



Authors reflect on library experiences
2A

Operation Round Up donations
4A

Walker, Hack blood drives
9A

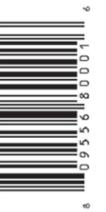
Ice fishing trip back in the '30s
10A



The Pilot-Independent

www.walkermn.com

Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 ■ Community News Since 1897 ■ Vol. 121 No. 6 ■ Walker, MN ■ 2 Section 130 Pages ■ \$1.25



ATV falls through ice on Kabekona Lake; one woman dies

A Brooklyn Park woman died after the ATV she was a passenger in broke through the ice on Kabekona Lake the day after Christmas.

Rose Peterson, 60, was pulled from the water and CPR was performed. She was transported to Sanford Hospital in Bemidji and then airlifted to a Fargo Hospital where she was later pronounced

dead.

Hubbard County Sheriff Cory Aukes said the sheriff's office received a report of an ATV that had fallen through the ice in Lakeport Township Saturday at 6:18 p.m. The caller advised that his mother, father and sister had gone underwater when the side-by-side ATV submerged.

Two other family members

were following on snowmobiles and witnessed the incident. Ryan Peterson, 36, of Coon Rapids saw all three of the victims come to the water's surface and then quickly reacted. He was able to pull all three of the victims out of the water and up onto the ice where he began performing CPR on his mother, who was unresponsive.

The investigation shows that 61-year-old Kenneth Peterson of Brooklyn Park was operating his 2021 Polaris Ranger on Kabekona Lake with his wife, Rose Peterson, and 29-year-old daughter Karissa Peterson as passengers. They had been fishing and were heading back to their cabin when the ATV broke through the ice in about 18-

feet of water. The machine was equipped with tracks and quickly submerged with the occupants inside the enclosed cab.

After being pulled out of the water, the elder Peterson and his son were able to transport the victims by snowmobile to their cabin on the lake where they were met by Lakeport First Responders

and then North Ambulance. Karissa Peterson was transported to Sanford Hospital where she received medical treatment.

The incident is being investigated by the Hubbard County Sheriff's Office.

Around the Corner: a look at businesses in Walker

Stone Woman Herbals offers natural health and wellness products for all

by Chris Haugene

Staff writer
chaugene@pilotindependent.com

Stone Woman Herbals opened over 25 years ago in Longville. Years later Dan and Kris Kayser bought the store and owned it for over 20 years, eventually selling to a team consisting of a mother and her three daughters.

Mother Julie Rono and daughters Halli Knutson, Kayla Digiovanni and Samantha Rono purchased the store from the Kayser family in 2017. At the time, Stone Woman was located in Pine River where it remained for a year under new ownership until a space opened up in Walker, a town where the newly formed Stone Woman team believed the store would prosper.

Natural living has been an interest of the team at Stone Woman for years. With all of their collective knowledge

they have experience in areas that would overlap at a retail store such as office administration, sales and finance.

Stone Woman Herbals is a natural health and wellness retail store selling herbal supplements, Cannabidiol (CBD), teas, essential oils, incense and several other natural products to help people heal and to help foster their wellness. They strive to carry only products that are all-natural with clean ingredients, provide third party testing for all their hemp-based products, and look at the quality and ingredients of every product.

They also consider where the products come from. They have a few local vendors that offer locally sourced, authentically-made products from companies who only sell to small businesses.

Stone Woman Herbals plans to add and grow products and services. They re-

cently brought in a new line of hemp products (a huge, and growing market) to start off the new year. If all goes well they plan to add their own personal branded tea blends. Another addition is personally hand-crafted aromatherapy essential greeting cards.

The Stone Woman family has always cared for the needs of others, which is reflected in the story of how they came to own the store.

One day Julie Rono ran into Kris Kayser and mentioned that she'd heard Stone Woman was for sale. Kris stopped in her tracks, looked at Julie, and said "Yes it is, and you need to buy it!"

Julie talked to her daughters and they all decided that it was something they were interested in. Not only would it open up an opportunity to expand their knowledge of natural health and wellness, it would make it possible for



Stone Woman Herbals in downtown Walker is owned by (from left) Samantha Rono, Julie Rono, Kayla Digiovanni and Halli Knutson. Photo submitted

them to help others with their health and wellness.

Since moving the store from Pine River to Walker they have seen exponential growth in sales of up to 22 percent annually. They have added new products in recent months and updated sales and tracking systems to offer the best

and most popular products for their customers. They have created a new website (stone-womanherbals.com) to connect to their customers while opening social media accounts on facebook and instagram to keep store customers updated on new products, hours and more.

Stone Woman Herbals, located at 517 Minnesota Avenue, now offers Reiki, an intuitive healing class as well as Now brand supplements and essential oils, Yogi Teas, Viva Brand CBD, Miracle Balance CBD and a new line of hemp based products from a company named Aieryl.

As a result of COVID-19, keeping products stocked has been a challenge as some items are temporarily unavailable to order and shipping has slowed. Stone Woman Herbals is closed until Jan. 4 and had to cancel all classes in order to social distance, as business slowed due to the pandemic. However they have implemented contactless curbside pick-up, and delivery to local customers while still offering shipping.

For information about upcoming class schedules and new products, call (218) 547-8224, email stonewomanherbals@gmail or check facebook or instagram.

ARCC Emergency Shelter needs funds to finish work

by Dean Morrill

Editor
dmorrill@pilotindependent.com

There is a lot happening at the emergency shelter in the Akeley Regional Community Center (ARCC) in Akeley.

Workers are finishing the drywall and painting, and will soon be installing the furnace, floors and a security system, but donations are needed to finish the shelter in time for the planned February opening.

"We are making headway, but if you are in a position to help the shelter financially, we definitely need additional donations. The violence continues every single day in our community. Together we can make a difference," the ARCC Shelter Committee Board said in a letter. "The pandemic has delayed our progress somewhat, but our motivation to open the shelter and help victims of domestic violence is stronger than ever. We know that the social isolation brought about by the pandemic has increased the incidence of domestic violence. There are more victims than ever needing help to escape the cycle of violence. Although there are services for counsel-

ing, education and support in our area, there is a major shortage of shelter beds in rural Minnesota."

A non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, the ARCC is located in the former Akeley School that in addition to the under-renovation emergency shelter, also houses a unit of the Civil Air Patrol, a large thrift store, library and gymnasium.

The emergency shelter's mission is to temporarily give a safe living space to regional residents who have lost their home because of violence or the threat of violence and who do not have the resources to provide for themselves. The shelter will also offer a haven for homeless and battered women, with or without children, from the areas of Akeley, Hackensack, Nevis, Walker and Park Rapids, and other areas of Hubbard and Cass counties that currently lack shelter availability — the closest is in Bemidji.

Once the shelter is open it will be able to serve up to 22 people. Services will in-

clude one meal per day from one of two area restaurants and food packages from the area food shelf; emergency access to clothing from the thrift store; opportunity for temporary employment at the thrift store; laundry facilities, access to the library and use of computers; and guidance in accessing local services for counseling and other resources currently available.

Counseling services will be provided by the Family Safety Network in Cass County and other area professionals.

"We greatly appreciate all the support we have received in the past year and hope that the generosity of our community members will continue to move us toward completion and opening of the shelter," the letter said.

Donations will go toward setting up each living area that includes a bed, wardrobe, bedside table, under-bed storage, mattress, lamp, pillow, curtains, blankets, mattress cover, laundry bag, sheets, towels. The total cost

is \$29,403 for 22 living areas.

Twin-size quilts can also be donated and will go with the person once they leave the shelter.

The ARCC Shelter Committee Board said the need for the shelter is vital now more than ever. The Family Safety Network had 130 victims that needed shelter over the last six months. Despite grants and programs they have with area hotels, they were only able to provide shelter to 70 clients. The ARCC Emergency Shelter can provide a safety net for all the victims who currently have nowhere to go. The only shelter in this area, Northwood's Battered Women's Shelter in Bemidji, has had no shelter vacancies during this time.

Donations can be made to the ARCC Shelter, P.O. Box 183, Akeley 56433. Any donation to the 501(c)(3) will be sent right out for tax purposes. For more information, call Bob Fuller at (303) 994-5444.



Work continues on the ARCC Emergency Shelter located in the old Akeley School, including one of the two large rooms (above) that will be able to hold up to 22 individuals. Photo submitted

Cass County COVID-19 deaths at 19

by Dean Morrill

Editor
dmorrill@pilotindependent.com

COVID-19 cases in Cass, Hubbard and other area counties continue to drop a week after area hospitals first started to administer the vaccine to healthcare workers and first responders.

In a report sent out by Cass County Public Health, the number of cases from Dec. 14-27 dropped from 162 to 119. The current 14-day case rate sits at 41, which last week was at 64.09.

The case rate has been dropping since Nov. 25 — when over a nine-day period — Nov. 17-25 — the average was 176.22.

Minnesota's death rate surpassed 5,000 over the Christmas weekend. As of Tuesday morning 5,196 people have died.

Two more people died in Cass County over the last seven days and the totals now sits at 19. The total number of positive cases in Cass County is 1,878.

Cass Lake still has the highest number of COVID cases over the two-week period with 26. Walker's number dropped to 13, Pillager has 20, Remer 14, Backus 11 and Pine River 10.

Deaths in Hubbard County also jumped over the last week from 34 to 37, while the number of cases sits at 1,366.

Beltrami has 2,753 cases and 38 deaths, Crow Wing County 4,421 cases with 59 deaths, and Itasca County has 2,640 cases and 34 deaths.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Minnesota is 411,110 as of Tuesday with 393,506 no longer isolated. There were 79 confirmed deaths reported in the state last Wednesday, 57 Friday, 40 Saturday, 13 Sunday and 36 Monday.

Confirmed cases of health care workers is cases 31,776. The total number of people hospitalized over the last week is 287 with 36 in ICU.

High School winter sports practice begins Jan. 4, games resume Jan. 14

The Minnesota State High School League announced in-person practice for winter sports and activities will begin Jan. 4, and competition may resume beginning Jan. 14, after updated information within COVID-19 Youth and Adult Sports was announced Monday by the Minnesota Department of Health.

This new guidance and information is an important step as the League continues forward with a winter season model approved by the Board of Directors. This flexible model will be adapted to include the start of practice and competition. The League continues to work with member schools to provide leadership and support to ensure the safest possible return to sports and activities.

On Jan. 4, gymnastics, girls and boys basketball, girls and boys hockey, wrestling, boys swimming and diving, girls and boys Nordic skiing and girls and boys Alpine skiing may begin in-person practice. The Dance season may resume in-person practice sessions also; and the adapted Floor Hockey may begin its training season.

The MDH updated youth sports document requires mask usage by all participants during practices and competitions with a few exceptions. Exceptions are made for those sports where wearing a mask may cause additional safety concerns and include gymnastics, cheerleading, wrestling, and swimming and diving.