



The Union Pacific's Big Boy 4014 parks in Bruno for nearly an hour Friday on its Midwest tour commemorating the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Hundreds came out to see the train, many from out of town.

Photos by Shawn Jansen

Askov American

The most read weekly newspaper in Northern Pine County

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Who reads the Askov American?

Leroy & Joyce Larsen of Askov are among the many people who read the Askov American every week.

Thank you!

Area Events

COMMUNITY MEALS

Askov: Fourth Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 6318 Kirke Alle, Askov. July 24 menu: barbecue chicken, salad, corn muffins, watermelon, rhubarb swirl.

Finlayson: Last Thursdays, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Finlayson United Methodist Church, 2197 Hwy. 18, Finlayson.

Everyone's Table: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, Grace Lutheran Church, 339 Division Street, Sandstone.

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College Amphitheater, Cloquet, 7-9 p.m.

July 25, The Twins of Franklin; **August 1,** Geoff Elvee.

Also, **July 15,** Cloquet Community Band.

BLOOD DRIVES

July 26, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mercy Hospital, 4572 Co. Rd. 61, Moose Lake.

Aug. 12, 2-6 p.m., Essentia Health, 705 Lundorff Dr., Sandstone.

Aug. 14, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., MSOP, 1111 Hwy. 73, Moose Lake.

Aug. 19, 2:30-6 p.m., Daggett's IGA, Co. Hwy. 61 & 1st St., Hinckley.

Aug. 20, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Wal-Mart, 1100 Hillside Ave. SW, Pine City.

Aug. 22, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Grand Casino, 777 Lady Luck Dr., Hinckley. MBC.org or (888) 448-3253.

WILLOW RIVER RUN/WALK

July 27, 9 a.m. registration at city park & bike trail, Willow River. T-shirts available.

MUSIC AND MEMORIES

July 28, 1 p.m., St. Mary's Center, 8115 Lake St., Willow River. Hosted by the Willow River Community Club.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

July 29-Aug. 1, 5-7:45 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Askov. (320) 838-3191 or blcaskov@frontier.com. Supper, games, Bible study, crafts, campfire.

Aug. 5-9, 8 a.m.-Noon, Peace and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches, Finlayson. Register at plcms.com or (320) 233-6138.

2ND ANNUAL ALL-DAY MUSIC EVENT

Aug. 3, Vintage Pub, Askov.

MATT VEE FREE CONCERT

Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m., Braham Event Center, 655 8th St. SW, Braham. Neil Diamond music.

PIONEER SCHOOL

Aug. 6-9, Pine County History Museum, Askov. K-8th grade, \$15. Topic: eagles.

SUMMER FESTIVALS

Wed.-Sun., July 31-Aug. 4, Pine County Fair. Truck & tractor pulls, demo derby, music, parade Sat. 4 p.m., Sunday Funday @ noon. www.pinecountyfair.com.

Aug. 6, National Night Out
Aug. 9-10, Quarry Days, Sandstone
Aug. 23-24, Askov Rutabaga Festival & Fair

ASKOV'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Aug. 6, 5-8 p.m. Food, prizes, jr. fireman challenge, face painting, more. Fairgrounds.

FAMILY FUN – SANDSTONE TRAIN PARK

Aug. 15, 6-7:30 p.m. Free meal, games. Hosted by Sandstone Ev. Free Church.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Aug. 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., County Highway Garage, 8165 Hwy. 61, Willow River.
Weds. & Sats., 8 a.m.-3 p.m., 405 Airport Rd. NE, Pine City (Pine City Industrial Park), (320) 216-4220. Household waste.

ASKOV FAIR OFFICE HOURS

Tue., Thur., Fri., 10-2. Askov fairgrounds. Fairboard meets every other Thur., 6 p.m.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Meets fourth Thurs. of month, 7-8:30 p.m., Patient Education Room 1701, Mercy Hospital, Moose Lake. Register (218) 485-5508.

MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT GROUP

NAMI Minnesota meets last Tues. of month, family support group at 6 p.m., educational meeting 7-8 p.m., conference room 3, Miller Dwan Hospital, 502 E. 2nd St., Duluth, (218) 409-6566. namiduluth@gmail.com

•AREA EVENTS
Continued on page 2.

Chance of lifetime: Inside Big Boy 4014's cab



Above, the world's largest steam locomotive, the Big Boy 4014, enters Askov Friday on its way to Duluth. Top right, Askov's Clara Edin takes a selfie from the engineers' side of the 4014's cab. Middle right are the sight glasses for tracking water levels in the boiler, and bottom right are the engineer's controls. Below is a close-up of the 4014 releasing steam as it prepares to head north from Bruno.

Shawn Jansen

Supporting a Ladies of Steam cap and T-shirt, Askov's Clara Edin, "the mom" of the Ladies of Steam, was invited up into the cab of the Big Boy 4014 in Bruno on Monday.

"They were so nice ... The crew was absolutely amazing," she gushed. She said she met so many people, among them the man in charge of the two-year restoration of the Big Boy.

Steam engines are a family affair for the Edins. Clara, her husband, Jeff, and their adult children, Jen Roth and Colt Edin, all have Minnesota historical steam boiler licenses. The family owns a 1916 Canadian-Minneapolis "Mighty 28", a 28-horsepower steam traction engine. They used a friend's to harvest oats on their farm until two years ago.

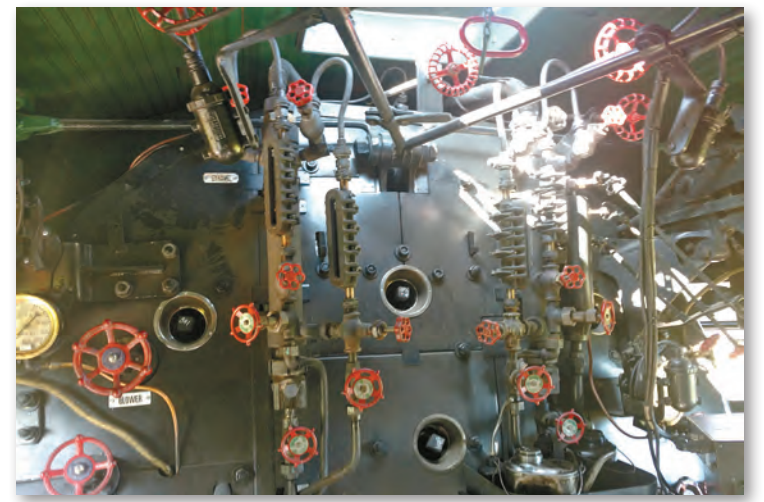
"It takes a community," she said, to harvest. Jeff also holds a locomotive steam license, which comes in handy every Labor Day week-

end in Rollag, where he runs the 353 for the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion. Meanwhile Jen, along with Nicole Wallace, runs a Facebook group called Ladies of Steam, which promotes women teaching women about steam. Even Jen's and Colt's spouses, Greg and Stacey, have gone through steam school.

Clara insisted, "I'm not an expert." She said the Big Boy has a large crew. There are two firemen in the left side of the cab, the engineer on the right side of the cab, and crews for greasing and oiling the train parts, a start-up crew, and a water crew for keeping the water levels correct and releasing extra steam.

She explained the engineer is in charge of the train's movement (speed, braking, etc.), while the firemen and crew are taking care of the mechanical operation of the train, basically keeping the "fire" going.

Anyone who wants to see steam engine up close can check out the White Pine Threshing show held Labor Day weekend in McGrath.



Photos above by Clara Edin



Askov's water study report to be fast-tracked

Shawn Jansen

Home improvements and building projects in Askov will no longer require an inspection by a building inspector. Instead, projects will need a land use permit to assure proper setbacks are being followed.

The Askov City Council repealed their previous zoning ordinances during their July 10 meeting and in place adopted an ordinance that requires a land use permit. The council appointed City Clerk Kathy Morris as zoning administrator.

The change came about because an affordable building inspector could not be found to serve on behalf of the city. Residents will still want to follow state building codes whether they do the work themselves or retain a contractor.

Water quality

The city's water quality has taken a turn for the worse again. Water and sewer operator John Mikrot said

the total organic compound or TOC levels are ranging 10-11. Higher levels of organic compounds in water make it more likely that disinfection byproducts will form when the water is treated with chlorine. That violation occurred in the city's water supply according to a letter dated June 14 from the Minnesota Department of Health. Those byproducts are measured quarterly.

According to Brian Guldán of Bolton & Menk, the engineering firm the city hired to help them solve the problems with the city's water supply, "You're probably going to bounce around the limit with your water quality."

He said he will be speaking with experts at the firm, but said he is thinking that the city will need a different treatment system. Guldán mentioned reverse osmosis may be what is needed, however, that option is much more expensive. He said the presence of disinfection byproducts may work in the city's

favor when it is looking at grant funding.

Guldán said they will be fast-tracking the firm's report to fit the timeline sent by the Department of Health for coming up with a plan to fix the problem. Guldán said getting a plan in to the state by January 1, 2020, will enable them to seek grant funding in the next legislative session. If they don't go for the grant funding this upcoming session, it will be the next biennium bonding year, which would push the project out even further.

Guldán did explain that the violation limit is set at a level that warns of harm to someone if they drank water with that level of contaminant their whole life, not for a short period.

Guldán said they could seek a \$150,000 loan to pay for design of the project if they needed to go with a different water treatment system. Later in the meeting during the auditor's report, Carl Nordquist of Althoff

& Nordquist said the city was in good enough financial shape that it could weather that expense if they didn't get a loan.

Mikrot reported there were five corrective actions he's had to take as recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), which he said are completed. The violations stem from the city having to discharge untreated wastewater into the environment on October 3, 2017, (78,000 gallons) and on June 17, 2018, (7,500 gallons), both due to wet weather.

The city is required to identify activities and sources of infiltration and inflow (I and I) within the collection system and submit a timeline for reducing the extra wastewater entering the system, to submit discharge documentation timely, and to develop standard operating procedures for calibrating flow monitoring equipment and pH and dissolved oxygen instru-

•ASKOV

Continued on page 5.

INSIDE



News p. 3, 5, 10

Ask Tante p. 2
Back to School p. 8
Classifieds p. 6
Crossword p. 5
Do You Remember p. 2
Local p. 9
Obituary p. 2
Opinion p. 4
Practical Pantry p. 2
Public Notices p. 6-7

