

INSIDE

This week in Carlton County's only independent, locally owned newspaper.



Wheeeee, wheeeee Page 3



A year in cartoons Page 8



Dinner (to go) was served Page 10

INDEX

Weather	2
News	3
Opinion	6-8
Obituaries.....	9
Sports	11
Community	12
Classified.....	13

Happy New Year!



Shooting leaves teen dead

Arrest sought of another teen in early Monday death northwest of Cloquet

Jana Peterson
news@pineknotnews.com

A 16-year-old boy was shot and killed outside a home on the Fond du Lac Reservation early Monday morning and an arrest warrant was signed Tuesday for another teenager,

18-year-old Joseph James Fohrenkam, who is wanted by police.

According to a press release from the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, deputies and officers from the Fond du Lac Police Department responded to a call at 1:19 a.m. Monday reporting that someone was shot. When officers arrived at the rural St. Louis County home, they found a deceased 16-year-old male outside of the residence. Initial investigation found the deceased — whose name was withheld by police pending

positive identification and notification of family members — was shot with a firearm. Two adult females were later located and interviewed inside the residence on the 3600 block of Giiniw Road, which dead-ends just a few hundred yards from the home.

On Tuesday afternoon, the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office said the investigation uncovered evidence indicating that Joseph



Joseph Fohrenkam

Fohrenkam is responsible for the death. Fohrenkam is still at large, and believed to be accompanied by his mother, Littlefawn Fohrenkam, age 38. He may still be in possession of a 9mm handgun, according to the press release.

The mother and son are two of three people wanted for questioning after the shooting.

Continued on Page 15



What it was like before the elephant entered

Mike Creger
news@PineKnotNews.com

A fly on the wall at the office of the Pine Knot News, during a meeting of the minds discussing year-in-review stories, may not have contained itself in screaming: "Covid. Done."

But, being a fly with no means to discernibly communicate with humans, no one here at the office heard the plea.

Not that we needed to. 2020. Covid. Pandemic. Restricted socializing. Masks. Illness. Death. Loss. Or, as we displayed in our largest headline of the year on March 20: Everything has changed.

Yes, fly, 2020 will go down as the Covid year. A year we never could have imagined merely 12 months ago.

So, as we go down the road in looking back, this week we will focus on the weeks leading up to that March issue, when most of us were blissfully unaware of what was to come. Next week, we will cover

what continues to be a Covid-dominated world, albeit with much more hope, as vaccinations have started. Hang in there.

January

• Community Memorial Hospital celebrated the first baby born in the new year: Stella Mae Ammeski, born at 11 a.m. on Jan. 2. She is the child of Marina Berglund and James Ammesmaki. Stella is doing "great," Marina told us this week. "She has 15 teeth. She's walking. She talks a lot."

• It was a small story that would gain import as the year went on. With a special election on Feb. 12 to fill the Ward 3 spot on the Cloquet City Council, absentee voting opened in early January. Chris Swanson, who had been filling in for Dakota Koski after he moved out of the ward, won the election for a three-year term. The use of absentee and mail-in ballots would reach record numbers locally and nationwide by the general election in November as voters opted



The children of Lena Ranta and Elisha Plews-Keinanen celebrated Christmas recently. The family suffered a fire in February, above, and had to seek a new home. In June, Lena gave birth to Phoenix, aptly named to commemorate a trying year made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic. Pictured here are Memphis, 6; Zackarius, 6; Marley, 5; and Phoenix, seven months.

to stay away from polls with Covid-19 still unchecked.

Continued on back page



Shooting ...

Continued from Page 1

The third person, Trae Shabaiash, 25, was located and is cooperating with the investigation.

It is a multi-agency investigation that has also included the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and the Fond du Lac Police Department.

Joseph Fohrenkam is wanted on charges of manslaughter in the second degree. Anyone with information on this incident or knows the whereabouts of Joseph or Littlefawn Fohrenkam is asked to call the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office by calling 218-625-3581.

According to Minnesota State Statute 609.205, a person can be charged with second-degree manslaughter if prosecutors can prove one of five different means outlined in state law, including by the person's "culpable negligence whereby the person creates an unreasonable risk, and consciously takes chances of causing death or great bodily harm to another;" or by shooting another with a firearm or other dangerous weapon as a result of negligently believing the other to be a deer or other animal.

The Sheriff's office won't release the victim's name until the Midwest Medical Examiner's office has made an official positive identification, but local residents and students who went to school with the victim have already posted condolences on his Facebook page. Among the friends listed there is Joe Fohrenkam.

Willow River area dam set to be replaced

Pine Knot News

Residents and visitors to the Stanton Lake area on the Willow River will see increased levels of construction activity and truck traffic in the coming weeks as the damaged Willow River dam is removed and is replaced with a rock arch rapids. The dam, built in the 1940s, breached in July 2016 after a large flood overtopped the dam and eroded the adjacent embankment.

Earlier this month, workers temporarily diverted the river channel and dewatered the work area so they could remove the failed concrete dam. In the next phase of construction — expected to last into February — a series of steps and slopes will reshape the riverbed. Base rock and large boulders will be placed to create arch rapids.



By late Monday morning, the single-family home on the 3600 block of Giiniw Road where a 16-year-old boy was shot and killed just after 1 a.m. was surrounded by yellow crime-scene tape. A BCA crime scene team RV and a St. Louis County mobile command RV were parked outside along with other law enforcement vehicles, but the area around the home on a dead-end road was all quiet. *Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News*

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