



ASKOV

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SPORTS: Eagles, Rebels have ups, downs. P8

EC prepares for One Act competition

JENNIFER YOCUM-STANS
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The East Central Drama department is at it again. Under the direction of Courtney Riley they will be competing in the One Act Sub Section contest this weekend at East Central.

EC will be one of seven schools performing Saturday to earn the chance to move on to the Section competition with hopes of going to the state competition.

Although this is her directing debut, Riley is no stranger to the theater department, she has worked with former director Kathy Ebnet for many years. This year was no different. Thanks to a grant from the Perpich Center for the Arts, Ebnet is able to be Riley's mentor.

The play chosen this year is called *The Arkansaw Bear*. The story starts with a young girl named Tish, who is facing the death of her grandfather. Tish runs to her special place where she meets the World's Greatest Dancing Bear who is running from death. Together they figure out the meaning of both life and death.

The cast and crew of *The Arkansaw Bear* are working hard to put on a quality performance. The cast and crew were asked why they wanted to be involved in this year's One Act play and for also for a fun fact about them. Below are there responses

Elizabeth Moyer - Tish - 11th grade - She joined One-Act because she has a passion for acting. She has been in 11 plays.

Phoebe Moyer - Mime - 8th grade - She joined because her sister begged her to do it. She has been in five plays, loves Star Wars, has two cats and a dog.

Trinity Ritchie-Little Bear - 9th grade - She joined the play because she is passionate about acting and acting is like an escape from reality. "As soon as I feel the warmth of the stage



JENNIFER YOCUM-STANS | PINE COUNTY COURIER

Phoebe Moyer, Austin Clennon and Elizabeth Moyer work through their scenes during practice for the East Central One Act Play, *The Arkansaw Bear*.

lights all my worries and cares disappear. When I'm in character nothing matters and the only thing I'm focused on is the little world we created on-stage. Acting is a piece of me and I love it a lot."

Isabella Marchand - Voice of Mother - 8th grade - "I wanted to become part of the play because everyone in the theater is very nice."

Olivia Meyer - Star Bright - "The reason I joined the play is because I have a hard time remembering things and I thought joining the play would help. Thankfully it did! I love to read."

Austin Clennon - World's Greatest Dancing Bear - 11th grade - "I did

SEE **PLAY**, PAGE 2

Honored to serve then and now Meet the new Pine County VSO

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There are roughly 2,300 veterans that live in Pine County, approximately only 700 of those are actively enrolled in benefit programs. This is something the new Veteran Services Officer hopes to help correct.

A Florida native, Michael Harshman joined the Navy in 2006 and became a Navy Corpsman, the Navy's version of a medic. He attended basic training and Naval Medical school in Great Lakes, Illinois. After that he attended Combat Trauma Management and Combat Med School at Camp Pendleton in southern California. His original orders from there were to go to a hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas. However, being that it was a time of war there was a great need for combat corpsmen. He was then assigned to the 1st First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He served with the 1st CEB Combat Engineer Battalion.

Harshman served two tours with the Marines. He was in Iraq from October 2007 - May 2008 and in Afghanistan during the summer of 2009 doing route clearance, which is bomb patrol. They would go down the routes, clearing them of IEDs, there was a lot of ambushes, he said. "When we do stuff like that you can't expect to come back as a normal person. How are you going to be normal after getting blown up for a living? Even as a medic there was no way I could come back and work at a hospital and not be affected."

He served almost four and half years with the Marines, and didn't even wear a naval uniform for the first couple years of his career. The last couple years of his service were spent at Balboa Naval Hospital, in San Diego, at a small branch clinic teaching.

After his service he took some college courses at Pine Tech, worked for Canadian Pacific Railroad for awhile, did some work as a bouncer but nothing ever felt right...that is until the position for a second Veterans Service Officer came up, and everything kind of fell into place.

"A couple years back I was going through a hard time with my deployments, it was taking my

SEE **SERVICES**, PAGE 2

Family Pathways offers support to caregivers of dementia patients

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The National Institute on Aging defines dementia as the loss of cognitive functioning, thinking, remembering and reasoning, to such an extent that it interferes with a person's daily life and activities.

There are several different forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. A person's symptoms can vary depending on the type. Some of the symptoms include: Memory loss that disrupts daily life, challenges in planning or solving problems, difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure and confusion with time or place.

Family Pathways is working to educate families, caregivers and friends

about this disease with their program called "Dementia Friends." Collette Colucci, Aging coordinator and educator for the program has worked with people affected by dementia for 35 years. She explained that Dementia Friends is a one hour session where they discuss dementia and its effects on the patient and their families. They also discuss the difference between dementia, Alzheimer's and normal aging and what happens to the brain when someone has dementia.

"There are a lot of questions, a lot of fear out there about getting dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Sometimes people question if they are getting dementia or Alzheimer's because they misplaced something. We misplace things all the time, for instance you may misplace your keys and find them

somewhere such as next to the sink, that's pretty normal as we get older. What isn't normal is when you look at the keys and don't know what they are for, that's the difference,"said Colucci.

Family Pathways also offers family sessions for those families who do not feel comfortable in a group setting with strangers. It allows family members to ask questions specific to their loved one.

Colucci said, "With this disease, it's harder on the family than it is the person going through it. Family members have to understand this is the new normal. Don't grieve for them while they are still here, celebrate the person they are now."

SEE **SUPPORT**, PAGE 2



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OBITUARIES

Earnest L. Borchardt

December 17, 1927 - January 22, 2022

Earnest L. Borchardt passed away January 22, 2022 as the result of injuries from a car accident. He was born on December 17, 1927 in Kettle River Township.

Earnest was preceded in death by parents Arthur and Lena Borchardt, brothers; Arthur, Fred and Robert, Sisters; Emily and Marion.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn of Askov, Minn., daughter Gail (Peter) Hansen of Washington D.C., sons Jon of Tigard, Ore., Roy (Eve) of Houston, Texas, Roger (Lisa) of Sandy, Utah; sister-in-law Gloria Borchardt of Baudette, Minn.; brother-in-law Don (Pam) Jorgensen of Oro Valley Ariz.; nine grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Earnest graduated from Willow River High School and joined the Navy in 1945, serving for three years. He was a member of the plumbers union, Local 15 for 70 years. Arrangements were made by the Cremation Society of Minnesota.

There will be no services.

Thomas E. Helfman

May 20, 1947 - January 20, 2022

Thomas Edward Helfman, 74, longtime resident of Sturgeon Lake, died on Thursday, January 20, 2022 in Essentia Health - St. Mary's Duluth. He was born

in Minneapolis, Minn. on May 20, 1947 to Edward and Lillian (Johnson) Helfman.

He grew up in Minneapolis, graduating from Edison High School in 1965. Four years later, in 1969, Tom obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Arts with an emphasis on electronics from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. He worked numerous jobs afterward, primarily teaching junior

high industrial education in Illinois where he met his wife, Pat Endress. The couple moved to Moose Lake where they got married on July 12, 1971. To their union, four children were born: Scott, Beth, Bonnie and Sarah. In 1974, Tom and Pat opened Timberline Campground in Sturgeon Lake. They owned and operated the campground together with pride. After Pat's death in 1994, Tom continued to run the campground for a short while before selling it to its new owners. On March 7, 1998, Tom married Mary Kay Allison in Moose Lake. For many years, Tom was very active in local government. In his spare time, Tom could be found tinkering with computers and electronics of all sorts. He loved trains and enjoyed numerous trips across our country. Tom was known for keeping up on current events. He had a special place in his heart for the little town of Sturgeon Lake. He will surely be missed by his family and countless friends.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife, Pat, in 1994 and his wife, Mary, in 2020; and his parents, Edward and Lillian Helfman.

His memory will be cherished by his children, Scott (Marsha) Helfman, Beth (Jonathan) Helfman, Bonnie (Chris) Deehr and Sarah (John) Molinari; grandchildren, Myca, Sonja, Sophia, Brynlee and Veronica; and lifelong friend, Alan Cunningham.

A gathering of family and friends will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022 from 3- 6: p.m. in Hamlin-Hansen-Kosloski Funeral Home, Moose Lake.

Arrangements are with Hamlin-Hansen-Kosloski Funeral Home

Mark E. Perron

Mark E. Perron passed away unexpectedly on January 15, 2022. Preceded in death by parents, Don and Dorothy Perron; sister, Pat Nathe; uncle, Mike Cal-



lahan. Survived by wife of 38 years, Barb; son, Mark (Cora); daughter, Jessica; grandchildren, Kori and Grayson; his "girls" Holly & Winnie; siblings, Kay (Randy) McNamara, Don (Anne), Mike (Kat), Jim (Renee), Kevin (Joni) & Kelly (Tao) Nguyen and so many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Mark worked 20 years for US Foods and 12 years for I.S.D 197. Mark loved

spending time camping and at his happy place, the cabin, where he hunted, snowmobiled, 4-wheeled, ice fished and hosted numerous pig roasts. He loved spending time with his family and all of our friends. We would like to give a huge thank you to Kerrick Fire & Rescue as well as Pine County Deputy Sheriffs. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Mendota VFW at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

Marie E. Natalie

October 27, 1933 - January 16, 2022

Marie Evelyn (Tietz) Natalie, age 88 passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 16 at her home in Mission Viejo, Calif. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb 5 at: Pacific View Memorial Park & Mortuary 3500 Pacific View Dr. Corona Del Mar, Calif. 92625.



Marie was born in Bruno, Minn. on October 27, 1933. She was the first of six children. At the Chung King Noodle Company in Duluth she met and later married Anthony "Tony" Natalie in 1956. After four months of living/working in Minn. they relocated to Southern California and had two chil-

children. This is where they lived the rest of their lives.

Marie was a nurturer not only of people but of animals and gardens. She will missed by all who knew her!

Marie is preceded in death by her parents Arthur and Sonja, her husband of 45 years (Tony) 2001 and by both younger brothers Bernard (Bernie) and Robert (Bob) Tietz. She is survived by her son Michael Natalie of Carlsbad, Calif., daughter Mavis Natalie of Trabuco Canyon, Calif., granddaughter McKenzie Normington of Aliso Viejo, Calif., sister-in-law Joyce Tietz, sister-in-law Bonnie Tietz, sister and husband Helen and Norman Larson of Sturgeon Lake, sister and husband Esther and Ray Waletzko of Barnum, sister and husband Marcy and Arlo Hansen of Andover, daughter-in-law Cynthia Natalie, son-in-law Mark Normington and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Condolences may be sent to the family at manatalie1957@yahoo.com.

SUPPORT: Caregivers need care, support

FROM PAGE 1

Caregivers are struggling more due to the pandemic. All sessions are now virtual, this means that not all caregivers can attend due to lack of internet or just the fact there is no one to keep an eye on their loved one, which can lead to interruptions during the session.

If you know someone with dementia or Alzheimer's and you are struggling with how to communicate with them, the Dementia Friends program has some ideas for talking to someone with dementia.

1. Acknowledge them, don't just talk to the caregiver.
2. Call them by their name and let them know your name.
3. Make them feel comfortable in the situation. They will often times keep to themselves because they know they talk funny or they don't say what is correct and they are afraid of being judged.

If you are interested in learning more about Dementia Friends please check out the Family Pathways website at Familypathways.org.

PLAY: Students tackle tough subjects

FROM PAGE 1

one act this year because I have been committed to this theater since 4th grade and every show is a new adventure. I can play five different instruments."

Noah Kosbab - The Great Ringmaster - "I joined because I have friends in the play and my sister was in plays. My first play was Alice in Wonderland at Willow River."

Brooke Clennon - crew - 9th grade - "I joined one act because my brother asked me to and I met a bunch of cool people. I'm a Boy Scout."

Brianna Konieska - crew - 10th grade - "I joined as a way to make friends and have something in common with my cousins. I also wanted to challenge myself to get out of my comfort zone. I can usually identify different cat breeds."

Harmony Bradshaw - crew - 8th grade - "I enjoy acting and being with people."

Nickolas Dixon - Voice of Announcer/tech
Ava Gutknecht - tech

SUB-SECTION CONTEST

For those that are new to One Act competitions, the actors have 10 minutes to set up their set and exactly 35 minutes to perform. If a group goes over that 35 minutes they are disqualified from competition.

The seven schools competing on Saturday are: Aitkin, Barnum, Cromwell-Wright, Deer River, East Central, Hill City and Moose Lake/Willow River.

The Minnesota State High School League Sub-Section 7A-3 One-Act Play Competition will begin promptly at 9 a.m. Performances are open to the public, ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

All spectators and guests will be required to wear masks when not on stage or eating in the cafeteria. Concessions/lunch will be provided by 4.0 Bus Service as a fundraiser for the East Central Drama Department.

Critics for the sub-section contest are Peggy Killoren from St. Joseph, Rob Larson from the College of St. Scholastica and Grif Sadow from Stillwater.

The top two schools will advance to the Section 7A competition which will be held at Two Harbors on Saturday, February 5.

SERVICES: Veteran ready to help others

FROM PAGE 1

marriage and I couldn't figure out what was wrong with me" Harshman said. "Even though I was a medic and could tell someone else you have this going on...it was harder when you try to turn that around on yourself."

That's when he walked into the VSO and spoke with Mindy Sandell. "I know how hard it is to walk through those doors and say I need help. Mindy changed my life, she really changed my life."

When the opportunity for a VSO position came up, it was the perfect opportunity for Harshman. His passion for the work he is doing is evident when he speaks, not just in his words, you can also hear the pride and excitement in his voice. "They could tell me they are going to stop paying for this position today and I would do it for free the next day. That's what this job means to me," said Harshman.

Harshman is ready and willing to help veterans with anything from getting a prescription refilled with the VA to helping them find a home or filing for the benefits they are entitled to.

When he's not working, Harshman enjoys spending time with his five daughters and grilling/smoking. He says Minnesota has grown on him, but his southern roots show however, when he says he doesn't understand why Minnesotans go ice fishing.

If you are a veteran please go into the Veterans Services Office in Sandstone and introduce yourself to Harshman, he is looking forward to helping as many veterans as he can. As a two tour combat veteran, he says "Please let us help you."

The power to help change a community is in your hands.

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Fire survivors hide in culvert to survive, many leave area later

Janet Halonen visited last week and we had a good time chatting it up on my genealogy searching. I have to say, I've been learning new things about my history almost every day. Nothing earth shaking, but it does make me feel closer to them and I appreciate my ancestor's tough spirit more and more.

We also had guests over from Rapid City, South Dakota, our friends Carol and David Christensen. They say their families are all doing well. It is always so nice to see friends who we have known for almost 50 years now.



Finlayson News
Maxine Meyer

That cold snap Thursday evening had my horses water tanks steaming so much I did a double take at the steam rising up into my cameras. I was anxious to confirm Prince didn't pull the heater out of the water and start a fire in the barn.

Speaking of the horses, our new trimmer does one heck of a great job. We are so glad we got such a good one.

Survival of the 1918 fire: Surviving a devastating fire for anyone has got to be both a blessing and a curse. You find yourself, and hopefully your loved ones "lucky" to be alive, but as you emerge from a culvert it had to be a serious shock to know you immediately have no house, no farm, no animals. Numbers hardly tell the story of the people who were "lucky" but I read this fire left 52,000 survivors homeless. All of them needed to search for provisions and

housing.

To give you a better idea of the Mecl family's plight, I realized last week that the women that went into the culvert weren't just three. Here's why: the matriarch= Mary Theresa, 41, and children: Blanch, 17, Evelyn, 11, Irene, 6, and Elmer, 2 years old, were all home that day. I can't imagine how they all fit in a metal culvert under a driveway. The men who were out that day were James A., 44, George A., 20, and William, 12. That means a family of eight to shelter and feed.

It came as no surprise when I spotted that George A., married only three months after the 1918 fire and the next year he, Stacy, and a new son, along with George's brother, William, left for Chicago. Relatives living in Chicago at the time probably offered their assistance and the boys most likely had high hopes of finding

work. A chance at getting on their feet (so to speak.)

James, Mary and children stayed in Ellson. James learned years earlier while living in Chicago, that the bad Chicago air was causing his serious asthma attacks and based on the advice of his doctor, he relocated to Ellson, Minnesota by year's end of 1897. James could not return to Chicago, but the Mecl boys hit the big city at a time when Chicago was booming. It was the "roaring twenties" and jobs were plentiful.

Back at Ellson, the Post Office had been built right away, but other than the survivors, no one came back. And, sadly, a post office does not make a town, it turns out. My family built a small tar paper shack on the west end of the acreage with a kitchen with a tiny pantry and a bedroom on first floor. There was an upper floor

for the kids. They had a place where they could cook for the family and keep them warm with the wood stove.

I have no information on how James made a living. With bad health, not farming and no longer logging, I suspect the boys sent funds home to help with the family. A year later James Mecl puts their address down as Bremen Township. A few years later their address showed as West of Willow River. The town of Ellson is not noted in stories of the fire and it disappears. But, it seems that "someone" still had hopes for one more building to re-appear.

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

January is National Slow Cooker 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!!

ALL AMERICAN MEAT LOAF

- 1-1/2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 2 c. bread crumbs
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1/2 c. onion, chopped
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 8 slices Cheddar or American cheese, cut into strips

In a large mixing bowl, combine all the ingredients, except for the cheese and tomato paste. Shape half of the meat mixture into a loaf. Arrange 8 cheese strips on the meat, and top with the remaining meat, pressing the edges together to seal. Place in the slow cooker. Top with the tomato paste and remaining cheese slices. Cover; cook on LOW for 6 to 8 hours or on HIGH for 3 to 4 hours.

SHREDDED CHICKEN GYROS

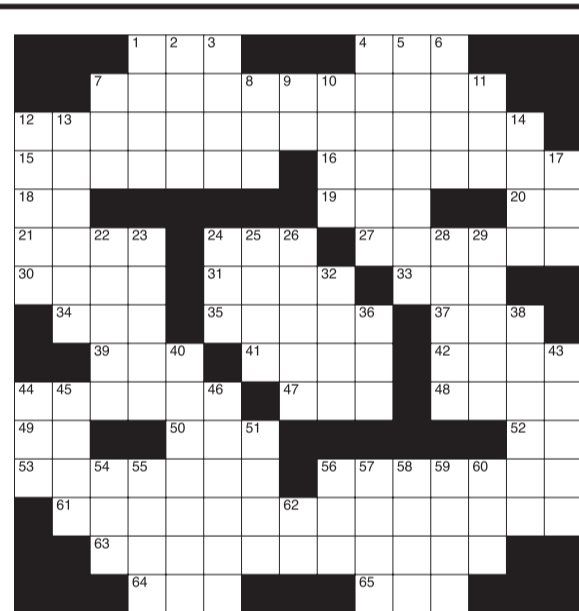
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. lemon-pepper seasoning
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp. ground allspice
- 1/2 c. water
- 1/2 c. lemon juice
- 1/4 c. red wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 lbs. boneless chicken breasts
- 8 whole pita breads
- Toppings:
- Tzatziki sauce, torn romaine, and sliced tomato, cucumber and onion

In a 3-quart slow cooker, combine first 9 ingredients; add chicken. Cook, covered, on low 3-4 hours or until chicken is tender (at least 165 degrees). Remove chicken from slow cooker. Shred with 2 forks; return to slow cooker, using tongs, place chicken mixture on pita breads. Serve with toppings. Serves 8.

WARM SPINACH AND ARTICHOKE DIP

- 2 pkg. (8 oz. each) cream cheese (softened)
- 3/4 c. half and half
- 1 Tbsp. onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 c. Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 bag (10-oz.) frozen cut spinach, thawed and well drained
- 1 can (13 oz.) quartered artichoke hearts, rinsed, drained and chopped
- 2/3 c. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

Combine the cream cheese and half and half in a bowl until well blended. Add the remaining ingredients and stir well. Pour the mixture into the slow cooker. Cover; cook on HIGH for 1-1/2 to 2 hours or until warm.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Brew
4. NY ballplayer
7. Rigid external covering in some animals
12. Promotional materials
15. More high-pitched
16. Widely cultivated cereal
18. Dormitory employee
19. Bad act
20. One's mother
21. Scored perfectly
24. Space station
27. Exchange for money
30. Edible seaweed
31. Iranian city
33. Lakers' crosstown rivals
34. Nothing
35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
37. ___ student, learns healing
39. Military official (abbr.)
41. Matchstick games
42. Gasteyer and De Armas are two
44. Distant planet
47. A type of residue
48. Punk art icon Jimmy De___
49. Millihenny
50. Canadian media firm
52. Type of withdrawal
53. Spicy
56. Dish of minced meat or fish
61. Noted previously
63. Happily
64. "Partridge" actress Susan
65. Not present

CLUES DOWN

1. In a way, brought to an end
2. Scandalized actress Loughlin
3. This (Spanish)
4. Essay
5. Continuing indefinitely
6. Tool for lifting food
7. Partner to Adam
8. Dry white wine drink
9. Spanish be
10. Smaller quantity
11. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
12. (Scottish) island
13. Church officer
14. Large wrestler
17. Polite address for women
22. Famed Susan Lucci character "___ Kane"
23. Mason ___ Line
24. Disfigure
25. Asian nation
26. Rage (Span.)
28. Khoikhoi peoples
29. Opera solo
32. Database management system
36. Similar
38. Move up and down playfully
40. Alfalfa
43. Satisfied
44. Baseball official
45. Large, flightless bird of S. America
46. Money given in support
51. Flower cluster
54. Beginning military rank
55. Russian weight measurement
56. Explosive
57. An individual unit
58. Midskirt
59. Weapon featuring balls
60. Used of a number or amount not specified
62. Unit of measurement

The pandemic rages on

HERE WE GO again as the new virus raises its ugly head. The Omicron variant spreads more rapidly than the previous strains and could be with us for a long time.



About the Town
Gene Johnson

Delta has caused more infections, especially in unvaccinated people. My suggestion is to treat everyone as if they have the flu, wear quality masks, and wash your

hands.

Churches, businesses, industry and educational facilities all are making adjustments to keep people safe and healthy.

Working from home will continue. Quarantined people who test positive need to stay out of the public.

The vaccination still looks to be the best defense to avoid serious illness. Kathy and I received our first two vaccinations in Florida and the booster back home in Minnesota. We hope you take time to be vaccinated also.

BATTERIES HAVE A life and experts tell me that heat is harder on them than cold. Whenever they die, it is not convenient. After a recent experience at an airport cell phone lot, I have marked my six-year planner to match the three year warranty. Notes or reminders on your cell phone work, too.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN while campaigning said he would work to reunite the country. I understand distractions like the pandemic, immigration, Russian troop buildup next to the Ukraine, legislative stalemate and growing crime in large cities.

Both parties are guilty of the growing political divide far from any solutions to unifica-

tion.

In Washington, it appears like political tribe is more important than law and order.

Without law and order, we have anarchy. It becomes a country without authority or governing body. We need leadership to guide us in support of our constitution.

INFLATION CONTINUES TO be the highest in decades. New cars are priced \$6,000 over sticker prices and used cars are 30% higher than book value.

Grocery stores, gasoline pumps, restaurants and practically every purchase indicates inflation is strong at a 39 year high.

Some control will come with higher home mortgage interest as well as business loan rates. The Feds plan to raise interest rates three times in 2022. It will probably take six or eight times to slow inflation.

The plus side is we should see savings rates go up.

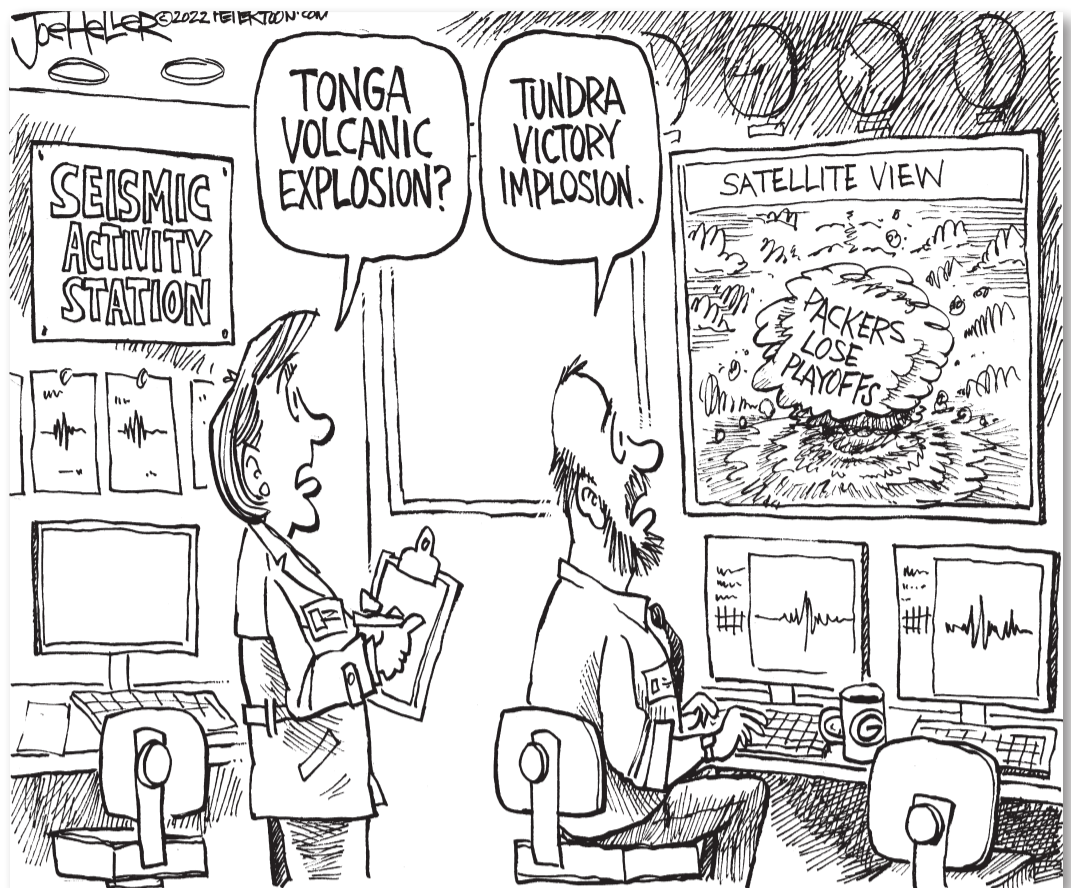
Banks now are reducing or eliminating overdraft charges and late fees to help its customers avoid these excessive penalties. They will likely recover losses by adding to interest rates for loans.

COLD WEATHER CAR starting has improved greatly with more cranking power in batteries, ignition systems, synthetic oils and quality fuels.

I had people tell me in the 30s they would place a pan with a charcoal or wood fire under the engine's crankcase. In recent years there have been various types of electric heaters for engines.

In a 30 degree below zero trip to visit my brother Ray in Fertile, Minnesota in the early 60s, he used a torch to heat one cylinder on the V-8 and the engine started.

GENE JOHNSON is the Publisher Emeritus, Press Publications, White Bear Lake, MN and owner of Northstar Media. He can be reached at ppinfo@presspubs.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DFL holding in person caucus

To the Editor:

1, 2,... 10! Ready or not, here comes election season!

If we've learned one thing through the pandemic, it's that politics affects us all in ways big and small. But you don't have to hide! Find your place in politics by endorsing candidates, electing local officers, maybe running for office, and definitely making new friends at your local caucuses.

The Pine County DFL will be holding in person caucuses with registration beginning at 6:30 on the evening of February 1 at the North Pine Government center in Sandstone and at Pine Technical and Community College in Pine City. See (<https://dfl.org/caucus/>) for the details. Your participation is the key to keeping our democracy alive and

well!

This year, in the interest of keeping our members safe and to maintain our liability insurance, all in-person attendees must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test at registration. Thankfully, if you are unable or unwilling to attend in person, you can still participate by submitting a Non-Attendee Form (also found at <https://dfl.org/caucus/>) electronically to dflpine11b@gmail.com or in person at the caucus location.

We look forward to seeing you on February 1!

Oliver Dykstra
Chair of the Pine County DFL

Kettle River Pizza

To the Editor:

As many of you know, recently we distributed Chicken Alfredo Pizzas in

which the ingredient list was incorrect. Specifically, "wheat" was omitted as an allergen on the label. We immediately started a volunteer recall. In working closely with USDA and MDA, the recall was deemed a level 2 recall. We are happy to report that we have accounted for the majority of those pizzas! If you should happen to see Chicken Alfredo Pizzas with barcode ending in "22201 3", please note that that pizza DOES contain wheat, although it is not listed in the ingredients. One does not need to be concerned about the quality of the product on the pizza. One needs to be concerned if "wheat" is something you should not have. Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to give us a call!

Sincerely,
Lisa and Ken Waletzko
Askov, Minn.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

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

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

campaigns will not be published.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

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

- Letters to the editor must be 400 words or less.
- Each letter writer may have one letter published every 30 days, or four print cycles (exceptions made for rebuttals).
- Anonymous letters will not be

published. Letter signatures must include the writer's first and last name, community of residence and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published.

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

season.

PAID ENDORSEMENT POLICY

The *Askov American* accepts election letters endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcements. The fee is \$25 for the first 250 words, plus 10 cents per additional word; no word limit. This policy is only in effect during election season (from the candidate filing date through election day.)

Like other letters to the editor, the

writer's name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers are not published. The *Askov American* has the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid endorsement.

Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

For questions about the *Askov American's* policies on letters contact the editor at 320-245-2368 or askovamerican@scicable.com.



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



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Mon., Wed., Thursday
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Tuesday and Friday Closed.



BRUNO/KERRICK NEWS

Derrell and Jean Jensen attended the funeral service for Peggy Harris on Saturday.



**Bruno/
Kerrick
News**
Sylvia
Schweiger

Joining them was Rita Jensen from Sandstone. Monday the Bruno American Legion Auxiliary gathered to make pillow-cases for Kids in Crisis. This is part of the State of Minnesota ALA Children and Youth program. They completed 11 pillowcases to be sent to The Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Rapids. Once again we are still in a little cold snap, but are now moving into February so hopefully this will change temperatures at some point. Have a good week and stay warm!!

WILLOW RIVER NEWS

I am so appreciative for all of you who read this column. I was under the weather and couldn't do the article for a few weeks.



**Willow
River News**
Kathi
Bennett

It was nice to hear that people missed my article. Thanks for reading it and having positive things to say. Sometimes I ask myself if what I do matters to anyone. At the school, February 8 the monthly PTO meeting will be meeting virtually. Please email pto@isd577.org for more information. February 15 Willow River School Board meets from 6 to 7 p.m. February 21 there will be no school for President's Day. Spring Conferences will be February 22 and February 24 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

At St. Mary's/ St. Isidore's Church: Outreach program, Please help the "clothes for kids" program. The three area schools have identified the need for clothing and outerwear in all sizes from small child to large adult. Collection boxes are located in the social hall at Holy Angels and the back area of St. Mary's. Please keep in mind that clothing should be new or gently used. Confessions: If you are interested in going to confession during the week, you may let Fr. Francis know and he will be happy to hear your confession after daily Mass or by appointment. He will be hearing 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 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. before Mass. 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.

That's when those nice comments validate my efforts. It makes me want to keep going. Everyone needs validation, right? Well, I appreciate every one of you who read this article and don't hang it up and throw darts at it. Thank you.

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.

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 take place February 11, 2022 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.

Rescue dog, owner, don't speak same language

Dear Tante Ingeborg,

A friend of mine recently rescued a beautiful dog from the humane society. Gorgeous animal. He thinks it's part Golden Retriever because it's very loving and good with other dogs. The only problem he's having is with obedience. He's named the dog "Prince Valiant." When my friend hollers "come!" The dog runs and gets a toilet plunger and brings it to him. If he says "sit!" The dog brings him his bowl. Prince frequently looks



**Ask
Tante**

very puzzled. My friend knows the dog is intelligent but can't figure out what's wrong. I have met the dog and he's friendly and loaded with energy.

I'd like to tell my friend to chill out because he's sweating like a barnyard hog in July over this matter. But I don't know much about training dogs. What do you think I should do?

Signed Donna on Danebod,
Dear Donna,
I think you should tell your friend to go back to the shelter where he got Prince. They might be able to give him information on where the dog was found or who brought him in. It's very possible that Prince doesn't understand English. Might

sound silly to you but what if the language spoken at home was Spanish? If that's the case, your friend might have to learn some simple phrases or just words by getting a tutorial from YouTube. Gradually the dog and your friend will become bilingual. Maybe he should change Prince Valiant's name to Pancho Villa. It takes time and positive reinforcement to train a dog. Think about what a hit they'll be at the dog park. In no time at all I predict they'll communicate perfectly. Kudos to your friend for getting a rescue. Keep me posted on the progress and remember, Tante Ingeborg cares...but not so much.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Water damage takes out Pine County Dispatch service

**100 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 24, 1922**

- Christiansen Bros. of Askov are having a large ice house built on their property adjoining the lumber yard. The building is 24 x 28 with 12 foot studding housing a big quantity of ice. Jens Thomsen and Olaf Keller are doing the construction work.
- Mr. and Mrs Will Hill of Bruno were surprised when friends and family dropped in to help them celebrate their wedding anniversary. They were presented with a dinner set and a purse of money.

**50 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 27, 1972**

- The annual blood drive at the Pine County Memorial Hospital was a success getting about 130 units.
- Debbie Murphy has been named Askov High School's Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow for 1972.
- Sandy Elgersma and Jerry Koecher were crowned king and queen at the Askov High School homecoming festivities.
- Mr. and Mrs Russell Bjorklund of Brooklyn Center are the parents of a baby girl weighing over eight pounds. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wahlquist are the grandparents.
- Kimberly Ann, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Jensen was baptized at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Askov. Miss Sandy Sahlen and her finance John Pavelka were sponsors.

Cox bought the business from Allen Eckund.
- A retirement party for Allen and Jan Ecklund was held at the Askov Community Center on Saturday January 25th.

**75 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 23, 1947**

- Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hultgren have now moved to Kerrick just west of town.
- Most of the families in Fleming Township are busy wiring their places and are waiting for REA to come and get them hooked up.
- A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Leif Jorgensen. She will be known as Karen Ann.
- For sale in the area is a 160 acre farm equipped with 16 milk cows, some young stock, 2 teams, machinery, electricity and buildings all for \$7,500 complete, cheaper for cash.

**25 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 23, 1997**

- Poor ice conditions forces the cancellation of the Willow River Ice Fishing Contest, Kerrick has rescheduled theirs to February 15, ice conditions permitting.
- Twin Pines Veterinary Clinic in Askov and Hinckley is now under new ownership. Deborah

**10 YEARS AGO
JANUARY 19, 2012**

- The future of a local nursery is uncertain since the state nurseries are phasing out the seedling program.
- Julie Kunshire and Samantha Nelson are painting a mural on the wall of the secondary cafeteria at East Central High School.
- Askov Mayor Dave Weulner resigns. He has been mayor since 2004 and his post is up for reelection in 2012.
- Jeff Johnsen of Askov speared a 44 inch 30 pound Northern on Sunday, January 8.
- Pine County dispatch center was down for about 5 hours overnight in early January due to water damage to equipment.
- Ruth Zebrasky celebrated her 95th birthday with family on January 3 in Bruno.
- County Master Gardeners attend an awards night at the Audubon Center for their volunteering 2,784 hours are put in and 478 of education hours.

EAST CENTRAL SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Thursday, January 27
Blue line: Tator tot hot dish, bread stick, pineapple, green beans, and milk
Silver line: Chicken wrap, chips, pineapple, green beans, and milk

chips, applesauce, carrots, and milk

chips, corn, peaches, and milk
Silver line: Pork chop, mashed potatoes/gravy, corn, peaches, and milk

Friday, January 28
Blue line: Pizza, fries, apple-sauce, carrots, and milk
Silver line: Chicken strips (3),

Monday, January 31
Blue line: Chicken ala king, biscuit, green beans, pears, and milk
Silver line: Hot dog/bun, fries, green beans, pears, and milk

Wednesday, February 2
Blue line: Chili, chips, apple, mixed veggies, and milk
Silver line: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, apple, mixed veggies, and milk

Tuesday, February 1
Blue line: Ham/cheese melt,

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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
Minneapolis 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
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MINUTES

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
OF THE
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 -
10:00 A.M.
NORTH PINE GOVERNMENT
CENTER, 1602 HIGHWAY 23 NO,
SANDSTONE, MINNESOTA**
Chair Hallan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners 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. Ailene Croup commented on 2022 Pine County wage increases and employee medical plans and cautioned

against a levy increase.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to adopt the amended Agenda. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2021 County Board Meeting and Summary for publication and the December 9, 2021 Truth in Taxation Minutes. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda is voted on without any discussion. Any commissioner may request an item be removed and added to the regular agenda.

Fund November 30, 2020 November 30, 2021 Increase/ Decrease

General Fund 7,301,820
8,518,833 1,217,013
Health and Human Services Fund 2,652,111 3,352,256 700,145
Road and Bridge Fund 2,255,127 1,376,754 (878,372)
COVID Relief 750,997 2,571,371 1,820,374
Land 2,331,066 2,311,345 (19,721)
Self-Insurance 0 595,106 595,106
TOTAL (inc non-major funds) 18,219,099 21,608,740 3,389,641
The following vendors with claims of \$2,000 or more, and 444 claims under \$2,000 totaling \$124,957.08, were paid during the period of November 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021: ACMN Properties LLC, 2,094.32; Advanced Graphix Inc., 1,111.33; Am Indian Fam & Child Serv Inc, 2,639.96; Aml Cleaning Service, Inc, 4,000; ANOKA COUNTY TREASURY OFFICE, 12,500; Arlen Krantz Ford Inc, 2,975.25; Askov Deep Rock, 8,741.10; Aspen Mills, 2,097.09; ATLAS OUTFITTERS, 4,178; Barker Co, Inc/Bob, 2,394.25; BONKS SAND & GRAVEL, 6,978.72; Cdw Government Inc, 2,633.54; CELLEBRITE, 3,850; Central Mn Jobs & Training Services, 22,939; CLEANITSUPPLY.COM, 2,438.52; CLOQUET RIVERSIDE RECYCLING, INC, 6,497.75; CONTECH ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS LLC, 2,396.31; Dhs Maps Mmis Cd Maxis 998, 108,770.59; DHS State Operated Services, 4,491.90; East Central Energy Of Braham, 18,664.39; East Central Solid Waste Comm, 7,600.45; EMERGENCY SERVICES MARKETING CORP INC, 6,205; EVERBRIDGE INC, 10,910.49; EVERGREEN RECYCLING LLC, 3,268.10; GLENS TIRE, 7,100.51; GUARDIAN, 8,919.75; Henriksen Psg, 195,197.79; HERO INDUSTRIES, INC., 2,422.50; HOMETOWN FIBER LLC, 14,633.40; Information Systems Corp-ISC, 5,095; J A SMITH & COMPANY, 3,960; JONES CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC, 20,225; Knife River Corp, 520,969.55; Kris Engineering, Inc, 31,386.16; KRONOS SAASHR INC, 7,707.18; L&O INVESTMENTS LLC, 19,982.36; LeadsOnline LLC, 2,590.45; LHB INC, 3,257.25; Lighthouse Child & Family Services, LLC, 12,857.44; LSS, 18,980.96; MADISON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO INC, 3,664.75; MEDICAREBLUE RX, 5,335.80; MEND CORRECTIONAL CARE PLLC, 27,310.50; Mille Lacs Band Family Services, 12,110.40; MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES CORP, 9,141.95; MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY, 50,459.16; MINNESOTA POWER, 3,914.52; MN COUNTIES COMPUTER COOP, 2,682.45; Mn Life Insurance Company, 4,300.95; MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC, 18,005.45; NEWMAN DESIGNS, 2,625; Nexus-Gerard Family Healing LLC, 16,173.32;

Nexus-Mille Lacs Family Healing, 11,878.55; North Homes Inc, 8,752.54; North Pine Aggregate Inc, 6,552; Northwestern Mn Juvenile Center, 7,325; Northwoods Children Home, 10,057.64; Nuss Truck Group Inc, 19,606.77; OFFICE OF MN.IT SERVICES, 5,124.08; OXYGEN SERVICE COMPANY, 6,909.50; Pine Co Agricultural Society, 10,000; Pine Co Court Admin., 12,500; Pine Co Highway Department, 11,989.58; Pine Co Treasurer, 36,273.60; Pine County Sheriff FPI Contract, 4,205.21; Pine/County Of, 19,118.24; Pomp's Tire Service, Inc, 15,681.18; Prairie Lakes Youth Programs, 6,468.85; Rabe Excavating, LLC, 17,000; Roberts Excavating, 18,500; Rolling Hills Hospital LLC, 14,880; ROYAL TIRE, 10,975.40; SEH INC, 7,485.89; Slims Texaco Service, 22,211.25;

Solid Oak Financial Services, LLC, 3,175; SUMMIT FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT LLC, 16,011.63; SUN CONTROL OF MN, 6,743; TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL 32, 66,300; Todd Elliott Excavating Lic, 2,535; TRIPLE J EXCAVATING LLC, 15,000; UNITEDHEALTH GROUP, 233,498.13; Verizon Wireless, 10,817.01; Village Ranch Residential Facility, 6,065.46; WSB AND ASSOCIATES, 10,698.85.

Accept a \$1,000 donation from VFW Post 4118 – Hinckley for veteran outreach.

Approve the 2021 budget adjustments and recognition of spending of reserves.

Approve Commissioners' Expense Claim Forms.

Approve Resolution 2021-76 extending a septic fix up special assessment to Larry Weidendorf, PID 12.0525.001, \$14,500; Stanley and Tracy Riley, PID 32.0081.000, \$5,350, and JoAnn and Dennis Venditto, PID 12.5138.000, \$6,860.

Approve the Contract Agreement for Administration of the Local Septic Fix Up Fund between Pine County and Lakes and Pines CAC, Inc.

Approve the following contracts/agreements:

A. Pine County Health & Human Services and Lighthouse Child and Family Services

This contract provides for community support program (CSP) services to eligible adults. Contract also allows HHS to make referrals to Lighthouse for newly mandated Qualified Individual Assessments/cost of assessments is \$50/hour. The cost for CSP services remains the same as 2021 (not to exceed \$78,000 annually), and \$1,000 stipend to purchase supplies for county drop-in center. One year contract (January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)

B. Pine County Health & Human Services and Therapeutic Services Agency (TSA) 2022 Lead County Agreement

TSA provides numerous social services and they provide licensed therapeutic foster homes throughout the area; Pine County HHS historically serves as the county agency charged with negotiating a lead county agreement. Rates have increased two percent from 2021 to 2022. One year contract (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022)

C. Pine County Health & Human Services and Resource Training and Solutions

Resource Training and Solutions provides services related to guardianship and conservatorships. Three-year contract (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024). Cost of services is \$215.37 per client.

D. Pine County and University of Minnesota

i. Memorandum of Agreement for Agriculture Educator and 4-H Youth Development Educator for 2022, 2023 and 2024 in the annual amounts of \$119,449, \$123,136 and \$125,193.

ii. Addendum to Memorandum

of Agreement with the University of Minnesota for Master Gardener Coordinator for 2022, 2023, 2024 in the annual amounts of \$13,286, \$13,468, \$13,468; and Program Intern for 2022, 2023, 2024 in the annual amounts of \$4,500, \$4,602, \$4,716.

E. Pine County Attorney's Office and Royalton Township

Contract to prosecute misdemeanor zoning ordinances, effective November 1, 2021, for the period of one year. The township will pay \$100 per case file submitted to the county for review or charging of zoning ordinance violations.

Approve Resolution 2021-79 declaring East Central Public School, Finlayson Elementary School, Hinckley-Finlayson High School, and Pine City High School as designated polling places for independent school district elections held in 2022.

Acknowledge list of 2021 assessment clerical corrections.

Approve final payment to MN Paving and Materials in the amount of \$81,060.24, for Contract #1705 related to: SP 058-643-009 located on CSAH 43 from Two Son Road to TH 23.

Approve the internal promotion of Samantha Kubesh from an Office Support Specialist to an Eligibility Worker, effective January 3, 2022. \$20.49 per hour, Grade 5, Step 1.

Approve the hiring of Highway Maintenance Worker Adam Johnsen, effective January 3, 2022, \$20.49 per hour, Grade 6, Step 1.

Approve attendance at the Tribal/County Relations Training, February 3-4, 2022, for any commissioner desiring to attend, and County Administrator David Minke. Cost per attendee: Registration: \$200 per attendee; Lodging: \$69 per attendee/per night.

Approve jail steamer oven purchase in the amount of \$30,666.14 plus installation.

Personnel Committee Report
Commissioner Mohr provided an overview of the December 13, 2021 Personnel Committee meeting. The Personnel Committee made the following recommendations:

A. Health & Human Services

i. Acknowledge the resignation of Social Worker Nancy Johnson, effective December 14, 2021 and approve backfill of the position and any subsequent vacancies due to internal promotion or lateral transfer. The position is a Grade 10 with a minimum starting wage of \$25.88/hour.

ii. Acknowledge the resignation of Eligibility Worker Denise Blessi, effective December 6, 2021 and approve backfill of the position and any subsequent vacancies due to internal promotion or lateral transfer. The position is a Grade 6 with a minimum starting wage of \$20.49/hour.

B. Sheriff's Office – Jail

i. Acknowledge the resignation of Correction Officer David Ackermann, effective November 8, 2021, and the separation of part-time probationary Corrections Officer Brooklin Hooker effective November 11, 2021, and approve backfill of both positions and any subsequent vacancies due to internal promotion or lateral transfer. Positions are Grade 7 with a minimum starting wage of \$21.77/hour.

C. Sheriff's Office

i. Acknowledge the resignation of probationary Deputy Sheriff Jorge Jimenez, effective November 30, 2021, and approve backfill of the position and any subsequent vacancies due to internal promotion or lateral transfer. The position is a Grade 10 with a minimum starting wage of \$26.65/hour.

ii. Acknowledge the employment separation of Sergeant Robert Ouverson, effective December 3, 2021. The position was filled in September 2021.

D. County Attorney

i. Acknowledge the resignation

of Assistant County Attorney John Lauer, effective December 21, 2021, and approve backfill of the position and any subsequent vacancies that may occur due to internal promotion or later transfer. The position is a Grade 14 with a salary range of \$33.66 - \$43.76/hour.

E. 2022 Elected Official Salaries

i. Approve 2022 salary for County Sheriff Jeff Nelson. The Personnel Committee recommended \$125,014 effective January 1, 2022.

ii. Approve 2022 salary for County Attorney Reese Frederickson. The Personnel Committee recommended \$137,536, effective January 1, 2022.

iii. Approve Resolution 2021-83 Establishing County Commissioner Compensation as \$21,844 per year for Commissioners and \$23,044 for Board Chair (unchanged from 2021), Per Diem rate of \$100, and Mileage Reimbursement at the IRS rate for business mileage and authorize Board Chair and County Administrator to sign.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve recommendations A – D of the Personnel Committee. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee setting the 2022 salary for County Sheriff Jeff Nelson at \$125,014, effective January 1, 2022. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee setting the 2022 salary for County Attorney Reese Frederickson at \$137,536, effective January 1, 2022. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to adopt Resolution 2021-83 Establishing County Commissioner Compensation as \$21,844 per year for Commissioners and \$23,044 for Board Chair (unchanged from 2021), Per Diem rate of \$100, and Mileage Reimbursement at the IRS rate for business mileage. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve Resolution 2021-81 supporting the settlement with the entities in the opioid state settlement. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to reappoint Judy Scholin to the East Central Regional Library board, for a term effective January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Commissioner Lovgren to approve Resolution 2021-80 authorizing County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder to execute the Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement Amendment No. 1. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to join membership in the Highway 23 Coalition, replacing the membership in the Rural Counties Association. Dues are \$1,000 per year. Second by Commissioner Hallan. Motion carried 5-0.

2022 Pine County Property Tax Levy and Budget

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to approve Resolution 2021-77 setting the 2022 Pine County Property Tax Levy at \$20,652,675. Second by Commissioner Ludwig. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve Resolution 2021-78 adopting the 2022 Pine County Budget. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to set 2022 Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Non-Union, Non-Elected Employees at 2% effective

January 1, 2022. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Lovgren to set 2022 county contribution towards health insurance premiums for non-union employees and elected officials as shown in the "County Contribution" column below. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

United Health Care Plans for 2022

Pine County 2022 Monthly Premium County Contribution Employee Cost
\$1,500-80% CMM Single \$884.57
\$864.82 \$19.75 Family \$2,211.16
\$1,798.71 \$412.45
\$2,150-80% VEBA Single \$952.41
\$814.57 \$137.84 Family \$2,581.63
\$1,586.21 \$995.42
\$3,000-100% HSA Single \$826.27
\$821.27 \$5.00 Family \$2,013.47
\$1,798.71 \$214.76

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the AFSCME Correction Officer-Dispatcher unit for 2022-2024. Second by Commissioner Mohr. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Mohr to approve Resolution 2021-82 establishing per diems for various board and committees (does not apply to county commissioners) for 2022 (unchanged from 2021). Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

A Special Meeting for the purpose of joint strategic planning with the county Housing and Redevelopment Authority is scheduled for January 11, 2022, 10 a.m., Board Room, Courthouse, Pine City, Minnesota.

A Special Meeting for the purpose of county board strategic planning is scheduled for January 12, 2022, 10:00 a.m., Board Room, Courthouse, Pine City, Minnesota.

The organizational meeting required by Minnesota Statute 275.07 is scheduled for January 4, 2022 at 10 a.m., board room, Courthouse, Pine City.

Closed Meeting Pursuant to M.S. §13D.05, Subd. 3(b) – Tax Court Litigation Update (Walmart Inc. vs. County of Pine)

Motion by Commissioner Ludwig to move into closed session as allowed by Minnesota Statutes 13D.05, Subd. (3)(b), Attorney/Client privilege to discuss pending litigation for property values payable 202 and 2021, in the case Walmart Inc. vs. County of Pine. Second by Commissioner Lovgren. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was closed at 11:59 a.m.

Present were Commissioners Hallan, Mohr, Lovgren, Waldhalm and Ludwig; County Administrator David Minke; County Attorney Reese Frederickson; County Auditor-Treasurer Kelly Schroeder; and County Assessor-Recorder Lorri Houtsma.

The closed session adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

The open session reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

With no further business, Chair Hallan adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m. The next regular meeting of the county board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., Pine County Courthouse, 635 Northridge Drive NW, Pine City, Minnesota.

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

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.

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Rebel player scores big, swishes all field goals

BY MARY ELLEN DEWEY

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The Moose Lake Willow River boys' basketball team finally had the full varsity roster available for the first time since December 28, due to COVID-19 quarantine protocol. They had two home games against Eveleth-Gilbert on Monday, Jan. 17 and Esko on Friday, Jan. 21.

The Eveleth-Gilbert Golden Bears' varsity squad had a hard time keeping up with the Rebels and at the half found them themselves trailing by 20. Alex Watrin played great defense against the Golden Bears' center, 6'6" William Bittmann, (who scored 29 points the week before). William's dad, Tom, shared a compliment with Alex. Bittmann was held to 11 points.

The Rebels were in the lead at the half 43-23 winning 75-51. The Eveleth-Gilbert team is in the Iron Range Conference. The 2021-2022 basketball season is the final season for the Golden Bears. Next year they will be playing as the Rock Ridge team when the merge with Virginia is completed. "Last Chance" was printed

on the back of their warmup shirts.

The Rebels had 23 assists and 11 steals. Jimmy Walker, Sam Dewey and Chance Lunde led in assists. Phillip Sheetz had seven threes, Logan Orvedahl five. Sam Dewey, Caden Durkin, and Lunde each sunk one from beyond the arch.

Scoring leader was Orvedahl with 27, Sheetz with 23, Lunde 7, Luke Dewey and Alex Watrin 4, Sam Dewey 3, Walker and Nolan Nelson with 2 each. Watrin led in steals with three and Lunde grabbed 6 rebounds.

The Rebels' JV team defeated the Golden Bears 60-27.

Friday night the Moose Lake gym had a full house. Evan Nelson played the National Anthem on his trumpet and Mark Skelton introduced the Esko Eskomos' and MLWR Rebels' starting line-up alternately. Lunde started for Rebels. Duane Broughton was recovering from an ankle injury, but was able to play part of the game. He came into the game and made 100 percent of the field goals he took. The Eskomos 7AA are 11-2, losing to Hibbing and Perham.

The game was back and

forth most of the first half. Late in the first half the Rebels trailed by just three points. Connor Lahti came down the floor with 5 seconds left and hit a three, stealing the inbound pass, was fouled and made his two points from the charity stripe to give them an eight-point lead at the half 45-37.

Conditioning was a factor in the second half for the players that hadn't been to practice in the month of January. It will take time to get back into the swing of things after missing that many practice sessions.

In the second half the Rebels scored 52 to the Esko's 54 points. Esko won the game 99-89.

Orvedahl scored 31 points, Sheetz 17, Lunde 13, Broughton and Watrin each had 11, and Sam Dewey 6. The Rebels had 11 three-point shots and Esko had 9. The Rebels were called for 23 fouls and the Eskomos for 16. The Rebels made 14 of their 19 free throw attempts. Esko shot 24 free throws making 18. Watrin pulled down 15 rebounds.

Esko's sophomore Makoi Perich and junior Cuinn Berg-



SHANNA WATRIN/WATRIN 6 PHOTOGRAPHY F

MLWR's guard, Duane Broughton (#2), came back from an ankle injury and scored 11 points in the Esko game, making 100 percent of his field goals.

er scored 35 and 39 points. Nick Swanson had 11, Connor Lathe 8, Dalton Spindler 4, and Brett Lillo 2.

The Rebels have three road trips this coming week. They go to South Ridge 7A (6-4) on Friday, Jan. 28. This week they will make-up their two games that were postponed. They

go to East Central 5A (5-9) on Monday, Jan. 31, and Rush City 6AA (9-2) on Thursday, Feb. 3. Game times are 5:45/7:15 p.m. The results of their Tuesday, Jan. 25, game at Grand Rapids 7AAA (4-8) will be in next week's edition.

Lady Rebels win in overtime

BY MARY ELLEN DEWEY

RECIPE@PINECOUNTYCOURIER.COM

Thursday Jan. 20, the Lady Rebels' hockey team took on the Duluth Northern Stars in Duluth. The Rebels faced some adversity as they only had 13 skaters.

About halfway through the first period Duluth scored from a tough angle shot from the outside. The girls responded with a breakaway goal from Lily Ludwig, making the score 1-1 after the first period. The score remained 1-1 at the end of regulation and they headed into overtime.

Even though the girls were exhaust-

ed, Jorja Juszack found a spurt of energy and beat their defensemen to create a breakaway opportunity for herself. Juszack shot low glove and scored the game winning goal in overtime.

Coach Reilly Fawcett said, "It was such a fun game to be a part of and it gave the girls confidence heading down the home stretch of the season. Many girls stepped up into roles that they weren't necessarily used to and it was a great team win."

The girls played the defending state champions, Proctor-Hermantown on Monday, Jan. 24th, at the Riverside Arena. The senior players were honored and celebrated.

Eagles lose to Pine City Dragons

COACH DARREN FOGT

COURIER@PINENET.COM

The East Central Eagles had another 50/50 week. The Eagles played at the Pine City Dragons home court on Tuesday, Jan. 18. They just plain put a whopping on the Eagles. The Eagles shot so poorly in the first half that they didn't give themselves much of a chance. The Eagles scored a measly seven points in that first half to Pine City's 50. They did much better in the second half outscoring the Dragons 29-28, but it was too little too late for the boys.

Nathan Zielinski led the Eagles in scoring with 17, followed by Kyle McDonald and Jacob Dixon with six each, Hunter Colton with five and Warren Carlson with two. Dixon had eight boards, McDonald had seven rebounds, Colton led in assists and steals with 3. The final score was 78-36.

Next up were the Ogilvie Lions.

This was a tough, scrappy team that will be a problem in the conference this year. The Eagles started out slow and were down by one at half 19-18. They came out firing in the second half and played some tough, full court defense that led them to a really nice win, 52-38. Zielinski led the scoring with 25, McDonald followed with 17, Dixon with six, Colton with three, and Ben Carlin with one. Big man, Jacob Dixon, led the Eagles with 8 rebounds and Colton led with 4 assists.

The Eagles played Wrenshall at home on Monday and Tuesday they were at Rush City. Results will be in next week's edition.

Thursday, Jan. 27, they will face Mille Lacs 5A (0-13). Monday, Jan. 31, Moose Lake Willow River 7AA (9-4) will come to East Central 5A (5-9) to play the game that had been postponed because of COVID-19 protocol.

Eagles' girls struggle in last games

MARY ELLEN DEWEY

RECIPE@PINECOUNTYCOURIER.COM

The East Central Eagles girls' basketball team played Mora, Pine City and Ogilvie this past week.

On Monday, January 17, East Central lost to Mora at home 40-56. Kenzie Ludwig was the leading scorer with 11 points and 8 rebounds. Lori Grundmeier and Aly Huntington each scored 7 points. Elsie Laursen put in 6 points, Carly Watrin 4, Izzy Olson 3, and Raina Zaudtke 3.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, the Eagles lost to Pine City at home 27-63. Josie Ford led the team in scoring with 8 points, Izzy Olson 6, Elsie Laursen 5, Kenzie Ludwig 4, Lori Grundmeier and Mason Belanger each had 2 points.

On Friday, January 21, East Central lost at Ogilvie 31-65. Kenzie Ludwig and Elsie Laursen led the Eagles with 7 points each. Jemi Keranen had 5 points, Aly Huntington 4, Lori Grundmeier, Lilly Podlewski, Raina Zaudtke, and Josie Ford each had 2 points.

Coach Peter Rogotzke said "The girls played hard all three games and continue to get better each game and week."

The Eagles traveled to Wrenshall on Monday, Jan. 24 and were hosts to Rush City on Tuesday, January 25. On Friday, January 28, the Eagles have



MIKE DRAHOSHIAKOV AMERICAN

Kenzie Ludwig takes the ball down the court.

a road trip game against Moose Lake Willow River 7AA (4-9) in Willow River. Game times are 5:45/7:15.

Rebels' hoops drop two

BY MARY ELLEN DEWEY

RECIPE@PINECOUNTYCOURIER.COM

The Moose Lake Willow River girls' basketball team was missing several players due to COVID-19 protocol but played their scheduled games.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, the Rebels had a road game in Pequot Lakes. At half-time Pequot Lakes led 47-35 and went on to win 82-39. Kukuk and Christy made two baskets from beyond the arch and Petty 1. Lilly Petty led in scoring with 17, Maci Kukuk had 12, Sarah Christy 6, and Ava North 4.

Scoring for Pequot Lakes were Maci Matini 20, Kelsi Martini 10, Isabel Larson 10, Lauren Schultz 8, Morgan Eckes 7, Sydnie Wgeishofski 6, Ella Kratochvil 5, Reese Laposky 5, Emma Flaws 4, Kaitlyn Geschwill 3, Aubrey Larson 2, and Ellie Flaws 2.

On Thursday, Jan. 20, the Rebels were in Esko. They were again short-

handed and lost 69-22. The halftime score was 36-15, Esko on top.

Scoring for the Rebels were Maci Kukuk with 13, Jocelyn St. Pierre 5, Lilly Petty 2, Marta Guajardo 2. Maci Kukuk had 3 three-point baskets and Jocelyn St. Pierre had 1.

For Esko, Jayden Karppinen made 21 points, Kyra Johnson with 16, Kallie Sinnott 8, Aila Gabel 6, Erin Pettyjohn 5, Avery Kuklinski 5, Emily Rengo, Kaitlyn Adkins, Rachel Autnutti, and Kaitlyn McConnell had 2 points each.

MLWR Rebels' will host South Ridge 7A (13-0) on Thursday, Jan. 27, and East Central 5A (1-14) on Friday, Jan. 28. On Monday, Jan. 31, MLWR has a road trip to Mora 6AA (5-10) to take on the Mustangs.