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Jumping right in

Skiers flock to Pine Valley

Jana Peterson
news@pineknotnews.com

Ski jumpers and Nordic combined racers from Chicago, the Twin Cities, Coleraine and Ishpeming, Michigan made their way here Saturday to compete in the first Central Division competition of the season at Cloquet's Pine Valley.

Out-of-town jumpers were astounded by the amount of snow in northern Minnesota. St. Paul's Joe Berens was the official Central Division coach on site Saturday, and called the conditions "wonderful."

More than 2 feet of snow was certainly a good thing for jumping, as the landings at the Joe Nowak Ski Area were nicely groomed. Conditions were not so great for Nordic skiing as fresh snow made for slow racing, said 13-year-old Maxim Glyvka of the Norge Ski Club.

Glyvka was one of only two skiers to jump off the 40-meter jump Saturday, along with Norge teammate Sandra Sproach.

There's a long tradition of ski jumping in this community, which is one of only two cities in Minnesota outside the Twin Cities area with active ski jumps and a local club (Coleraine is the other).

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Above: Nathaniel Berg-Stojak flies off the 20-meter ski jump during Saturday's competition Saturday at Pine Valley. Berg-Stojak is a member of the Tri Norse ski club in central Wisconsin and took first in the U12 age group for jumping and third in Nordic combined. **Left:** Cloquet's Ephram Marc lands a 10-meter jump Saturday. Marc placed third in the U10 age group for jumps and fourth in Nordic combined. Photos by Matthew Moses / Pine Knot News

WHOLE LOT OF SANTA INSIDE



Pictures with Santa, Letters to Santa, and greetings from our faithful advertisers. See it all beginning on **Page 9**.

CITY OF CLOQUET

City plans methodical arena fixes

Jana Peterson
news@pineknotnews.com

One step at a time. That's the approach one consulting firm is recommending for repairs and renovations to the city's ice arenas, in particular The Barn.

After spending close to \$50,000 in October to replace the R-22 refrigerant that had leaked out of the aging pipes and ice plant at the more-than-40-year-old facility, determining options for fixing and replacing the cooling systems at both facilities has become a priority for the city.

It's more complicated

than systems simply getting old.

City officials have known for years that something would have to be done since at least 2010, when the Montreal Protocol began requiring phasing out production and import of R-22, an ozone-depleting substance. After December, production will cease entirely.

As long as the direct cooling system (which runs the R-22 in pipes underneath the floor as well as through the ice plant) doesn't leak, that's not a problem.

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Have a joyous Christmas!

The snow sculpture pictured at the top of this page was created by Cloquet's Tim Young Sr.

