

# Pine Knot

## News

Vol. 5 No. 8

www.PineKnotNews.com Friday, February 25, 2022

\$1.25

### INSIDE

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



Why not bus to Duluth? **Page 3**



Boys hockey playoff glory **Page 9**



Robotics returns **Page 10-11**

### INDEX

Weather .....	2
History .....	2
News .....	3
Opinion .....	6
Obituaries.....	8
Sports .....	9
Communities.....	15
Classifieds.....	16
Calendar .....	18

# Wanted: a place for lost dogs and cats

Francy Chammings and Jana Peterson  
news@PineKnotNews.com

In August, Carlton County will have been without an animal shelter for four years.

That's not OK, says a new group of concerned citizens.

Now called Carlton County Animal Rescue, the group has been meeting since October. Their ultimate objective is to build and manage a shelter to house lost or abandoned cats and dogs in Carlton County.

It's been a grassroots movement from the beginning, when Bekki Babineau recognized that an animal rescue group was needed and placed a message on the Cloquet Neighbors Facebook page in August 2021.

"I raised my hand and said I would love to work with other like-minded individuals; if you're interested, let me know. I just got a great response," Babineau said. "That led me to create the advocacy group Facebook page. From that I asked who was interested in serving in a leadership role."

That first call resulted in 18 people willing to help.

They've been meeting regularly ever since, usually at 6 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Carlton VFW. New members are always welcome.

The lack of an animal shelter is a problem people have been talking about since the Friends of Animals (FOA) Humane Society shut its doors in August 2018, but this is the first time a group has taken steps publicly to try to replace the defunct animal shelter and humane society.

### The recent past

When FOA closed and disbanded, the longtime nonprofit organization was facing financial difficulties and a building in downtown Cloquet which had become a money pit, with renovations needed for prior renovations to stop the spread of disease.

There wasn't enough money, and when FOA reached out to the city of Cloquet, Carlton County and other cities and townships that were member communities — contracted with the humane society for animal control — they didn't get a lot of sympathy or additional funds.

*Continued on page 19*



Custodians at Cloquet High School found a litter of kittens in June 2019 and reached out to the Missing Pets of the Northland Facebook page administrators. Jodi Carlson of Missing Pets said she had to trap the momma to reunite her with her babies. Because there is no local shelter, they transported the kittens and mom to a shelter in Wyoming, Minnesota. *Contributed photo*



Snow piles down the middle of Cloquet Avenue await removal by city crews following this weekend's heavy snowfall. The National Weather Service estimated Carlton County got between 11 and 15 inches of snow during the two waves of winter weather Monday and Tuesday. *Photos by Dave Harwig / Pine Knot News*

# Winter: it's not over yet

Pine Knot staff  
news@PineKnotNews.com

Sunday wasn't exactly a spring-like day in Carlton, but compared to the tight grip of cold on the region this winter, it felt rather balmy as temperatures neared 30 degrees and a bit of melt occurred. Not so fast, winter said, as a two-day blow of cold and plenty of snow hit the area on Monday and Tuesday.

The wind made snow totals difficult to measure. The National Weather Service in Duluth took reports of 11 to 15 inches of snow in Carlton County. Wrenshall had the highest total reported at

15 inches. An Esko spotter recorded 14.

The snow band that crossed over hit the south shore of Lake Superior particularly hard over the two days, with 25 to 33 inches in the Bayfield area, giving rise to a familiar Minnesota refrain — it could be worse.

Subzero cold continued on Wednesday but with a sunny sky and the end of winds that raged up to 40 mph during the storm, it was warm enough.

Across the county, the digging out continued Wednesday, often for the third or fourth time for those trying to keep up during the storm. But

kids went back to school, after being off for Presidents Day followed by a snow day for a four-day weekend.

Subzero nights were expected to continue through the weekend, but daytime high temperatures rebound from the single digits into the 20s for Saturday and Sunday. March is coming, so expect a few more snowstorms, but maybe not the bitter cold.

Steven Shepherd works at removing snow from in front of Northern Lights Community Action on Cloquet Avenue Wednesday afternoon.



## Lost dogs and cats...

*Continued from page 1*

FOA shut down within months, and the response was more of a whimper than a howl. Animal lovers were upset, but many of the movers and shakers had been part of FOA and that group had dissolved.

Once the shelter closed, instead of calling FOA to report a stray or missing dog, people called 911. City officials changed the laws so stray animals were no longer illegal, although officers can cite pet owners who allow their pets to run free, unchipped, or be what city code defines as a nuisance.

There was some talk of building a new animal shelter, but after finding out it could cost as much as \$2 million to do it properly, officials from Cloquet and other parts of the county took a different approach. Following a joint meeting of 11 county, city and township officials in January 2019, officials across Carlton County decided to focus on expanding efforts to microchip pets — to provide a permanent ID for an animal which can be used to find the owner — and create a cheap or free spay and neuter program in collaboration with local or regional veterinarians.

Since then, the Cloquet police department partnered with Carlton County and Northern Lakes Rescue to put on three annual free microchipping clinics for Carlton County residents. The funds for the clinics and sterilization vouchers come from \$20,000 in city and additional county/township funds previously allotted for the humane society. During the first clinic, they chipped 260 animals: 259 dogs and cats, and one pig. Police also gave out 100 vouchers for spay or neuter operations at local vet clinics.

Cloquet police chief Derek Randall said the chipping program has made a difference. When they get a call about a found animal, an officer responds with a chip reader. “Because of their microchip information, many of the calls we receive for lost or strays, officers can reconnect animals with their owners,” Randall said.

However, if the animal isn’t chipped or they otherwise can’t locate the owner, it takes more time. He estimated that was the case about 60 times last year.

“In those cases, we’ve asked the person with the found animal to hold onto the animal until attempts to locate the owner are successful, transport the animal to a shelter, or contact Missing Pets of the Northland,” Randall said.

## Filling the gap

While city and county measures have helped address some animal control issues, the lack of a place to take a found animal or report a lost pet is still a problem.

Missing Pets in the Northland has been filling that gap since the Friends of Animals closed. Started by four women, the Facebook page and its small group of volunteers cross state and community lines with posts about pets and strays in the Northland. Whenever someone posts about a lost or found animal, the information often makes its way to the Missing Pets page. Together with its more than 20,000 followers, they can solve the riddle of a missing pet in a matter of hours, although that doesn’t always happen.

Cloquet resident Jodi Carlson is the face of the Missing Pets in the Northland group in Carlton County and a veterinary technician. Carlson has been carrying much of the burden of Carlton County’s animal control on her own volunteer shoulders, while being a mom and holding a full-time job at a Duluth vet clinic.

“When strays need medical help, I have to get up extra early to give myself enough time to stop at the foster owner’s house, to pick up the stray, then drive to Duluth, try to squeeze in vet care with our already busy schedule at work, then clean the kennel at end of day and bring it back to foster house,” she said. “They are 12-hour days for me.”

She shared the story of Big Rich — an orange tabby cat — in an email interview. The cat was found Feb. 6 sitting on Big Lake Road near Carmen’s: he had a severe upper respiratory infection, ear mites, frostbitten feet, multiple broken teeth. They started treatment, but after a few days he took a turn for the worse and eventually was humanely euthanized.

Although these hard luck stories are part of their page, it’s not the purpose of their group.

“The purpose of our page is to reunite lost and found pets in the Northland and not be animal control for a county who has no shelter,” Carlson said in an email interview. “Luckily, with the help of Facebook and networking with rescues from all around the state we have been able to find help getting those strays to other rescues. Animal Allies in Duluth does not have a contract with Carlton County and can’t take animals and the Humane Society of Douglas County of Superior won’t take pets from Minnesota. We

desperately need a shelter so our page can go back to its main purpose.”

Randall said he couldn’t speak for the city, but said it’s a matter of best use of police time. “I would say that anything that would help lessen or remove the officers’/PD involvement from this issue would help us redirect our [limited] resources and staff toward more law enforcement-related matters.”

“Ideally, animal control would be a separate entity with collaboration and assistance from the police for state and local code enforcement and animals deemed dangerous or potentially dangerous animals,” Randall added.

## Full circle?

Many of the Carlton County Animal Rescue members follow the Missing Pets in the Northland page and are committed to rescuing stray or injured animals. Some of them said they were inspired by the story of a stray named Curly, who was hit by a car in August 2021 and found lying in the middle of the road by a woman who messaged Missing Pets.

Carlson said she could see he was in “grave condition” when she arrived. Two police officers helped her load the dog into her car, and she rushed him to the ER in Duluth. A Facebook fundraiser helped raise money, and Curly lived.

But he needed weeks of ongoing care. Carlson fostered him and tended his wounds. The owner surrendered Curly to the group, and when he was well, he was adopted.

“He’s living his best life,” Carlson said.

Both Curly and Big Rich are just two of many examples Carlson shared that demonstrate the need for a better animal control program in Carlton County.

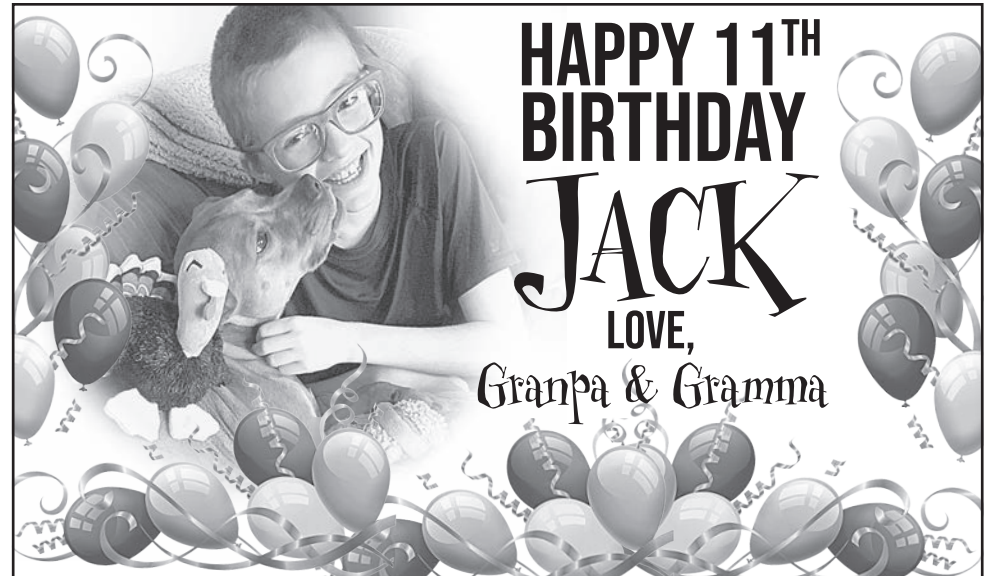
The newly formed Carlton County Animal Rescue group wants to be part of that solution. They are definitely still in the “finding their way” phase, and looking for more members. Babineau said Cory Martinson and Angela Hillman help administer the group’s Facebook page. A core group of eight or nine people attend meetings.

The group put out five possible choices for names and people voted on the Facebook page for the name of the group. At the Feb. 17 meeting, the group decided on Carlton County Animal Rescue. They named board members and discussed their mission statement. Some of the members also mentioned getting in touch with Jodi Carlson and Missing Pets of the Northland.

*Continued on page 20*



Curly was hit by a car in August 2021 and found lying in the middle of the road. He needed weeks of ongoing care. Curly was fostered, cared for, and when he was well, he was adopted.



If your child will be  
5 years old on or before  
September 1, 2022  
it's time to register for  
kindergarten!

# IT'S TIME FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT AND KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

## COME BE A LUMBERJACK!

Kindergarten Roundup is fun and important!

**Churchill • Tuesday, March 15**

**Washington • Thursday, March 17**

Roundup invitations will be mailed  
to families in early March.

**CLOQUET  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WWW.ISD94.ORG

ISD94



Please complete the **NEW**  
student online registration  
**BEFORE ROUNDUP**  
and be sure to upload your  
child's immunization record  
and birth certificate.  
You can register online at  
[isd94.org/PAGE/1263](http://isd94.org/PAGE/1263)

If you are new to Cloquet, are unsure if your child is counted in the 2022-23 kindergarten group or live within another district and plan to have your child attend Cloquet Schools, please call the Central Administration Office at 218-879-6721, ext. 6204 to have your child included.

**Special note:** All children must complete early childhood screening before coming to kindergarten. If your child has not completed this screening, please contact Kayla at 218-879-9291 to set this up.

## WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

# Lost dogs and cats ...

Continued from page 19

Jim Nelson, a former FOA volunteer, was at both meetings in February. "I'm here to advise and give information, answer questions as I see things come up, that I can get you on the right path, should I say, make it easier for you," Nelson said.

Martinson has been researching the requirements

to gain nonprofit approval.

"We're trying to get our ducks in a row and decide how many ducks there are going to be," he told the group at the Feb. 3 meeting. On Feb. 17, the group decided to file the Articles of Incorporation because that's the first step in the application for a 501(c)(3).

Martinson and other members also have been in contact with shelters in the region to gather advice and information.

Martinson stressed that the group needs to assure

the citizens of Carlton County that they are serious about their plans.

"We have to show that we are legitimate, honest, transparent," he said.

To find out more about Carlton County Animal Rescue, follow them on Facebook or email them at carltoncountyanimalrescue@gmail.com. Meetings are held the first and third Thursday each month at 6 p.m. at the Carlton VFW, Post 2962.

Jodi Carlson of Missing Pets of the Northland snuggles up to Big Rich, a cat found sitting in the middle of Big Lake Road in Cloquet earlier this year. He had a severe upper respiratory infection, ear mites, frostbitten feet and multiple broken teeth. Although Missing Pets started treatment, he took a turn for the worse and eventually was humanely euthanized. "We had MANY page followers following his journey and many people were saddened when he died," Carlson said. "We started a fundraiser in memory of him, and have raised \$4,000 to pay it forward to other strays."



# HUNGER BOWL \* TWIN PORTS

\*Drop off nonperishable food donations at participating local insurance agencies in the Twin Ports through March 10

All donations given to



SECOND HARVEST NORTHERN LAKES

FOOD BANK

**95 KQDS**  
with Jason Manning

In cooperation with local insurance agents and sponsoring businesses

\*Food donations suggested to serve the greatest need

**FOX 21 LOCAL NEWS**  
with Dan Hanger

Go to **ZenithAutoGlass.com** for donation details and info on team registration

**ZENITH AUTO GLASS**  
218-275-5555

**Silent Auction**  
**Superior Lanes**  
**Tournament Sat March 12 12-6 pm**

Help fill food bowls in the Twin Ports!

Open Teams Public Bowling 12-3 pm  
Pro/League Amateur Youth Insurance Agency & Sponsor Teams Bowling 3-6 pm

**There's nothing like safety and security.**

Protect the ones you love with **LIFE and DISABILITY INSURANCE.**

TRUST RELIABLE & AUTO-OWNERS.  
-Scott Wojtyasiak

**Reliable Insurance Agency**  
Auto-Owners INSURANCE  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS  
@RELIABLEINSURANCEAGENCY | RELIABLEMN.COM  
SUPERIOR (715) 718-5900 | CLOQUET (218) 879-4663 | HERMANTOWN (218) 729-6791

Supported by these fine sponsors and local insurance agencies in the Twin Ports

**ARROWHEAD AUTO BODY** HERMANTOWN - SUPERIOR  
**Superior LANES**  
**JS PRINT GROUP**  
**ZENITH AUTO GLASS**  
**NORTH SHORE BANK**  
**Pine Knot News**  
**Miller-Mall Car Wash Detail Center**

**AMERICAN NATIONAL**

Auto • Home • Life Farm & Ranch Business INSURANCE

**Jess Lathrop Agent**  
Office: 218-879-4574  
Cell: 218-590-2511  
1403 Ave. C, Suite 5 Cloquet, MN 55720  
Email: Jess.Lathrop@American-National.com  
http://an.insure/jesslathrop

Representing American National Insurance Company, Galveston, Texas. American National Property And Casualty Company, American National General Insurance Company, Springfield Missouri

**Vernon Insurance Agency**

Paul Vernon Commercial Lines & Life  
Cindy Kopic Commercial Lines & Bonds  
Mindy Matten Personal Lines & CSR

206 Chestnut Ave. • Carlton  
VernonInsuranceAgency.com  
**218-384-3970**

**HUNGER BOWL \* TWIN PORTS**

Drop off monetary and nonperishable food items through March 10th.

**Arrowhead/Waller Insurance Agency**  
HIGHWAY 61 • ESKO, MINNESOTA 55733

FINDING GREAT COVERAGE AT A GOOD VALUE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

We represent many highly rated companies and are able to find the best policies for your specific needs and situation.

Let us put our 40 years of experience to work for you!  
Auto - Home - Life - RV - Boat - Motorcycle and more!

(218) 879-4445

Email: aia@mchsi.com **ArrowheadWaller**

**Up North Insurance**

Call us for AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • FARM • ATV • CABIN and most other insurance needs you have!

**Holly Peterson, CIC Agent/Owner**  
**Aaron Peterson, CIC Agent/Owner**

619 Sunnyside Drive • Cloquet  
218.879.4444 • UpNorthIns.com

**J3INS.COM**  
Duluth | Cloquet | Brainerd Lakes  
**218-384-4236**

**J3 INSURANCE**

Home • Auto • Business • Life • Health

**NOBODY OFFERS MORE DISCOUNTS THAN FARMERS**

- Contact me for a free coverage review
- Flexible payment options
- Coverage you can customize to meet your needs

**Lisa Montminy**  
Your Local Agent  
106 Avenue C, Cloquet, MN 55720  
Lmontminy@farmersagent.com  
agents.farmers.com/lmontminy

Call 218.879.6500 today!  
For Home, Auto, Life and Business.

**FARMERS INSURANCE**

Restrictions apply. Discounts may vary. Not available in all states. See your agent for details. Insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange and other affiliated insurance companies. Visit farmers.com for a complete listing of companies. Not all insurers are authorized to provide insurance in all states. Coverage is not available in all states.