



PINE COUNTY COURIER

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SPORTS: Dragons sing Eagles P6



MIKE DRAHOSH | PINE COUNTY COURIER

Sandstone business total loss

Crews from the Sandstone, Finlayson and Hinckley Fire Departments along with Essentia Ambulance and the Pine County Sheriff's Office braved the 14 below temperatures last Wednesday when they responded to a fire at the Northern Pine Chiropractic office. The crews worked until the early hours of the morning to fight the blaze. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

EC Drama prepares for One Act competition

JENNIFER YOCUM-STANS
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The East Central Drama department is at it again. Under the direction of Courtney Riley they will be competing in the One Act Sub Section contest this weekend at East Central.

EC will be one of seven schools performing Saturday to earn the chance to move on to the Section competition with hopes of going to the state competition.

Although this is her directing debut, Riley is no stranger to the theater department, she has worked with former director Kathy Ebnet for many years. This year was no different. Thanks to a grant from the Perpich Center for the Arts, Ebnet is able to be Riley's mentor.

The play chosen this year is called *The Arkansaw Bear*. The story starts with a young girl named Tish, who is facing the death of her grandfather. Tish runs to her special place where she meets the World's Greatest Dancing Bear who is running from death. Together they figure out the meaning of both life and death.

The cast and crew of *The Arkansaw Bear* are working hard to put on a quality performance. The cast and crew were asked why they wanted to be involved in this year's One Act play and for also for a fun fact about them. Below are there responses

Elizabeth Moyer - Tish - 11th grade - She joined One-Act because she has a passion for acting. She has been in 11 plays.

Phoebe Moyer - Mime - 8th grade - She joined because her sister begged her to do it. She has been in five plays, loves Star Wars, has two cats and a dog.

Trinity Ritchie-Little Bear - 9th grade - She joined the play because she is passionate about acting and acting is like an escape from reality. "As soon as I feel the warmth of the stage lights all my worries and cares disappear. When I'm in character nothing matters and the only thing I'm focused on is the little world we created onstage. Acting is a piece of me and I love it a lot."

Isabella Marchand - Voice of Mother - 8th grade - "I wanted to become part of the play because everyone in the theater is very nice."

Olivia Meyer - Star Bright - "The reason I joined the play is because I have a hard time remembering things and I thought joining

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Honored to serve then and now Meet the new Pine County VSO

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There are roughly 2,300 veterans that live in Pine County, approximately only 700 of those are actively enrolled in benefit programs. This is something the new Veteran Services Officer hopes to help correct.

A Florida native, Michael Harshman joined the Navy in 2006 and became a Navy Corpsman, the Navy's version of a medic. He attended basic training and Naval Medical school in Great Lakes, Illinois. After that he attended Combat Trauma Management and Combat Med School at Camp Pendleton in southern California. His original orders from there were to go to a hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas. However, being that it was a time of war there was a great need for combat corpsmen. He was then assigned to the 1st First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He served with the 1st CEB Combat Engineer Battalion.

Harshman served two tours with the Marines. He was in Iraq from October 2007 - May 2008 and in Afghanistan



TERRY BULLOCK | PINE COUNTY COURIER

VSO Mindy Sandell shakes the hand of the newly sworn in Michael Harshman as he prepares to help Sandell help veterans county wide.

during the summer of 2009 doing route clearance, which is bomb patrol. They would go down the routes, clearing them of IEDs, there was a lot of am-

bushes, he said. "When we do stuff like that you can't expect to come back as a

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