

SPORTS: Rebels, Eagles have ups and downs. P8



MIKE DRAHOSHI/ASKOV AMERICAN

Lizzy Olson sunk 9 points and pulled down 11 rebounds at a game against Wrenshall on Monday, Jan. 24 . The East Central Eagles girls' basketball team had a busy week playing four games last week. See page 8 for the rest of the complete stories for EC basketball.

New owners at Askov store

BY LORI SCHMOLKE
CLASS@NORTHSTARMEDIA.NET

Askov Main Street Convenience Store is under new ownership.

The new owners are excited and ready to meet the needs of the community. The family is from Ecuador and comprised of Hidalgo Figueroa, his wife Miriam Morocho, his cousin Fausto Figueroa and Hidalgo's girlfriend Miriam Palacios. They decided to keep the familiar name of Askov Main Street Convenience Store.

"We thought this will be a good opportunity for us to start our own business," Figueroa said.

"We have experience in the area, including a few

years working back home in Ecuador, Brazil and here in the states. We also have a little over 25 years

experience working in restaurants."

SEE STORE, PAGE 2



SUBMITTED

Front Row L to R: Miriam Morocho, Fausto Figueroa, Hidalgo Figueroa, Miriam Palacios recently purchased the Askov Main Street Convenience Store from Joyce and Rocky Kroon, back row.

Senate may be obstacle in NLX path

T.A. LEBRUN
EDITOR@PINECITYMN.COM

The Northern Lights Express continues to push for funding and support and met for their annual organizational meeting on Jan. 26 at the North Pine Government Center in Sandstone. Andrew Johnson, former vice chair and Minneapolis council member, was appointed as the chair. Mentions of support were noted including Gov. Walz's \$16.1 million placeholder fund as part of his bonding bill, possible federal backing, Osprey Wilds, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and other support. Discussion of possible funding for the approximately \$400 million project included a bonding bill, federal dollars and a cash appropriation bill.

MILLE LACS BAND AND OSPREY WILDS SUPPORT GIVEN

John Ongaro, St. Louis County inter-governmental relations director, noted that Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, has expressed her support of the NLX to Gov. Walz and last week met with President Biden's newly appointed infrastructure czar, Mitch Landrieu, where Benjamin pitched the NLX as part of a \$1 billion infrastructure bill.

"It was a nice one-two punch to appeal to the President and Governor," said Ongaro. "I would like to thank the Mille Lacs Band and Chief Melanie Benjamin for keeping the NLX in her close thoughts."

Brian Wood, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center director, said that the center has submitted a letter of support. He noted, "I have been very interested and supportive of it, and it's exciting that it will come to fruition and make a positive impact for schools to get up to our site. We could possibly partner with Arrowhead to get folks out to our services. Families that might not have the economic means to drive up .. we want to focus on equity and inclusion. It

could breathe life into the local community."

Lenny Bonander spoke as a Sandstone resident and longtime supporter of the NLX. "I am a liaison for the NLX and for the record, Sandstone has been part of the project since the beginning and has been very supportive and has identified a possible location for a station stop, maintenance facility and layover facility," said Bonander. "Sandstone is also an Amtrak stop ... Sandstone was determined the best building site and shovel ready, but I don't know where Sandstone is right now."

CONCERNS, BOARD APPOINTMENTS

A concern of safety regarding train stops was brought up by Jill Brown, NLX Public Relations Director. She noted that some people believe that with trains also comes crime. "Every transit system I've been involved with has been through this phase ... we have to assure people that trains are safe," said Brown.

Duluth Councilor Janet Kennedy brought up concerns about the equity of appointing officers on the NLX board. "I want to make sure it's transparent and open for other people in this position," said Kennedy referring to the board chair position.

Keith Nelson, St. Louis County commissioner, responded saying, "You proposed a cut of funding from the City of Duluth [to the NLX] and that is one of the reasons I would not consider you for that [the board chair] position."

Kennedy responded saying at that time, there was a pandemic and she believed that funding needed to go somewhere else. "It worked out in the end and you got more money from the cities than expected," noted Kennedy.

SEE TRAIN, PAGE 2

Where to find COVID-19 tests

BY T.A. LEBRUN
EDITOR@PINECITYMN.COM

With strains of COVID-19 heavily circulating, people are asking where they can get tested or find an at-home test. Below are options available to the public.

TESTING SITES

Pine County Public Health stated that testing sites can be found at Coborn's in Mora (<https://do-ineedacovid19test.com/>), Essentia Health in Sandstone (<https://www.essentiahealth.org/covid-19/covid-19-testing/>), Fairview Health (<https://mhealthfairview.org/conditions/covid-19/>), the North Branch Community Testing Site located at the former Nike outlet store at Tanger Outlet Mall ([https://mncovidtestingappt.](https://mncovidtestingappt.as.me/schedule.php)

[as.me/schedule.php](https://mncovidtestingappt.as.me/schedule.php)), and at Gateway Clinic in Hinckley and Sandstone (<https://gatewayclinic.com/covid-vaccine-request/>).

Clinics listed above may require a physician visit before the test can be administered.

IN-STORE HOME TEST KITS

At-home test kits can be purchased at Speedway in Pine City, at Target in Cambridge, and Thrifty White in Hinckley and Sandstone, at Walgreens in Cambridge, and at Walmart in Pine City, though supplies are limited. If you have children (K-12), check with their school for free at-home test kits.

SEE TEST, PAGE 2



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OBITUARIES

Larry A. Nelson

May 20, 1949 - January 18, 2022

Larry Arden Nelson, age 72, of Bruno, Minn. passed away unexpectedly at Essentia Health Center in Sandstone, Minn. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Larry was born on May 20, 1949, to Edwin and Nina (Hansen) Nelson in Bruno, Minn., where he grew up and made his home. On May 30, 1987, Larry married the love of his life, Nancy Erickson in Finlayson, Minn. Larry had many hobbies and interests that kept him busy. One of his biggest hobbies was restoring old cars and taking care of his pride and joy, his 1968 Pontiac Tempest. Larry also loved horses, he started raising miniature horses and those little ones meant the world to him. When Larry wasn't busy with his cars or horses, he loved to paint and do wood working.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Nina Nelson; son, Perry Nelson; grandson, Levi Anderson; father-in-law; mother-in-law; brothers, Don Nelson, Vern Nelson; and his sister-in-law.

Larry is survived by his wife of 34 years, Nancy; daughters, Holly (Mark) Goad of Cloquet, Minn., Diana Nelson of Winston, Ore.; brothers, Harry Nelson of Troup, Texas, Lyle (Sherry) Nelson of Arp, Texas; sisters, Barb (Erine) Sharp of Spear Fish, S.D., Dade Molgaard of Bruno, Minn.; nine grandkids, seven great grandkids; three sisters-in-law, five brothers-in-law, his best friends (mini horses) BeeBop and Little Bit (dog) Lucky; many nieces and nephews.

At this time no services are being planned for Larry. A burial will take place at a later date in Bruno, Minn.

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

Phillip J. Heinz Jr.

October 30, 1955 - January 28, 2022

Phillip J. Heinz, Jr., 66, Willow River, died Friday, January 28, 2022 at his home. He was born in Sandstone to Phillip, Sr. and Winifred Heinz on October



30, 1955. Phillip attended Willow River High School graduating in 1973. He farmed and raised beef cattle through the years and also work utility construction for Wright's Construction. He loved gardening, hunting, fishing and truly enjoyed making sure the birds were fed.

He was preceded in death by his father, Phillip Heinz, Sr.

Phillip is survived by his significant other, DelRose Lake; mother: Winifred Heinz; two sisters: Christine (Terry) Stepan and Jeanne (Mike) Layland; two brothers: Karl Heinz and Peter (Sandy) Heinz; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Pine County Sheriff's Department, Askov First Responders, Essentia Ambulance crew, Essentia ER staff, Rev. Mike Metzler for being at the hospital and the Methven Funeral Home. Also a big thank you to my family and friends for their prayers, cards visits and phone calls.

**Thank you,
The family of Larry Nelson**

Rebels trounced by Panthers, beat Eagles

BY PEGGY GRANQUIST

The Moose Lake/Willow River Lady Rebels took on the South Ridge Panthers and East Central Eagles this past week (Jan 27 and 28th).

On Thursday, Jan. 27, the Rebels lost to South Ridge 73-52. South Ridge started out the scoring with a short under the basket jumper off a steal from a Rebels inbound pass. The Rebels took a 5-2 lead early on in the 1st half thanks to scoring by Maci Kukuk, Alivia Mallory and Lilly Petty (5-2). Izzy Witz hit a 3 point shot to add to the lead at 8-4.

From that point on, the Panthers took advantage on some Rebel miscues and converted to re-take the lead at 11-8. The lead changed a few more times before the Panthers took a 17-15 advantage and never really looked back. MLWR kept the score close throughout the remainder of the first half.

Both teams hit a scoring skid before Izzy Witz was able to hit a two point layup to get the Rebels to a 1 point deficit but then the Panthers answered, pushing the lead back up to 26-23. The Panthers went on a 7-0 run before Natalie Mikrot was able to sink a three pointer to stop the streak at 32-26. Maci Kukuk and Izzy Witz rounded out the Rebel scoring for the 1st half. South Ridge took the halftime lead into the locker room 38-30.

South Ridge started the second stanza with the ball and the score.. The Panthers went on another 8-0 run before the Rebels were able to make a bucket. The shooting woes continued for MLWR as points from the field were hard to come by. The Rebel shooting started to heat up with about 9 minutes left in the game but the

SEE REBELS, PAGE 8

STORE: New items to be added on menu

FROM PAGE 1

Their goal is to continue serving the community of Askov the way the previous owner, Rocky Kroon, has done for many years.

The Figueroas will keep the cafe menu the same for now, but plan to make changes in the near future with the additions of soups, salads and Mediterranean cuisine.

They will also check into providing delivery or online services at some point if there is enough of a demand from the community.

The hours may change in the future, also dependent on demand.

The family welcomes residents to drop by the Askov store to say hi.

They are also in the process of purchasing Peggy Sue's Cafe in Willow River and plan to take over the business in mid-March.

TEST: Get them here

FROM PAGE 1

ONLINE TESTING KITS

Testing kits can be purchased online at Amazon at <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/>.

Four free testing kits can be found and ordered at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>.

TRAIN: May be on track for riders in three years

FROM PAGE 1

LEGISLATIVE STEPS AND

REDISTRICTING

Jeff Anderson, Costin Group intergovernmental relations contractor, said that with the legislature being in a bonding bill year, it "seems there is an appetite for a \$2 million bonding bill" and that the DFL majority controlled House may write a larger \$3 million bill. He added that the House will need a supermajority to pass and will need Republican support in the House to pass it on to the Senate.

"There is a \$7 billion surplus that the legislature will have to look at, and it is a redistricting year which complicates things," said Anderson, adding that on Feb. 15, the courts will draw up districting lines with the new census information. "It is very unlikely that there will be compromise on any sort of bill before Feb. 15. Then legislators will know if they're running for re-election ... I don't anticipate a whole lot happening until redistricting happens."

He added that the legislature doesn't have to pass a spending bill for the government to function this year and that there will be a desire by the Republicans to create tax cuts and the DFL to propose a spending bill.

On Monday, Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), introduced an \$85 million bonding bill (HF2681) which would go to the capital investment committee. Also proposed is a cash appropriation bill (HF2682) which will go through the House transportation finance division committee which would be a one-time allotment of cash that does not require a supermajority vote and would not need Republicans on board.

A \$85 million investment from the State of Minnesota would be a match to a potential 80% federal contribution.

However, the House bills would need to pass through the Senate which is Republican controlled. Senator Jerry Newton (DFL-Coon Rapids) has agreed to introduce the companion bills in the Minnesota Senate.

Anderson said that they continue to work on support from Senate Republicans and have had conversations with Sen. Jason Rarick (R-Pine City). Anderson said they are hoping to make inroads with legislators that don't necessarily support the project, along with the ones that don't necessarily oppose it either.

LOCAL BENEFIT?

When asked via email and at the Jan. 26 meeting how the NLX project would benefit the City of Pine City, spokesperson Jill Brown and other organizers of the project initially gave no response but offered to set up a meeting. In a later email, Brown stated that the project would provide 3,000 construction jobs, 500 ongoing jobs, \$150 million in increased property values (over a 40-year period), and emissions savings and CO2 reductions of \$50 million (over a 40 year period), increased state and local tax revenue.

In addition, Brown said that people are moving out of the Twin Cities and say they want to live in a more northern rural setting and commute to a city office on occasion; she said that the NLX project would help provide that transportation. She cited that a Sunday Star Tribune article stated that Cambridge and Isanti are considered "hot exurbs."

An email was sent to Brown on how those perceived benefits would benefit Pine City; the response will be published upon her response.

The NLX passenger rail is proposed to run four round trips per day between Target Field in Minneapolis and the Depot in Duluth, with stops at Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Superior. If funding is secured, people would start riding in about three years.

Opponents of the project cite the overall cost that could be placed into the existing infrastructure, the \$30 for a one-way trip and the \$60 round trip cost per person which would be much more costly for a family to ride the train versus vehicle travel. They also note that transportation from the station to a destination would have to be accessed.

NLX cites benefits as an alternative to car or air travel and an option for those unable to drive.

Travel time between Minneapolis and Duluth is anticipated to be around two and a half hours.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The NLX board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, and the next proposed meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. at the Pine County Courthouse.

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Prince moves on to greener pastures, leaves many fond memories

It was a sad day last week when we said goodbye to our horse, Prince. He was 27-years-old, and I was lucky enough to share time with him for 18 of those years. I will be recalling stories of that brilliant rascal for years. He kept me on my toes and made me smile every day. He went fast, and never suffered, and for that I am grateful.



Finlayson News
Maxine Meyer

It just wasn't a great week for me. About a week ago I went to print something, from my most reliable printer ever and nothing happened. Five days later I have loaded, deleted and reloaded just about everything on my laptop. As I chat with my daughter I express my failures when I mention the name of the virus warning that pops up when downloading a printer driver. My daughter knew all about it and said it was a bad one. Her fellow co-workers had

their battles with the same virus, too. She said there were perhaps two solutions. The first was to install the printer to my cell phone as she heard that worked. The second was to upgrade to Windows 11 and try again.

I was using Window's 10 on my laptop and resisting an upgrade to Windows 11, but it clearly was time for an upgrade. Turns out Microsoft's upgrade, whether intentional or not, fixes the driver problem. I almost jumped straight up when I heard the printer kick in and send a page out. My six day struggle was finally over. I tell you, it was a rough week for sure.

Rather than dwelling on my rotten week, I will go straight into my continuing story leading to the log cabin country store. As stated last week, in 1919 the Mecl brothers left for Chicago. George was 23, his wife Anna Stazie, 22, their son, Jimmy, was 1-year-old, and William was only 13. Of the family members, George A. and William were the best choices to leave to earn funds to help support and rebuild the family farm. I have no doubt

that family members who settled in Chicago during the early 1900's had sent word to James to send family to come there as the economy was booming.

Their timing was indeed good for heading to that big city. It would soon be known as the "roaring 20's." Back in 1997, my Great-Uncle William told me he worked at the Chicago Stock Exchange. I thought, "Wow! Just before the stock market crash!!" But, he giggled just a bit too much as he told me the story. So last week I set out to prove or disprove his story. I discover he most likely did work "on" the Chicago Board of Trading building. But as for working "in" the stock market, I'm still not so sure. (That building wasn't finished until a year after he left for Milwaukee, Wisc.) The Mecl boys were a whiz at carpentry, and there was a lot of work. I do believe they found it profitable. And, what goes up, must come down, the closer the years edged to 1929, I read the jobs got harder to find.

It might have been evident to the Mecl boys that the econo-

my in Chicago was flattening out, or maybe the Mecl boys achieved their original goal, but I had another thought, maybe they received a letter from James telling them they had enough to get the farm going again and they were needed. I just don't know, but I can see evidence that around 1925 George A. returns to Bremen Township with family in tow, including my dad who was born in Chicago, 1923. William stayed away a couple of years longer, perhaps finding work near Milwaukee. It may have been foundry work because he met the daughter of a foundry worker. They marry and came back to Bremen Township in 1930.

The stock market crashed in 1929, followed by the Great Depression that lasted from 1929 to 1933. By now, they are back home farming. Apparently surviving a Depression was just another historical event they preferred not to discuss. But, I'm sure the Great Depression didn't help with financial survival because upon George's return his family lived in a very temporary looking, tiny black tar paper shack

and the family grew to four children in the next few years. There had to be something on the horizon for them.

Upon William's return, he takes over the property of the Ellson Post Office. His family grew quickly as well and by 1936 he too has four children. He gets into farming at his location as well. As for James, well I believe he is dreaming of better days now that his sons have come home and their families were growing. In 1935, everything begins to come together, 17 years after the 1918 fire-construction begins on a store/home.

For more information on the historical events: Stock Market Crash of 1929 see Federalreservehistory.org. And the plan for rebuilding America during the Great Depression: the "New Deal" see ushistory.org/us/49.asp. Stay safe, and stay warm, wear a mask.

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.

February is Hot Breakfast 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!!

BUTTERMILK PANCAKES FROM HAZEL VORK

- 2 eggs
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 3/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1-1/2 c. buttermilk
- Pinch of salt
- 1 c. flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 pats melted butter

Beat eggs until thick. Add sugar and beat again. Dissolve baking soda in buttermilk. Add salt and half of the buttermilk to the beaten eggs. Mix together flour and baking powder. Add flour mixture and rest of the buttermilk to batter. Add the melted butter last. Bake on one side until cakes are full of bubbles; turn and bake on other side. Serve with homemade maple syrup. Makes 12 cakes.

OVERNIGHT CARAMEL FRENCH TOAST

- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. butter
- 2 Tbsp. light corn syrup
- 12 slices sandwich bread
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 1-1/2 c. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Combine firmly packed brown sugar, butter, and corn syrup in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat until thickened, stirring constantly. Pour syrup mixture into a 9x13-inch baking dish. Place 6 slices of bread on top of syrup mixture. Top with remaining 6 slices of bread. Combine eggs, milk, vanilla, and salt, stirring until blended. Pour egg mixture evenly over bread slices. Cover and chill 8 hours. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 40-50 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve immediately. Yield: 6 servings.

BISCUITS AND GRAVY

- 1 pkg. (12 oz.) maple flavored sausage (use bulk sausage instead of sausage links)
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 3 c. whole milk
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 shakes of hot sauce (optional)

Place sausage in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown and crumbly. Stir in the butter until melted. Add flour, and stir until smooth. Reduce heat to medium, and cook until light brown. Gradually whisk in milk, and cook until thickened. Reduce heat, and simmer for 12 to 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, and optional hot sauce. If gravy becomes too thick, stir in a little more milk. For the biscuit portion of the recipe, just bake a batch of canned biscuits or make your own.

SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

OUT & ABOUT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Special Sandstone City Council Meeting

The City of Sandstone will be holding a Special Council Meeting at 7 p.m. at the Sandstone Fire Hall. This is the annual meeting with the Townships to review 2021, discuss 2022 and present the 2023 Township allocation amounts. The meeting is open to the public.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Women's Christian Connection

Women's Christian Connec-

tion Will host its Annual Guest Night on Monday, February 14th, 7 p.m., in Tobies' Big Kettle Room. Once a year the evening is open to men and women, boys and girls of all ages.

The program guests are as follows:

Special Feature will be presented by Lanae Nelson, a delightful local shepherdess, and owner of Ewe Betcha Market, online marketing venture. Her topic is "Raising Sheep and Utilizing Wool."

Music Guests will be Anthony and Alisha Korpi of Finlayson, instructors at Trinity Life School.

Guest Speaker will be Steve Tadevich of Eden Prairie, Minn. His topic is "Diamonds

Are Not Forever."

Everyone is cordially invited to attend, and reservations are highly preferred, and may be made by calling 383-6413. Please DO NOT call Tobies'.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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. Serving from 4:30 - 6 p.m. See you for dinner!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sen. Jason Rarick needs to be responsive

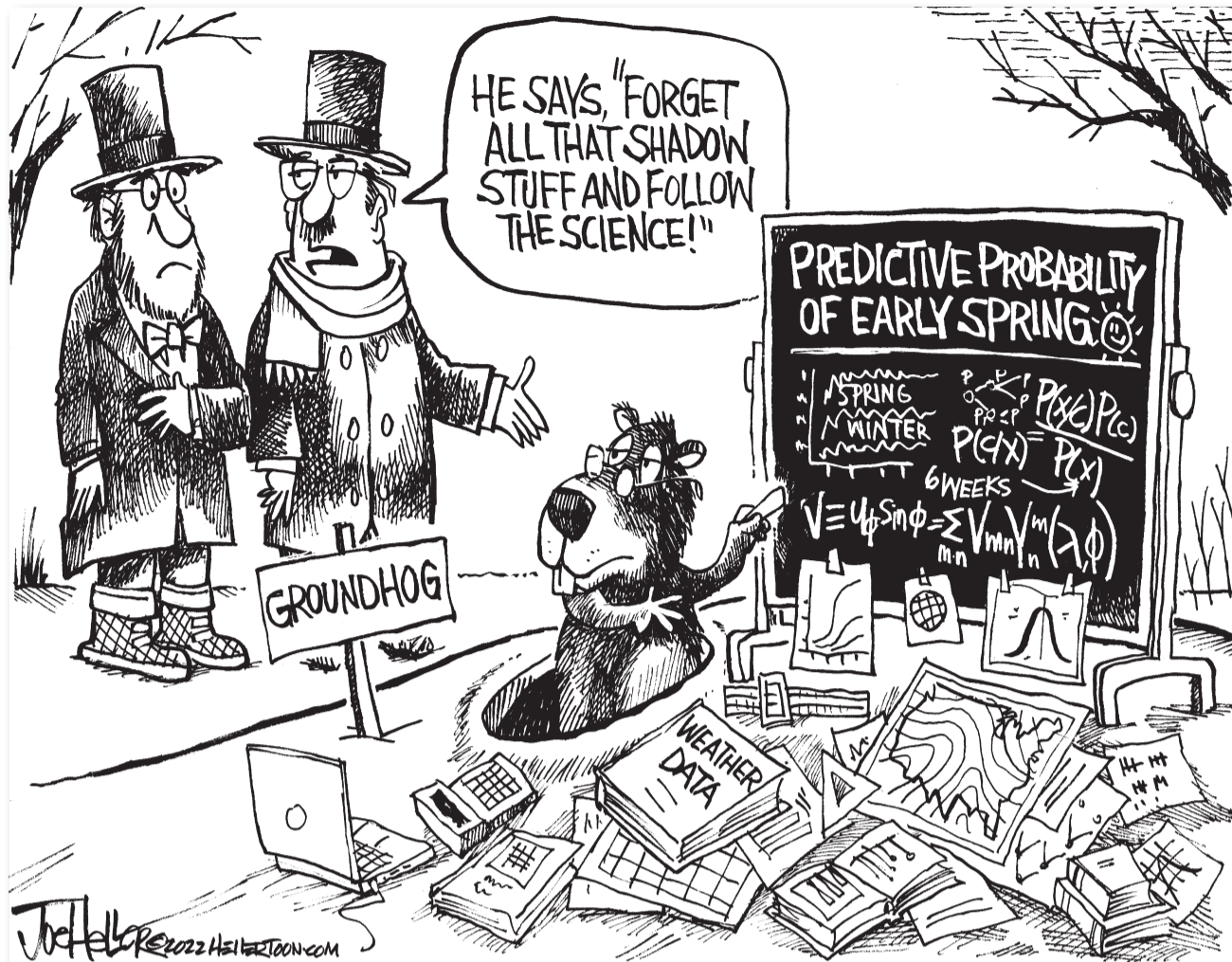
To the Editor:
Vaccine mandates cause mass unemployment for those who assert their medical freedom. None of us caused COVID-19 yet we are all suffering the consequences. President Biden, Governor Walz, local government/business officials are pretending to all be public health experts who know what is best for us and know how to live our lives better than we do. We are not going to stand for this anymore.

The state Senate can successfully eliminate these mandates by adding the "Stop Vaccine Mandates Amendment" to the Frontline Worker Pay Bill. This amendment ends all federal, state, local and private mandates.

Sen. Rarick sent a legislative update dated 9-2-21 where he states, "I have been vocally against these mandates and will continue to advocate for your medical freedom."

I then wrote Sen. Rarick on Sept. 9, 2021 asking him to pledge not to vote for the Frontline Worker Pay bill unless the "Stop Vaccine Mandates Amendment" was attached, thinking he would surely support this Amendment.

**Ayrlahn Johnson
Mora, Minn.**



Legislative Priorities: Part 1 Keeping Life Affordable

Friends and neighbors, With the new year upon us, I am preparing to serve you again in the legislature. With the start date of January 31 quickly approaching, I wanted to outline several of my priorities for the next session.

This year, a few issues stand out above the rest—keeping life affordable, public safety, and education. Over the coming weeks, I hope to offer my thoughts on these subjects. This week, we'll focus on the financials.

First, a reminder on Minnesota's financial picture.

In December, the Minnesota Management and Budget released the November budget forecast showing a record-setting \$7.7 billion projected surplus for the 2022-2023 biennium.

While the announcement was excellent news for the state's coffers, it demonstrated that our government is taking far too much money from taxpayers. Over the last year, Minnesotans have been getting hammered at home. Households have faced unprecedented inflation, gas prices up over 50%, and home energy costs spiraling out of control. This isn't even considering many of the other adverse financial effects that have arisen since COVID.

Suffice to say, Minnesota families and small businesses have struggled to survive.

This session, I will work to make Minnesota more afford-

able. I promise to hold the line on new wasteful, unnecessary spending increases. I will also work across the aisle to reduce government bloat and cut wasteful government spending that we all know exists.

Tax increases are also entirely off the table. The only way I will address taxes this session is through supporting broad tax relief that puts money back in your pocket. This also includes eliminating the tax on social security income. I will continue to champion reliable and affordable energy policies, like my Energy Conservation and Optimization Act, that help your wallets while modernizing our systems.

We also must immediately address the deficiency in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The fund currently has a \$1 billion deficit, and if we don't act, businesses will

face a double-digit increase in their UI payroll taxes. Small businesses have already struggled to keep their doors open with inflation and supply chain challenges; this addition would deal a crushing blow. As Chair of the Labor and Industry Policy Committee, I will work to reach a quick bipartisan resolution.

Lastly, even years in the legislature present an opportunity to improve our critical infrastructure with bonding. Minnesota roads, bridges, and water infrastructure continue to age, and the longer we wait to address them, the more we spend in the long term. Addressing these problems now make sense, given the surplus dollars, and it would benefit us two-fold by also boosting commerce and driving economic growth in all corners of the state.

There are undoubtedly

many issues facing Minnesota families and businesses, but I will work to ensure the legislature prioritizes creating opportunities that allow you to thrive. You don't live in Minnesota just to fund your government, and my goal is to ensure that we improve it to serve you and make our state an even better place to live, work, and play.

I am always available to answer your questions or concerns. If you have any thoughts on this column or legislative issues that you want addressed this year please email me anytime at sen.jason.rarick@senate.mn or call my office in St. Paul at 651-296-1508.

Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving you in the Minnesota Senate.



Legislative Update
Senator Jason Rarick

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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9 a.m.-4 p.m.
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BRUNO/KERRICK NEWS

Saturday, members of the Bruno Legion and Auxiliary attended the 10th District



**Bruno/
Kerrick
News
Sylvia
Schweiger**

Cindy Olson met them in Anoka. Tammy Burch, Unit President of Sandstone also rode with to attend.

Bauer Borchardt spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings at Grandpa and Grandma Doug and Sue Blechinger's home. While there, Doug and Sue took him to hockey practice in Moose Lake on Friday and Saturday.

Sympathy is extended to Scott Kuhlman family

and friends. Scott, age 55, of Askov passed away on January 15 after a battle with cancer. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Askov Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 2:30 pm. Arrangements by Affordable Cremation and Burial Services Duluth Minn.

Condolences go out to the family and friends of Mark Perron. Mark, age 62, passed away unexpectedly on January 15. A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Mendota VFW at 2 p.m. Arrangements are by Roberts Funeral and Cremation, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Larry Nelson. Larry, 72, of Bruno passed away unexpectedly on January 18. At this time, there will be no service. Burial will take place at a later date in Bruno. Arrangements will be provided by Methven Funeral Home-Sandstone.

If you have any news that you would like to share, please either email me at: storebol@frontier.com or call me at 320-838-3554.

WILLOW RIVER NEWS

You know you are a Minnesotan when you are happy that it is a "warm" day of twenty degrees and the sun is shining. This past Sunday was a great day to go out snowmobiling. There were plenty of people out and about on their sleds. Snowmobiles are great. Just remember to drive responsibly and respectfully.



We love to go out and spend time running through the snow. Please be safe and respect people's property and yards. Stay on the trails.

The business hours for city hall are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and Friday. We are closed on Wednesdays.

Pine County Health and Human Services, and Wellness in the Woods/Imagine Network presents Party Time in Pine. It is an event for people in the county that have been affected emotionally by the pandemic. It is a chance to get out and be with people in the community like you for an evening of fun, food, games, crafts, photo booth, gifts, and the space to make new friends or bring a friend. This event will be February 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the North Pine Government Center. You must RSVP at 218-296-2067 and specify chicken or beef (space is limited). The meal will be catered by Home-town Catering.

The February 8 monthly PTO meeting will be held virtually. Please email pto@isd577.org for more information. The February 15 Willow River School Board will meet 6 to 7 p.m. February 21 there will be no school for President's Day.

At St. Mary's/ St. Isidore's Church: Outreach program: "Clothes for kids." Please help the outreach program "clothes for kids". The three area schools have identified the needs for clothing and outerwear in all sizes from small child to large adult. There are collection boxes in the social hall at Holy Angels and the back area of St. Mary's. Keep in mind that clothing should be new or gently used.

Confessions: If you are interested in going to confession during the week, let Fr. Francis know and he will be happy to hear confessions after daily Mass or by appointment. He will hear confessions on first Fridays after Mass and on Saturdays at 4 p.m. at Holy Angels. St. Mary's confessions are heard from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. before Mass. The Knights of Columbus meeting is January 23. 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 4th Sunday of the month at St. Mary's. Thursday Mass will continue to be at St. Mary's Church at 8:30 am. St. Mary's Church has Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 1 to 5 pm every Wednesday. The Legion of Mary meetings are held at St. Mary's Center every Monday at 5 pm.

Generations challenged by others realities

Dear Tante Ingeborg,

When I was young my elders blamed the sad state of world affairs on teenagers. Listening to them you would think teenagers were responsible for war, pestilence, famine, crop failure, back problems and acne. To name just a few.



**Ask
Tante**

I'm older than dirt now and I know irrefutably that teenagers are innocent.

Last week my son told his college aged kid to put an IRS document in an envelope and mail it home. The kid said he would have no idea how to do such a thing. How do you not

know how to put something in an envelope and mail it? Same kid shows up at a hockey arena in pink shorts because he ran out of clean clothes. He knows how to take Uber to the airport, get on a plane and fly to Amsterdam to hook up with buddies but couldn't boil water if his life depended on it. Not any of his friends are motivated to work. He's not even motivated to get up before mid-afternoon.

I'm fairly certain Social Security is going to run out of money and the Russians are going to rule the world and everyone in it.

Do you have any idea on how to rectify this situation?

Signed, Debbie Downer on De-gerstrom

Dear Debbie,

I'm hoping your grandson is a

rarity. I'm even hoping he's one in a million.

But I really think you're worrying needlessly. If your grandson has enough moxie to fly off to all corners of the world make it through security, figure out how to get food and shelter and probably have his dad foot the bill, he's going to be fine. The explanation is that he's able to navigate his world, but not yours. And I bet the opposite is true. You're probably challenged by the technology and science of today. Cut the kid some slack and wait until he's a couple of years older. I bet you'll be pleasantly surprised at how he's progressed. Stay connected to him and send him love. And remember, Tante Ingeborg cares... but not so much.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Juveniles arrested for Willow River Fire Department vandalism

**100 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 31, 1922**

- The Duquette community received the news of the marriage of Miss Anna Anderson, daughter of C. Anderson to Mr. Gilbert Johnson.

- Mr. and Mrs. Valdemar Jensen of Montevideo, formerly of Askov, mourn the loss of an infant son.

**75 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 30, 1947**

- Miss Irene Wermerskirchen of Bruno and Mr. Lee Brummett of Long Beach, California were married on January, 11 in Long Beach and that will be where they will make their home.

- Mr. and Mrs. Bill Groth of Finlayson announce the birth of a baby boy, born January 20, in Moose Lake. The baby was named Raymond Lee.

- June Parvey of Finlayson became the bride of George Strait of Foley on Saturday at the Peace Lutheran Church.

- Miss Laverne Brieland of Bruno has now opened a beauty shop in the American building

in Askov.

juveniles, ages 14 to 16 were arrested.

- East Central's High School one act play "Murder of Lidice" took first place honors at the Subsection 16A contest in Mora.

- Bernie and Clarice Loew, Bernie Jr. and Reni Loew enjoyed vacationing in Las Vegas, Nevada and Death Valley, California in January. They returned home to a snowstorm.

**10 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 26, 2012**

- There are changes in store for local Catholic churches. The Diocese plans to close Finlayson and Bruno churches.

- Casey Zaudtke of Askov speared a 36 inch 16.5 pound Northern Pike on a local lake January 21st.

- Sheriff Robin Cole will be looking for more full time deputies in the future to curtail the turnover in the department.

- This week in history, on January 28, 1986 the space shuttle Challenger exploded killing all seven of the crew.

**25 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 30, 1997**

- Vandalism was done to the Willow River Fire Department. It was broken into on January 27 and damage was done to the door and a small amount of change was missing. Four

EAST CENTRAL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Thursday, February 3
Blue line: Chicken Alfredo, bread stick, mixed fruit, carrots, and milk

Silver line: Beef/bean nachos, refried beans, mixed fruit, carrots, and milk

Friday, February 4
Blue line: Chicken Nuggets (5), rice, pears, mixed veggies, and milk

Silver line: Cheeseburger/bun,

chips, pears, mixed veggies, and milk

Monday, February 7
Blue line: Hamburger stew, bread stick, applesauce, peas, and milk

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

Tuesday, February 8
Blue line: Sub sandwich, chips,

apple, carrots, milk
Silver line: Corn dog, fries, apple, carrots, and milk

Wednesday, February 9
Blue line: Spaghetti, bread stick, green beans, pears, and milk

Silver line: Chicken sandwich, chips, green beans pears, and milk



Your best source for community information

320-838-3151 | Askov-American.com



NOTICES

**BIRCH CREEK TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF MEETING
DATE CHANGE**

All residents please be advised of a change of date for February 2022 meeting. Meeting will be held on Thursday February 10, 2022 beginning @ 7:00 pm at the Birch Creek Town Hall.
Marissa Rayburn Clerk,
Birch Creek Township
Published in the Askov American on January 27, February 3, 2022

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333
The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.
ASSUMED NAME: United County Minnesota Properties
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1955 Dixon Line, Finlayson, MN 55735 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S): 1029MN Inc., 1955 Dixon Line, Finlayson, MN 55735 USA
By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.
SIGNED BY: Kelly Frisch
MAILING ADDRESS: 1955 Dixon Line, Finlayson, MN 55735 USA
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: 1029mn.inc@gmail.com
Work Item 1289033900024
Original File Number 1289033900024
STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
01/13/2022 11:59 PM
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MINUTES

SUMMARY OF PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022, 10:00 A.M. BOARD ROOM, COURTHOUSE, PINE CITY, MINNESOTA

County Administrator David Minke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
Present were Commissioners Steve Hallan, Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren and Matt Ludwig. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and County Attorney Reese Frederickson. Due to an out-of-town commitment, Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm joined the meeting via interactive technology, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.02.
Commissioner Waldhalm was seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means, at a location open and accessible to the public, and participated from 904 Calle Cruz Roja, Barrio Obrero, Arecibo PR. The public was invited to join the meeting remotely by phone, Zoom, or watch via live stream on YouTube.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said. County Administrator Minke called for nominations for County Board Chair.
Commissioner Ludwig nominated Commissioner Hallan as County Board Chair. Second by Commissioner Mohr. There were no other nominations. A Roll Call vote was called on the motion to elect Commissioner Hallan as County Board Chair. Motion carried 5-0.
Commissioner Ludwig nominated Commissioner Mohr as Vice Chair of the County Board. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. There were no other nominations. A Roll Call vote was called on the motion to elect Commissioner Mohr Vice Chair of the County Board. Motion carried 5-0.
Chair Hallan called for public comment. There was no public comment.
Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to adopt the Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
2022 Committee Assignments and Other Appointments

2022 Board and Committee

Appointments OUTSIDE BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
County Board Appointment 2022 Representative 2022 Alternate
AMC Committee – Environment & Natural Resources Mohr
AMC Committee – General Government Waldhalm
AMC Committee – Health & Human Services Lovgren
AMC Committee – Public Safety Policy Committee Ludwig
AMC Committee – Transportation & Infrastructure Hallan
AMC Committee – Indian Affairs Advisory Council Hallan Lovgren
AMC Delegate Appointments (county is authorized 1 delegate for each commissioner and three additional delegates) Hallan, Mohr, Lovgren, Waldhalm, Ludwig, LeBrun, Foss, Minke
1W1P Policy Committee – Kettle River & Upper St. Croix Ludwig Waldhalm
1W1P Policy Committee – Lower St. Croix Hallan Mohr
1W1P Policy Committee – Nemadji Ludwig Waldhalm
1W1P Policy Committee - Snake River Lovgren Mohr
1W1P Technical Committee – Lower St. Croix, 1W1P Technical Committee - Nemadji, 1W1P Technical Committee - Snake River Land and Resources Manager Arrowhead Counties Association (ACA) All Ludwig
Central MN Jobs and Training Service Hallan Ludwig
Central Regional EMS Committee Ludwig Waldhalm
East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC) Waldhalm Hallan
East Central Regional Juvenile Center (ECRJC) Advisory Committee Ludwig Waldhalm
East Central Regional Library Lovgren Mohr
East Central Solid Waste Commission (ECSWC) Hallan Ludwig
Extension Committee Lovgren/Mohr
Fiber-Optic Joint Power Board Hallan Mohr
GPS 45:93 Joint Powers Board Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter County Administrator Minke
Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails (GMPT) Waldhalm All
Highway 23 Coalition Lovgren/Waldhalm
Lakes and Pines Community Action Council (CAC) Hallan Waldhalm
Law Library Mohr Waldhalm
Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) Minke/Hallan
Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership Hallan Waldhalm
Northeast Minnesota Regional Emergency Communications Board Hallan Chief Deputy Scott Grice
Northeast Minnesota Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Sheriff Jeff Nelson Chief Deputy Scott Grice
NLX Ludwig Lovgren
Rush Line Corridor Task Force Waldhalm Mohr
Snake River Watershed Joint Powers Board Lovgren Mohr
State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) Lovgren
Community Health Services Administrator Samantha Lo
OUTSIDE BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
County Board Chair Appointment 2022 Representative 2022 Alternate
Alternate
Pine County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority Liaison Ludwig/Waldhalm
Soil & Water Conservation District Liaison Waldhalm Mohr
COUNTY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEES
County Board Chair Appointment 2022 Appointment 2022 Alternate
Conquering Board Hallan/Ludwig Mohr
Facilities Committee Ludwig/Waldhalm
Finance and Investment Committee Ludwig/Hallan
Government Operations Ludwig/Waldhalm
Health & Human Services Hallan/Ludwig
Insurance Committee Lovgren/Ludwig
Land/Zoning Advisory Committee *Liaison to Planning Commission Lovgren/Ludwig*
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Liaison Hallan/Lovgren
Negotiations (Labor Relations) Committee Ludwig/Mohr
Personnel Committee Mohr/Ludwig Hallan
Pine County Chemical Health Coalition Ludwig/Lovgren
Public Safety Committee Waldhalm/Ludwig
Technology Committee Hallan/Mohr
Transportation Committee Hallan/Waldhalm
Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator required by section 3.2 of the County Policy and Procedure Manual Jackie Koivisto
Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve the appointment of commissioners to those boards and

committees requiring county board approval. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
2022 Pine County Board of Commissioner Meeting Schedule
• Regular meetings of the Pine County Board of Commissioners are at 10:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month except for December when the first meeting of the month will be held Thursday, December 8, 2022.
• The meetings on the first Tuesday of the month begin at 10:00 a.m. and are held at the Pine County Courthouse, Boardroom, Pine City.
• The meetings on the third Tuesday of the month begin at 10:00 a.m. and are held at the North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy 23 No., Sandstone.
2022 County Board Meetings:
January 4th and 18th
February 1st and 15th
March 1st and 15th
April 5th and 19th
May 3rd and 17th
June 7th and 21st
July 5th and 19th
August 2nd and 16th
September 6th and 20th
October 4th and 18th
November 1st and 15th
December 8th (This change of date is due to the Association of Minnesota Counties Annual Conference scheduled for December 5-7, 2022) and 20th
Board of Equalization, June 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Pine County Courthouse, Boardroom, Pine City.
Truth in Taxation, December 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., Pine County Courthouse, Boardroom, Pine City.
This meeting is required by MS 275.065 and must be held between November 25 and December 30. The meeting may not start before 6:00 PM.
County Board Committee Meetings
Facilities 1st Wednesday -- 9:00 a.m.
HHS As needed (typically 3-4 times per year) -- 9:00 a.m.
Personnel Monday of the week prior to the 2nd board meeting -- 9:00 a.m.
Technology 4th Tuesday of odd numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, November)-- 9:00 a.m.
Committee meetings may be held in person or via interactive technology. All meetings subject to change.
Contact the County Administrator's Office for further information.
Motion by Commissioner Ludwig, second by Commissioner Lovgren, to set the 2022 County Board regular meetings, Board of Equalization, and Truth in Taxation meeting as indicated above. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
County Administrator Minke stated that Resolution 2021-77 setting the 2022 Pine County Property Tax Levy, approved at the December 15, 2021 county board meeting, contained a clerical error in the jail bond of \$30. The total property tax levy amount set at \$20,652,675 was correct. The 2015A G.O. Jail Bond amount should have indicated \$1,170,225. The correction was made in the final resolution signed by the chair.
Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Minutes of the December 21, 2021 county board meeting and Summary for publication. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence
Pine County Land Surveyor Monthly Report – December, 2021
Zoning Board Minutes – November 18, 2021
Pine County Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Minutes – December 22, 2021
Motion by Commissioner Mohr to acknowledge the Minutes of Boards, Reports and Correspondence. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
Approve the following applications:
A. **Pawn Brokers License**
i. Northern Pawn, 60622 State Highway 23, Finlayson, Minnesota
B. **Tobacco License**
i. Lucky Seven General Store, 329 Fire Monument Dr., Hinckley (new owner of the Hinckley Minit Mart as of March 1, 2022)
Accept the following donations:
A. Anonymous \$5,000 donation designated for veteran outreach
B. \$23,000 donation for 4th quarter 2021 from Grand Casino Hinckley for general operations (October 2021)
C. \$23,000 donation for 1st quarter 2022 from Grand Casino Hinckley for general operations (December 2021)
D. \$250 donation from Cabak Law, LLC designated to the sheriff's office K-9 program
E. \$500 donation from Cabak Law, LLC designated to the Benjamin Neel Gun Range

Approve the following contracts:
A. **Solid Oak Financial Services**
Between Solid Oak Financial Services and Pine County Health & Human Services to provide guardianship and conservatorship services to adults who need a guardian. The term of the contract is January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. The cost of the service is increasing to \$200/month/client.
B. **Law Enforcement Contract with Royalton Township**
Between Pine County Sheriff's Office and Royalton Township to enforce criminal ordinance violations. Contract is an "as needed" contract. Contract term is January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023. Hourly rate: 2022-\$59.50/hr.; 2023-\$61.29/hr.
C. **2021-2022 School Year School Resource Officer – East Central Schools**
Between Pine County Sheriff's Office and East Central Schools for a part-time school resource officer for 2021-2022 school year. Rate: \$38.07 per hour.
Acknowledge the banks used by Pine County as its depositories:
A. Primary checking and money market accounts are held at Frandsen Bank & Trust;
B. Secondary checking and money market accounts are held at Stearns Bank; Stearns is the depository for individuals making their tax and other payments online. Additionally, due to the interest rate, much of the cash holdings are transferred into this money market account.
C. State and Federal payments are automatically deposited into the Minnesota Association of Governments Investing for Counties (MAGIC) account. These funds are held in this account until transferred to Frandsen for general use or Stearns for interest accumulation.
D. Due to the capital improvements projects planned during the 2020 bonding refunding, the county also has funds in escrow at Ehlers & Associates (which is invested through Ameritrade) until the projects are completed.
Public Hearing - Consider Creation of an Economic Development Authority and/or Assigning the Economic Development Authority (EDA) Powers to the Existing Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA)
County Administrator David Minke stated the county is considering establishing a development authority to focus on economic development. In December the county board reviewed the report from the development authority study committee. The four options considered by the committee were: 1) Form a county Economic Development Authority; 2) Assign the EDA powers to the existing HRA; 3) Pursue special legislation, or 4) No change; assigning the EDA powers to the existing HRA was recommended by the Economic Development Study Committee. Resolution 2022-02 follows that recommendation and assigns the EDA powers to the existing HRA. Chair Hallan opened the public hearing at 10:30 a.m. HRA board member Mary Kay Sloan stated that all members of the HRA board are in favor of proceeding with the assignment of EDA powers to the existing HRA. There being no additional comment, Chair Hallan closed the public hearing at 10:31 a.m.
Levy authority and appointment of commissioner liaison(s) were discussed.
Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve Resolution 2022-02 Assigning Powers of the Economic Development Authority to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
Chair Hallan appointed Commissioner Waldhalm and Commissioner Ludwig as liaisons to the Pine County and Housing Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority.
Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2022-01 Authorizing the Help America Vote Act Grant Application. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to reappoint the following individuals to the Extension Committee:
Mary Lange, representing District 3, January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024
Chad Dipman, representing District 4, January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, filling the remainder of the term of Thane Sheetz.
Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to reappointment Skip Thomson to the Zoning Board, representing District 5, for the term January 1, 2022-December 31, 2025. Second by Commissioner Waldhalm. A

Roll Call vote was by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to award the first publication of the financial statement, proceedings of the County Board and such other notices as required by law to the Pine City Pioneer at \$8.85 per column inch, as the official county newspaper, and the second publication of the financial statement and other such notices to the Pine County Courier at \$8.85 per column inch. Second by Commissioner Mohr. A Roll Call vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
At 10:44 a.m. Chair Hallan recessed the County Board meeting and opened the Regional Railroad Authority annual meeting.
Pine County Regional Railroad Authority Annual Meeting
Chair Hallan stated the chair and vice chair appointments have in the past mirrored the county board chair/vice-chair appointments.
Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the following Regional Railroad Authority officer appointments: Chair: Commissioner Steve Hallan; Vice-Chair: Commissioner Josh Mohr; Secretary: Administrator David Minke (non-voting); and Treasurer: Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Schroeder (non-voting). Second by Commissioner Lovgren. A Roll Call Vote was called by Chair Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.
With there being no further business, the Regional Railroad Authority meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. and the County Board meeting was reconvened.
With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for January 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Pine Government Center, 1602 Hwy. 23 No., Sandstone, Minnesota. Stephen Hallan, Chair Board of Commissioners David J. Minke, Administrator Clerk to County Board of Commissioners
The full text of the board's Minutes are available at the County Administrator's Office and the county's website (www.co.pine.mn.us). Copies may also be requested from the administrator's office.
Published in the Askov American February 3, 2022

MINUTES OF SPECIAL JOINT MEETING PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & PINE COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (HRA) / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA) STRATEGIC PLANNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022, 10:00 A.M. BOARD ROOM, 635 NORTHBRIDGE DRIVE NW, PINE CITY, MINNESOTA

Commissioner Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Josh Mohr, Terry Lovgren, and Matt Ludwig. Also present was County Administrator David Minke. Due to an out-of-town commitment, Commissioner J.J. Waldhalm joined the meeting via interactive technology, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.02. Commissioner Waldhalm was seen and heard at the meeting via electronic means, at a location open and accessible to the public, and participated from 904 Calle Cruz Roja, Barrio Obrero, Arecibo PR. Also present were HRA/EDA board members Mary Kay Sloan, Henry Fischer and Leaha Jackson. Also present was Jordan Zeller, Economic Developer with East Central Regional Development Commission.
Those present introduced themselves.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said. County Administrator David Minke provided an overview of the meeting process and reviewed the chance in structure to the HRA. On January 4, the county board adopted Resolution 2022-02 assigning the EDA powers to the HRA. Commissioners Ludwig and Waldhalm were appointed as liaisons to the HRA. This new structure will allow the county HRA/EDA to provide leadership to housing and economic development in Pine County.
Economic Development Coordinator Lezlie Sauter provided an overview of economic development, housing, county workforce and employment information. Sauter also provided an overview of EDA information for the cities of Pine City, Hinckley, and Sandstone.
Chair Hallan called a recess for lunch at 11:35 a.m.
The meeting reconvened at 12:05 p.m.
The county board and HRA/EDA board identified the following Strengths, Weaknesses,

Opportunities and Threats:
Strengths: recreation, two successful housing units (HRA), location/convenient and close, staff/board members, structure, FCI, education/PTCC, wineries/breweries, casino, hospital/healthcare, shovel ready sites/land, rail access, tech and industrial park, state park/forests, property tax/moderate tax rate, HRA/EDA fiscal stability, 49ers training center, valuable lakeshore, natural beauty, Osprey Wilds, volunteers, artsy culture, county fair, faith based and youth athletic volunteers, 4-H, local government, law enforcement.
Weakness: broadband/finding broadband, cell service, affordable housing, size/transportation, EMS/response, mental health/addiction, patchwork of zoning, ATV trails, lack of trade workers, lack of business diversity, underused natural resources, lack of tourism.
Opportunities: broadband, limited private sector business, business incubator, agriculture/value added, bike trail, PTCC, marketing what we have, building on existing small business and natural amenities (way finding), business retention and expansion, local entrepreneurs, HRA/EDA, available space.
Threats: Lack of sense of community, lack of broadband, lack of funding, competition/commuting distance, competing with ourselves, perception of distance, activities, negative rural narrative, empty store fronts, out migration/brain drain, aging and decreasing population, trailing spouses/lack of diversity in job opportunity, stressor on county budget.
The following items were identified as first year goals:
Broadband, child care, housing, advertising/branding, connect with local governments (cities/townships/tribe), business retention and expansion, inventory of housing projects, North Court apartments, DEED grant rehabilitation (SCDP), rail service sites, list of available properties ready for development, October annual joint meeting with county board and HRA/EDA, metrics and results, incentives, jobs/housing/tax base.
• Economic Development
• Broadband
• County Attorney Office workload
With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
Stephen M. Hallan, Chair Pine County Board of Commissioners
David J. Minke, County Administrator
Clerk to the Pine County Board of Commissioners
Published in the Askov American February 3, 2022



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MOOSE LAKE STAR GAZETTE

Editor/Reporter/Photographer

We are seeking a talented individual for a full-time editor position.

The person should be a good writer and curious about what is happening around the Moose Lake, Barnum, Sturgeon Lake and Willow River area. The individual should have previous writing experience, preferably in a newspaper setting. You will put together the MSLG each week by writing stories, taking photos, editing/formatting press releases, designing pages and directing a team of stringers. Other duties including maintaining the newspaper's website and social media sites, as well as maintaining relationships with contacts within the community.

Please send resume and writing clips to:
Publisher, 930 Cleveland St S, Cambridge, MN 55008
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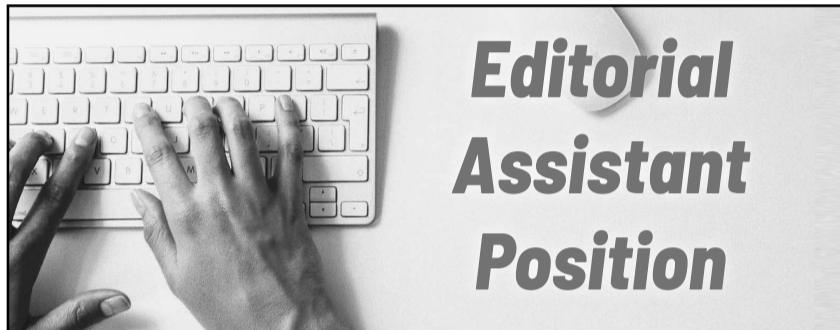
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East Central girls ruffle Wrenshall Wrens feathers

MARY ELLEN DEWEY

RECIPE@PINECOUNTYCOURIER.COM

The East Central Eagles girls' basketball team had a busy week playing four games. On Monday, Jan. 24, the Eagles had a road trip to Wrenshall, winning 48-36. Coach Peter Rogotzke said, "It was a good game where we had balanced scoring and rebounding."

Elsie Laursen led the Eagles in scoring with 10 points, 8 rebounds, and 3 steals. Izzy Olson sunk 9 points and pulled down 11 rebounds. Aly Huntington scored 7 points and grabbed 7 rebounds; Kenzie Ludwig with 6 points and 7 rebounds. Jemi Keranen put in 6 points. Lori Grundmeier had 5 points and 6 rebounds. Carly Watrin chipped in 3 points and Mason Belanger added 2 points.

Rush City Tigers 6AA came into the Eagles' gym, earning a victory of 54-37 on Tuesday, January 25. Most of the game was within seven points. The Eagles just couldn't quite cut it down any more than that. Ludwig paced the Eagles



MIKE DRAHOSHIASKOV AMERICAN

Izzy Olson is determined to take possession of the ball.

with 9 points, Laursen had 8 points, and Huntington had 6 points. Watrin had 4 points, Lilly Podlewski 3 points, Lori Grundmeier, Chandra Nelson, and Olson each had 2 points. Keranen had 1 point. "The girls played a good game as we had more offensive rebounds (14-13) and fewer turn overs (12-14) than Rush City," said Coach Rogotzke.

On Thursday, January 27, EC lost at Mille Lacs 43-60. Coach Rogotzke shared that, "Mille Lacs shot really well from behind the arc which was enough to keep us playing from behind the whole game.



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Carly Watrin looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

We fought the whole way and had 21 offensive rebounds but we couldn't keep up with them shooting 42 percent on threes."

Kenzie Ludwig had a double-double of 16 points and 11 rebounds to lead us. Olson



MIKE DRAHOSHIASKOV AMERICAN

Lori Grundmeier struggles for control of the ball against a Rush City player.

made 9 points and Laursen had 8 points. Watrin had 4 points. Keranen, Grundmeier, and Huntington each had 2 points. The Eagles trailed by 13 at the half and were able to cut that down to 6 just a couple minutes into the second half thanks to a 7-0 run, but Mille Lacs responded by hitting their next two three-pointers to stop the Eagles' run.

On Friday, Jan. 28, the Eagles finished a busy week at Moose Lake Willow River where they fell 37-53. It was

another good first half where they trailed 20-21, but as the second half went on Coach Rogotzke said, "We lost our legs a little while playing our fourth game of the week. Still the girls fought hard all the way until the end."

Olson led EC in scoring and rebounding with 9 points and 8 rebounds. Ludwig and Huntington each had 7 points. Laursen and Watrin each had 6 points and Keranen had 2.

"The girls all played really hard all week and played some of our best halves of basketball that we have played this season. We have been doing all of this without our senior Katelynn McAbee, who tore her ACL against Braham earlier in January. We miss her inside presence and calm demeanor and we wish her the best in her recovery," said Coach Rogotzke.

The Eagles 5A (2-17) will host the Hinckley-Finlayson Jaguars 7AA (6-12) on Thursday, February 4. On Monday, February 7, they will have a road trip to McGregor 5A (5-12). Game times are 5:45/7:15.

Eagles boys will use loss as a learning experience

COACH DARREN FOGT

COURIER@PINENET.COM

The East Central Eagles had a busy week this past week with three games. They played the Wrenshall Wrens on Monday, January 24. The Wrens were a scrappy team that the Eagles came out and got a lead on. The Eagles played well in the first half and got to half-time with a 10 point lead. East Central just plain couldn't hold onto it in the second half. They lost by four, this was one of those losses that hurt. No excuses, the team just didn't get it done and should have.

"The Wrenshall game is the first game this year that I felt we should have won and we

didn't, we will use it as a learning experience," said Coach Darren Fogt. The final score was 65-61 Wrenshall. Nathan Zielinski led the Eagles with 31 points, Kyle McDonald 15, Jacob Dixon 8, Hunter Colton 3, Ben Carlin 2, along with 8 rebounds, Warren Carlson and Xavier Letexier each with one point a piece.

Next up was a match up with the Rush City Tigers on Tuesday, January 25. The Tigers are a solid squad and they were much too much for the Eagles. East Central stayed with the Tigers for a little bit in the first half but their physicality was too much for the Eagles. The Tigers out muscled and out rebounded our squad.

Rush City won 91-39. Zielinski scored 18 points, Dixon and Colton 6 each, McDonald 5, Letexier 4, Zielinski and Dixon with 6 rebounds each.

Friday night the team had to make amends for their sub-standard week and had a matchup with the Mille Lacs Raiders. The boys came out and put it on them right away and never let up. The Eagles had a 33-8 lead at the half and won the game 61-23. Zielinski led the scoring with 28 points, followed by Dixon with 11, Colton with 7, Carlin 4, McDonald 3, Charlie Higgins 3, Letexier 3, and Carlson with 2. McDonald and Dixon tied for the lead in rebounds with 7. Thursday, February 3, the

Eagles will travel to Hinckley for another big conference game. McGregor will come to the East Central gym on Monday, February 7 and Rush City will be there Tuesday, February 8. Game times are 5:45/7:15.



MIKE DRAHOSHIASKOV AMERICAN

Nathan Zielinski led the Eagles with 31 points against the Wrenshall Wrens on Monday, Jan. 24.

REBELS: Girls knock down Eagles for win

FROM PAGE 2

Panthers had a solid 20 point lead at that time. The Lady Rebels drop the game 73-52.

Natalie Mikrot lead all Rebel scorers with 22 points, Maci Kukuk contributed 8, Izzy Witz (7), Sarah Christy(5), Lilly Petty (4), Alivia Mallory (3) and Jocelyn St. Pierre (3).

Friday Jan. 28, the East Central Eagles took the trip up the freeway to Willow River. The Eagles struck first by knocking down a three pointer and hitting a free throw to take an early 4-0 lead. Sarah Christy started out the Rebel scoring by hitting a 3 pointer of her own. The Eagles pulled ahead 13-5 giving the Rebels a little trouble but MLWR came clawing back with the help of Lilly Petty, Izzy Witz, Sarah Christy and Hannah Roach. The teams were tied at 16 when L. Petty added another 2 of her 16 points for the game. The Eagles once again tied the game at 18 but Maci Kukuk added a bucket to put the Rebels ahead at the half 20-18.

MLWR began the 2nd half with an 11/2 run and put the game in Rebel control for the rest of the stanza. East Central made an attempt at a comeback to get back into the game, but couldn't get much closer than 9 points. Rebels win 53-37.

Lilly Petty lead all Rebel scorers with 16 points, Maci Kukuk added 13, Hannah Roach (11), Sarah Christy (9) and Izzy Witz (4)

Rebels rout Grand Rapids and South Ridge

BY MARY ELLEN DEWEY

RECIPE@PINECOUNTYCOURIER.COM

The Grand Rapids Thunderhawks and the South Ridge Panthers' competed with the Moose Lake Willow River Rebels boys' basketball team this past week on their home courts. Tuesday, Jan. 25, the Rebels defeated Grand Rapids 53-36. At the end of the week, they won over South Ridge 71-43.

Grand Rapids is in the Lake Superior Conference and is a bigger school in Section 7AAA. The Rebels were anxious to get on the court and face the Thunderhawks, a much taller team. Grand Rapids' starters were 6'5", 6'3", 6'2", 6'0". The first half of the game was close going back and forth. At the halftime break the Rebels led 22-18.

When the horn sounded to start the second half, the Rebels started sinking their shots and outscored the Thunderhawks 31-18.

Logan Orvedahl sunk five from beyond the arc for a total score for the night of 21. Phillip Sheetz had three from beyond the line and a total of 11. Alex Watrin had four put backs and two free throws for

10. Sam Dewey finished with 5, Luke Dewey 3, Chance Lunde 2, and Jimmy Walker 1. The Rebels shot 73 percent from the free throw line making 11 out of 15. Rebels on top 53-36.

The leading scorer and only player in double figures for Grand Rapids was senior guard, 6'2" Austin Hanson with 14. Hanson shot 10 of Grand Rapids 15 free throws, making eight. The Thunderhawks also made 11 out of 15 free throws.

On Friday, Jan. 28, the Rebels made the trip to the South Ridge School north of Cloquet. The South Ridge Panthers' team was taller than the Thunderhawks. They were 6'10", 6'9", 6'4", 6'3" and 6'0". They are also in the Polar League-Big Conference but in Section 7A.

The first half was slow moving with the Rebels in the lead 26-19. In the second half the Rebels got into their scoring mode, making 45 points to the Panthers 24.

The Rebels sunk 12 three-point shots while the Panthers put in three. Sam Dewey and Orvedahl each made three from beyond the arc. Sheetz, Duane Broughton, Luke Dewey, Lunde, Adam Neu-

mann and Kaden Robbins each had one.

Neither team got into the bonus shooting free throws because there were not many fouls called. The Rebels were 3 for 7 from the charity stripe and the Panthers were 2 for 4.

Orvedahl led the team in scoring with 19, Watrin had 12, Sam Dewey 11, Sheetz and Lunde with 7 each, Luke Dewey 4, and Broughton, Neumann and Robbins with 5 each. Rebels won 71-43.

The MLWR JV defeated South Ridge 66-23. Nolan Nelson was the leading scorer with 22.

The Rebels played the make-up game with East Central on Monday, January 31. The make-up game with Rush City is on the schedule for Thursday, February 3, and at Two Harbors on Friday, February 4. On Tuesday, February 8 they are scheduled to play Crosby-Ironton (14-2). C-I have only two losses. Their first loss was January 21 to Pequot Lakes and the second loss was to Park Rapids Area on January 27. Game times are 5:45/7:15.