For some Vietnam veterans, the war is not over.

"This is the most I have talked about it, except for the VA program," Will said somberly. He attended a VA therapy program in St. Cloud to help him cope with his PTSD. He said the program has helped immensely.

A survey by the Veterans Administration found that about 500,000 people who served in Vietnam suffered from PTSD, according to history.com.

Service veterans who were deployed to Vietnam and

experienced warzone stress exposure and other combat-related experiences were assessed during a study of PTSD by the Veterans Administration in the early 1980s. Warzone stress exposure includes combat exposure, abusive violence, deprivation, exposure to the wounded and dead and more. About 25 percent of deployed veterans reported high exposures, according to vva.org.

The study found that about 11 percent of males and seven percent of females who were on active duty in Vietnam suffered from PTSD.

Will discovered that in helping others, he helped himself.

He was already a member of the Sandstone American Legion. He became even more active in the Legion and became the commander about

six years ago.

"I found the more I help other veterans, the better I feel," Will said. He is also a member of the Hinckley VFW and Chapter 4 Cloverleaf DAV.

He is a proud member of the Honor Guard and often takes part in military services, including funerals.

"It means a lot to the family," Will said. "It brings me more healing than anything else."

There are about 30 members of the Sandstone American Legion and about 12 that are active in the organization. They visit veterans in senior living facilities and bring Christmas presents, carry flags in local parades as well as have an active Honor Guard. They take part in various fundraisers each year to help pay for uniforms, gifts and whatever else

is needed.

The organization does not receive any financial assistance from the government, Will stressed.

He said they hope more of the younger veterans from the Gulf and Iraqi wars will join the organization so they can continue to help the area veterans.

Sandstone American Legion Post 151 meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month at 206 Main Street downstairs. Use the back alley entrance.

Veterans looking for services or wanting more information about available veterans services should contact Pine County Veterans Services at 218-216-4250.

BY THE NUMBERS

August 5 1965- May 7, 1975

7,484 women served in Vietnam

83% of women were nurses

58,148 were killed in Vietnam

75,000 severely disabled

23,214 were 100% disabled

61% of those killed were younger than 21

11,465 of those killed were under 20 years old

23.1 was the average age of the men killed

2,338 are listed as Missing in Action

766 are listed as Prisoner of War

114 died in captivity

1,611 Americans are still unaccounted for as of April 13, 2017

Statistics from uswings.com and vva310.org

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11/11/2021
REMEMBERING ALL
WHO SERVED

Pine County Veterans Service office
320-216-4250

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To learn more about the Line 3 Replacement Project, visit enbridge.com/line3us.

BRUNO/KERRICK NEWS

Friday, Bill, Sandy, Adam and Justin Schmidt from Coon Rapids and Frands



**Bruno/
Kerrick
News**
Sylvia
Schweiger

Saturday afternoon, Justin Schmidt shot his first deer, an eight point buck. Jeanette Swenson and

Sylvia Schweiger were among the many that attended the Fall Band and Choir Concert Wednesday evening at East Central School. The kids did a good job! On Saturday, they went to the craft fair/silent auction at the Askov Community Center that was sponsored by Allen's Hope. They had lots of nice items there. Bruno's St. Paul's and Trinity Church curbside dinners held this past weekend were well attended and both had a delicious meal. Remember, if you have any news that you would like to share, please email me at : storebo1@frontier.com or call me at (320) 838-3554... Have a good week!!

WILLOW RIVER NEWS

It is almost time for the 12th Annual Willow River Gobble Wobble two mile fun run/walk on



**Willow
River News**
Kathi
Bennett

Thanks-giving Day at 9 a.m. starting at Willow River Fire Hall. All proceeds of the race will benefit the Willow River Fire Department. You may pick up registrations at the Willow River Lumber, the Happy Scissor, Dave's Oil, or city hall. Come out and wobble your gobble and have some fun. The planning for Fun with Santa is underway. The event is planned for December 4, 2021. Be sure to mark your calendar. Star Mikrot is setting up a Holiday Craft Fair in the small gym at the school during this event. So, you may do some Christmas shopping. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in town also. Bring the kiddos to a fun family event with games, crafts and your picture with Santa from 10 a.m.-Noon. The Fun with Santa event is sponsored by the Willow River Community Club. You may contact Star for more information on

the craft fair. Also, the City of Willow River does not accept cash payments anymore. So, when paying your water and sewer bills please pay with check, money order, or cashier's check. The WRFD Fall Gun Raffle fundraiser will be held on November 20, 2021 starting at 6 p.m. at the Squirrel Cage Bar and Grill. The drawing for the big guns will be at 9 p.m. Tickets are available at businesses around the area and from the Willow River Fire Department members. They have fifteen guns on the drawing list. At St. Mary's/ St. Isidore's Church: If you are interested in going to confession during the week, you may let Fr. Francis know and he will be happy to hear your confession after daily Mass or by appointment. He will be doing confessions on first Friday's and Saturday's at 4 p.m. at Holy Angels. Thursday Mass will be at St. Mary's Church at 8:30 a.m. St. Mary's Church has Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 1 to 5 p.m. every Wednesday. The Legion of Mary meetings are held at St. Mary's Center every Monday at 5 p.m. The Knights of Columbus will lead the Rosary on the fourth Sunday of the month at St Isidore's Church.

Donate laundry to charity instead of tossing

Dear Tante Ingeborg,

I might have developed a few bad habits during the pandemic. Lately I have been very bad at doing the laundry. I can toss the dirty clothes into the washer and then the dryer but I just suck at folding it all up and putting it away. A couple of times I have even gone as far as getting new underwear and t-shirts so I had something to put on before I go out.

Today I came up with the ultimate solution to my problem. I've decided to empty all the

clothes from the dryer into a big black garbage bag and leave them out with my trash. They're all ugly anyway and I think I'd feel better if I had new threads. I figure if I just get the basics I can start fresh and get back to folding and putting stuff away where it belongs.

Do you think this will put an end to my mental block on doing the laundry?

Signed, Pitch and Toss on Partridge

Dear P and T,
Hoo boy! Where's Marie Kondo when you need her! What I think you should do is get a couple of bags. One for undies and one for outerwear. The undies you can delegate to the trash but the other items can be donated

to charity. Even if it's worn and ugly, most clothing can be used for construction or yard work. Don't be a bug on the windshield of life. Then, get some nice baskets to put on a shelf above your washer and dryer. Put the clean, neatly folded clothes in the baskets. Try reinventing yourself as a Tibetan goat herd and only buy the bare necessities. You don't have to go so far as having the same social graces as a goat herd but stop acting like a member of the privileged few. We all have to do our share in solving the problem of global warming. Good luck with the paring down and remember, Tante Ingeborg cares.....but not so much.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Body of World War I veteran coming home to Sandstone

**100 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 8, 1921**

- The village of Askov let the contract to Christensen Bros. and John Frederiksen for the construction of a large reservoir in the rear of Askov American office and Askov Drug and Variety store.

- The body of Hartley Robey, who lost his life in France during the World War is expected to arrive in Sandstone and a large military funeral will take place.

**75 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 7, 1946**

- Mr. and Mrs. Francis Melancon of Duquette are the happy parents of a girl born November 5. Mrs. Anna Bloom is caring for mother and baby.

- An independent town basketball team is to be organized and sponsored by the local American Legion Post in Askov. This is not intended to be a veterans team. Anyone may join/play on the team.

- Rev. Frank Lunn was presently surprised Sunday afternoon when friends and members of his four congregations gathered at the Bruno church parlor and helped him celebrate his birthday. A nice program along

with lunch was served.

**50 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 11, 1971**

- Pine County Memorial Hospital holds a reception to welcome four new doctors, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Bloom, Dr. Eskestrand and Dr. Runquist.

- Sunday, Oct. 31st, wedding vows were exchanged by Alvin Voit of Sandstone and Marian Trabelac of Finlayson. Rev. Rit-tamel performed the ceremony.

- Mr. and Mrs. Victor Nolan celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday with family and friends.

- Happy Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Plaisted who celebrated their 10th anniversary. A new English program has been adopted and is being tried out in the Askov High School. Instructors are Mrs. Arla Budd, Mrs. Gwen Jensen, Mrs. Celma Hejny and Mrs. Lorene Roster.

**25 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 7, 1996**

- Kitty Jorgensen, owner and operator of North Country Car Cleaning has moved her business from north of Sandstone to it's new location 316 A North

Main Ave. behind Gramma J'S Basket and Gifts.

- Bruno Thrift Store is getting a 12 x 50 foot addition onto the store and is nearing completion.

- Denny and Carol Birkholm of Askov announce the engagement of their daughter Nadine Lyn to Timothy Loew, son of Bill and Nancy Loew. An August wedding is planned.

- Bob and Judy Eaton, owners of the Old Fashion Inn in Finlayson have sold their business to another family. A farewell party was held for Bob and Judy and they plan to move to Alabama.

**10 YEARS AGO
NOVEMBER 3, 2011**

- Thirty six concerned citizens filled a room at Nemadji Research Center in Bruno last week to get information about the possible closure of the Bruno Post Office. Three U.S. Postal Service Representatives met with the citizens to hear their concerns. Kerrick residents will also have a meeting with Postal representatives to express their concerns of a possible closure of the Kerrick Post Office.

- A crowd enjoyed the celebration of the 104th anniversary of Wilma Township.

EAST CENTRAL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Thursday, November 11

Blue line: French toast, sausage links, orange juice, apple and milk

Silver line: Pancakes, sausage links, orange juice, apple, and milk

Friday, November 12

Blue line: Sloppy Joe/bun, fries, pineapple, raw carrots, and milk

Silver line: Chicken fajita, chips, pineapple, raw carrots, and milk

Monday, November 15

Blue line: Hamburger Stew, bread stick, apple-sauce, peas, and milk

Silver line: Chicken Broccoli, bread stick, apple-sauce, peas, and milk

Tuesday, November 16

Blue line: Taco/shell, refried beans, peaches, green beans, and milk

Silver line: Beef nachos, refried beans, peaches, green beans, and milk

Wednesday, November 17

Blue line: Chili, chips, pears, green beans, and milk

Silver line: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, pears, green beans, and milk

Designer Handbag
BINGO

Permit #
XB-31721-21-008

Saturday, November 13th - 1:00pm
\$35 (advance) • \$45 (at the door)
For tickets, call SAGC 320-245-0471 or 320-630-4477
Must be 18 • Tickets non-refundable
Appetizers served
13 Games - Ticket includes one 13-game packet
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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School diploma or equivalent. A valid CDL – Class A License. Three years' experience in Tandem Truck Driving/Heavy Equipment operation and previous snow plowing of public roadway experience preferred.
APPLICANT INFORMATION: All applicants must complete a county application. Download the application on the web site at <http://co.pine.mn.us> under Departments/Human Resources/Employment Opportunities and mail in, fax (320-591-1628) or email to hr@co.pine.mn.us at the County Administrator/HR office by Friday, November 19, 2021
PAY GRADE: Grade 6 - \$20.09/hour - \$26.12/hour DOQ
RATING METHOD: The hiring process will include a formal interview and may include testing and/or other methods of selection.
CLOSING DATE: Friday, November 19, 2021
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PINE COUNTY MINNESOTA

EAST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SEEKING PARAPROFESSIONALS AND SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONALS.
Qualifications:
1. Hold an AAS degree, completed two years of college or successful passage of the state test for paraprofessionals desired.
2. A background check and reference checks will be required.
3. Experience working with special needs children helpful.
4. Willing to train.
Compensation: 6.25 hours per day, AFSCME Classification III, Step 1 starting at \$15.66/hour. Position only works on student contact days.
Application: Applications are available on www.eastcentral.k12.mn.us and in the district office. East Central School District, Attn: Kristi Zemke 61085 State Hwy. 23, Finlayson, MN 55735
PDF copies may be emailed to: kzemke@eastcentral.k12.mn.us
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NOTICES

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City of Sturgeon Lake is looking to fill the following position: Deputy Clerk/ Treasurer transitioning to Clerk/Treasurer in 2022. Hourly pay range, depending on experience. Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Clerk/Treasurer, this position will perform administrative work conducting the daily business activities of the city. This will include financial management and statutory clerk/treasurer functions to include, Budget preparation and administration, implementing city policies, managing all elections held at the city, drafting meeting

minutes and agendas, correspondence on behalf of the city, monthly utility billing, monthly and yearly payroll and all payroll tax payments and quarterly reports, accounts receivable and accounts payable. Requires good communication skills, an individual who is extremely organized and can manage their time to meet deadlines. **REQUIRED:** Previous experience as a Bookkeeper, including payroll. Must pass a criminal background check. Interested applicants may submit a city employment application, cover letter and resume to PO Box 98 Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783. The application is available from the forms page on our website at www.cityofsturgeonlake.com Equal opportunity employer
Published in the Askov American on November 11, 2021

BIRCH CREEK TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Please be advised that the regular board meeting of the Birch Creek Town Board will take place at 7:00 p.m. On November 18, 2021. Meeting will be held at the Birch Creek Town Hall in Denham, MN. All residents are welcome to attend.
Marissa Rayburn
Clerk, Birch Creek Township
Published in the Askov American on November 11, 2021

SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

5	2	9	8	3	6	4	7
6	4	7	5	2	1	9	3
3	9	7	1	6	4	5	8
2	9	8	3	4	9	7	1
7	9	4	6	1	5	3	8
4	3	1	2	7	6	9	5
6	1	2	8	9	5	3	7
5	7	8	1	3	4	6	2

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May our country
always remember
that our freedom
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THANK YOU VETERANS



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