

Pine Knot News

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INSIDE

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



Alas, so much drama **Page 4**



He's a real hack(er) **Page 4**



Intensity on the court **Page 12**

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Pine Knot deemed top state paper ... again

Pine Knot News

The Pine Knot News was once again named the “most outstanding weekly” in Minnesota at the annual Minnesota Newspaper Association convention last week. It is the second year in a row the paper received the distinction, which comes with the traveling Mills Trophy.

The win for the paper comes as circulation increases put it in a larger category of newspapers in the annual Better Newspaper Contest that MNA puts on. The Pine Knot won 23 awards for journalistic and

advertising excellence, plus the trophy. Last year, it won 33 awards and the trophy. The year before, it was 15, the first year the paper was eligible to enter the contest. That's 73 awards in the three years and three months the newspaper has existed.

“We say it each year, and we mean it,” Pine Knot editor Jana Peterson said this week. “We couldn't do any of this without support from our readers and advertisers. And what makes us unique, I firmly believe, is the strong contributions we get from the community, adding voices and images to our weekly

work. We have a small staff, but really, it's a community effort.”

This year, the Pine Knot won eight first-place awards — for hard news, breaking news, arts and entertainment story, feature photo, columnist, promotional advertisement, typography and design, and general excellence. It won eight second-place awards and seven thirds. All are counted in a points system that determines the Mills Trophy recipient.

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Pine Knot reporter and page designer Mike Creger speaks at the Minnesota Newspaper Association's awards ceremony last week after the newspaper won the Mills Trophy for the second year in a row as the state's “most outstanding weekly newspaper.” *Contributed photo*

IN THE BEARGREASE, IT'S GO-DOGS-GO



A quintessential northern Minnesota event took off Sunday when teams of mushers and their sled dogs started on the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon races. They included a couple of 40-mile racers who had good runs to Two Harbors from Duluth. Look for their story on the back page of today's Pine Knot. *Contributed photo by Amy Arnston*

22 ELECTION

It was a tale of two caucuses

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It was bitterly cold and blustery on the first Tuesday in February in a big statewide election year as the political party faithful held caucuses here and across the state.

Precinct tables for all of the county were set up at the Four Seasons Sports Complex and Event Center in Carlton, where Republican organizers were gleefully surprised by a turnout of about 125 people. They were busy early on setting up new tables for the people who just kept coming into the upstairs room with windows overlooking the ice sheet.

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Discussion is made at a table at the Carlton County Republican caucus Tuesday night in Carlton. *Mike Creger / Pine Knot News*

