

INSIDE

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



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CAFD chief, under fire, resigns

Jana Peterson
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After placing Cloquet Area Fire District Chief Matt Ashmore on paid administrative leave last month, the CAFD board voted unanimously Monday to close its investigation of Ashmore “without findings” and subsequently accepted his resignation, effective the same day. The board then approved a separation agreement with Ashmore. All three votes followed a closed meeting that lasted nearly 45

minutes. The fire chief had been on leave since Nov. 11, when the board also met in closed session to discuss allegations that Ashmore violated Covid protocols and “may have violated the organizational values of the district.” At the heart of the complaints was the fact that the fire chief came to work after contracting Covid-19 — but unknowingly, after testing negative at home, Ashmore told the board — and subsequently exposed a number of co-workers, commu-

nity members and a student over a period of days before finding out he was positive for Covid. A request by the Pine Knot News for copies of any complaints against Ashmore was denied on the basis that it was private personnel data. According to CAFD attorney Donald Erickson, data relating to complaints or charges against an employee are public “only if the complaint results in disciplinary action or the employee resigns or is terminated from employment while the complaint or charge is pending.”

Because the board first voted to close its investigation and Ashmore resigned AFTER the complaint was closed, the complaints are not public data, said Erickson, a labor and employment law specialist. Ashmore declined to comment on his resignation when the Pine Knot News contacted him this week. Ashmore came to Cloquet from the Hibbing Fire Department a year ago to replace longtime chief Kevin Schroeder, who had retired.

Continued on back page

KICKING OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN CLOQUET



It was Santa's Home for the Holidays in Cloquet last weekend, the official kickoff to the holiday season. Above, the Cloquet Area Fire District had firefighter-sanctioned fire pits at Station 1 for people to make s'mores and enjoy some hot chocolate in the hour leading up to the parade Saturday. At left, Santa and Mrs. Claus made their way back to Cloquet for the parade after the popular community event was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Find more photos from all the festivities on **Page 9** and on our website at www.pineknotnews.com
Photos by Jody Acers, Amber Nichols
Pine Knot News

Pine Knot News

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ABOUT US

The Pine Knot News is the most comprehensive news chronicler in Carlton County and the only one that is locally owned and operated. Begun in 1918, our name is an homage to the area's first newspaper, The Pine Knot, which first printed in Cloquet in 1884 using paper from a local mill. The Pine Knot News is a proud member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association. We are its 2021 weekly newspaper of the year after earning 33 awards for newspaper excellence. The Pine Knot News is certified to print legal notices and is the official newspaper for most public bodies in Carlton County.

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If you find an item in the Pine Knot News that requires a correction or clarification, contact us immediately. We strive for accuracy and appreciate readers keeping the record straight. Call: 218-878-9332 Email: news@PineKnotNews.com.

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WEATHER


TODAY



HIGH 29 | LOW 15

Overcast; 40-percent chance of snow.


SATURDAY



HIGH 27 | LOW 17

Mostly sunny.


SUNDAY



HIGH 34 | LOW 13

Mostly sunny.

EXTENDED



MONDAY: Mostly sunny. High 37. Low 20.

Forecast courtesy meteorologist Dave Anderson, CBS News 3

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HISTORY MYSTERY



This latest photo from the Carlton County Historical Society may be just “interesting” rather than a mystery. The only information on the back of the picture is the likely location, “Scanlon.” Do you recognize the landscape or the people? Send any information you may have, or other mysterious items that readers might be able to provide information on, to news@PineKnotNews.com, with “History” in the subject line.

CORRECTIONS

Interim Esko school board chairman Jerry Frederick's surname was misspelled in a Dec. 3 Pine Knot News story on Esko schools. Frederick complimented current business manager Teresa Hart,

along with former finance manager Janet Halonen for their work on the budget. Their positions were unclear in the Esko story.

The Schroeder referred to in a Dec. 3 story on the

SENIOR DINING

Arrowhead Senior Nutrition menu:

Friday, Dec. 10
Meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, wax beans, oatmeal cookie

Sat-Sun, Dec. 11-12
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Monday, Dec. 13
Special of the Day

Tuesday, Dec. 14
Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, fresh fruit

Wednesday, Dec. 15
Pork loin roast, potatoes, gravy, pumpkin bars

Thursday, Dec. 16
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Friday, Dec. 17
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Cloquet Area Fire District is Kevin Schroeder, retired fire chief and longtime Cloquet firefighter.



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CITY OF CLOQUET

Council approves levy increase, new officer

Jana Peterson
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Cloquet City Councilors approved a 3.49-percent levy increase taxes payable in 2022, but with a market value increase of 4.49 percent, some Cloquet property owners could see a decrease in their city taxes next year.

Rural Cloquet resident Eric Witeli would like to see his taxes decrease even more. Witeli was the only resident to address the council during Tuesday's Truth and Taxation hearing. The Brookston Road resident said he'd like to pay fewer taxes because he uses very few city services.

"I don't have city utilities, I'm surrounded by county roads, no curb and gutter," he said. "I'd like to propose my taxes be lowered because I don't benefit much from what the city has to provide."

City administrator Tim Peterson explained that taxes don't fund city water or sewer, those are billed to users. Stormwater fees are countywide "for the betterment of the community."

"You still benefit from the police department, plows that clear all the roads," Peterson said.

Peterson told councilors that very little had changed in the proposed city budget since they approved the preliminary levy in September.

In general, the city is proposing total expenditures of \$21,328,420 and revenues of \$20,024,600. Transfers from other funds, such as the sales tax, will make up \$1,849,250 of the revenues.

The city will collect \$3,240,200 in property taxes, which make up 16 percent of its revenues.

14th Street redux

The council again approved Phase 2 of the 14th Street project and approved bids, after also holding a second public hearing on the project because more than a year had passed since the first one.

Resident John Zissos expressed concern about the roundabout planned for the intersection of Washington Avenue and 14th Street, and wanted to know details and the timing for that portion of



The Cloquet Police Department held a chili feed with the Fond du Lac police department last Thursday and Shop with a Cop on Tuesday. The CPD will hold the Stuff the Squad toy drive 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15 outside the L&M and Walmart stores in Cloquet. *Rich Ekholm/ Pine Knot News*

the project, as it will directly affect him because he lives nearby.

Assistant city engineer John Anderson said construction on the roundabout will start after the school year ends. The intersection will be open again before school starts again after Labor Day.

Peterson pointed out that 14th Street is a county road and the county is responsible for that part of the project, while the city will be working to replace aged water

and sewer utilities under the roadway.

Police hires

Also Tuesday, councilors hired a new police officer, Jared Braveheart, bringing the department to 23 of 24 funded officer positions.

The council also approved the promotion of Ron Timmons to detective. Timmons has eight years experience from his previous job in Port Clinton, Ohio.

KNOT NOTES

Public meeting in Carlton Monday

The Carlton school district is holding a public meeting on the proposed tuition agreement between Carlton and Cloquet. If the agreement is approved, Carlton could close its high school and send students in grades 9-12 to Cloquet next year without going through the open enrollment process. The Carlton meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13 in the school library or small gym. Carlton school board members will likely vote on the proposal at their board meeting Dec. 20. Carlton students will also be able to enroll in other districts if they prefer.

Enjoy a holiday hayride and more

Lakehead Harvest will continue its holiday hayrides this weekend and next through the Lakehead Harvest property and woods 2 miles west of Midway on St. Louis River Road.

No reservations are required, and cost is \$6 per adult, free for children ages 12 and younger.

In addition to the hayrides, there are also fire pits, a s'more shack, sing-alongs and an occasional appearance by Santa Claus (when he can make it). Concessions are available for purchase.

The hayrides last about 10 minutes on a cold night, and closer to 18 when the temperatures are kinder. The entry fee gets you in the gate and then families can decide what they want to do.

"It's good cheap family fun this time of year," said Lakehead Harvest president Ryan Hansen. "We have families that go on every ride. We made a trail through the woods; it's all lit up with Christmas lights."

The hayracks — which are also lit — are pulled by various tractors. "People can choose their brand, we have pretty much all the major brands," Hansen said with a chuckle.

Now that it has snowed, Hansen said people can also choose to ride on a turn-of-the-century school bus that was donated to the nonprofit organization. It's made of wood and has skis instead of wheels. It's enclosed and warmer on cold nights, he said.

Hours are 6-8:30 p.m. on Fridays and 2-8:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays Dec. 10-12 and Dec. 17-19. The address is 70 E. St. Louis River Road. The site is fully wheelchair-accessible.

COLD FOLLOWS WIND-WHIPPED SNOWSTORM



Snow removal crews were out in Cloquet Monday in the West End on Avenue C after a weekend storm left a few inches on the ground across Carlton County, the first significant snowfall of the season. There were blizzard conditions farther north, with 12-18 inches reported along the North Shore and inland past Two Harbors. The Sunday snow was met with sub-zero temperatures Monday and Tuesday. There was some warming later in the week. Expect another warming trend this weekend with highs reaching into the upper 20s and 30s Saturday and Sunday. *Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News*

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Get a tree, donate to hospital

Harold Ankrum is at it again, raising money for his favorite children's hospital in novel ways. This time it's Christmas trees. Cut your own tree or pick up a freshly cut tree, and donate what you can to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

To cut your own tree, visit Rod and Sue Holmes' tree farm south of Wrenshall (3.3 miles south of County Road 4 (Military Road) on the west side of Minnesota State Highway 23 across from Fire #3030. Or pick up a freshly cut tree at Harold's Service in Carlton.

Donations for wreaths wanted

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is continuing the tradition of decorating graves at veterans cemeteries with memorial wreaths. A nonprofit organization has led the effort in the past but is unable to do so this year. The fundraising goal is \$100,000 for 6,500 decorated wreaths. See MinnesotaVeteran.org/Wreath for more.

Christmas dinner is set

Following their Thanksgiving successes, the Carlton County Disabled American Veter-

ans chapter is taking over operations for the annual Christmas dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas Day. Because of the ongoing pandemic, the DAV will move its headquarters from Zion Lutheran Church to the Cloquet VFW at 210 Arch Street.

They will offer sit-down dinners along with carryout or curbside pickup, with limited deliveries only to area senior high rise apartments). Call Zion at 218-879-4647 to volunteer or sign up for curbside pickup. Look for more information in next week's Pine Knot News.

Photographers deck the walls at Pine Knot

Ann Markusen
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The Knot Gallery's current exhibit features two area photographers whose subjects are all "out of doors." Colorful and majestic framed landscapes by retired Raiter Clinic physician Dan Malkovich hang along the multi-colored brick wall at the Pine Knot News office on Avenue C. Among his framed prints, we've interspersed Will Stenberg's remarkable wildlife photos, often intimate with flashes of movement. Last week, we held an opening for the two artists during the West End open house that helped kick off the Santa's Home for the Holidays festivities. Well-attended, folks floated in and out over a two-hour period, often conversing with the photographers.

It wasn't love at first sight between Malkovich and photography. "I've long had an interest in photography, but years ago, I had a reflex film camera and it was difficult," he said. "I would get my photos developed and be disappointed."

It wasn't until he bought a digital camera at the urging of one of his best friends from high school — 50 years after graduation — that Malkovich really fell in love.

"I could take pictures with abandon and not have to worry about expensive developing costs," he said. "Over taking thousands and thousands of pictures I learned what worked and what didn't."

The Malkovich images at the Pine Knot gallery include subjects from our region: A nighttime Boundary Waters photos of faces lit by firelight reflected by nearby rocks, small compared to the awesome Milky Way spread above. A verdant cascade of water running over fern and lichen-covered rocks on the Rose Portage, taken on a BWCA canoe trip with his son. There's his striking

horizon painting of the Grand Marais Harbor at night, looking north over the water toward the sand spit with its terminal lighthouse. Restive Lake Superior waves dashing against rock cliffs at Tettegouche State Park. Rose and orange shades of sunset lighting up the St. Louis River's floating chunks of ice. A lavish golden fall maple forest, also in Jay Cooke.

Other Malkovich images feature the red rock country of the Colorado Plateau, taken at Arches and Canyonland national parks.

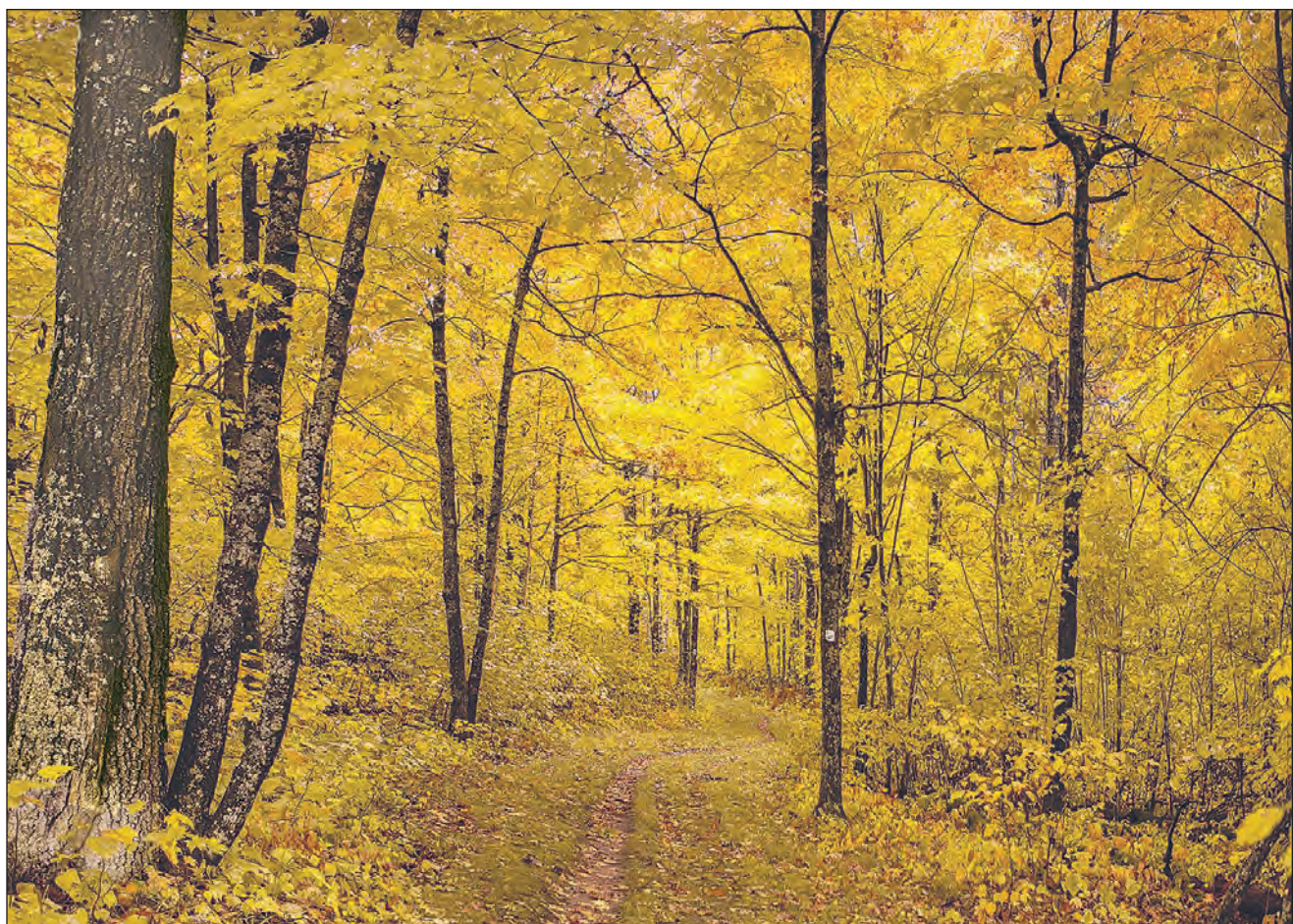
Interspersed with Malkovich's landscapes are Will Stenberg's photos, many of birds and other animals captured in the wild.

Stenberg, in his retirement, spends many days and hours of those days searching for subjects. Some are full of motion, as in his two trumpeter swans caught on film in their dramatic mating dance on water. Three crimson-capped sandhill cranes taking off in Solway Township during their annual migration. A ruffed grouse fanning his head's red-orange side feathers in his mating call in the spring. A regal, gold-capped black bobolink posing on a cattail. An orange-breasted prothonotary warbler photographed in Frontenac State Park. And not all are birds.

The Cromwell native has captured a buffalo herd on film on a snowy afternoon in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and a trio of fox kits waiting for their mom.

"I love to be out in nature and feel better in mood and spirit there than in any other setting," said Stenberg. "Certainly, every time I go out, I would like to find something interesting to photograph, but I would still want to be in nature without a camera."

Stenberg said he's an opportunist: "That is, I rarely go out for a certain subject, but will try to capture what I do happen to see in the field on any particular day,"



This section of the Superior Hiking Trail in Jay Cooke State Park is one of photographer Dan Malkovich's favorite trails in autumn. "The color and light are stupendous," he said. "We are lucky to live where we are."

he said. "I especially appreciate the birds, mammals and insects of our region, but will turn my attention to plants or landscapes should the opportunity arise."

Malkovich calls it something else: luck.

"A lot of photography is good luck," Malkovich said. "I like to visit a location with a specific composition in mind, but conditions change without warning, especially the weather, and the ability to adapt to those changes is important."

The rest of the time he plans his photos, often for the "golden hours" around sunrise and sunset.

Before Malkovich leaves his home, he knows his location, and he's already scouted out the foreground. He gets there an hour in advance, just in case. "I know what time the sun will be up or where the moon will be on the horizon," he said. "One time I knew the Milky Way would be out at 2 a.m. at

Split Rock. I set my alarm for 12:30 a.m. to get there, then got lucky because the northern lights showed up that night too."

Stenberg reflected on his photography in an email.

"I wouldn't describe what I do with a camera as in any way remarkable. There are many, many

photographers, just in Minnesota, whose work I am humbled by. Some people tell me that I have a unique view of nature. Most likely we all notice certain things and don't recognize what is obvious to another's eye. A subject could be plain as day to another photographer's eye, and I may miss

it completely."

The Malkovich and Stenberg works will be mounted at the Pine Knot until the end of January. We welcome drop-in viewers after 10 a.m. most weekdays at 122 Avenue C, Cloquet. Call 218-878-9332, just in case we're out reporting on the news.

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Will Stenberg captured these fox kits waiting for their mom at the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

THOMSON TOWNSHIP

Township reacts to big jump in taxes

Rebekah King and Jana Peterson
news@PineKnotNews.com

A proposed 56-percent hike to 2022 Cloquet Area Fire District taxes — for properties in the ambulance district only — has Thomson Township residents in an uproar.

Township chair Terry Hill is frustrated with the CAFD's tax increase, feeling that the township has been "backed into a corner."

Residents feel that the more than threefold increase in the CAFD portion of their property taxes, without prior notification from CAFD, is too much for the services they are provided and unfair.

Thus, the town board unanimously passed a resolution of "non-support" for the CAFD tax levy increase during its meeting Thursday, Dec. 2. The normally supervisors made their feelings known in the final paragraph of their resolution.

"WHEREAS, the drastic and immediate implementation of a tax rate which is seven times what is currently in place, without any consultation, discussion or negotiation with the Town of Thomson, is outrageous and appears to be in bad faith."

Thomson Township is not a member of the fire district itself, but a large portion of the township is part of the ambulance primary service area (PSA) served by CAFD, while a much smaller portion is served by Carlton Fire and Ambulance as part of its PSA. The level of service and payment structure differs. CAFD

provides advanced life support, while Carlton provides basic life support. Both ambulance services bill individual patients for services rendered. CAFD is authorized to tax property owners annually, while Thomson Township pays the city of Carlton directly for a portion of the on-call wages: for 2020 that amounted to \$3,112 total according to township documents. Carlton ambulance made four calls to Thomson Township that year.

According to CAFD officials, the changes are about equalizing costs among everyone receiving services, after fire district members have paid more than their fair share for a decade due to legislative limits on the fire district's taxing authority.

By the numbers

Board members discussed township options to deal with the proposed tax increase for township residents in 2022 at its meeting Thursday, Dec. 2.

Township attorney Dave Pritchett showed the board and community members in attendance a large file folder containing all of Thomson Township's correspondence with CAFD, all meeting minutes where CAFD is mentioned, and all other relevant paperwork dealing with CAFD. Pritchett outlined the history of the township's relationship with CAFD for all individuals in attendance.

Pritchett began by outlining the history of Thomson Township's relationship with the CAFD, beginning in 2008. While there have been heated discus-

sions between the two entities in the past dealing with taxes, according to the board's old meeting minutes, the township had always been included in discussions before voting took place at CAFD, he said. But, without advance discussion with Thomson Township, the CAFD board raised its preliminary tax levy for Thomson residents from 0.019 percent to 0.075 percent for 2022 and to 0.132 percent for 2023, in a phased approach. According to Pritchett, this increase will leave township residents paying a levy increase four times higher than that for residents served by CAFD fire and ambulance, for half the services.

The township attorney shared figures comparing next year's levy increase between Cloquet and Thomson Township. For a \$175,000 home in Cloquet, the CAFD tax levy increase would be around \$26 from 2021 to 2022, while a similarly priced home in Thomson Township will see an increase of \$106. In 2023, those prices will double again in the ambulance district as CAFD implements the second phase of its levy increase on ambulance district properties.

Property owners in the fire district itself, while seeing a lower increase from year to year, will still pay higher overall taxes to CAFD. A Cloquet home with an estimated market value of \$201,000 will pay roughly \$450 in CAFD taxes in 2022, while a similar home in Thomson Township will pay \$152. A Cloquet home valued at \$442,000 will pay \$1,094 in CAFD taxes, while

a Thomson Township home valued at \$454,000 will pay \$376 in CAFD, according to figures confirmed by the Carlton County Auditor's office.

Concerned

Thomson Township residents in attendance were concerned with what can be done since the preliminary levy has already been passed by the CAFD. Pritchett explained that the township receives the CAFD's services because it is an adjacent community that is within the primary service area. The primary service area is established by the Emergency Medical Service Regulatory Board to ensure that all communities in Minnesota have emergency medical services. While the township would have the right to withdraw from the fire district if they were members, they do not have the right to withdraw from their PSA.

Township resident and Carlton County commissioner Marv Bodie expressed his concerns to the board about the increase. He asked whether township residents would be able to vote on a referendum for a proposed new CAFD building in Cloquet, which has been discussed by CAFD for a number of years. According to Thomson Township fire chief Kyle Gustafson, residents will not have a say in if the potentially \$15 million firehall will be built, but they will be on the hook for a percentage of the cost if it is passed.

"It's a complicated issue," Pritchett told the Pine Knot Wednesday, adding that he would

like to find a way forward that residents served by CAFD could support. "My goal is to solve problems, not make them worse."

Pritchett suggested that the township should begin by reaching out to the CAFD and express its opposition to the levy and see what the response is. For residents, he suggested they attend the CAFD truth in taxation hearing Thursday, Dec 8. Long-term, Pritchett explained that the township has a variety of options, including attempting to change the township's PSA.

Thomson Township supervisor Jason Paulson — who resigned from the CAFD board after it passed the levy increase on ambulance district residents — said he planned to attend Thursday's meeting and ask CAFD to honor previous negotiations that would have maxed out ambulance district taxes at 0.048 percent of estimated market value, which is what other ambulance districts in the state got automatically and CAFD previous goal before the state removed the levy caps for fire districts earlier this year.

But Paulson is even more worried about the future fire station plans.

"Esko has 5,600 people. We have our own fire department. We can have our own ambulance," Paulson told the Pine Knot. "But we need to get it done before the big Taj Mahal fire station is built."

For now, the township board has expressed its opposition to the levy through its resolution and a letter to the CAFD, and is waiting for a response.

ACROSS THE COUNTY



The third Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Kettle River, along with a bazaar and other events, took place Saturday. Photos by Mary Sanders



Tree lighting tradition builds in Kettle River

Pine Knot News

Ma & Pa Kettle Days, with strong support from the Kettle River area, organized the third annual Christmas tree lighting last weekend with a crowded Veterans Building as the site of a Christmas bazaar.

This year the community Christmas tree location was moved to the front of the Vets Building just in front of the flagpole. The white spruce was donated by the Butkiewicz Fam-

ily Farm in Split Rock Township. Twenty-plus feet in height, the tree was cut, hauled in, and put up with lights and star by a team which included Dan Reed, Britt Sarvela, Wayne Gulso, Tim Taylor, Carl Lingle and Mark Tollgaard.

"That's a lot of tree to lift into the sky using only manpower," observed Reed. "It seems each year the tree is of a different size and height, and each year has different issues to solve."

High winds this last snow-

storm tipped the tree on an angle, leaning it against the Vets Building. The tree was centered again and Dave Isaacson of city maintenance piled snow at its base while clearing the streets and sidewalks. Many attending the event hope that by next year a permanent base will be installed at the new site for the tree.

Two thousand LED lights cover the tree. The new lights were donated by Howard Eskuri and Randy Sarvela.

Santa Claus, made possible

by Deane Rengo of Automba, listened to each and every child and their dreams of Christmas to come. One boy hung around Santa most of the evening and said that Santa was "his newest and best friend."

More than 15 vendors came to help the locals do their Christmas shopping. One of the vendors said they had been at many venues and the Kettle River event was special and their favorite. The vendor said the community came out, and after checking out

all the tables, stayed, had coffee or hot chocolate, and visited, brimming with a strong and caring community spirit.

Mary Sanders and Marcia Sarvela took the lead, putting in many hours.

The Kettle River Community Christmas Tree will stay up most of the winter to light up those snowy, cold winter evenings. This marks the start of a new century for the Town of Kettle River. The town was incorporated 100 years ago.

OUR VIEW

Local news is worth it

It's never fun to talk about money, but we must. After three years, the Pine Knot News has overhauled its subscription rates, making them simpler and, yes, a little pricier.

Rising postal rates and inflation bear some of the blame. Growing pains are also part of it. We've gone from a minimum of 16 pages to a minimum of 20 pages per week. There are more and better stories and local advertising in the paper. Our small army of freelance writers and part-time employees is growing too.

As an independent, locally owned newspaper, we are a rare breed. We enjoy that independence, but it also means we don't fill our pages with recycled stories from a stable of papers across the state or country. That means we create unique content for you, our neighbors and readers, every single week. And we are grateful we can earn a living doing that, but it's time we put a more appropriate price on our product.

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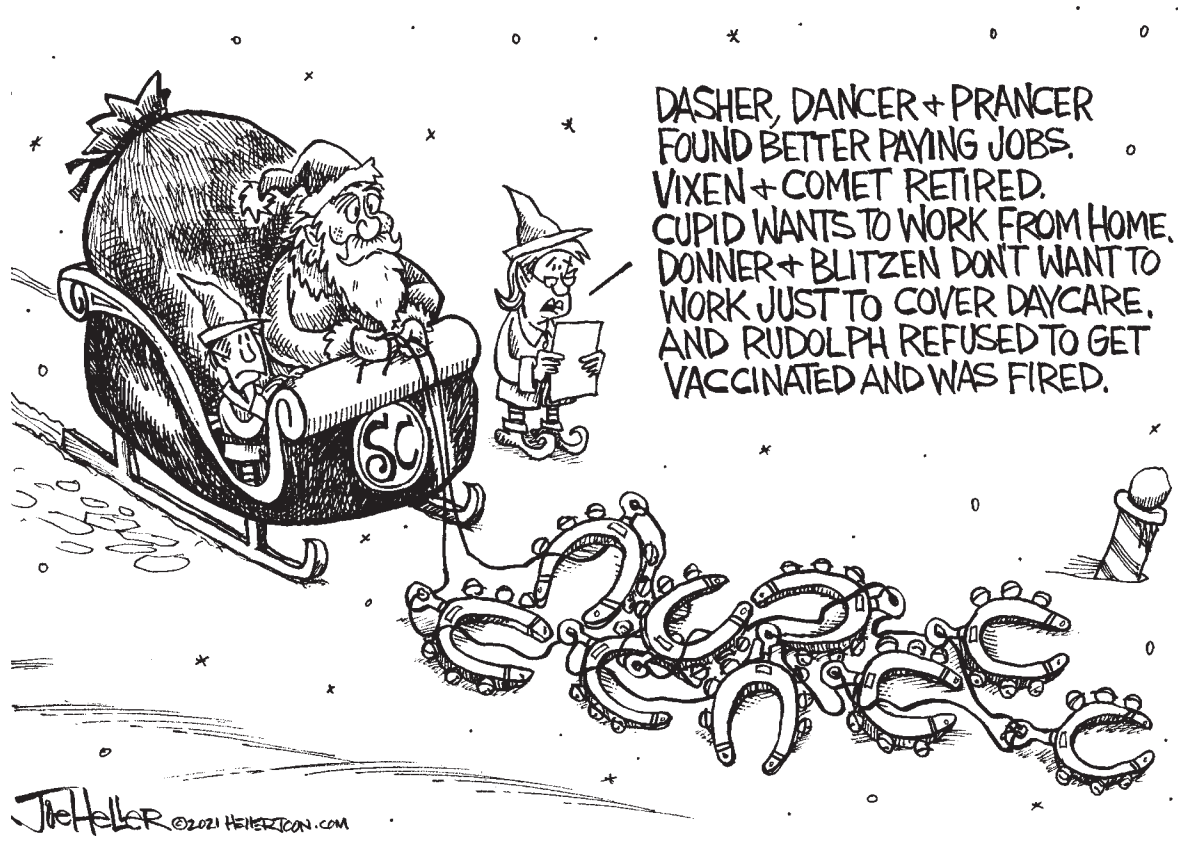
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- The editor reserves the right to edit for facts, clarity, concision, grammar, newspaper style, libel and length.
- Letters and commentary must be original works by the author.
- Include your name with your address and phone number for verification purposes only. Only names and home cities will be published.
- No anonymous letters are allowed.
- Please write about topics with local importance.



Stauber needs to get real about needs in the district

I'm disappointed that our representative in Congress voted against the infrastructure bill last month. It seems to me it was a great bill for our region, but U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber didn't agree and voted against it.

It was a mistake.

It's not hard for people to guess my political persuasion, but I try to limit my criticism (and my effusive praise) for specific actions by our leaders, because hypocrisy is destroying politics in our country. So, I've been pretty silent on Pete Stauber, a very nice man with a very conservative viewpoint. I am not surprised he votes with the Republican caucus; freshman representatives typically follow party leadership pretty closely. And I'm not surprised that he votes conservative, given his background as one of the organizers of the Northern Liberty Alliance, the local version of the Tea Party movement. After all, he was elected as a Republican, so I expect him to vote accordingly.

But he was not elected to serve the Republican Party; he was elected to serve the Eighth Congressional District, and he failed our district when voting against the infrastructure bill.

He has claimed for some time that he favors an infrastructure bill, and in fact has said that "nobody wants an infrastructure bill more than I do." But his actions speak louder than his words.

Investing in our country's infrastructure is a wise move at this point. Our hard infrastructure, such as roads and electrical grids, is in poor shape after decades of tight-fisted spending policy by our leaders. And our soft infrastructure, such as education, research, and broadband,

is in need of a significant boost. I can understand that in tough times we may have to restrain ourselves. But when times are good, and when the need is there, it's time to invest in our country. Delaying investment just makes it more expensive to fix later.

Take, for example, the solar plant on the Iron Range. It's naïve to think that coal, oil and other fossil fuels are the future. Now, we can't neglect their importance. But we've seen time and time again how minor blips in the fossil fuel energy supply can cause major disruptions to our economy. Diversifying is an excellent strategy: developing alternatives to fossil fuels gives us options and makes us more secure. So, investing in that solar plant is exactly what we should be doing: providing jobs, creating opportunity and diversifying our economy. Stauber voted 'no.'

Or, think about telephones. Telephones used to be hung on a wall and shared with a bunch of your neighbors. Then we got our own numbers, then cordless phones, and now everyone carries one in their pocket. All that innovation was spurred by government spending. There's a huge future in advances in telecommunication. Stauber can't seem to see past the party line. It's too bad.

I can only speculate on his motivations. But reading his tweets, emails, and press releases gives me some clues. He is not advancing bipartisanship. I've noticed that he refers to our president as "Biden" rather than "President Biden," while still using the title when referring to the last one in that office. His communications are filled with loaded words such as "reckless" and "socialist." That's



HARRY'S GANG
Pete Radosevich

Estate planning

I've gotten a lot of response to the estate planning information I wrote about a few weeks back. I intended to give some basic information so people had a general idea of what options are available. But if you have specific questions, I suggest you call a local lawyer who understands estate planning. There's quite a few to choose from besides me. Keith Carlson does a lot of this kind of work; so does Sarah Helwig at the Fryberger firm's Cloquet office. Jake Baker at Hanft Frider's Cloquet office does, too. Gail Nouska has an office in town and does estate planning. There are probably others, too. Make an appointment; it's worth spending a few bucks now to rest assured your wishes are carried out correctly later.

— Pete Radosevich

not leadership. It's not helpful. It advances nothing for the Eighth District. And it doesn't reflect our way of life around here.

There's a tendency for people in power to let it go to their heads. After years of government service where the ultra-conservative Stauber voted in the middle, I'm afraid he's let his position in Congress go to his head. I hope he reverses course and governs for our real way of life.

Pete Radosevich is the publisher of the Pine Knot News and an attorney in Esko who hosts the cable access talk show Harry's Gang on CAT-7. His opinions are his own. Contact him at Pete.Radosevich@PineKnotNews.com.

OBITUARIES

Michele Marie Johnson

Michele Marie Johnson, 63, of Mahtowa passed away in the comfort of her home Nov. 30, 2021. She was born Oct. 11, 1958, in Hibbing to Nick and Ann (Forsman) Maras.

Shelly was employed as a food service manager at various places and was beloved by her co-workers. She was passionate about her grandchildren: she had mailboxes for each one of them at her home, and the "Mail Bunny" always made sure she visited before the grandchildren arrived. Shelly attended her grandchildren's sporting events whenever she was able. She enjoyed fishing, riding motorcycles, shooting her gun, and gardening around the house.

One day, she decided to paint her golf cart and named it "Abby" — that's just the kind of person she was. Shelly enjoyed her chickens; they even all had names, with the help of her grandchildren. She had a special place in

her heart for her sidekick, her dog, Molly. She was a hippie gypsy in the way she liked to dress.

Shelly will be remembered as a fun-loving person who always looked at the bright side, no matter the circumstances.

Shelly is survived by her parents, Nick and Ann Maras; her husband, Terry; her children, Amy (Jim) Monroe, Katie (Adam) Bailey, and Mark (Nikki) Skramstad; her grandchildren, Madelynn, Qwentin, William, Katelynn, Emmett, Emma, Maci, Hattie and Chloe; her siblings, Nick (Laurie) Maras, Mike Maras and Susie (Larry) Schmidt; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Please plant a tree or bulbs in honor of Shelly.

A service was held Monday at Nelson Funeral Care in Cloquet.

Pine Knot News, Dec. 10, 2021



Riley Jon Roe

Riley Jon Roe, 33, of Cloquet, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Dec. 2, 2021, after a 10-year battle with bipolar disorder. Although mental illness did not define him, it played a big part in his day-to-day living.

Riley was born in Cloquet on Aug. 14, 1988, to Cortland and Gretchen Roe. He attended many years of school in Carlton, and graduated with honors from Cloquet High School. He graduated from Fond du Lac Tribal Community College in 2019 with a degree in electric utility technology.

Riley played hockey throughout his entire life, skating for Carlton and Cloquet and in many summer leagues. He proudly wore No. 21 on the CEC varsity team. He still skated with his buddies in the "old man" bar leagues.

Riley enjoyed supporting his nieces and nephews at sporting and school events. He had a passion for music and a great appreciation for nature and the outdoors. His most beloved activities included snowboarding, biking, golfing, inline skating, and hunting.

He especially enjoyed the time he spent with his family at Eagle Lake fishing,

swimming, tubing, wakeboarding, and chillin' by the fire.

Riley is preceded in death by his grandparents, Stan and Evelyn Fleisch and Mahlon and Elvera Roe. He will be missed dearly by his parents, Gretchen Roe of Cloquet and Cortland (Terrie) Roe of Cromwell; and sisters, Courtney (Dusty) Carlson and Whitney (Tony) Gladen.

Uncle Riley was adored by his nieces and nephews: Harper, Hadley and Hayes Carlson, and Trenity, Isaac and Finley Gladen. He is also survived by loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends.

Riley was kind and thoughtful, hard-working, creative, and funny. He would help anyone who asked, loved unconditionally, and left a lasting impact on everyone he met. Remember the good times you shared with Riley.

A visitation was scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and was to continue until the 6 p.m. memorial service, with food and fellowship afterward in the church social hall.

Pine Knot News, Dec. 10, 2021



Donald Ray Henninger

Donald Ray Henninger, 91, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021. He was born in Barnum on April 27, 1930, to Ralph and Nora (Fall) Henninger. He grew up in the Nemadji area, where he attended Central School.

At age 17, Don went to work for Diamond Match in Cloquet, where he became a 1st Class engineer.

In 1949, Don married Carol Willey and they spent 72 wonderful years together. In 1965, they purchased a dairy farm outside of Mahtowa, where they spent the rest of their lives. They worked side by side building the farm while they raised four children.

After retirement, Don and Carol traveled throughout the United States with their camping group, the Crafty Travelers.

Don was a master welder and a jack

of all trades. He built numerous pieces of playground equipment that were enjoyed by many. He also built and repaired many pieces of farm equipment.

Don was a member of the Mahtowa Covenant Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Nora Henninger; brothers, Jim, Vernon and Ernie; and his children, Gary and Mary. He is survived by his wife, Carol; his daughters, Betty Denton and Deborah Renstrom; and his daughter-in-law, Kay Henninger. He is also survived by his brothers, Ed and Gordy; and his sister, Eleanore Riley.

Private family services were held. Arrangements were provided by Whispering Pines Funeral & Cremation Service.

Pine Knot News, Dec. 10, 2021



DEATH NOTICES

Kaylah Hope Hietala, 23, of Duluth lost her battle with addiction on Dec. 2, 2021. Visitation: 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. memorial service Friday, Dec. 10 at Nelson Funeral Care in Cloquet.

Robert Henry Botz, 89, of Cloquet

died peacefully Nov. 27, 2021. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring.

Ronald Edward Laminen, 86, of Carlton died Dec. 5, 2021 at Inter-Faith Care. Memorial service: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 at Inter-Faith Care Center.

Lori Frances Skog-Gourley

Lori F. Skog-Gourley, 62, of Cloquet, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, at her home, peacefully in her sleep. She was born April 12, 1959, in Minneapolis, the daughter of Alf "Ole" and Patricia (Mercer) Skog.

Lori was a kind soul full of love for all around her. She cherished her time with her family, especially her grandchildren whom she adored. Lori loved gardening, camping, sewing, berry picking and making her own jam, traveling and spending time with friends. She was a member of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and worked as a lead pharmacy technician for the Fond du Lac Reservation at the Min No Aya Win pharmacy for 23 years.

Lori was preceded in death by her

father, Alf "Ole" Skog, and brother, Darrell Skog. She is survived by her husband, Fred; mother, Patricia Skog; daughters, Ashley (Timothy) Laveau and Stephanie (Dustin) Shearer; stepson, Thomas (Ansidhy) Gourley; brothers Frank (Annette) Skog, Daniel (Kathy) Skog, Gary Skog, and Brett (Michelle) Skog; grandchildren, Tyler, Griffin, Elizabeth, Connor, Baby Shearer MacKenzie, and Ezra; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and sisters-in-law.

Visitation: Friday, Dec. 10 from 2 p.m. until the 3 p.m. funeral service at Nelson Funeral Care in Cloquet, followed with refreshments in the Fellowship Room.

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Judith Helen Burshten

Judith Helen Burshten, 80, of Cloquet, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. She was born March 22, 1941, in St. Paul to Wil-lard and Ruby Borst. She was a 1959 graduate of Richfield High School.

She attended the Northwestern School of Nursing and was a licensed practical nurse at Northwestern Hospital. She retired as the school nurse from Little Black Bear Elementary School in Cloquet.

She was a member of St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Esko and was the head of the altar guild.

Judith was preceded in death by her parents.

She will be sadly missed by her husband, Norman of Cloquet; son, Robert

Duke of St. Paul; daughter, Nancy (Todd) Janke of Canton, Michigan; six grandchildren: Matthew, Olivia, Natalie, Nolan and Nathan Janke, and Marlena (Ricky)

Swacina; one great-granddaughter, Genevieve; brothers, Richard Borst of Bloomington and Kenneth (Rae) Borst of Walker, Minnesota; sister, Barbara (Nick) Cookas of Burnsville; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials are preferred to St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Esko. Arrangements entrusted to Atkins Northland Funeral Home in Cloquet. To sign the guestbook and leave an online tribute, see www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com

Pine Knot News, Dec. 10, 2021



Marilyn Ann Tvedt

Marilyn A. Tvedt, 80, of Wrenshall passed away Dec. 7, 2021, at Community Memorial Hospital in Cloquet. She was born Sept. 11, 1941, in McGregor, the daughter of Helmer and Mabel (Patrick) Johnson.

Marilyn graduated from McGregor High School and two years of X-ray technician training at the Duluth Clinic. She was united in marriage to Kenneth Tvedt on Jan. 20, 1962, at Zion Lutheran Church in Cloquet. Marilyn worked at the Duluth Clinic, and also for the Moose Lake State Hospital, later the Minnesota Correctional Facility, for 30 years. She was a member of Elim Lutheran Church in Blackhoof Township, and enjoyed sewing, gardening, and especially spending time with her family.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents; one granddaughter, Alyssa Glumac; and brothers, Robert, John

and Ralph Johnson. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth; children, Michelle (Keith) Standridge, Deanna (Stan) Glumac, Marcie (Scott) Edin, and Jeff

(Wendi) Tvedt; grandchildren Lauren Oster, Mikayla Oster, Nick (Kayla) Glumac, Alyson (Tyler) Burggraff, Kyle (Katrina) Tvedt, Kory Tvedt and Kody Tvedt; great-grandchildren, Ariana Thomas and Madeline Tvedt; sister, Arlene (Jerome) Scherber; sisters-in-law, Anita Johnson,

Kathy Johnson and Cheryl Johnson; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Visitation: 1 p.m. until the 2 p.m. memorial service Sunday, Dec. 12 at Elim Lutheran Church in Blackhoof Township. A luncheon and time of fellowship will follow in the church social hall. Arrangements are with Nelson Funeral Care of Cloquet.

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Martin Rediske

Martin Rediske, 64, of Cloquet passed away in St. Luke's Hospital Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. He was born in St. Paul on March 2, 1957 to Charles and Adeline Rediske. He was raised in Shoreview and graduated from Mounds View High School in 1975.

Martin worked for Synagro for 30 years as a machine mechanic and retired in 2020. He enjoyed golf, and collecting agates and old coins.

Martin never left a friend behind, and always tried to lend a helping hand to anyone he knew. He was a very jovial man, had a great sense of

humor and wasn't afraid to break the ice.

Martin was preceded in death by his parents, one sister and two brothers. He is survived by one sister and five brothers.

Visitation: 9 a.m. until the 11 a.m. service Saturday, Dec. 11 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 615 12th St., Cloquet. A lunch will follow the service at Atkins Northland Funeral Home in Cloquet. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the charity of your choice. To sign the guestbook and leave an online tribute see www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com

Pine Knot News, Dec. 10, 2021



OBITUARIES

Barnum native recalls 1941 Pearl Harbor attack

Editor's note: Each year, on the anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, the Pine Knot News checked in with Don. We were saddened to find out he passed away in August, and want to share his obituary with readers. Below is a 2019 Pine Knot story on Don and his day in the middle of history.

Jana Peterson
news@pineknotnews.com

Some memories never fade. Don Long remembers the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 like it was yesterday. The Barnum High School 1939 grad had been at Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station in Hawaii for about only two weeks when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, an act of aggression that catapulted the United States into World War II.

"I was a Seaman Second Class, the lowest animal in the Navy," Long said in a phone interview from his home in Napa, California this week. "I'd been to boot camp and radio school, and they'd assigned me to a flight crew as the second radioman."

Now 98 years old, Long remembers the Japanese attack clearly. He was the sole person aboard one of four Catalina PBY-5 airplanes anchored out on the bay, having been dropped off at about 7:40 a.m., and was getting ready to practice signals with the tower on shore.

He remembers seeing between 30 and 40 planes fly overhead.

"I assumed it was the Army out doing exercises, although it seemed weird for a Sunday morning," he said.

Shortly after that, bombs started falling on the hangar area at Kaneohe as Long watched. Located across the island of Oahu, Kaneohe Bay was attacked five minutes before Pearl Harbor.

"Within minutes fighter planes came in, we think, they hit the planes on the water first. The theory being they didn't want

any planes coming up to challenge them," Long said, explaining that he was a radioman, not a pilot, and couldn't have flown the plane or shot at the Japanese airplanes without the rest of the crew anyway.

Within a minute or two all the planes were aflame and burning, even the water outside of the Long's plane was on fire.

"They hit the wing tanks, and almost immediately the entire plane was



Don Long poses with a photo of himself as a young sailor. Pine Knot News file

engulfed in flames — with me in the middle," he said. "At this point, I knew I had to get out and I dashed toward the rear exit through the flames with no more thoughts of a life jacket."

Long jumped into the water, through more flames, and swam to a buoy about 200 yards away, collecting some first- and second-degree burns on his hands and face in the process. He had to remove his boots after swimming about 15-20 yards because they got so heavy.

"I didn't have a life jacket, so I swam there for support," he explained. "I also figured if they made a run on me in the water, I could get under the buoy and be safe. But I never noticed any attempt on me. I'm certain their instructions were to keep the planes on the ground."

All he could do was watch, as the Japanese pilots continued to bomb the naval station, blowing up more hangars and airplanes, maybe half a mile away from where he was perched in the water.

"A second wave came at about 9 a.m.," he said. "I think they bombed and strafed the shore facilities again. At about 10 things settled down again."

About half an hour later, he saw a boat coming out to look for survivors. Long

was the only one of the four who were guarding the planes to make it.

When they got back to shore Long was greeted by squadron mates, telling him they thought they'd never see him again.

"I probably looked pretty bad, with oil all over my body and clothes," he said. They took him to the sick bay, a little hospital that was bursting at the seams.

"There were guys with serious injuries, all the chairs and bunks were full," he said, noting that the medical staff examined him quickly, put a survivor tag on him and told him to wait, which was fine with Long. "I sat on the floor a couple hours while they treated other guys. Later they treated my burns with some kind of salve, bandaged me and I was returned to duty."

Long would spend the next two nights sleeping on a beach with a group of 20-30 other squadron members, waiting for another attack.

"A confusion reigned everywhere," Long said. "We all expected an attack, a landing party. Fortunately, that never happened."

Only 20 people died on the attack at the fairly small Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station, but according to history.com, more than 2,500 died in the attacks on

Barnum native and Pearl Harbor veteran Don Long passed away peacefully on August 16, 2021, in his home in Napa. He was born on June 22, 1921, the eldest son of Anna and Bert Long, in St. Cloud and was preceded in death by his brothers Jack, Ken and Dick, his sisters Joan and Gladys and his wife of 64 years, Madeline Long.

Don was 100 years old, a member of the "greatest generation," and enjoyed many events celebrating WWII veterans during the last decade of his life, including being honored in the Pine Knot News and Cloquet July Fourth parade as a Pearl Harbor veteran.

After graduating from Barnum High School he hitchhiked to California to find work, and, when he couldn't, he joined the Navy in March of 1941. On Dec 7, 1941, he was sitting in a seaplane on Kaneohe Bay (across the island from Pearl Harbor) when it was strafed and caught fire, for which he was later awarded the Purple Heart.

Don met his wife, Madeline Anderson, at a roller skating rink in Oakland, California when he was at radio school in Alameda. They married in October of 1943 at the Navy chapel in Pensacola, Florida when Don was in flight training. He got his wings on Christmas Eve of 1943.

He flew the Atlantic Barrier flights between Newfoundland, Iceland and the Azores in the early 1960s, part of the Early Warning system.

He retired as commander in 1962, taught woodworking at El Cajon High School, and in the mid-1970s used his



piloting and naval skills to captain private fishing boats in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, sailing or flying clients down from Coronado where he and Madeline retired. They moved to Napa in 1991 to be closer to their grandsons.

Don was cremated at Tulocay in the company of those grandsons, Andrew Long MacLaggan and Benjamin Long Miles, and Andrew's wife Shawny MacLaggan, his great-grandsons Brannon and Corran Long MacLaggan, his daughter Kit Long, and a family friend, Peggy Parrott.

Don loved camping and enjoyed taking the boys on summer camping road trips back to Minnesota, teaching them to fish, light fires with flint and swim in lakes. He amazed family and friends by continuing those trips on his own as recently as 2017 when he was 96, and mastering the technology for keeping in touch on his cell phone. Eventually unable to travel so far, he often took local drives to enjoy the scenery and wildlife around the Napa Valley. He was a skilled woodworker, and played the guitar, ukulele and accordion.

He was cared for in his home by his grandson, Ben. Though not able to play as actively with his great-grandsons, he always enjoyed having their noisy happiness nearby. He had many visitors, both old friends and new ones from his recent role as a celebrated Pearl Harbor veteran, as well as caregivers who enjoyed his conversations and interest in their lives.

A memorial service with military honors was held in September at the Napa Yacht Club.

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Pearl Harbor and six other military bases on the Hawaiian island of Oahu and 1,000 more were wounded. Eighteen American ships and nearly 300 airplanes were destroyed.

Long received a Purple Heart medal for his injuries in the line of duty, and went on to serve across the Pacific, including Midway, Johnston Island, the Fijis and Guadalcanal.

"There were still Japanese on the island then," he said, referring to Guadalcanal. "Sometimes there would be raids by land forces at night, but the Marines and Army usually kept them at bay."

The Japanese never captured the airfield.

After Guadalcanal, Long was assigned to flight school back in the U.S. He never returned to combat; rather he was assigned other Navy duties for the remainder of the war.

Long stayed in after the war, spending a total of 22 years in the Navy and ending his career as a commander.

After that he was a teacher for 15 years, then got his Coast Guard license and became a charter boat skipper, making regular runs from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico for about 10 years.

Even in retirement he remained active and, until a couple years ago, drove cross-country every

summer to come fishing in Minnesota and Canada and spend time with friends and family, like his niece, Brenda Alanen.

"I try to keep the stuff above the shoulders alert, even if stuff below the neck isn't so hot," Long said, referring to some mobility

issues he's been struggling with, even as he continues to go to a gym regularly. "I've been smiled on by someone up above. I've had a life as an older man that's been pretty great. But I do miss coming back to Minnesota."

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The Grinch and Cindy Lou started Saturday's holiday parade, and Santa and Mrs. Claus ended the parade. From left are Jody Acers and Mary Jane Lundberg from the Cloquet Education Foundation, Cindy Lou Who (Sara Ringat), the Grinch (Connor Hecht) and his dog, Max, along with CAFD's Sarah Buhs. *Contributed photo*



This year's Cloquet holiday parade had a larger than usual number of parade participants on foot, dressed in festive gear, some of them singing Christmas carols. *Amber Nichols / Pine Knot News*

THE HOLIDAYS COME HOME

The snow came a day late but holiday spirits were high during the annual Santa's Home for the Holidays events last weekend in Cloquet. Whether enjoying stories by Mrs. Claus, eating s'mores, singing or watching the parades, people were actually eager for fun.

They were shopping too. Allison Jerde, coordinator of the Holiday Expo at Churchill Elementary School, said they had a steady stream of people visiting the 126 vendor booths there. "I think it was successful for what's going on right now," she said of the fair.

After last year's event was canceled due to the pandemic, the event's success "spoke to the community's need to get back together, said Cloquet city councilor Chris Swanson. "It was wildly successful and really fun to see the fireworks. Bravo to the organizers."

This was the first year that the Carlton County United Way ran the event.

— Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News



Fireworks punctuated a day of holiday cheer Saturday in Cloquet. *Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News*



Pine Knot
News

LETTERS TO Santa

Write a letter to Santa and we will share them!

All letters received by noon on Dec. 17 will be published in the Christmas edition of the Pine Knot News.

Please take a cell phone picture of handwritten letters and send them to news@pineknotnews.com. Parents can also transcribe letters (original spelling, punctuation and all) and email the text. To go old-school, drop off or mail letters to: Pine Knot News, 122 Avenue C, Cloquet MN 55720



THE HOLIDAYS COME HOME



Viola Schlenvogt, 6, concentrates as she decorates a Christmas cookie at Wood City Motors Saturday. *Photos by Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News*



Children tell a magician that he's not seeing them on TV during a magic show at Wood City Motors Saturday, where there were also reindeer as part of the Santa's Home for the Holidays festivities.



A gaggle of Cloquet gnomes sits quietly on a shelf at the Holiday Expo at Churchill Elementary School. *Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News*



A giant snowman waves to the crowds during the Santa's Home for the Holidays parade in Cloquet Saturday night. *Amber Nichols / Pine Knot News*



There can never be too many cooks at the annual Touch of Scandinavia Christmas bazaar at Bethesda Lutheran Church. It had another big event Saturday. *Linda Erickson / Pine Knot News*



The Cloquet High School madrigal singers set the scene at the firehall with Christmas carols before the parade started. *Jody Acers / Pine Knot News*

May the holidays bring you health and happiness!

CMH
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Enjoy this free supplement to the Pine Knot News, which is being placed at select businesses around the county.

We encourage those getting a taste of the paper here to subscribe to the Pine Knot. We've been deemed the most outstanding weekly newspaper in the state in the annual contest run by the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

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Use the subscription form inside to receive the Pine Knot for only \$5 a month.

LOCAL HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Santa's elves live here

Pine Knot News

We've heard much about supply chain issues over the past year or two as the world reckons with the Covid-19 pandemic. Rather than stress about whether that mass-produced item you panic-ordered on Amazon will make it here on time, we here at the Pine Knot News suggest you take a look (in person or online) at your own backyard.

Buying locally is, after all, a win in so many ways. Gifts are often made (or grown) right here in Carlton County. Gifts or gift certificates from local businesses and services are a treat for that special person *and* they help support the local economy. The environmental impact of ordering online is significant, while purchasing a gift already available here takes minimal travel time, and sometimes local businesses will even deliver. Just ask.

If you are shipping those gifts to faraway places, keep in mind that Cloquet Pack & Mail Plus can help your packages get where they need

to be in time for Christmas. They encourage you to ship your packages between Dec. 13 and 17 to ensure your gift arrives in time. Need to print out your Christmas letter? They offer photocopying services too.

There are only two weeks until Christmas, so let's get shopping.

Farm fresh

Searching for the perfect gift for someone who values supporting local farms and businesses? Or the person on your list who loves top-quality produce? The Northern Harvest Farm Holiday Gift Box features locally grown, organic produce from Northern Harvest Farm, along with local maple syrup from Holly & Korie Osvold, pure vanilla extract from Sweet Land Farm, and a handmade card from local artist Carrie Schaefer for \$70. Visit <https://csa.farmigo.com/store/northernharvestfarm> or call Rick at 218-384-9779.

Wild Fern's soaps are handcrafted in Mahtowa using the traditional cold process method, which allows the nutrient value of the



Northern Harvest Farm • Holiday Gift Box

ingredients to remain undamaged. At the same time, this method retains in the soap the naturally formed moisturizing glycerin — unlike most commercial soaps. Wild Fern soaps contain 11 different moisturizing oils. Since they are hand-cut, bar sizes vary

slightly, weighing between 3 1/2 and 4 ounces. All soaps are labeled with a complete list of ingredients. They also carry handcrafted wooden soap dishes. See wildfernsoaps.com or call 218-464-2502.

Continued on next page

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LOCAL HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Continued from previous page

Sweet Land Farm has included all of its bestsellers in this handmade gift box for \$39, making it a unique way to pamper that special person in your life, or to pamper yourself! The box includes handmade soap, pure vanilla extract, lotion bar, lip balm and a handmade card. Everything you need for a unique and handmade gift. Find this gift box, and all gift options at www.sweetlandmn.com.

Want to make sure your friend or family member gets enough veggies and support those local farmers even more? Buy them a membership to a local CSA (community supported agriculture), which gives the farmer up-front money to grow food and the member a season of fresh vegetables and more. Go to minnesotagrown.com and search for CSA by city or zip code.

Have some fun

Are you looking for a way to scare up some fun this holiday season? Look no further than All Hallows' Eve. This locally made board game takes 2-4 players back to the leaf-strewn streets of Halloween to play as either the Chaperone in charge of getting the Trick-or-Treaters through the night or as one of three Monsters inhabiting the world. For more information or to treat yourself to a copy, contact Darrell Davey at worldofahe@gmail.com or by joining the Facebook group, "The World of All Hallows' Eve." Supplies are limited.

Ski passes make fun a little more affordable for the skiers among us. Gift a day pass or season pass to Mont du Lac, Spirit Mountain, Giants Ridge or Lutsen Mountains for alpine and Nordic skiing, snowboarding and tubing opportunities.

Buy season tickets to the County Seat Theater and give someone a treat they'll enjoy again every time there's a new show.

Buy a season pass to one of the many area golf courses: The Rugged Spruce Golf Club in Mahtowa, Moose Lake Golf Club in Sturgeon Lake, Pine Hill Golf Club in Carlton, Big Lake Golf Resort, Cloquet Country Club, Proctor Golf Course in Proctor, Grand View Golf Links on Midway Road in Duluth, or The Retreat Golf Course in Floodwood.

Wearable stuff

Bearaboo sweatshirts feature original designs by Emma. They are super comfy and wash really



Local artist Carrie Schaefer • www.schaeferdesign.org

well. Sweatshirts are \$45. Other Bearaboo merchandise includes beanies, T-shirts, travel mugs and pottery mugs, as well as gift certificates.

Carmen's Bar and Restaurant offers an assortment of branded merchandise such as ball caps and T-shirts. (They also offer beer and wine classes.)

Buskala's Jewelry has been a fixture in Cloquet since 1881. It's a true-blue, old-fashioned jewelry store located right on Cloquet Avenue, run by a jeweler who learned the trade at his father's feet but who also feels comfortable using a laser to weld tiny pieces of jewelry. During their annual Christmas sale, their newly expanded selection of jewelry and gifts is all 25 percent off storewide. Stop in and visit with John and Joanne while you search for something that will be cherished forever.

Arts, crafts

There are many local artists, photographers and other makers hoping to share and sell their creations to people who appreciate what they do.

Although some of the season's biggest arts and crafts fairs have come and gone, including the Holiday Expo at Churchill last Saturday, the shopping isn't over yet. Keep a close eye on your church newsletter, because church bazaars are a great place to find something unique.

Head to the annual Country Store at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 515 Skyline Boulevard in Cloquet. Find fine handwork, quilts, plated cookies, pickles, jams, jellies, candies, gift jars and more 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11.

Magnolia Café's Holiday Market – Gift certificates are available, and you can also shop an assortment of locally made items by area artists and makers.

Rocks are art, too. Find an

incredibly wide assortment of polished rocks and jewelry made from those rocks at The Rock Place in West End Cloquet. They sell gift certificates too, perfect for the rockhound in your life.

Browse the Encore! Gallery at the Encore! Performing Arts Center, featuring art for sale by a variety of local artists.

The Pine Knot News gallery is featuring photos by Dan Malkovich and Will Stenberg. Stop by the office at 122 Avenue C and order a print.

Cloquet-based Adam Swanson is a painter and muralist whose offerings include affordable prints to fit your holiday budget, ranging from \$40 to \$65 for enhanced matte paper or \$175 to \$225 for stretched canvas. Choose any print at www.adamswanson.com as either a print on paper or canvas. To order, email adam@adamswanson.com with title and size.

Home decor

Check out the Yah! Sure! Minnesota tea towel and Swedish dishcloth. This hand-printed tea towel is made of 100-percent cotton and features a loop for hanging. Swedish dishcloths are super-absorbent and can hold up to 20 times their weight in liquid. Both feature illustrations by Cloquet's Carrie Schaefer. It's eco-friendly and makes a great gift! www.schaeferdesign.org.

In addition to all the services you'd expect to find at a florist, Skutevik's Floral has an assortment of gift items including artwork from local artists. CrystalsMNCreatations handcrafts adorable and whimsical gnomes for a variety of occasions and Dälarnia Woodworks repurposes reclaimed wood and turns it into Scandinavian designs that are fused with Americana and Southwestern styles.

Bergquist Imports offers a



Bergquist Imports • Scandinavian Delights

taste of Scandinavia right here in Cloquet, with everything from T-shirts, hats and socks from the old country to the kitchenware and recipe books you need to recreate your grandma's famous treats. Books, slippers, wooden clogs. Mugs and other dishes to remind people of faraway places. For those who don't need a gift that will hang around, there are jams and jellies, chocolates, specialty candies and more. Stop in at Bergquist: you never know what you will discover.

Woodfire Candle Company is an artisan, woman-owned and -operated candle studio located in the heart of Esko. After starting one candle at a time in a Duluth kitchen, Woodfire is now a team of eight, hand-pouring candles and home fragrance in a dedicated studio in Carlton County.

Woodfire candles are simple and intentional in design. They use only 100-percent soy wax, farmed in the U.S. Fragrances are phthalate-free and we don't add anything fancy or frilly. But there is sound. All candles are made with wooden wicks that crackle softly as they burn, like tiny little bonfires.

Grab a package of coffee or tea and a mug too from Gordy's Warming House, where they're also running their annual gift certificate special: Buy \$100, get \$25 free.

Surprise them with something totally unexpected. Call Tom at Cloquet Flooring — there may still be time to install your new floor before Santa arrives.

Good eats

Gift certificates to a favorite local bar and grill, restaurant or coffee house are sure to be appreciated.

We encourage you to support the establishments who've sup-



Bearaboo • Warm Stuff

ported the Pine Knot News with their advertising dollars over the past three years.

In Carlton, the Magnolia Café, 3rd Base Bar and the Streetcar Kitchen & Pub are all great options.

Wrenshall has Bricks Pub & Grub and The Brickyard Restaurant.

When in Esko, Mike's Café & Pizzeria hits the spot.

In Cloquet, Common Ground Coffee Bar & Deli, Gordy's Warming House, Bearaboo Coffee, Carmen's Bar and Restaurant, Perkins, Southgate Family Pizzeria, Hong Kong Restaurant, Dairy Queen Grill & Chill and the River Inn Bar & Grill are all good options.

Famous as the only bar and restaurant in Wisconsin that you can get to only from Minnesota is the Wabegon Bar & Grill.

Or give the gift of groceries. B&B Market and Carlton Meat & Grocery offer gift certificates for someone who'd rather stay home and share the love around the kitchen table.

Homemade goodies are also greatly appreciated during the holiday season. Make memories and gifts while you concoct homemade jams and jellies, fudge, Christmas cookies and more.

Continued on next page



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LOCAL HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Continued
from previous page

Stays away

There are several charming bed and breakfast options such as the Oldenburg House located near the Munger Trail and Jay Cooke State Park in Carlton or the Historic Scott House, built on the shore of Lac La Belle in 1869. Originally an inn for stagecoach travelers and also a trading post and general store on the Military Road, the first road to connect St. Paul, Minnesota to Superior, Wisconsin.

The Northeastern Hotel on Cloquet's Dunlap Island is steeped in history and one of the few buildings to survive the Cloquet Fire of 1918.

Subscribe

A subscription to the Pine Knot News really is a gift that keeps on giving. It lands in the mailbox every week, there to inform and entertain, packed with stories that are unique, local and useful. Senior subscriptions are only \$48 a year. The Pine Knot is the only locally owned, independent newspaper in Carlton County and was deemed the "most outstanding weekly newspaper" by its peers at the 2021 Minnesota newspaper convention. Call 218-878-9332, stop by the office (where we also sell mugs and T-shirts) or subscribe online at pineknotnews.com. You can also clip and



Sweet Land Farm • Gift Box

send the form on this page.

Remember

Lights of Love — for those who have too much stuff! Recognize those who've had an impact on your life. For a \$7 donation you can light a white light in memory of those no longer with us, a red light in appreciation of those who are living or a blue light in honor or remembrance of our military through the Community Memorial Hospital Volunteer Services Organization. The names of all honorees will be published in the Dec. 24 Pine Knot News. Donations must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 15. Contact Deanna Johnson at 218-879-4641 ext. 7142.

At the end of the day, Christmas is not really about the gifts, but about giving. Time is one of the best gifts to others. Take them to the movies, sit



The Rock Place • Gift Certificates

and visit, take a walk, go fishing, play cards, go grocery shopping and make a meal together. Put down the phones and enjoy their company. Happy holidays, everyone.

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Kids 12 and younger, color this Christmas picture for Santa's Pine Knot News Coloring Contest! If Santa's elves pick your picture as one of their favorites we'll publish it in the Christmas edition of the Pine Knot News. Get your picture to the Pine Knot News by Friday, December 17 so we have plenty of time to get all of the pictures to the North Pole to be judged. You can mail or bring your picture to the Pine Knot News, 122 Ave. C, Cloquet, MN 55720. You can email it to ads@pineknotnews.com or text a photo of it to 218-391-3696. You can also include a letter to Santa and we'll get that to him too!



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					<i>Continued on next page</i>		

HONOR ROLLS

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Talon Clifford
Avah Clow
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Micheal Couture
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Alora Dammann
Aria Dammann
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Zander Gabel
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Kadence Ghann
Haley Glendenning
Kade Gonsorowski
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Jack Graddy
Raegan Grayson
Macie Greiner
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Jack Hakala
Alec Halvorson
Sharla Hansen
Paige Hanson
Greta Harden
Michael Harden
Emerson Harker
Elizabeth Hartlieb

Samuel Haugen
Briley Hendrickson
Daniel Henney
Bryce Hipp
Spencer Hipp
Madison Hurst
Robert Hurst
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Ethan Kvitek
Dale LaBorde
Samantha LaGraves
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Logan Lanthier
Trevor Leach
Presten Lindgren
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Laila Nagorski
Ryan Napper
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News



Keeping you safe

After creating thousands of family-sustaining construction jobs, and millions of dollars in local spending and tax revenue, Line 3 has been replaced across Minnesota. The replaced Line 3, now known as Line 93, is safely delivering the reliable and low-cost energy people in the Midwest depend on every day.

In some communities, work is still taking place—with activities such as right-of-way reclamation and deactivation of legacy Line 3 segments.

Keeping communities, our employees and contractors safe is our top priority.

As this end-of-project work continues, you may still see truck traffic and heavy equipment in and around town. For your safety, and for the safety of others, please use caution when driving near construction activities and do not enter our work areas.

As a precautionary measure, our employees and contractors continue to follow local COVID-19 guidelines while in your community.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

For more information, visit enbridge.com/line3US.

COMMUNITIES

AREA EVENTS

FRI-SUN, DEC. 10-12

“A Doublewide, Texas Christmas” at the County Seat Theater, 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Christmas bazaar, brunch and bake sale 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Country Store 9-11 a.m., Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 515 Skyline Blvd, across from Community Memorial Hospital. Quilts, handwork and assorted goodies, Proceeds support Lutheran Church Missouri Synod food shelves.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

Music with Two for the Road 1-4 p.m. at the Cloquet VFW. Potluck, \$8 cover.

MONDAY, DEC. 13

Bottle brush trees and embroidery hoop ornaments adult drop-in craft session, anytime from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Registration required; register at the checkout desk or call 218-879-1531.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

Community Memorial Hospital’s grief support group meets 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the Pine Room, ground floor. This group is most appropriate for adults. For more information contact Peggy Maki, 218-879-4976.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

Senior dance at the Cloquet VFW 1-4 p.m. with the Chmielewski Funtime Band. Potluck, \$8 cover. 879-5717, 218-210-7793



Teen holiday craft 4-5 p.m. at the Cloquet Public Library.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16

Cloquet Public Library family game night 5-7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Northwoods Credit Union Meeting Hall.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18

Ruby’s Pantry visits Mission Creek Church, 521 131st Ave. West in the Fond du Lac neighborhood of Duluth, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Donation: \$22 per share. Anyone from the surrounding area is welcome. rubyspantryduluthwest@gmail.com, 218-626-3309

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22

Teen holiday craft 4-5 p.m. at the Cloquet Public Library.

THURSDAY, DEC. 23

Christmas party for Seniors at the Senior Center, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Bingo with prizes, and other activities. \$4 for lunch. Call the Senior Center, 218-879-5870 (leave message) by Tuesday, Dec. 21 to let us know you’re coming.

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

Christmas Eve service 4 p.m., Beth-

lehem Lutheran Church, Wright.

MONDAY-THURSDAY, DEC. 27-30

Story Stroll at the Cloquet Public Library, 218-879-1531.

MONDAY, DEC. 27

Drop-in STEM toys petting zoo 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Cloquet Public Library.

The Lake Superior Chapter of the Us TOO prostate cancer support group meets 5-7 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month at Community Memorial Hospital, in the Birch Room. Questions, call Mike Sullivan at 218-384-3448 or Phil Maunu at 218-879-3506.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28

Kids “Frozen Fox” painting 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Cloquet Public Library, age 5 and up. Registration required: 879-1531

Community Memorial Hospital’s grief support group meets 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the Pine Room, ground floor. This group is most appropriate for adults. For more information contact Peggy Maki, 218-879-4976.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29

Abstract Embroidery for teens & tweens 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Cloquet Public Library. Registration required: 879-1531

FRIDAY, DEC. 31

Senior dance at the Cloquet VFW 1-4 p.m. with the Chmielewski Funtime Band. Potluck, \$8 cover. 879-5717, 218-210-7793

WRIGHT/CROMWELL NEWS

The Women of Bethlehem will be hosting the annual Christmas bazaar, brunch and bake sale 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 11. Gently used or new Christmas items can be brought in at any time. They will also have a raffle for gift cards and a turkey.

There will not be a Christmas family night this year at the Villa Vista/ Cardinal Court due to Covid-19 concerns. The facility will have special music several times in December and people can still visit family or friends if fully vaccinated.

Gift donations are requested for the residents of the Villa Vista/ Cardinal Court this year. Unwrapped gifts need to be dropped off by Dec. 19 so they can be wrapped in time. Gift wrap is also needed.

The Cromwell Wright School will have its Christmas programs on Dec. 20 for the high school groups and Dec. 21 for the elementary. Both programs are at 6 p.m.

The YOT Christmas dinner and gathering will be on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at noon at the Cromwell Pavilion.

I hope you have noticed the improvements to the

Wright post office: new siding, roofing, and fascia. Next is a new sign.

Cromwell mayor Sharon Zelazny presented information on the Clean

Water Grant of \$110,000 and the Outdoor Park Grant of \$355,000. Jen Anderson also presented information on shade shelters, future plans for basketball court, and a future outdoor pavilion. Work will begin as early as possible

next spring. The project will be coordinated so as many events as possible can still be held at the pavilion. Mayor Zelazny said she will be starting the process of planning for additional grants to update the pavilion building itself and will be forming a committee for this purpose.

The Cromwell city council appointed Alex French to fill the council vacancy.

Please stop in the week of Dec. 19 for customer appreciation treats at the Farmers Co-op in Wright. We’ll have cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate.

The Youth Extreme Team youth group is now selling its 2022 event calendar; cost is \$18. Contact Liz at 218-428-6733 or Sarah Levinski at 651-246-9003.

That’s all the news from The Edge of Wright.

COMMUNITY COLUMNIST



Jennie Hanson

SUDOKU

5	9					7		
				9	5		4	
	4		8					5
6		7		4		3		
				6				8
1	3				8		7	
			1					
		3				8	6	
4	5						3	

Using only the numbers 1 through 9, complete the grid so that no number is repeated in any row, column or grid. Each puzzle has one, and only one, unique solution.

Nothing puzzling about it ... The **Pine Knot News** is your only source for **local news**.

Pine Knot

News

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Across

- La Jolla campus, briefly
- “Bye Bye Bye” singers
- River to the English Channel
- Train in a certain song
- Top Sheik
- Latvian capital
- Ineffective
- Years in Spain
- Spotted felines
- Furious
- Theater employee’s task
- Tackle Everest
- Quality of an entity
- Fraternal club
- Society girls
- Texas school initials
- City north of Lisbon
- “I’m so hungry I could eat _____”
- Salt, on the Seine
- Aussie schools
- Stomach ailment
- Sine qua non
- Cluttered
- Famed Mount
- Have a hankering
- Knitting yarn
- Sheryl Crow’s “_____ Wanna Do”
- Tactless
- Riddle from a master
- Tape recorder

Down

- Bono’s band, spelled out
- The height of fashion
- Late ruler Mobotu _____ Seko
- Creator of Willy Wonka
- Certain salamanders
- Shattered
- “Roundabout” band
- Biblical book, briefly
- Shed tears
- Sherbet flavor
- Circle
- Haing of “The Killing Fields”
- Relaxed
- “And how!”
- Aardvark prey
- English river
- Chest protector
- Singer Jane Siberry’s name from 2006 to 2009
- Glenn of “Fatal Attraction”
- Runs across the field
- Fan mail recipients

CROSSWORD

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54	55	56						57			58	59	60	61
62						63	64	65						
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

29. Boss, briefly

31. Drug baron hunters

32. Bulk beer buys

33. Manicurist’s tool

38. Scoreboard stat

40. Ulnae neighbors

41. Bullfight cheer

44. Fed. medical org.

45. Reddy’s “_____ Woman”

46. Like the last place finisher
49. Getting it wrong

50. Holy sister

53. Cast openings

54. Gabs

55. Future race created by H.G. Wells

56. Actor Alda

58. Great number

59. Subdue by shocking

60. Vous _____

61. Knock out
63. Tape meas.

64. Opposite of “yeah”

65. Simon and Garfunkel, once

Puzzle answers on Page 20

OUTDOORS

With ski season, another look at harmful waxes

Dan Kraker
MPR News

With measurable snowfall coming to northern Minnesota the past week, cross country skiers are hitting the trails. And it’s a good bet that a majority of those skiers coat the bases of their skis in wax that contains per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances — a family of human-made chemicals known as PFAS — that have polluted water supplies around the world, including in Minnesota.

The so-called “forever chemicals” are used in a huge variety of products, from nonstick cookware to fire-suppressing foam, carpet and clothing.

For decades they’ve also been used to make ultra-fast, fluorinated ski wax, prized especially by cross country ski racers.

“Fluoro” waxes contain a synthetic fluorine-based compound that repels water and dirt away from the base of the ski, which allows for increased glide over the snow.

And they can make an enormous difference in how fast a racer skis, especially in warm, wet conditions.

“In those warmer conditions, using any fluoro wax versus a non-fluoro wax, I mean that can be 10, 15, 20 percent [faster],” said Jeremy Hecker, racing service manager at Pioneer Midwest, a ski shop in the Twin Cities area.

Hecker’s also a longtime coach and a technical rep for the Rex ski wax company. He says he can feel the difference when he puts a different wax on each ski.

“When I put on a fluoro to a nonfluoro wax, it’s almost feeling

like sandpaper on one ski. I mean it’s slow.”

Wax obsession

Many Nordic skiers obsess over wax. There is a seeming infinite variety of different waxes made for all varieties of snow conditions. It can be hard to get it right. Skiers will tell you there’s something almost magical about identifying the perfect wax, that allows them to glide almost effortlessly over the snow. That’s what fluoro waxes can provide.

But the same properties that make these chemicals so useful in ski wax also make them bad for the environment, because they don’t break down over time. They’re incredibly durable.

Prolonged exposure to some PFAS has also been linked to negative health outcomes, including kidney and thyroid problems, low birth weight and some cancers.

Scientists have found elevated PFAS levels in the bodies of ski wax technicians, and in water and soil near ski trails from Sweden to Maine.

Sophie Greene, PFAS coordinator at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, said while it’s hard to quantify the impact of a single racing event, even tiny amounts of these chemicals can have outsized environmental impacts.

Fish, for example, can soak up some of these chemicals like sponges.

“And what we’re finding is that even incredibly low levels of a chemical like PFOS in the surface water body can result in high enough levels of that chemical

in the fish that we have to advise people to reduce their consumption of fish for safety reasons,” Greene said.

The MPCA does not have the power to ban the chemicals — that would have to come from the state Legislature. Earlier this year the state issued a PFAS blueprint, which recommends eliminating “nonessential” uses of these chemicals.

“And we actually talked about fluorinated ski waxes as a prime example of a nonessential PFAS use, where we could stop using fluorinated ski wax and the world would go on without a major disruption,” Greene said.

A need for testing

Many cross country skiing associations have either already implemented bans on fluorinated waxes, or plan to do so soon. The European Union has blocked the manufacturing of certain varieties of high-fluoro ski waxes.

“I don’t think there’s anybody in ski racing right now who’s openly and publicly saying we should allow fluorocarbons to continue as they happen,” said Chad Salmela, cross country running coach at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, and the founder of the cross country ski team there.

“I think everybody realizes that there’s a health risk, there’s an environmental risk.”

For Salmela, who’s also an NBC Olympic ski commentator, and many others in the skiing community, the health concerns are more pressing than the environmental issues, which they say are very small and localized.

Salmela says he spent years inhaling the fumes of fluorinated wax he melted into skis.

“I had fluorocarbon basically under my fingernails, in the creases of my skin and probably in my hair follicles,” he said.

Salmela contracted Parkinson’s disease about six years ago. And while he has no idea what caused it, he said all those years waxing weigh heavily in the back of his mind. “What if that’s what’s making my right side of my body shake?” he wonders.

Salmela and others say the sport can’t get rid of the chemicals fast enough. The issue is in trying to police a ban, when there are still so many fluorocarbon waxes out there in teams’ and individual skiers’ wax boxes.

The big hurdle for competitive races is that there’s no fast and accurate test available yet to reliably test skis for fluoro waxes. It takes about three weeks to get results from current tests, said Gary Larson, chief of competition for the Duluth SuperTour race that took place last weekend.

“And we want to have a test where you can come into the start, have your skis tested, and they tell you ‘yea’ or ‘nay,’ right there. And if you’re OK, then you go in and you start and do your race.”

Without that test, it’s too easy for an athlete to cheat. And there’s a lot at stake this winter with the Olympics on the line, as well as placement on elite teams.

That’s why U.S. Skiing is allowing fluorocarbon waxes at races through the middle of January, including the U.S. Ski & Snow-

board SuperTour held in Duluth last weekend, and in Cable, Wisconsin this weekend.

In past years, the Minnesota State High School League has also made an exception for the wax, asking coaches to not use it during regular season meets, but allowing it in section and state meets.

But this year, high school skiers will not be allowed to use fluoro waxes at any race.

“We’ve certainly wrestled with it as coaches,” said Michael Meehlhause, head coach for the Trek North High School Nordic ski team in Bemidji and president of the state high school league’s Nordic ski coaches association.

“We all recognize the long-term impact that these PFAS chemicals have on our environment. I think there’s been a good faith effort for coaches and teams in the high school league to eliminate the use of this stuff.”

Meehlhause said it’s also an equity issue, since a single bar of high-fluoro wax can run over \$100.

While racers increasingly are not allowed to use fluoro waxes, recreational skiers are still allowed to use the products on trails around Minnesota.

Gary Larson said he and other skiers plan to push for Duluth to become a “fluoro wax-free city” — something some other regions of the Midwest have done.

“It’s not something that could be enforced. So it would be more of a policy to just say that these are bad chemicals, and we don’t want them in our park system,” he said.

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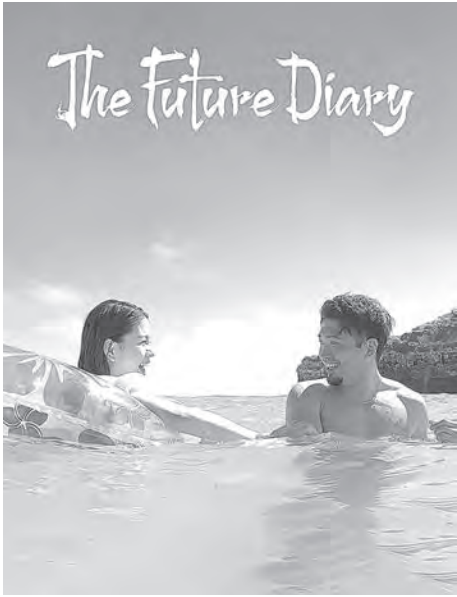
“With Love”
Created and written by Gloria Calderon Kellett (“One Day at a Time”), this five-episode romantic comedy follows a multi-generational Latino family over the course of 12 months as they experience the highs and lows of life during some of the most heightened days of the year. Constance Marie (“Switched at Birth”) and Benito Martinez (“The Shield”) head the cast. (ORIGINAL)

hulu



“Solar Opposites”
The alien family divided on whether Earth and human civilization are worth saving confront the holidays in this special episode, which finds the Solars confounded by them but nonetheless trying to determine their usefulness. Sean Giambrone, Thomas Middleditch, Mary Mack and series creator Justin Roiland provide the voices. (ORIGINAL)

NETFLIX



“The Future Diary”
From Japan comes this unscripted series in which two complete strangers are given a diary containing rough script of what is to be their love story. They’ll be asked to follow the script to see if love and romance actually blooms. The series is a reboot of a reality show that made waves in the Asian nation from 1998 to 2002. (ORIGINAL)

Disney+



“Foodtastic” (Dec. 15)
Emmy winner Keke Palmer (“Turnt Up With the Taylor”) hosts in this competition series in which teams of two must create food sculptures that depict characters and scenes from Disney-related productions. Flour Shop founder Amirah Kassem and New York’s City Cakes founder chef Benny Rivera serve as food art experts and commentators. (ORIGINAL)

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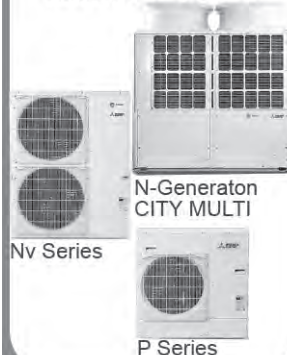
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PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNTY TIMBER AUCTION

Pursuant to the order of the County Board of Carlton County, timber on tax-forfeited lands will be offered for sale, through sealed bid, **WITHOUT THE SALE OF LAND** on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at the Carlton County Auditor's Office. Bids must be received by 2:00 p.m. at the Carlton County Auditor's Office, P.O. Box 130, Carlton MN 55718, on December 16, 2021. Information on the timber tracts being offered for sale and bidding procedure may be obtained by calling the Carlton County Land Department at 218-384-9179 or by visiting the Carlton County website, www.co.carlton.mn.us.

Only those on the Responsible Operator List are qualified to bid on a Timber Sale. Any person or company may apply to be on the Responsible Operator List. Contact the Carlton County Land Department at 218-384-9179 or visit the Carlton County website, www.co.carlton.mn.us, for a Contractor Application Form.

Gregory J. Bernu
Land Commissioner

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50¢ per word with a \$7 minimum

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If ad reaches us too late for the coming issue, we will run it in the following issue.

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(circle the category under which your ad should appear)

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bulldogs, Wrens scrap like rivals

Kerry Rodd
sports@PineKnotNews.com

While it may not have been the highest-scoring game, last week's Wrenshall vs. Carlton girls basketball game turned into an old-fashioned barn burner with the Bulldogs eventually coming out on top 37-35.

It was an intense game. "For us, it was the first game of our season and the girls worked really hard," said first-year Wrenshall coach Emma Grover. "I don't think there was any moment that emotions weren't running high or the intensity wasn't up."

Carlton started quickly in the first half and got some key outside shots from Madison Asleson — who finished with a game-high 15 points — as the Bulldogs cruised out to a big early lead. Wrenshall packed things in by playing a zone defense and eventually cut into the Bulldog lead and pulled to within three points at halftime, at 26-23.

"We really weren't ready for them to come out in a 1-3-1 zone," said Carlton coach Brian Hey. "I actually had to take a timeout and actually draw out what we wanted to do on offense. We tried to stretch the defense on the baseline, but we just missed a lot of shots which hurt us and kept the game close."

The big key to the Bulldogs' first-half lead was Asleson, who hit three 3-pointers in the first half. "From our offensive standpoint we played well on defense, but we just missed way too many shots and we only went 11 for 28 at the free throw line," said Hey. "At practice on Friday we spent a lot of time working on free throws."

Both teams had strong defenses. Although they struggled to make shots in the first half, Grover sees potential with her Wrens squad.

"During halftime, we chatted [that] being able to come out on top meant we couldn't let them score inside. I am a big believer in zone defense because it is typically tougher for teams to get points inside the 3-point line."

Joining Asleson in scoring for Carlton were Morgan Laveau with eight, and Korah Crane scored five. Megan Matarelli made three points, while Brielle Simula, Haley Ableiter and Emma Peterson all finished with two.

"I thought that Morgan Laveau had a really good night for us as

well as Maddie," said Hey. "Morgan hustled on defense and she got a lot of important rebounds for us."

Grover characterized the game as "faster-paced with a little less control," but said she pushed her team and they pushed their opponent. "The entire second half of the game was neck-and-neck and very intense," she said.

Janae Sjodin and Abbie Resberg led the Wrens with 11 and 10 points, respectively while Liberty Bilges chipped in with eight, Liz Johnson added four and Hannah Tauzell scored two.

On Monday night the Bulldogs hit the road to play East Central and lost 53-19, while the Wrens played at the Fond du Lac Ojibwe school. The Ogichidaag won that game 56-50.

Carlton coach Brian Hey works on a play during a timeout in Thursday game in Wrenshall. Hey is assisted by his son Matthew and daughter Elizabeth this season.



Wrenshall's Liberty Bilges goes up for a basket during Thursday's game with Carlton. Made buckets were a rarity as the Bulldogs eked out a 37-35 win. Photos by Dave Harwig / Pine Knot News



Carlton's Morgan Laveau takes a shot. She had eight points in the game against Wrenshall.

The ticker

A quick look at area teams in action

THURSDAY, DEC. 2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Esko-59
Virginia-50

Cromwell-Wright-77
McGregor-14

Carlton-37
Wrenshall-35

Barnum-57
East Central-53

Proctor-75
Moose Lake/WR-49

GIRLS HOCKEY

Moose Lake Area-4
Two Rivers-1
BOYS BASKETBALL
Cloquet-82
Duluth Marshall-67

Moose Lake/WR-68
Proctor-44

BOYS HOCKEY

Becker/Big Lake-9
Moose Lake Area-3

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Moose Lake/WR-71
Hinckley-Finlayson-53
BOYS BASKETBALL
Cloquet-77
Barnum-68

Cromwell-Wright-55
McGregor-46

Esko-87
Virginia-62

BOYS HOCKEY

Mora/Milaca-7
Moose Lake Area-1

CEC-2
Bloomington Jefferson-0

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cloquet-64
Princeton-54
GIRLS HOCKEY
Anoka-2
CEC-1

BOYS HOCKEY

Champlin Park-2
CEC-1

MONDAY, DEC. 6

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fond du Lac-56
Wrenshall-50

East Central-53
Carlton-19
South Ridge-83
Northeast Range-35

Pierz-66
Esko-63

Cromwell-Wright-78
Barnum-36

TUESDAY, DEC. 7

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cloquet-54
Duluth East-51

GIRLS HOCKEY

CEC-6
North Shore-1

BOYS BASKETBALL

Duluth East-83
Cloquet-60

Barnum-56
Cromwell-Wright-39

Moose Lake/WR-98
Virginia-67

Esko-92
Two Harbors-52

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cardinals continue to dominate

Kerry Rodd
sports@PineKnotNews.com

The Cromwell-Wright girls basketball team has been a force over the past decade in small-school basketball circles. After opening the season with a resounding win over McGregor, the Cardinals continued their winning ways against Barnum Monday, winning 78-36.

“Barnum is always a tough team and they always come to play,” said Cards coach Jeff Gronner.

“Barnum was able to hang around throughout the first half of the opening half of play.”

By the middle of the first half, the Cardinals led by five. Then they went on a 28-2 run. “Our defensive pressure caused some turnovers and that led to some easy baskets for us,” Gronner said.

Eventually the Cards pulled out to a 43-13 halftime lead and never looked back.

“Cromwell is a tough, well-coached team,” said Barnum coach Mariah Minkkenen. “They play together offensively and they push the ball well in transition.”

The transition game is where the Cards held an edge. “We try to play more uptempo, push the ball if we can and we got many easy buckets late in the first half by beating them down the court,” Gronner said.

Eight players hit the scoring column for the Cards. They were led by Sascha Korpela with 21 points and Andrea Pocernich with 19. Joining Korpela and Pocernich in double-digit scoring for the Cards were Siiena Anderson, who had 12 points, and Kyra Granholm, who added 10 points. Isabella Anderson scored seven, Jill Anderson four, Marissa Dahl had three, and Mya Gronner scored two.

“Our depth is very good,” Gronner said. “I can play a lot of girls off the bench and production does not drop off.”

Allison Marine was the lone double-digit scorer for the Bombers as she finished with 13 points. Wrapping up the scoring for Barnum were Rayna Klejeski with eight and Anessa Davis with seven. Both Jacinda Wright and Treeny Gladen added three points and Ella Heaton scored two.

The Bombers coaches are looking at the game as a learning experience.

“While the game didn’t go like



Above: Cromwell-Wright’s Siiena Anderson and Barnum’s Janaya Jurek wrestle for the ball during Monday’s game in Cromwell, a big win for the home team.

Right: The Cardinals’ Andrea Pocernich keeps her eye on the basket at home against Barnum Monday. *Photos by Dan Saletel / Pine Knot Sports*

we hoped, I am glad we got to see things we need to work on and to continue to improve on,” said Minkkenen.

As good as their depth is already, the Cards could potentially see another top performer return by the end of the season if Natalie Hakamaki is able to bounce back from a knee injury she suffered playing in the off-season.

“I am very happy with our performance the last two games,” said coach Gronner. “We hope to build off this and keep improving.”



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

BOYS BASKETBALL

Cloquet vs. Esko, 7:15
Barnun vs. Cherry, 7:15
Moose Lake vs. Aitkin, 7:15
Wrenshall at Cromwell, 7:15

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Carlton at Northland, 7:15
South Ridge vs. Littlefork-Big Falls, 7

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

BOYS HOCKEY

MLA at Ely, 1

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cloquet at Superior, 5
Esko vs. Fridley, 1

MONDAY, DEC. 13

BOYS BASKETBALL

Wrenshall at Milaca
Onamia, 7:15

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Barnum at Cherry, 7:15
Cromwell at Deer River, 7:15
South Ridge at McGregor, 7:15

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

BOYS HOCKEY

CEC 7:30 vs. Proctor

GIRLS HOCKEY

CEC at. Duluth (Heritage Arena), 7

MLA at Silver Bay, 7:30

BOYS BASKETBALL

Cloquet vs. Hermantown, 7:15
Esko vs. Grand Rapids, 7:15
Carlton vs. Hinckley-Finlayson, 7:15
Barnum at East Central, 7:15
Moose Lake vs. Marshall, 7:15
South Ridge at McGregor, 7:15

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cloquet at Cromwell-Wright, 7:15
Esko at Princeton, 7:15
Carlton at North Woods, 7:15
South Ridge at Nashwauk-Keewatin, 7:15

THURSDAY, DEC. 16

BOYS HOCKEY

CEC at Duluth East (Heritage Arena), 7

MLA at Ashland, 7

GIRLS HOCKEY

CEC at Moose Lake, 7:30

BOYS BASKETBALL

Cloquet vs. North Branch, 7:15
Moose Lake vs. North Woods, 7:15
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Esko at Two Harbors, 7:15
Carlton at McGregor, 7:15
Barnum at South Ridge, 7:15
Cromwell vs. Floodwood, 7:15

UPCOMING B-BALL & HOCKEY

Friday, Dec. 10	7:15 pm	Boys Basketball - MLWR vs Aitkin.....	WMOZ 106.9 FM
Tues., Dec. 14	7:15 pm	Boys Basketball - Cloquet vs Hermantown	WKLK 1230 AM
Tues., Dec. 14	7:30 pm	Boys Hockey - CEC vs Proctor	WKLK 96.5 FM
Thurs., Dec. 16	7:00 pm	Boys Hockey - CEC vs East	WKLK 96.5 FM
Thurs., Dec. 16	7:15 pm	Girls Basketball - Barnum @ South Ridge	WKLK 1230 AM
Friday, Dec. 17	7:00 pm	Boys Hockey - MLA vs North Shore.....	WMOZ 106.9 FM

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Lumberjacks pass big test from Bombers

Kerry Rodd

sports@PineKnotNews.com

After a slow start Friday, the Cloquet boys basketball team bounced back with an impressive early-season win against a good Barnum squad. The Lumberjacks relied on some strong play from Connor Barney to pull out the hard-fought 77-68 win in Cloquet.

"They came out and jumped on us right away with (Joe) Peterson dropping in a couple of three-point shots," said Cloquet head coach Steve Battaglia.

As the first half continued, the Lumberjacks made an effort to get the ball in to Barney, who began to wear down the much smaller Bombers.

"In the first half our kids weren't physical enough against Barney," said Barnum coach Rich Newman. "Barney is athletic, strong and when he's one-on-one against any of our players, he will win most of those battles."

Barney pumped in a game-high 35 points — 26 of those came in the first half as Cloquet edged out to a 41-37 halftime lead.

"In that second half, our team defense was much better and we did a better job against Barney," Newman said. "I think having six seniors helped us relax and just come back and play hard in that second half."

While Barney was leading Cloquet, Joe Peterson was knocking down 3-pointers and scoring a game high 29 points for Barnum to keep the game close.

"Peterson is a good player and a good 3-point shooter and he was 5-for-6 from the 3-point line," said Battaglia.

As the game wore on, the Lumberjacks were able to take advantage of its height advantage by beating Barnum off the dribble and then passing to an open player.

While Cloquet was content to pack things in with a zone defense, the Bombers played man-to-man in an effort to contest every shot. Eventually their efforts allowed them to cut into the 'Jacks lead. Barnum pulled within three points before Cloquet was able to grab control and find ways to get to the free throw line, where they outscored Barnum 21-11 from the charity stripe. Cloquet also outscored the Bombers 40-22 in the paint.

"That's one of our goals," Batt-



Barnum's Matthew Berry glides to the rim as he puts two points on the board against Cloquet Friday.

aglia said. "Not only do we want to win the points in the paint, but to get to the free throw line and we were able to do both of those things."

The Lumberjacks also got strong double-digit scoring from Caleb Hanson and Alec Turnbull, who finished with 18 and 14 points respectively. Marco Mayorga added six points. Orville Councilor and Joe Bailey each scored two.

"I think we're capable of contending for the conference and the section titles," Battaglia said. "Right now, we're struggling with depth. Jack Sorenson would've been a starter for us but he tore his ACL in football and will miss the entire season. Reese Sheldon and Kollin Bonneville will both contend for starting spots when they get healthy following football injuries. They are both physical kids who will help us tremendously."

Battaglia said the team is just "six guys deep" with a lone regular reserve in sophomore Joe Bailey. "Joe has really impressed me with his play," Battaglia said. "I'm really worried about our depth in the short term, but when we get to full strength, I like our team."

Evan Gustafson and Hayden Charboneau 15 and 11 points for Barnum. Willie Richardson add-



Cloquet's Conner Barney makes a drive to the basket around Barnum's Matthew Berry as the host Lumberjacks defeated the Bombers Friday. Photos by Dan Saletel / Pine Knot Sports

ed six points, with five for Max Moors. Matt Berg added two points to round out the scoring.

"I like our team, but we need to be more consistent," Newman said of the Bombers. "We just have to avoid the long periods of not scoring points and — because we are not very tall — we'll need to work together to play as a whole team the entire 36 minutes."

Cloquet's Alec Turnbull edges toward the basket against Barnum's Max Moors.



BRIEFLY

Wilderness woes continue

Cameron Ricotta scored twice and Tyler Stewart picked up three points to lead the NAHL frontrunner Fairbanks Ice Dogs past the Minnesota Wilderness Saturday night, 6-3.

Graham Burke suffered his second straight loss in net for Minnesota. Jacob Zacharewicz started the game, but was pulled in favor of Burke after Fairbanks

made it 3-0. Zacharewicz stopped 13 of 16 shots, while Burke turned aside 18 of 20.

The Wilderness also lost to the Ice Dogs 5-3 Friday night in the first of two away games.

The Wilderness play at home the next two Fridays: Dec. 10 against St. Cloud, and Dec. 17 against Anchorage. Both games start at 7:15 p.m.

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CAFD ...

Continued from Page 1

Ashmore had worked as a battalion chief and emergency medical services director before he moved here from Hibbing.

CAFD board chair Bob DeCaigny said Ashmore has more than three weeks to sign the separation agreement with the district, which would become public 15 days after he signs it. DeCaigny said the board will consider its next steps at the next board meeting Wednesday, Dec. 15.

“Up to this point we’ve already had two searches,” DeCaigny said, adding that it was unknown if they would embark on another national search for someone to lead the fire district.

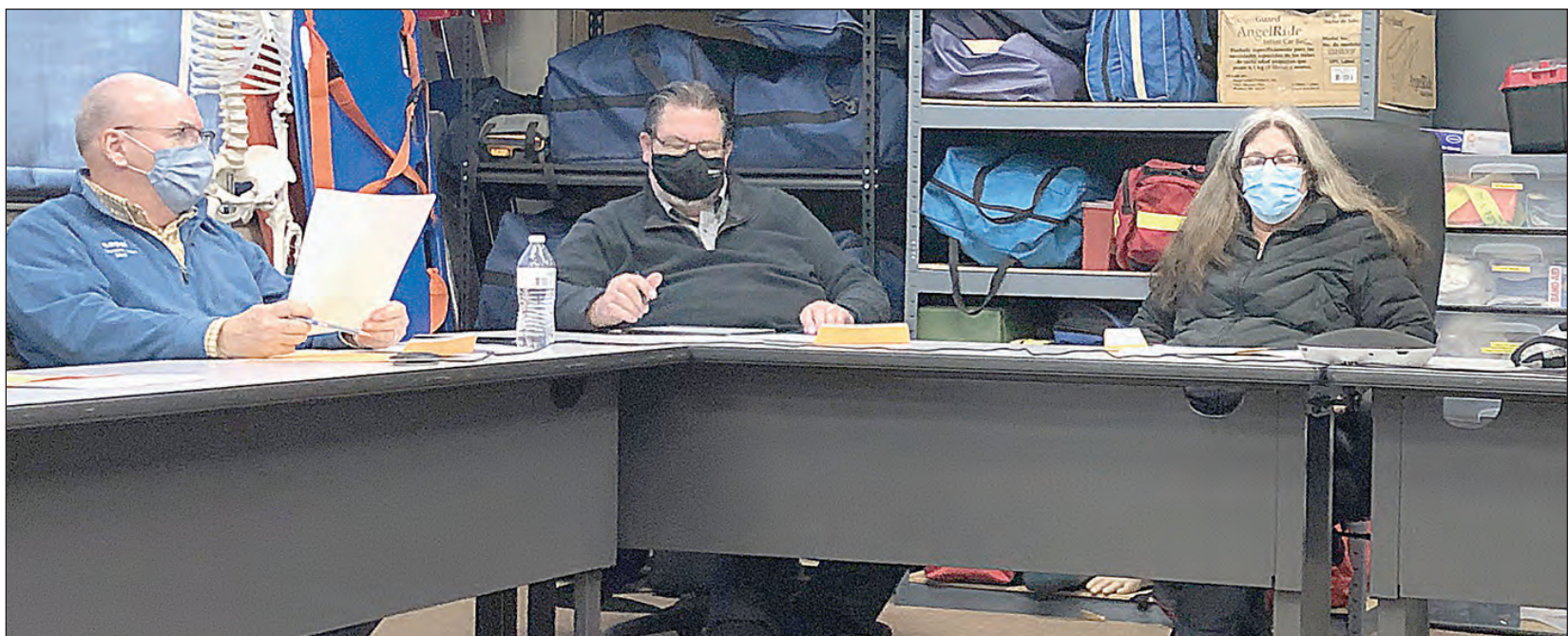
In the meantime, CAFD battalion chief Jesse Buhs is working the daytime office shift at the fire district. “Our level of service will continue,” Buhs said. “All of our dedicated staff remain and our service will be unchanged.”

What came before

Ashmore defended himself in a Loudermill hearing — which provides public sector employees the right to contest reasons for possible firing — in both open and closed meetings Nov. 22 regarding the allegations and his performance as fire chief.

A notice of the hearing sent to Ashmore stated that the board considered allegations against Ashmore in closed session on Nov. 11 and made a preliminary determination that discipline or termination may be merited. He was placed on paid administrative leave after that meeting.

Ashmore and his attorney, Jason Raether, addressed complaints Nov. 21 that he had not abided by Covid-19 protocols previously adopted by CAFD for all employees, including wearing a mask and observing social distancing in public or with the public, specifically when teaching at Virginia Community College on Oct. 27, at two meetings on Oct. 28, and with a Lake Superior College student Nov. 1. Additionally, he is accused of not maintaining social distancing requirements from co-workers at the fire district on Nov.



The Cloquet Area Fire District board has recently been dealing with issues surrounding fire chief Matt Ashmore. He resigned this week after an investigation closed. *Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News*

1. Several sections of the allegations against Ashmore were redacted in the Loudermill notice so there were additional details that weren’t public.

The now former chief told the board during the Nov. 22 meeting that he had followed Covid protocols for CAFD members who are fully vaccinated because he had gotten a negative result with an at-home test.

He also noted that he was given inadequate time to respond to the hearing notice, and had only two days to find an attorney and one workday to prepare for the Loudermill hearing.

Ashmore gave a prepared statement during the Nov. 22 hearing.

“Overall I would like to make it clear that member safety has always been a priority of my career,” he said. “This is not an exception when it comes to Covid. This is evidenced by changes that have been made to the district’s Covid manuals, procedures and getting fully vaccinated myself. Recommendations for Covid have been in constant change since the pandemic started, sometimes making it difficult to know what is current and what is not.”

Ashmore said he had “given a good faith effort to follow the district rules” and that any deviation from these rules does not rise to the level of behavior alleged by the board.

While the board did not dispute Ashmore publicly

during that meeting, the Nov. 22 hearing notice stated the evidence suggested that by not following the CAFD Covid-19 plan, Ashmore’s “actions and inactions significantly damage the respect for you of those you are required to lead. It is further alleged that your actions and inaction was of such a substantial nature directly affecting the rights and interests of the public and touching on your qualifications to perform your office or performance of your duties, that it shows you are not a fit or proper person to hold the office.”

Ashmore was not physically present at Monday’s meeting, and his name was not among those attending the meeting online. Five board members were present at the Scanlon Community Center — Marshall Johnson, DeCaigny, Sheila Lamb, Linda Wey and Gary Harms — and two attended online, Bun Carlson and Bruce Blacketter. The votes were unanimous. A handful of CAFD staff were also present in the audience, along with several more who attended online.

CAFD provides fire protection to 170 square miles and ambulance service to a state-mandated area of more than 250 square miles in Carlton County and southern St. Louis County.

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