

Pine Knot News

Vol. 4 No. 35

www.PineKnotNews.com Friday, August 27, 2021

\$1.25

INSIDE

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



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Board: Cloquet students will be masked

Jana Peterson news@pineknotnews.com

After deliberating at three meetings over the past two weeks, Cloquet school board members voted Monday to require universal masking indoors for grades K-12 once school starts on Sept. 8. The mandate doesn't apply to outdoor activities, including recess, sports or other classroom or school events. Masks are already federally required on all public transportation, including school buses.

The vote and the conversation showed some shift from the board's committee of the whole meeting Friday, when they spent more than an hour discussing pandemic recommendations versus restrictions. On Friday, the board seemed almost equally divided on the issue, although not every board member expressed an opinion.

Board member Ken Scarbrough said he had a change of heart over the weekend, after extending his research to include recommendations from health care organizations in-

cluding the Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Johns Hopkins and, again, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which he said he isn't always confident about. All four favored masking, especially in areas of high transmission, he said. That includes Carlton County, which has gone from a low level of community Covid transmission on Aug. 3, to a moderate, then a substantial, and now a high level of transmission.

"I spent so much time on the fence this weekend, I was starting to chafe," Scarbrough said. "Where

I was definitely against masks, I am now open to some kind of masking."

A draft letter shared by superintendent Michael Cary on Friday included "strongly recommending" masks in school along with other precautions such as social distancing, but he stressed that the decision was for the board to handle.

During the work session Monday, Cary told board members he'd spoken with a local pediatrician Friday afternoon about mask effectiveness.

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HORSE COURSES AT COUNTY FAIR



Horses were a big part of the action last weekend at the Carlton County Fair in Barnum. Above, Alisha Scofield, Taylor Downing, Elayna Harsh and Amber Mielke raced in the quarter-mile Farmers race Saturday. At left, Cloquet's Ashley Zink competes in the 4-H horse show games Saturday morning. For more on the fair, **see pages 12-13.** Photos by Dave Harwig/ Pine Knot News

Disabled American Veterans & Auxiliary Chapter 18 Carlton County

FULFILLING OUR PROMISES TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

BURGERS & BRATS

Thursday & Friday, September 2 & 3

9 a.m. - 6 p.m. ~ In the Premiere Theatres parking lot by L&M

Proceeds Benefit Carlton County Veterans ~ Thanks for supporting our Veterans!

