

Kittson County Enterprise



Volume 141 Number 12 • 118 2nd Street South • Hallock, MN 56728 • www.kittsonarea.com • Wednesday, March 23, 2022 • \$1.00

Pictured above, Moving more snow.

Hallock city employees scraped the streets last week when temps soared into the high 30s for several days in a row. The result was what we all hope are the final temporary roundabouts for this winter!
(Enterprise photo by Anna Jauhola)

In this issue...

NW MN Arts Council to host Art Creation Workshop
Page 2

KC Museum: Ruth Younggren
Page 3

Moderate flooding expected this spring
Page 3

Margie's Musings
Page 4

Obituaries: Thomas Gustafson, 71 Neil McEwen, 84 Pamela Steien, 78
Page 5

Pastor's Column
Page 5

Classifieds
Page 6

Legals
Page 7

Community Calendar
Pages 8

PeeWees take fourth at state hockey
Pages 9

JH Knowledge Bowl takes first place
Pages 9

Figure Skating
Page 10

Subscriber of the Week

Pam Faken, Lancaster, Minn., is among the 1,000 people who subscribe to the *Kittson County Enterprise* every week.

Thank you for subscribing!

Want to Subscribe?

Kittson County, Minn.\$36.00
Pembina County, ND.\$36.00
Minnesota\$42.00
Out-of-State\$50.00
Online\$29.95
Combo (print & online)
.....Print cost + \$10
- Rates are Yearly -
Mail your subscription to...
Kittson County Enterprise
Box 730, Hallock, MN 56728

Thorlacius and Anderson retiring

Highway department saying farewell to 70+ years of experience

By Anna Jauhola

Two long-time Kittson County Highway Department employees will retire this spring.

The Kittson County Commissioners reluctantly, but appreciatively, approved letters of resignation from Kris Thorlacius and Shawn Anderson during the regular meeting on Tuesday, March 15.

"In the next month, the highway department will be losing over 70 years of combined knowledge with two admirable employees," said Andrea Weleski, county engineer. "This is remarkable. It's not common. You don't see this in the workplace anymore that people hold onto their jobs and positions that long."

Thorlacius, in total, has worked for the county for 40 years — first in the auditor's office for seven years, and then she moved to the highway department for 33 years as the accounting clerk.

She will officially retire on Friday, April 15.

"She has been invaluable to the highway department and has integrity that is hard to come by these days," Weleski said. "We will miss her smiling face as you enter the building and her cheerful voice over the phone. We at the highway department wish her the happiest retirement."

A week after Thorlacius submitted her resignation, Anderson presented a letter to Weleski informing her of his impending retirement. Anderson, who is the maintenance foreman, will officially retire Monday, May 2. He has been with the highway department for 37 years.

"Shawn is the definition of a committed employee —

to the taxpayers and to public safety in Kittson County," Weleski said. "His knowledge in maintenance, flood repair and snow removal in Kittson County is irreplaceable. We at the highway department wish Shawn a wonderful retirement."

Commissioner Theresia Gillie noted both Thorlacius and Anderson could have retired under the Rule of 90 a few years ago, but chose to stay on.

"I speak on behalf of the highway department that it's been a privilege to work with these two," Weleski said. "They know their jobs like the back of the hand, and they're going to be missed."

The board also approved Weleski's request to advertise for both positions. The county will advertise Thorlacius's position internally and externally to get a solid applicant pool. For Anderson's position, Weleski said they will advertise internally.

"I think it's the best route to go with this type of position because you don't want to bring someone in that's unfamiliar with the county and employees you already have," she said.

In other business, the board:

- Approved a remodeling project for the sheriff's department in the lower level of the courthouse. Sheriff Mark Wilwant brought quotes from two contractors to move a wall and relocate water lines and a sink. The board approved quotes from Ben Urie for \$2,800 and Todd's Electric for \$1,510 for a total project cost of \$4,310. There is enough money for the project, said Brian Buhmann, county administrator, and it

will likely come out of the building fund.

- Approved a resolution declaring a state of emergency for Kittson County ahead of any spring flooding. Emergency Manager Scot Olson said the spring thaw is forecasted to create some flooding conditions and this resolution is a part of the county being able to get state funding, should there be damage. The damage threshold for Kittson County to qualify for 75 percent state funding is \$8,624. "We could easily have that in one township," Olson said.

- Approved advertising for several maintenance contracts, including: equipment rental, mowing, striping, re-gravel, aggregate production and crack filling.

- Approved a resolution declaring spring road restrictions, which began on Saturday, March 19.

- Held a public hearing for the county's redistricting plan for the commissioner districts. The districts did not change, but the hearing is required by law.

- Held a public hearing on the county's tobacco ordinance.

- Approved solid waste management licenses for Anderson Sanitation, Hallock, and the MarKit County Landfill.

- Approved a resolution for a liquor license for Wagon Wheel Ridge, Karlstad, where Kick'n' Up Kountry is held each June.

- Approved unorganized township fire protection agreements. The county's share is \$1,578.85 for Klondike Township and \$3,545.94 for North Red River Township.

The next board meeting is set for Tuesday, April 5 at 9 a.m.

Lancaster board approves adding trap shooting as a spring cooperative sport

By Anna Jauhola

The Lancaster School Board approved adding trap shooting as an official sport during its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 16.

Activities Director Drew Kjono presented the idea to the board after several families have approached both the Lancaster and Kittson Central school districts about it. In February, Kittson Central approved allowing students to participate in trap shooting as a school sanctioned sport.

"It's a very worthwhile program. We'd begin offering trap shooting as an activity in the Kittson County Central program, starting with the 2022 spring season, or as early as we can," Kjono said.

There has been significant student enthusiasm at Lancaster. In a brief poll of some of the classes, Kjono said he had almost 20 students immediately interested in joining. While trap shooting is not an official Minnesota State High School League activity, the league sponsors a state tournament in June each year. Otherwise, the program operates through the Minnesota State High School Clay Target Association, and abides by the USA High School Clay Target League rules.

Students in grades six through 12 can participate if they have their firearms safety certificate, and meet all school and MSHSL policies and rules, Kjono said. The students must be supervised by trained advisers/coaches, which will

be the only fee the school district will pay. Each coach or adviser must go through training, which costs \$50. The rest of the costs will fall to the families to cover, such as the \$35 registration fee, ammunition, clay targets and firearms.

Students involved practice at a local gun range, but there are exceptions for rural areas that state rural private land can also be used with permissions and understanding between the landowner and the school district. Transportation to and from the gun range or shooting location is also the families' responsibility as firearms are not allowed on school vehicles.

"Safety is an important focus of the activity," Kjono said. "And gun ranges are eager to support youth shooting because it encourages these kids to become members as they grow up."

Kjono said there will be advisers or coaches from each district. They record students' scoring on an online database.

Not all the details are worked out yet, but Kjono is confident he and Kittson Central Activities Director Jami Carr can get it figured out to work for the spring season.

The major catch was to approve the program at last week's meeting because the students had to register by Monday, March 21. Board member Justin Peterson supported the program, but with the stipulation that the district only pay for the adviser/coach training.

Continued on page 2

Lancaster School still working around food issue

By Anna Jauhola

After issues with food and supply chains at the end of 2021 and early this year, schools in the Lakes Country Services Co-op got more discouraging news.

At the Lancaster School Board meeting on Wednesday, March 16, the board learned direct to manufacturer pricing and products will not be ready until the 2023-24 year.

"We had hoped we'd be able to sign on for the fall to get back to where we had guaranteed pricing and delivery, and they have discovered it's too big of an animal," said Business Manager Mendy Coffield. "They are trying to organize a list of potential food service businesses that would sign on with us. They call it a broadline distributor."

In November, food distributor Cash-WA (formerly Food Services of America) dropped several school districts in the Northwest Service Cooperative, citing the labor shortage. Since then, schools like Lancaster have had to find a patchwork of providers to get food for the lunch program.

"We're getting some food

from uptown. We're getting some from Cash-WA. It's kind of all over the place," Coffield said. "Plus, we only get one deliver a week. We used to get two. We're kind of at the mercy of the world right now."

At this point, there will be no guaranteed pricing for the 2022-23 school year.

Despite these struggles, Coffield, Superintendent Brad Homstad and Principal Nicole Thompson gave high praise for the district's kitchen staff.

"I just have to applaud all the work they are putting in to keep good, nutritious, healthy meals for our kids and all our people," Homstad said. "I think they do a wonderful job under extremely trying conditions."

Thompson said the staff — which includes Alana Scalse, Heather Anderson and Emily Webster — are always thinking about cost as well. They found a new type of fries that Thompson thought tasted better and said they chose the fries because they cost less.

"They just keep figuring out new ways to do it," Thompson said.



HONORING HALLOCK'S CASEY JONES. Beau Bakken, of Hallock, hung his latest mural last week on Bakken Boots. His dad, Rock Bakken, held the ladder. The mural honors the late Frederick McKinley 'Casey' Jones. The inventor lived in Hallock for many years before moving to Minneapolis, where he invented the famed truck air conditioning unit, ThermoKing.
(Enterprise photo by Anna Jauhola)

Contact Info.

Kittson County Enterprise
118 2nd St. S
PO Box 730
Hallock, MN 56728
Phone: 218-843-2868
Fax: 218-853-2888
Email: kce@wiktel.com
Website: kittsonarea.com
facebook.com/KCoEnterprise

#24084
'18 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5
with 49,600 Miles on this Burgundy-colored 4WD

Dahlstrom MOTORS

A Pair of Tundras for the tundra... and more available at Dahlstroms.

Call us today and let us help you find your new vehicle.

#24309
'20 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5
with Only 5,000 Miles on this Silver-colored 4WD

800-446-OSLO (6756) • dahlstrommotors.com • 301 Main Street, Oslo, MN • Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. & Sat 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.