



SPORTS: Teams play tough opponents. P2

Rebels Christmas tournament champions

BY MARY ELLEN DEWEY
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the lead at halftime 43-40. The Rebels scored 43 in the second half also, while the Beacons made 36. Leading scorer for the Rebels was Alex Watrin with 27, making 10 out of 14 put backs for 71 percent. Logan Orvedahl had 20, Phillip Sheetz 14, Duane Broughton 13, Sam Dewey 11, and Chance Lunde with 1. Concordia's Alfonso Greene scored 36 and Lorenzo Levy had 21. The Rebels made 10 threes and the Beacons sunk 13. Sheetz put 4 in from beyond the arch, Sam Dewey had 3, Orvedahl 2 and Broughton 1. For the Beacons, Greene put in 6, Levy 5, Swanson and Olson each with 1. Watrin, besides leading the team in scoring, pulled down 27 rebounds. Sam Dewey was there to grab 5. Lunde and Broughton each had 4.

On Wednesday, the Rebels faced the host team, Cathedral Crusaders, at 5:30 p.m.

SEE CHAMPS, PAGE 2



SHANNA WATRIN

Front row L to R: Luke Dewey, Sam Dewey, Phillip Sheetz, Kaden Robbins, Adam Neumann, Chance Lunde. Back Row: Conner Welch, Logan Orvedahl, Jimmy Walker, Alex Watrin, Jayden Alleman, Duane Broughton, Kaden Durkin, Aiden Larson, Mizhakwad Miller, and Nolan Nelson.

St. Cloud Cathedral High School held their 2021 Crusader Christmas Basketball Classic holiday tournament on December 28, 29, and 30. Participating teams were Melrose, Spectrum (Elk River), Litchfield, Milaca, Concordia Academy St. Paul, Royalton, St. Cloud Cathedral and Moose Lake Willow River. MLWR had three days of very physical games, but came out on top to win the tournament. On Tuesday they defeated Concordia Academy by 10, 86-76. On Wednesday, in the semi-finals against St. Cloud Cathedral, the Rebels won, 59-54. In the championship game on Thursday, Dec. 29 against Spectrum of Elk River, the Rebels won 77-74.

The Rebels took on the Concordia Academy St. Paul Beacons for their first game of the tournament. The game was close the entire game. The Rebels were in

Pine County rehab opportunities for homes, businesses, rentals

BY JAMIE LUND
NEWS@HINCKLEYNEWS.COM

Pine County and Lakes and Pines are collaborating to help county homeowners, business owners and rental properties to spruce up their space.

Pine County received \$5.7 million from the American Rescue Plan Act and allocated \$850,000 towards the rehabilitation of properties throughout the county to help alleviate the negative economic impact that the pandemic has had on residents. The repairs help make the homes, businesses and rental properties safer as well as possibly improve the value of the property.

"It's a great way to spruce up the community," Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter said. "It's good for the economy as homeowners hire local contractors and get a nicer place and we get stabilized property values."

The program is modeled after the Small Cities Development program.

Lakes and Pines has helped about 50 homeowners to rehab their homes through the Small Cities Development program in the last five years, said Nicole Klosner, Lakes and Pines Rehabilitation Director. She

said the most common repairs homeowners ask for are roofs, senior/ada compliant bathrooms and ramps.

"A lot of people are nervous and think it's too good to be true," Klosner said. "We're here to help. People call and thank us because they can stay in their homes and not go into

be the applicant's primary residence. The applicant must own the house, have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, be current on property taxes and have proof of homeowners insurance. An example of being impacted by COVID-19 is temporary closure of schools, closure of bars, restaurants,



SUBMITTED

Before photo of a home that qualified for Lakes and Pines Small Cities Development program.

assisted living."

Property owners need to meet several criteria, including income and being impacted by the pandemic such as job loss. For a homeowner, the home must be located in Pine County, homesteaded and must



SUBMITTED

After photo of a home that had repairs made through the Lakes and Pines Small Cities Development program

directing Minnesotans to stay at home, extending stay at home order and more. See the application on the Pine County website for the entire list.

SEE REHAB, PAGE 2

Dispose of Christmas trees responsibly

BY JAMIE LUND
NEWS@HINCKLEYNEWS.COM

The Christmas holidays are behind us and many residents are left with a sad, dry tree to dispose of. The local Lions clubs will come to the rescue in the city limits of Hinckley and Sandstone.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture asks residents to dispose of their trees responsibly and not throw their tree or wreaths in the backyard woods or compost pile, according to their website. Doing so increases the odds of spreading disease or introducing invasive species to the area. Instead they recommend placing wreaths in the trash and take advantage of local curb side pick up for trees or bring them to a designated drop-off site in your area.

Sandstone and Hinckley residents can place their live Christmas trees at the curb in front of their home by 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan 8 and the local Lions will pick them up. They will not accept artificial trees. The Lions clubs perform the service free of charge as a convenience to the community, said Sandstone Lions Club member Dave Hogberg. He said the club noticed the number of residents taking advantage of the service has declined in recent years.

John Frank of the Hinckley Lions Club agreed. They have about 10 volunteers canvas the curbs inside Hinckley city limits to pick up the trees and deposit them at the local city brush pile.

Sandstone residents who forget to put their trees by the curb can dispose of their Christmas trees 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. January 5-7 at the compost pile located at 1117 Pine Avenue South.

Pine County also accepts Christmas trees free of charge for any residents who wish to dispose of them at South Pine Transfer station in Pine City at 17350 Henriette Road, Pine City, Minn.

Both South and North Pine Transfer Stations accept Christmas tree lights for recycling free of charge. The address for the North Pine Transfer Station is 85174 Hwy 61, Willow River.



STANDING HED

Bryan P. Storebo

July 20, 1995 - December 23, 2021

Bryan Patrick Storebo passed away unexpectedly on December 23, 2021. He blessed his family with was 26 years of happiness.



Bryan was born on July 20, 1995 in St. Cloud, Minn. to Erick Storebo and Kathleen "Katie" Foley.

He attended Richmond Elementary, Rocori Middle School, East Central Middle School and East Central High School. Most recently he resided in Bruno, Minn. and worked in underground utility for Morty Construction

Bryan had many hobbies which included movies and music, drawing, painting,

tattooing, fishing, riding motorcycle and ATV's, shooting guns and hanging out with his family and friends. Two things that Bryan was known for was always being able to make people laugh and coming up with something fun to do where ever he was.

Bryan is survived by his mother, Kathleen "Katie" (Mark) Petermeier of Richmond, Minn.; his father, Erick (Katie) Storebo of Bruno, Minn.; his brothers, Shaughnessy Storebo of Bruno, Minn. and Grady Petermeier of Richmond, Minn.; his sisters, Megan and Sydney Storebo of Bruno, Minn. ; his step sister, Alexis Nestor of Bruno, Minn.; his grandparents, Sandra (Darrell) Vink of Bruno, Minn., Edward (Melinda) Storebo of Pine City, Minn., Paul and Joann Foley of Richmond, Minn., his great-grandmother, Alyce Jorgensen of Finlayson, Minn., as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held to honor the memory of Bryan on January 8, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rutledge Community Center.

"I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart, but I am not so far away. We really aren't apart."

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

Randy M. VanGuilder

March 15, 1950 - December 21, 2021

Randy M. VanGuilder, 71, Clear Creek Twp., died Tuesday, December 21, 2021 in Essentia Health, Moose Lake. She was born on March 15, 1950 in



Sandstone to Rudolph and Anna Bloom. She grew up in Nickerson and attended Askov High School graduating in 1967. On March 18, 1967, Randy married James VanGuilder in Nickerson. They lived in Clear Creek Twp. Randy was a store manager at the Duquette General Store, worked at the Willow River Video Store, and later worked for Nemadji Research as a data analyst where she retired in 2020. Randy

loved spending time with her family and especially cherished the time with her grandchildren and great grand babies. She had a blast with all the grandchildren and they were all truly a major part of her life. Randy also liked gardening flowers and baking.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James; son: Brian; four brothers: Ralph Bloom, Walt Bloom, Marvin Bloom, and Ray Bloom; and a sister-in-law: Bonnie Stadin.

Randy will be lovingly remembered by her two children: Rob (April) VanGuilder and Amy VanGuilder (Chris Gockowski); nine grandchildren: Wyatt, Hailley, Nevan, Brady, Tyler (Brianna), Jordyn (Ilya), Corina (Brad), Breanna, and Dalila; eight great grandchildren: Zach, Olivia, Michael, Sophie, Irina, Easton, Maya, and Bella; eight siblings: Richard Bloom, Ann (Glen) Johnson, Harry Bloom, Eva Makela, Linda (Rick) Hovila, Karen (Jeff) Degerstrom, Loren Bloom, and Lyle (Diane) Bloom; sister-in-law and brother-in-law: Joyce and Louis Hultgren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Gathering of Family and Friends will be from 10 am until the 11 am Memorial Service on Friday, January 7, 2022 in Hamlin-Hansen-Kosloski Funeral Home, Moose Lake. Pastor Nathan Anderson will officiate. Following the service, there will be lunch and fellowship at the Soo Line Event Center, Moose Lake.

Arrangements by Hamlin-Hansen-Kosloski Funeral Home, Moose Lake.

Eagles boys' basketball team drops two holiday games

COACH DARREN FOGT

East Central Eagles boys' basketball team played Plainville-Elgin-Millville. They are a very good 1AA (4-0) team that has size and speed. East Central just couldn't match up with their physicality. The boys played hard though, and definitely got better. Kyle McDonald led East Central with 17 points, Nathan Zielinski had 13, Jacob Dixon 4, Nic DePaulis 2 and Hunter Colton 7. The Eagles lost 45-88.

Next up on Thursday, December 30, was a decent Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted 5AA (1-5) team, the host team. The Eagles played well against them, their defense picked up a bit. The game was close throughout, but in the end, the Eagles had to foul to try and get the win and it went upside down on

them. They lost 60-43. Nathan Zielinski led with 18 points, Hunter Colton had 11, Ben Carlin 6, Kyle McDonald 5 and Jacob Dixon had 3 for the Eagles. We are continually growing as a team and now that we're done with the Christmas season, we will get down to putting in some hard work and getting better during our conference grind.

East Central was looking forward to their matchup with Braham that was Tuesday, January 4. The Eagles have two home contests, on Friday January 7, they will face Swanville 5A and on Monday, January 10, Moose Lake Willow River will be at East Central.

It Pays to advertise in the Askov American!

REHAB: Funding available for home, business and rental rehabs

FROM PAGE 1

A single homeowner needs to earn \$41,750 a year or less in order to qualify. A family of three can make \$53,650 or less a year to qualify.

The program is intended to improve the safety of the home. Examples of repairs include plumbing, heating, ventilation, roofing, windows and more.

Lakes and Pines has received eight applications for commercial

buildings, two for rental properties and four for owner occupied homes since the program began in October 2021.

The program will remain open until the funds are exhausted, said Sauter.

Download the application on the Pine County Economic Development page or contact Lakes and Pines at lap@lakesandpines.org or call 320-679-1800 ext 123 or 133 for more information or to have a printed application mailed.

CHAMPS: MLWR boys enjoy holiday wins, culminating in tournament championship winners

FROM PAGE 1

finishing with a five-point victory 59-54. The Crusaders had a height advantage with only three of their 14 players under six-foot tall. That didn't seem to matter for the Rebels. They led at half-time 33-25. Cathedral outscored the Rebels in the second half 29-26, but the Rebels held on to the lead. MLWR turned the ball over 25 times. Sam Dewey and Broughton led in assists with 3 each. Watrin ended the game with 25 rebounds.

Sheetz led in scoring with 17, Broughton 13, Orvedahl 8, Sam Dewey 6, Luke Dewey, Jimmy Walker, and Lunde each had 4. Watrin finished with 3. Sheetz made 4 from beyond the arch. Sam Dewey and Orvedahl each made 2. Broughton had 1. Crusader senior, Jordan Schumann, was leading scorer with 22.

Broughton had a great game, but left late in the game with an ankle injury and was out the championship game on Thursday.

This second victory qualified the Rebels to play in the championship game against the Spectrum Sting of Elk River on Thursday evening. Spectrum is a 6AA team in Minnesota Classical Athletic Association conference. Spectrum had defeated Melrose to get to the semi-finals against Milaca. They beat Milaca by 3, 70-67. During their regular season, the Sting lost to Milaca in their first game of the season, 76-66. They won the rest of their regular season games. The Sting defeated Rush City in overtime 68-60 and Pine City by one, 78-77.

Spectrum's coach, Justin Femrite, had his team prepared to win the tournament, winning the first two games against Melrose and Milaca. Six-foot-six Landon Siegel led in scoring for Spectrum with 23 and Carter Femrite with 20 points.

The Rebels never trailed the Sting. At halftime the Rebels led 38-37 and finished the game 77-74, never trailing and winning the championship game.

Sheetz and Orvedahl each had 4 from beyond the arch. Orvedahl scored 27, Sheetz 20, Sam Dewey and Watrin had 13, and Lunde with 4. (Dewey had 14, but the scorers' table missed recording it.) Watrin was the rebounding hero grabbing another 25 in this game for a total of 77 rebounds for the tournament. Orvedahl and Sheetz were selected to the all-tournament team.

MLWR Rebels (8-2) 7AA Polar League Big conference will face Cromwell-Wright (4-3) 5A Polar League Small in Moose Lake on Friday, January 7. On Monday, January 10, the Rebels will have a road trip to East Central (2-7) 5A Great River Conference. The Rebels will be in Rush City on Tuesday, January 11, to play the Tigers (4-1) 6AA Great River Conference. Rush City's only loss is an overtime game with Spectrum 68-60. Game times are 5:45/7:15 p.m.

EC girls' basketball team struggles

MARY ELLEN DEWEY

RECIPE@PINECOUNTY COURIER.COM

The East Central Eagles played in the Windom Invitational tournament on Tuesday, December 28-29. Their first game was against the Windom Area Eagles 3AA (4-6). Windom Area won 78-43. On Wednesday, December 29, they lost to Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg 63-38.

In the Windom game Katelynn McAbee led the EC Eagles with 14 points and 7 rebounds, Izzy Olson 6 points, Raina Zaudtke 5, Lilly Podlewski, Jemi Keranen, and Josie Ford each had 3 points. Carly Watrin, Elsie Laursen, and Chandra Nelson each had 2 points.

In the Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg game, Izzy Olson led the team with 10 points and Elsie Laursen had 9. Carly Watrin, Josie Ford, and Katelynn McAbee each had 4 points. Mason Belanger had 3 points; Raina Zaudtke and Lilly Podlewski had 2 points.

Coach Peter Rogotzke said, "It was two tough games for us, but we had a lot of players get some good varsity experience and we played very hard both days."

The Eagles 5A (1-8) will have a home game on Thursday, January 6, with the Aitkin Gobblers 7AA (5-4) at 5:45/7:15.

Genealogy creates new connections between family members

Greetings and welcome to 2022! When I didn't ring in the new year with family and friends,



Finlayson News
Maxine Meyer

I realized the pandemic is far from the end.

Wearing masks, sanitizing and distancing apart,

Does nothing for my sanity or people dear to my heart.

Can we start over with a pandemic-free clean slate,

No new death totals to read and fears of our fate.

No need for vaccines, boosters or masks,

I'd say "hallelujah!" -thats all

that I ask.

Make 2022 a better year for community, family and friends,

I promise to be good, and make certain amends.

I'll stop whining about rain, or cringe when it snows,

Just end this pandemic and come to a close.

(Sorry, sometimes these dumb rhymes just pop into my mind.)

I'm going to start out the New Year with a huge thank-you to you, the readers. Your calls, messages, letters, emails, or when you see me. I like hearing you read the column, you are all appreciated. And whether it's offering advice, comments, or sharing laughs, and memories just know that I appreciate it all, and enjoy. Many thanks.

Around Christmas, Gary's doctor was bothered by some-

thing on Gary's lab results back in October and he decided it was time to re-run some of those bothersome results.

Gary went to North Branch while I was at a doctor appointment there and they reran labs. The varying results now seemed right where they should be, and two or three other values were off. The University of Minnesota doctor consulted with the infectious disease specialist. They both agreed small signs of varying results is "nothing to worry about, normally." But, as he told us this week, "Gary's body has been known to toss them a few surprises."

So early this week, we spent two days in the Twin Cities, and the University Hospital this time ran more extensive tests and did biopsies. They are hunting for the presence of antibodies that settle in

organs and damage them, of particular concern in Gary's case, the heart. Results won't be known until later this week. The doctor has three plans if any of his hunches are right. We reviewed them, and await directions in a few days.

Now that I have an interest in genealogy, it has provided a "pandemic" safe adventure-and it provides me something of interest to refocus my mind on. And last week a couple more cousins reached out and pictures started to get swapped over emails. We jointly prepared a 'memory' for the Mormon library to document a brief history on the Mecl's Country store which I will submit this month. And, I got a picture where I was able to identify my grand-father and his brother and I believe my great-grandfather is happily working right with his sons as

they unload logs. It is the first time I have seen his face, I was pretty excited. And since there was a camera brought over, and such happiness I wonder if this was the arrival of the logs that built the log cabin store.

Cousin Wayne Mecl in Apache Junction, Ariz. thought that folks around here might be interested in what we have dug up, (oops-poor choice of words,) what we have put together on the Mecl's Store. So I may share a couple paragraphs in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, be safe, stay warm, and make 2022 a year to celebrate.

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.

January is National Oatmeal 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!!

SLOW-COOKED FRUITED OATMEAL WITH NUTS

- 3 c. water
- 2 c. old-fashioned oats
- 2 c. chopped apples
- 1 c. dried cranberries
- 1 c. milk
- 2 tsp. butter, melted
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 6 Tbsp. chopped almonds, toasted
- 6 Tbsp. chopped pecans, toasted
- Additional milk

In a 3-quart slow cooker coated with cooking spray, combine the first eight ingredients. Cook, covered, on low until liquid is absorbed, 6-8 hours. Spoon into bowls. Sprinkle with almonds and pecans. Drizzle with additional milk. Makes 6 servings.

DAKOTA BREAD

- 2 pkg. yeast
- 1 c. warm water
- 1/2 tsp. sugar
- 4 Tbsp. oil
- 1/2 c. honey
- 1 c. cottage cheese
- 2 tsp. salt
- 4 c. bread flour
- 1 c. whole wheat flour
- 1/2 c. wheat germ
- 1/2 c. rye flour
- 1/2 c. oatmeal

Soften the yeast in the warm water and sugar. In a large mixer, beat oil, eggs, honey, cottage cheese, and salt. Gradually add the flours, wheat germ, and oatmeal. Knead 10 minutes, or using a large mixer with a dough hook, work for about 5 minutes, until dough forms a ball. Let dough rise until double, about 1 hour and 20 minutes. Shape into 2 round loaves, place in pie plates (9-or 10-inch) that have been oiled and sprinkled with cornmeal. Let rise again, for about an hour. Brush loaves gently, with beaten egg. Sprinkle with oatmeal. Bake at 325 degrees for approximately 30 to 35 minutes.

CHOCOLATE-OATMEAL CAKE

- 1-1/2 c. boiling water
- 1 c. quick oatmeal
- 1/2 c. shortening
- 2 c. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 c. flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 c. cocoa
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- Coconut Glaze:
- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 c. milk
- 2 c. coconut

Pour water over oatmeal and let stand. Mix shortening, sugar and eggs. Combine with oatmeal. Add flour, salt, baking soda and cocoa. Blend well. Bake in a greased 9x13-inch pan at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Glaze: mix ingredients in saucepan. Boil until thick. About 5 minutes. Pour over warm cake.



OATMEAL MONTH

SUDOKU

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The People's Shopping Guide - Pine and Carlton Counties



When life gets tough, hug a baby

It's time to say goodbye to the old year and welcome a new and hopefully improved year in 2022. I settled into my new job in 2021 and began to explore Pine County and all it has to offer. I discovered hidden gems such as the ice climbing park, the Pine County Historical Museum and many amazingly talented residents, such as Lee, the paddle maker. I didn't dare tell him that the paddles are beautiful works of art and I would rather hang one on my wall than dip it into murky water. Bernie Tocholke may not create



Reporter's Notebook
Jamie Lund

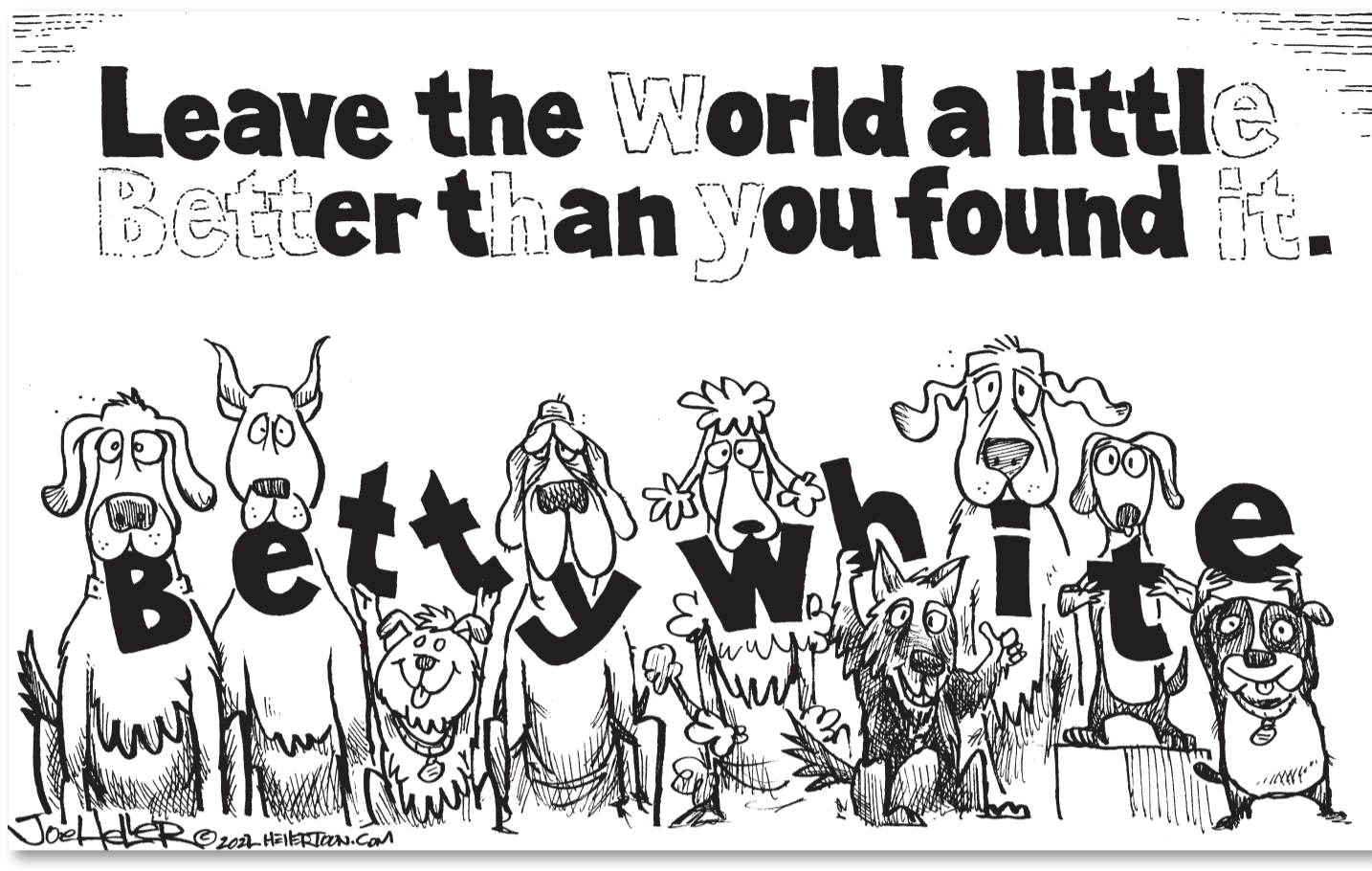
works of art out of wood, but he can land a tree with great precision. Then there is Finlayson resident, Roger Knudson and his Salvador Dali warped piano. Wow, just, wow. It is one of the most amazing works of art I have ever seen.

After interviewing the talented artists, I started imagining that possibly I can magically turn a block of wood into something beautiful. Then I remember my skills don't stretch that far and decide that I will stay with my camera and continue to introduce Pine County residents through the written word. Although, I do need to replace my wood shutters on my house...

I also interviewed inspiring veterans, book authors and a couple celebrating their 75 wedding anniversary in Carlton County. The husband is a World War II veteran who met General MacArthur, although he definitely was not a fan.

Worldwide, we expected that our lives were going to go back to the old normal this year, but that didn't happen. Instead we sat in a holding pattern for most of the year waiting for the pandemic to end but instead we were hit with new variants.

It was a year of loss as thousands more people died, families were fractured, broken and forever changed between the deaths and political divides.



Start a new tradition, join Christmas Bird Count

Throughout our lives we develop new traditions over the Christmas holiday season; some with our families, some with friends, and some for our own pleasure. A new tradition that can begin at any age is to join a Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The time frame every year is between December 14 and January 5.



Wingin' It
Kate Crowley

Begun in 1900 by a group of 27 Audubon Society members, this annual census is the longest running community bird project in the U.S. It has gone from a total of 89 species of birds counted that first year to a total of 2,646 counts in 2020 (the current year has not been completed or tabulated yet). There were 81,601 people looking for birds in 2020. Observations were made in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands.

However, it seems both surprising and worrisome that the total number of birds tallied that season dropped to 42,704,077 birds. In 2019 the total was 48,678,334 birds. The scientists who analyze the data plan to

look at long-term CBC results, looking at species groups, numbers of birds, and the total effort each season, to determine where the largest declines seem to be happening.

The counts are done in a rough circular area 15 miles across. One person is designated the count compiler. I joined a group of people on December 28th to do a count in our County. We divided up into groups of 2-3 and were given a quadrant to survey in our vehicles. My friend Clarissa and I joined Ruth in her all-wheel drive vehicle, and set off on the back country roads, some of which were still covered by 10 inches of snow. With three sets of eyes we scanned the trees for birds. We soon saw a flock of small birds in a clump of trees, but with the grey skies we couldn't make out any colors and they flitted away before we could iden-

tify them. I had to leave after 4 hours of searching, but in that time we saw numerous flocks of Common Redpolls – a small finch with a brownish streaked back. With a pinkish blush on the males breast and a red ('poll') cap on the heads of both males and females.

The best variety and numbers of birds were seen around birdfeeders and we were surprised and disappointed to find so many homes without any. All three of us enjoy constant bird activity at our homes because of the bird feeders we put up. By the time Ruth and Clarissa finished the survey they had counted over 300 Redpolls. This is a species that 'irrupts' some winters, coming south in large numbers. I look forward to getting a report after January 5th of the overall count results.

These types of censuses are leading to a much greater understanding of bird populations – their numbers and their locations. Recent years have shown more Neotropical migrants, like warblers, staying into the winter months in the northeastern parts of the U.S. and Anna's Hummingbirds are doing exceptionally well in the Pacific Northwest.

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer Northern Bobwhite, American Kestrels and Loggerhead Shrikes area being counted in many regions of the country. These birds all require shrub lands and hedgerows, which are declining not only in the U.S., but worldwide. They also depend upon food that is negatively impacted by pesticides. As the data is compiled and analyzed, reports and plans are made available to agencies like the EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They can then use this information in their conservation efforts.

It is too late to join this year, but keep it in mind for December 2022. Just go to the Audubon website (<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>) to find out how to sign up for a count, and to learn lots more about all previous counts and summaries.

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.

ASKOV AMERICAN



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



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BRUNO/KERRICK NEWS

Derrell and Jean Jensen enjoyed New Year's Eve dinner and dancing in Fridley with Bill and Sandy Schmidt. New Year's Day they had Christmas with Jean's daughter and grand daughters in Anoka.



**Bruno/
Kerrick
News**
Sylvia
Schweiger

A baby boy was born to Camille and Michael Crutcher on December 30, 2021 in New York. He has been named Jack Arthur and weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces.

Proud grandparents are Doug and Sue Blechinger. Congratulations to all.

Young Bauer Borchardt spent Thursday and Maddie Borchardt spent Friday at grandpa and grandma Doug and Sue Blechinger's.

Sympathy is extended to family and friends of Bryan Storebo. Bryan, age 26, passed away unexpectedly on December 23, 2021. He was born on July 20, 1995 to Erick Storebo and Kathleen Foley. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rutledge Community Center. Arrangements by Methven Funeral Home in Sandstone.

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Randy VanGuilder. Randy, age 71, passed away at Essentia in Moose Lake. A gathering of family and friends will be from 10:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. memorial service on Friday, January 7, 2022 at the Hamlin-Hansen-Kosloski Funeral Home in Moose Lake. Arrangements are also by Hamlin-Hansen-Kosloski Funeral Home.

Sympathy is extended to family and friends of Patricia "Pat" Jorgensen. Pat, age 87, formerly of Bruno, passed away at Augustana Mercy Care Center in Moose Lake. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Church of Victory in Askov with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Arrangements by Methven Funeral Home in Sandstone.

WILLOW RIVER NEWS

It is going to take me a while to get used to writing 2022. However, I am really glad 2021 is over. It was a challenging year for everyone and I look forward to moving forward. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "If you can't fly then run. If you can't run then walk. If you can't walk then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." I am glad he did not say to blame someone else if you can't run, walk, fly or crawl. He saw that we are all powerful human beings in charge of our own destinies. He wanted us all to feel that we could live in this world together without blaming each other for our own inequities. I don't go for any philosophies that take away each individual's (no matter what color, race, creed they are) power over their own situation in life. So, my resolution this year is to focus on being a positive force in my own family and community; and not worry about feeling powerless about situations I can't control. This includes



**Willow
River News**
Kathi
Bennett

taking the blame for another person's situation in life. Beckie Morse, the water meter reader wanted me to pass along a message, "I want to thank those residents who have cleared a path to their water meter. It is very much appreciated. I am asking that everyone try to clear a path if possible. My short legs have a hard time in the deep snow. And please remember to not block your water meter with snow banks or anything else."

The business hours for city hall are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and Friday. City hall is open even though there is no car in front. We are closed on Wednesdays.

At the school: The winter break has been lengthened: It is now from December 23rd to January 3rd.

At St. Mary's/ St. Isidore's Church: The Knights of Columbus meeting will be held on January 23, 2022. The meeting will be at St. Isidore's Church with Rosary at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will follow at 7 p.m. The Knights of Columbus will lead the Rosary on the fourth Sunday of the month at St. Mary's. Thursday Mass will continue to 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.

Octegenarian ready for New Years resolutions

Dear Tante Ingeborg,

This morning my husband Ernie woke up and as usual, downed a big bowl of crazy with his cup of coffee. I'm not sure if



**Ask
Tante**

it was because of the below-zero temperature or if it was because the sun was shining, but he was on a mission. According to Ernie we need to turn over a new leaf. I wish he'd just concentrate on turning over the compost pile and hauling out the

manure. But no, he says we're never going to make it through the pearly gates unless we mend our ways. I can't even keep up on mending his overalls. When he gets an idea he hangs on to it like a burr on a dog's butt.

I think if a guy hasn't seen fit to mend his ways by the time he's 83 he's never going to get around to it. What do you think?

Signed, Eldora on East Lake

Dear Eldora,

Is it possible that Ernie's getting too much sugar in his Lucky Charms? Along with drinking coffee there might be an overload of stimulation for an 83 year old to handle in the

morning. I'm wondering what in his lifestyle he needs to change. While I'm always in favor of shaping up and doing the best we can, I figure just getting out of bed and getting dressed at his age is a really good accomplishment. Encourage Ernie to ease slowly into a lifestyle change. If he can just remember to say please and thank you progress will be made.

Tell Ernie to switch to Raisin Bran and that I wish him well. And remember, Tante Ingeborg cares..... but not so much.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

New Barnum school building destroyed by fire

**100 YEARS AGO
JANUARY, 1922**

- Miss Ida C. Munger of Duxbury and Carl Bjork of Markville were united in marriage. They will live on a farm northwest of Markville.

- The School board at the Pleasant Hill School has purchased a 10 quart ice cream freezer which has the neighborhood happy.

- The new school building in Barnum which had just been built was completely destroyed by a fire Sunday morning.

- After 23 1/2 years of service as Pine County Sheriff, R.J. Hawley received his first injury when engaged in a gun battle. He was wounded in the hand.

**75 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 2, 1947**

- Two weddings at Askov took place during the holiday week. They were Evelyn Sorensen and Henry Stokes, Jr. and Ila Mortensen became the bride of Norman Christensen.

- The county grader in the Kerrick area is broken, so a truck with a plow is being used to clear the roads as much as

possible until the grader is repaired.

- Recently, a baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Meier of Askov at Lakeside Memorial Hospital in Pine City and another baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mortensen Jr. in Minneapolis. The youngster has been named Jeffrey Paul.

**50 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 6, 1972**

- Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Youngberg are the proud parents of a baby girl born Sunday at the Pine County Memorial Hospital in Sandstone.

- A speedy recovery to Dale Beise who was burned when a snowmobile exploded that he was working on. He has been released from the hospital.

- Minnesota changes have been considered in the drunk driving laws. It was discussed at the November meeting.

**25 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 2, 1997**

- Video Stores in Hinckley and Pine City were raided by FBI agents for alleged copying of movies. They ceased all equip-

ment at the stores.

- Clifford Olson, age 75 of Bruno, passed away on December 18, 1996. His memorial service was held on December 21, at the Trinity Lutheran Church.

- Two men from the twin cities have been convicted in Pine County for dumping florescent bulbs because of the mercury in the bulbs. It has been illegal to dispose of these bulbs in the trash or elsewhere since 1994.

**10 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 29, 2011**

- Pine County Historical Society has a new home for the museum. They recently purchased the old Askov School building.

- Lisa Beise, a former student at East Central School, is now currently student teaching at East Central.

- The staff at Essentia Health Sandstone (Pine Medical Center) give back to the community this holiday season. They chose two Mondays in the month of December to support others in need by serving the free community meals held by Family Pathways. They served more than 230 meals .

EAST CENTRAL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Thursday, January 6

Blue line: Hamburger stew, bread stick, pineapple, peas, and milk

Silver line: Chicken broccoli hot dish, bread stick, pineapple, peas, and milk

Friday, January 7

Blue line: Taco/shell, refried beans, strawberry cup, carrots, and milk

Silver line: Pancakes (2), sau-

sage links (2), strawberry cup, juice, and milk

Monday, January 10

Blue line: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, Mandarin oranges, and milk

Silver line: Chicken wrap, chips, mixed vegetable, Mandarin oranges, and milk

Tuesday, January 11

Blue line: Pizza, fries, apple-

sauce, carrots, and milk
Silver line: Chicken nuggets (5), chips, applesauce, carrots, and milk

Wednesday, January 12

Blue line: BBQ chicken sandwich, fries, broccoli, diced peaches, and milk

Silver line: Sloppy joe, chips, broccoli, diced peaches and milk



NOTICES

CITY OF ASKOV PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Askov Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 12, 2022 at 6 pm at the Askov Community Center meeting room. This meeting is to review the proposed interim/conditional use permit for property at 3458 Brogade, Askov.

Published in the Askov American January 6, 2022

NOTICES

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021 - 10:00 A.M. PINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 635 NORTHBRIDGE DRIVE NW, PINE CITY, MINNESOTA

Chair Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren, J.J. Waldhalm and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson.

The public was invited to join the meeting in person, by phone, Zoom, or watch via live stream on YouTube. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chair Hallan called for public comment. Sandstone Township Clerk/election judge Ailene Croup commented on the replacement of election voting equipment and concerns with several brands.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2021 County

Board Meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence

Pine County Zoning Board Minutes – October 28, 2021

Pine County Chemical Health Coalition Minutes – November 8, 2021

Pine County Land Surveyor Report – November 2021

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

2022 Tobacco Licenses

Approve the following 2022 tobacco licenses, pending approval by the County Sheriff, and authorize Board Chair and County Auditor to sign licenses:

BP (formerly Murphy), Banning Junction Lounge, Banning Junction Convenience Store, Banning Junction off sale, Bear Creek Tavern, Bear's Den, Beroun Crossing Country Store, Casey's General Store #3445, Casey's General Store #3520, Chris' Food Center Sandstone, Crossroads Convenience Store, Daggett's Super Valu, Dave's Oil Corp, Denham Run Bar & Grill, Dollar General (Hinckley), Dollar General (Sandstone), Dollar General (Willow River), Duquette General Store, Family Dollar Store (Hinckley), Family Dollar Store (Sandstone), Finlayson Municipal Liquor Store, Floppie Crappie, Froggies (Tadpoles), Hinckley Firehouse Liquor, Holiday Station (Hinckley), Holiday Station (Pine City), Holiday Station (Pine City), Kornerstore #900, Kurt's Station, Kwik Trip, Main Street Grocery, Maverick's, Mini Mart #1, Minit Mart (Hinckley), Minit Mart (Sturgeon Lake), Nickerson Bar & Motel, Inc, Marge's Pub & Grub, Petry's Bait Company, Pine City Tobacco, Red's Liquor Box, Rich's Bar, Sandstone Petro Plus, Side Tracked, Slim's Service, Inc., Squirrel Cage, Super Smokes, Speedway #4500, Tobies Station, Inc, Wal-Mart Supercenter #2367.

Approve a \$3,700 donation from Walmart to be used toward the sheriff's office aerial drone program.

Approve the following contracts/agreements:

A. Joint Powers Agreement Between the State of Minnesota and the County of Pine – Criminal Justice Data Communications Network

Resolution 2021-73 approving the Joint Powers Agreement between the Pine County Health & Human Services Department and the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for use of the State's Criminal Justice Data Communications Network (CJDN). This is a five-year renewal. Annual cost is \$1,020.

B. 2022-2023 Monarch Counseling Services

Between Health & Human Services (HHS) and Monarch Counseling Service to provide required clinical and reflective practice supervision. The cost for service is \$100/hour for reflective practice supervision and \$125/hour for clinical supervision. The term of the contract is January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

C. 2022 Rise Up Psychological Services

Between Rise Up Psychological Services and Pine County Health & Human Services for Rise Up Psychological Services to provide clinical and reflective practice supervision and provide Qualified Individual Assessments for out-of-home placement cases. The term of the contract will be January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Rates for clinical and reflective practice are unchanged from 2021. Qualified Individual Assessments are billed at \$125/hour.

D. Food Service Agreement – Summit Foods Service LLC

Food Service Agreement (Amendment #13) between the Pine County Jail and Summit Food Service reflecting a 5.3% price increase for food service in the jail, effective January 15, 2022.

E. Joint Powers Agreement Between the State of Minnesota and the County of Pine - Minnesota Anti-Heroin Task Force Program Joint Powers

Joint Powers Agreement between the Pine County Sheriff's Office and the State of Minnesota, through its Commissioner of Public Safety on behalf of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to allow the county to participate in the Minnesota Anti-

Heroin Task Force Program and receive overtime reimbursement as allowed under the Community Oriented Policing Services Anti-Heroin Task Force Program.

F. IFS Support & Maintenance Contract Ratification

Ratification of the Professional Services Agreement between TriMin Systems Inc. and the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MnCCC) for the maintenance and support of IFS for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. The maintenance and support cost increase 15% for 2022 from the current and then an additional 5% in 2023 and 2024. Authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign Board Ratification Statement.

G. Residential Recycling Contract

Recycling Program Contract between Pine County and Cloquet Riverside Recycling, for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The cost of this contract is \$82,508.40, which is within the Solid Waste Department's 2022 budget. There is an option to extend the contract, upon mutual agreement, for up to three years.

Approve the hiring of part-time Veterans Service Officer Michael Harshman, effective December 13, 2021, non-union position, \$26.13 per hour.

Approve County Engineer Mark LeBrun and Assistant County Engineer Aaron Gunderson to attend the Minnesota County Engineers Annual Conference, January 18-21, 2022, in Brainerd, Minnesota. Lodging, meals and registration – total cost \$1,768.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the revised Purchasing Policy and Capital Asset Policy. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve a total of \$75,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds (ARPA) (\$25,000 per year for 2022, 2023, and 2024) for the University of Minnesota Extension service to implement Family and Community Resilience in Pine County, and authorize the county administrator to execute a sub-recipient agreement and other documents necessary to implement the program. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

The Development Authority Study Committee submitted its Final Report

to the board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 469.1082, recommending assigning EDA powers to the existing Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). The board called for a public hearing on January 4, 2022 to consider assigning the EDA powers to the existing HRA.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to reappoint the following individuals to the Pine County Zoning Board, for a term effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025: District 1: Nancy Rys, District 3: Dirk Nelson, At Large: Patrick Schifferdecker. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2021-75 authorizing the application to the Voting Equipment Grant Account. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to form an ad hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing and recommending the purchase of tabulating equipment and assistive voting devices; appoint Commissioners Lovgren and Waldhalm to the committee. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve final payment to S.R. Reinforcing, Inc., in the amount of \$29,887.05, for Contract #1903 related to:

SAP 058-652-011, located on CSAH 52, 0.5 miles West of CSAH 61 over Kettle River

Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

The following items were designated as the county's legislative priorities for the Arrowhead Counties Association: (1) Increased County Funding for Corrections and Probation; (2) Out of Home Placement/ICWA Funding; (3) Mental Health Funding; (4) PILT Reform; and (5) Bonding for Justice-Involved Female Program.

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone, Minnesota.

Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners
David J. Minke, Administrator
Clerk to County Board of Commissioners

Published in the Askov American January 6, 2022

MINUTES OF TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021, 6:00 P.M., BOARD ROOM, PINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PINE CITY, MINNESOTA

Chair Steve Hallan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren, J.J. Waldhalm, and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Schroeder.

The public was invited to join the meeting remotely by phone, via Zoom or watch via live stream on YouTube.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Commissioner Lovgren moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Chair Hallan welcomed those in attendance and explained the purpose of the Truth in Taxation meeting.

Administrator Minke gave a powerpoint presentation discussing the 2022 Pine County budget and property tax levy. Administrator Minke stated the total proposed tax levy is \$20,652,675, which is an increase of 3.6% over the 2021 property tax levy.

Chair Hallan called for public comment. Pokegama Township resident Mark Olson commented on the increase in property tax valuations. No other public were present in person or via video.

The budget and levy will be presented at the December 21, 2021 county board meeting for approval.

With no further discussion, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Stephen M. Hallan, Chair
Board of Commissioners
David J. Minke, County Administrator

Clerk to County Board of Commissioners

Published in the Askov American January 6, 2022

Beavers support freshwater conservation and ecosystem stability

PRESS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

One of the most comprehensive studies conducted on beavers has conclusively demonstrated that beavers are essential for freshwater conservation and ecosystem stability by creating and preserving aquatic and wetland environments in Minnesota. This new research from the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) at the University of Minnesota Duluth was recently published in the journal *Ecography*.

“Although there are many studies on how beavers change ecosystems, the scale of this study—spanning 70 years across five different watersheds—is really unprecedented and, as a result, gave us the unique opportunity to understand how beavers transform and engineer ecosystems over long time periods and large spatial scales,” said Tom Gable, coauthor of the study and a postdoctoral researcher in the University of Minnesota Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. “We think this work will be of value to many conservationists, scientists and citizens who want to understand how reintroduced or recovering beaver populations can positively affect their ecosystems.”

Understanding how ecosystems become more resilient is a key goal for ecologists because it can provide insights into how ecosystems may respond to human impacts and climate change. This study suggests beavers, as ecosystem engineers, can be a biolog-

ical tool that helps buffer ecosystems against disturbances and alterations.

Ecosystem engineers are ecologically important species that benefit other species by physically altering their environment. Although ecosystem engineers are relatively uncommon, they are not rare: they exist in most major ecosystems.

Most previous research on ecosystem engineers has suggested that their ecological impact does not vary across time or space. However, this research team led by Sean Johnson-Bice—who studied beavers for his master's degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth—determined that how beavers impact ecosystems can vary depending on the scale at which they are studied. In other words, beavers' ecological role varies between local and regional perspectives.

“In combination with other recent research we conducted on beaver population dynamics in northern Minnesota, our study demonstrates the resilience and stability that beaver populations have within landscapes,” said Johnson-Bice, lead author of the study who is currently a PhD student at the University of Manitoba. “Their populations at a landscape scale appear relatively unaffected by environmental conditions and, as such, they can be key drivers of freshwater habitat diversity and promoting ecosystem stability.”

In the study, the researchers evaluated how beavers influence water storage along the North Shore of Lake Superior using aerial imagery from five water-

sheds over 70 years (1948-2017). This period encompassed the full recovery and subsequent stabilization of beaver populations in the region. They found that:



SUBMITTED

Recent studies found that beavers are essential for freshwater conservation and ecosystem stability.

Beavers are major drivers of water retention in ecosystems, suggesting that restoring beaver populations to ecosystems they no longer inhabit may be a valuable method that managers and conservationists could use for freshwater conservation objectives.

The longer beavers are present in an ecosystem, the more old and abandoned ponds help contribute towards storing water; although these abandoned ponds may no longer have beavers living in them, their dams can still hold back water allowing the pond to store water.

At large spatial scales, beaver populations are resilient to moderate environmental and human disturbances.

Even though beaver populations within each of the five watersheds studied showed considerable variation in population size, water storage remained stable across the entire region. Essentially, changes in beaver population size in one watershed would be counterbalanced by changes in the other watershed(s), which helped stabilize water storage amounts across the North Shore of Lake Superior.

“Digitizing almost 800 historical and recent aerial photos from 1948 onward represents a tremendous effort on the part of Sean and the NRRI and Twin Cities GIS laboratories,” added George Host, now retired director of NRRI's Forest and Land Initiative and Geographic Information System laboratory and a member of the research team. “The resulting dataset provided significant insights into the critical role beavers play in regulating water storage along the North Shore.”

Funding for this research was made possible by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under an award provided to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program, and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

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LIFE: Baby hugs are best

FROM PAGE 4

Racism and immigration conversations still creates a deep chasm between people. It lead to riots, fights and many heated debates as well as unwarranted attacks against both.

Then, babies are born and families expand. My twin granddaughters are a beacon of hope that a brighter future is ahead.

Humans are remarkably adaptable, even though many go kicking and screaming at the idea of change.

Maybe the new normal will be better than the old normal. I am optimistic that the new year will bring many positive changes. And if I get stressed or anxious about life, there is always baby therapy. A hug from a tiny human really does make everything better.



Do you have a story idea or tip that you think our readers would appreciate?? Let us know! You can call, email or message us on Facebook! Call us at (320) 838-3151 or send an email to editor@Askov-American.com.

Drought easing for some states

I was hoping to write a temperature wrap for 2021 this month but our friends at the National Weather Service haven't compiled their reports yet. One can wonder if COVID-19 is



June Weather
Dave Anderson

affecting them like it is the rest of us? If so, best wishes to those folks! I guess we can talk about precip rather than temps this month.

On that note, as rough for wildfires and as dry as we thought our drought was last summer, it was even worse out west. But, there are signs of a change in the dry pattern. California, for example, went wild for low pressure systems recently and the mountain snow pack that provides most of that state's water went back to normal in just two weeks. There are also signs that more ran and snow making lows are ahead for those folks, too, and that could spell record moisture in that neck of the woods.

However, the bounty of precip hasn't pushed much farther east yet. The National Integrated Drought Information System staff says snow water equivalent levels are still at record lows for New Mexico, Colorado, Utah,

Montana, Wyoming and Nevada.

Here, we went seven inches above normal for snowfall in the month of December. So much for that call for a five inch deficit! But, those of us who like to snowmobile would like some more. Could some of that California mountain snow action blow our way in January?

It doesn't really look like it. In January, our temperatures may average eight degrees cooler than normal which is good for snow but actual snow totals may be five inches shy of normal. (Where have we heard that before?)

It won't be for lack of trying, though. Most weeks in January will feature at least one shot at light snow. The first to 10th will be flurry filled and feature a cold snap. January 11 to 17 will be milder but still only lights snows will be likely. The 18th to 23rd will keep flurries flying but the cold snap will return. Like a yo-yo, January 24 to 28 will bounce back to mild but with continued light snows. The month will end the 29th to 31st with sunny, dry and cold weather.

Happy New Year to everyone and may your favorite flavor of weather visit your town often!

DAVE ANDERSON is the CBS channel 3 meteorologist out of Duluth, Minn.

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