

# Pine Knot News

Driving around town, you'll find remnants of long-forgotten commercial activity in many neighborhoods, such as corner groceries and other stores that have evolved into residential space, as most commercial activity moved downtown or to the Minnesota Highway 33 corridor over the years.

The West End of Cloquet is one of those sites. Once the thriving center of Cloquet, it held the City Hall, police station, and many of the most important businesses in town. The original town square was in the West End. So was the train station, and the town's movie theater. But after Highway 33 sliced through town, the West End morphed into empty storefronts and declining buildings.

But it never lost its charm, and in recent years the west end has seen some signs of revitalization. The neighborhood's old-world charm is one of the reasons we decided to open our newspaper office there in 2018, in the same building that housed the original Pine Knot 70 years ago. And, we've seen other neighbors move in, too, in the past few years.

You might say that the West End is ready to flourish. The Pine Knot led a celebration of the area (and plan to do so each fall) with a Flourish street party celebration. The festivities are the brainchild of Ivan Hohnstadt, advertising manager of the Pine Knot News, and is designed to showcase the neighborhood and the artists, musicians, crafters and history of Cloquet's original downtown. Our own office includes an art gallery that draws people to the area.

We applaud this type of activity, even if our applause is somewhat self-congratulatory, because we believe in our neighborhood and we cherish the historical significance of the area. Major events like the West End Flourish gathering invite the entire town and region to celebrate a unique neighborhood and encourages redevelopment, which benefits the whole area. There was a big crowd at the event in 2021, and thousands of people rediscovered the West End. It's an endeavor we are proud to lead.

— Pine Knot News

# Pine Knot

## News

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### INSIDE

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



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Runners stay packed **Page 10**



Play takes on guy talk **Page 18**

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## MEMORIES AND LAUGHS AT GORDY CELEBRATION



Hundreds gathered at Gordy's Hi-Hat Sunday for a celebration of life for Gordy Lundquist, who died in July. His son Dan, top, talked about the founder of the famous Cloquet eatery. There was also a service that honored Gordy's Navy experience. Plenty of memories were shared. For a story and more photos, see **Page 8**.

## Tradition holds at Cloquet's shoe store

Jana Peterson  
news@pineknotnews.com

History repeated itself this week at Burger Shoes in Cloquet.

After closing on the sale of the longtime local shoe store Tuesday evening, Carmen LaPlant celebrated her first day as the new owner on Wednesday, exactly 54 years after Ludwig Burger held his grand opening at 1609 Carlton Avenue.

Ludwig's daughter, Maria Leyrer, took down the bell that hung over the front door of the store on



Carmen LaPlant is the new owner of Burger Shoes. In addition to running the longtime local business, LaPlant is doing many of the basic shoe repairs now, and has partnered with a larger repair business for other repairs. *Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News*

Tuesday — as a new family heirloom — and enjoyed her first day of retirement. "It's home," she said. "I grew

up here. I was 1 when we moved here."

*Continued on Page 17*

## Big doings in the West End Saturday

Pine Knot News

They're closing down the streets in Cloquet's West End business district Saturday, and everyone is invited for a trip into an idealistic version of the future. It will be a place where children play, people enjoy yoga and dance, musicians jam, artists do their thing, businesses thrive and vendors sell their wares: think block party mixed with art fair, farmers market and business district.

Welcome to West End Flourish, a free community gathering. Avenues C and B and Vine Street will be closed from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday for this celebration

of the West End and the arts, and many other things that make Cloquet unique.

Vendors will line the streets, Wentworth Park will be a hub of activity, and the VFW parking lot will be transformed into an outdoor food court, featuring Carlton County food trucks. Many West End businesses are participating, including the Rock Place, the Pine Knot News and its art gallery — last chance for the bird show — and Common Ground and Wood City Nutrition, among others.

Bear in mind that parking could be tricky Saturday.

*Continued on Page 17*

TO THRIVE, PROSPER, GROW & DEVELOP

# WEST END flourish

FREE EVENT!

MUSIC • FOOD • ARTS • CRAFTS • KIDS' ACTIVITIES

In Cloquet's Historic West End  
12 p.m. - 6 p.m. • This Saturday, Sept. 25

FOOD TRUCKS!

West End Flourish funding made possible by

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RETHOS PLACES REIMAGINED

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## Shoe store ...

Continued from Page 1

Leyrer leaves the business on a high note. Last year Burger's had its highest-grossing year ever at \$384,000 ... 10 times the amount that Leyrer made the first year after her dad died and she took over the business.

Although Leyrer had worked in the business growing up, she was busy leading her own life when her father passed away, and had to decide quickly what to do about the store. She and her husband didn't pay themselves for at least the first five years as they — with Mike as support but Maria at the helm — built the business back up.

LaPlant is probably a little better prepared than even Ludwig's daughter was. She has been working at Burger Shoes for the past seven years and actively training to take over the business for at least five years.

"We knew we had to make it work so this legacy could go on and support another person," Leyrer said. "She's taking on a big endeavor, but she's young and amazing. It's a win-win, for sure."

Leyrer said it was meant to be, from the moment LaPlant moved into their rental property and Maria saw that her first job growing up in Grand Rapids was at a shoe store. From then on, she kept asking when LaPlant was going to come work with her and eventually — two years later — she said OK.

"Things don't happen like this often," LaPlant said. "I'm very close to my family and this is a family-owned business and I feel like I'm a member of the family. It's a cool thing that's happening here."

LaPlant said it's been an amazing journey with Leyrer.

"We joke that I'm the younger version of her, as far as work ethic and fire and knowledge," she said. "And it's really cool to have this partnership, this mentorship."

### History

The seeds of Burger Shoes were planted in former Yugoslavia — Slovenia, to be exact — where Ludwig Burger learned how to make and repair shoes before moving to the United States



Maria Leyrer had her last day as owner of Burger Shoes on Tuesday. She sold the store to her protege and store manager, Carmen LaPlant. Leyrer's father, Ludwig Burger, started the business 54 years ago. Photos by Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News

to live with an uncle on the Iron Range. "It was the typical two weeks on a boat with a dollar in his pocket story," Leyrer said.

He worked in the mines there for 10 years, then moved to Cloquet and set up a tiny shoe repair shop on 10th Street in 1958. Leyrer said John Buskala walked her to the exact location in what is now a parking lot for Nelson Funeral Home.

He met and fell in love with her mother, then Bernice Ost-off. They opened up their first Burger shoe store at 1609 Carlton Avenue in 1967 — in a former grocery store building — moving into a home. Business was good, and pretty soon they opened a second store, Fashion by Burger's, in downtown Cloquet. Bernice ran that store.

"This store was always the flagship store, and carried work boots, comfort casual, men's, women's and children's shoes," Leyrer said. "The downtown store was fashion, things like go-go boots. I remember my mom waited on Jessica Lange there once. She said she had such colorful clothes."

and encourage others to help us revitalize the area?"

Many of the food trucks (think egg rolls, smashburgers, mini donuts and more) will be parked in the parking lot behind the VFW, with tables and chairs for diners. Holy Smokes will be parked on Avenue C near Common Ground. There will also be organizations offering services, information and demonstrations.

Any activities that require green space will be located in Wentworth Park, at the corner of Avenue B and Arch Street. Nest Yoga studio owner and teacher Caroline Ripp will hold two free "yoga for everyone" classes, 1-1:30 p.m. and 2-2:30 p.m. Bring a yoga mat or a beach towel. All ages welcome. Music Together of Cloquet plans to have 20-minute sample sessions of their music classes at 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 in Wentworth Park. Cloquet's Boy Scouts of America Troop 171 will be set up adjacent

to a brief period there was a third store in the new Lumberjack mall, called Hex and Castles, but her dad closed it down after six months. The fashion shoe store lasted about 10 years. But the flagship store remained, with Ludwig at its helm.

"He was the shoe repairman, that was his craft and trade," she said. "There were usually a couple part-time employees who sold, and I'd work there every Saturday growing up."

After her teen years, Leyrer left for about five years, and worked at other jobs. Then her dad died in October 1995.

"If it wasn't for my husband, I probably wouldn't have come back because losing my dad was really hard on me," she said. "Going back to your childhood home and taking over the business, it was tough." Slowly but surely, they built the business up to what it is today with the help of a long list of past employees, which she rattles off.

Last week Leyrer was mostly done cleaning out the office, finally taking home the leather vest that had hung there for the

to the park and plans to offer archery and Dutch oven cooking demonstrations, games for kids and to sell popcorn and pea soup supper tickets.

While dozens of vendors and food trucks will be there all day, musical acts and activities are more fleeting. Rather than a central stage, music will be scattered throughout the five-block area, at the following times:

**Noon-1:30 p.m.:** Brooke & Caleb Anderson bring tight vocal harmonies, super cute banter, and toe-tapping music rooted in Americana. Near Wood City Nutrition.

**1-4 p.m.:** Jerry & Joyce. Senior dance inside the VFW.

**1-3 p.m.:** Dylanesque performer James Wiita will be bringing his guitar and harmonica and performing a wide variety of styles. Near Pine Knot News.

**2:45-3:15 p.m.:** Dan & Jeanne Doty on guitar and fiddle at the Agate Encores booth. Near Wood



New Burger Shoes owner Carmen LaPlant helps a customer with a pair of shoes last week. LaPlant said she doesn't plan to make any major changes at the store, but hopes people will stop in and say hello.

past five decades and photos of Burger's relatives in Slovenia.

She plans to go live there for three months, in a house she's rented, and get to know those relatives even better. Mike retired last year and now she's excited to join him.

"I never would have done it differently, but I'm going to retire now and explore life," she said.

### New owner, same model

LaPlant said she's gone through every emotion over the past few months as they prepared to close on the sale: nervous, scared, super-excited.

"But I also know that I can do this," she said. "I've been doing shoes for 12 years, so I know my stuff. And I pride myself on customer service."

LaPlant started her shoe career at Benders in Grand Rapids, then ended up running the Younkers shoe department when she was a University of Minnesota-Duluth communications and Spanish student.

"For [Younkers] to close and then to go to a small business, when small businesses weren't even supposed to make it, and now to buy one ... I think that's the scariest thing," LaPlant said. "But I grew up in a small town and that's part of the reason I stayed here. I think each community really wants everybody, every local business, to make it, especially now."

She gives Leyrer a lot of credit for building up the business, for

working with the local mills to grow their workboot business — employees get vouchers to buy boots — to targeting quality "comfort casual" shoes that customers can wear for years.

"They're the premium brands, not the knockoffs," she said. "You're not getting the ... cheapy shoes. You get what you pay for with what you find here at Burger Shoes, for sure. I think people are understanding that more and more: you get what you pay for."

LaPlant knows all the repeat customers, she knows the mill employees, she even knows how to do shoe repairs now. She thanked community members for supporting the hometown business, and she thanked her "bar family" at the Jack — where she also works part-time — for all the support they've given her.

The new owner said she doesn't plan to make any big changes. A couple of updates and a couple of new brands, she said, that's it. She hopes people will stop in and say hello, whether they're current customers or new to Burger's.

"It's going to be the same friendly faces, the same customer service. We're here to keep people's feet comfortable. That's what it's about. This business is established and nothing's broken, so why would I do anything to 'fix it?'" she said.

Look for more historic and transition photos online at [PineKnotNews.com](http://PineKnotNews.com)

## West End ...

Continued from Page 1

There are parking lots down the road on Dunlap Island and at Veterans Park, along with on-street parking, but be prepared to do some walking.

As part of the festivities, Krista Gardner will debut her West End Flourish "Ivory Garden" project. The Ivory Garden provides a space for citizens of Cloquet to perform and share music in a spontaneous fashion. The piano will be outside of Wood City Nutrition until the first snow.

"We're throwing a party to showcase the West End Flourish efforts and encouraging people to imagine what Cloquet's Historic West End could be," said organizer Ivan Hohnstadt, Pine Knot News advertising director. "This is the Pine Knot's neighborhood. Why wouldn't we champion it

City Nutrition.

**2-4 p.m.:** Maintenance Free members Mark Levings and Hewitt Station describe their style as acoustic Americana folk rock. Near Pine Knot News

**3:45-4:15 p.m.:** Dan & Jeanne Doty on guitar and fiddle at the Agate Encores booth. Near Wood City Nutrition.

**4-6 p.m.:** The Ted Eastman Trio. Ted Eastman on accordion, Terry Cibulka on drums and Rose Kuhlman on clarinet play a wide range of styles including big band, jazz, rock country and, of course, polkas. Near the VFW food court.

Additionally, Bridges Customs will host a car show on Avenue B and Vine Street and a car "drifting" demonstration at 4 p.m., pending city approval.

Finally, meet the new owners of the former Roberts Furniture building and learn about their plans for the space. The set of the YouTube channel "Rise of

the Podcast" (a weekly Star Wars and pop culture podcast) will be on display. You're invited to be an audience member for the live podcast at 7 p.m.

This West End Flourish event is part of an Artists on Main Street grant program that aims to kickstart revitalizing the West End. Grant coordinator Emily Fuerste Swanson shared her own long-range vision for the West End. "We imagine pedestrians, hikers, bikers, canoeists and kayakers enjoying the district," said Swanson. "We see all kinds of events taking place in this restored area, with new and expanded businesses, galleries, eateries, performance spaces and a craft brewery. We envision murals, sculpture, exhibits, and recreational amenities throughout the district."

Come down and decide what you think the future holds for the West End. Find the entire list of vendors with this story online.

### You're invited.

Look inside this special Pine Knot EXTRA section to learn more about the West End Flourish celebration from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25.

It's a multi-purpose daylong affair: think block party mixed with art fair and farmers market. Come down for kids' activities, shopping, food trucks or just to get to know local business owners better. Free, family-friendly and fun for everyone. Stop by the Pine Knot News office at 122 Avenue C and check out our art gallery while you're there. And pick up a paper and subscribe.



Cloquet's West End will be bustling on Sept. 25 with the West End Flourish celebration. *Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News*

## Neglected West End getting some love

Jana Peterson  
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It's not unusual to see visitors to Cloquet snapping photos of the world's only working Frank Lloyd Wright-designed gas station and its cantilevered roof at the corner of Minnesota Highway 33 and Cloquet Avenue. When they're done, they might head east and stop by the historical society or downtown Cloquet to eat or shop. More often than not, they simply hop into their cars and continue their journey north on Hwy. 33 or back to Interstate 35.

Rarely do guests realize a significant part of the city sits west of that major intersection, mostly hidden by the steam engine at Fauley Park and the bridge. The West End is Cloquet's most historic business district, the first part of town rebuilt after the Fires of 1918, the one with its historic buildings mostly intact, and the area with the most vacant storefronts.

The same highway that brings those tourists to town bears much of the blame for the gradual decline of the West End business district over the past 70 years or so.

For the first 50 years or so of Cloquet's existence, the West End was the beating heart of the city, particularly in terms of govern-

ment. City Hall and the jail were here, the Pine Knot newspaper and lots of different stores were all located in the West End, including banking and commerce, lodges, the Masonic Temple and more. Traffic flowed from Dunlap Island up Arch Street to Pinehurst Park, and things were busy, busy, busy.

The construction of Hwy. 33 through Cloquet in the 1960s took the bridge away from Dunlap Island and created a new north-south traffic flow versus the previous downtown to West End east-west only traffic flow. That same decade, City Hall was moved to the former YMCA building on Cloquet Avenue — where the fire station is now. The move left the district without the purpose for which it was designed: to be the municipal center of governance in the city, Cloquet Community Development Director Holly Hansen explained on a recent walk down Avenue C.

It wouldn't be the final slight to the West End.

While the first Hwy. 33 still offered an exit to Dunlap Island, even that was eliminated in 1995 when the Minnesota Department of Transportation raised the bridge over the St. Louis River even higher. Traffic patterns changed to what you see today. The change dramati-

cally affected traffic circulation into the West End as well as the city's connection to its riverfront.

### Ups and downs

For decades, the West End has been getting sleepier, literally. Some landlords either can't or don't bother trying to rent out the ground floor, making ends meet by renting out apartments upstairs and leaving storefronts vacant. Much of the traffic down Avenue C is residential. Trucks and workers headed to Sappi, USG and Upper Lakes Foods make their way down Broadway Avenue, but these industries don't have a lot of foot traffic or employees popping out for a cup of coffee.

But things may be changing. Hansen points to Duluth's Lincoln Park as an area that has seen tremendous growth in recent years, a formerly struggling business district that is now a hip place to go eat and drink in Duluth. The former Avenue C restaurant might have sparked that kind of revival in Cloquet, but the popular eating and dining place closed in 2017, less than a year after it opened.

Still, several new businesses have arrived in recent years.

One of the biggest draws is the Common Ground Coffee Bar & Deli in the old Chief Theater; in

addition to food and drink, the building has become an activity center for a number of different groups. Local florist Skutevik's re-located its business to 305 Broadway, bringing eye-popping floral displays to the area. Crowned Salon owner Sarah Faust moved into the former Personal Touch Beaute building in October 2019, and stayed and thrived despite numerous challenges from both water pipes and the pandemic. Split Rock Investing and Alaspa & Murray accounting moved into the old City Hall building.

The new smoke shop that went into the former Avenue C Restaurant space is definitely drawing more people to the First National Bank Plaza building, although they don't stay long. A massive building, there's plenty more space for smaller businesses to set up shop.

Long vacant, the old Roberts Home Furniture has been purchased and is being renovated. Vacant even longer, the Smokies store is also under new ownership with plans for a shop in front and apartments upstairs.

"We want it to thrive, not survive," Hansen said.

*Continued on back of Extra section*

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## OUR VIEW

# Join the Flourish fun in West End

Driving around town, you'll find remnants of long-forgotten commercial activity in many neighborhoods, such as corner groceries and other stores that have evolved into residential space, as most commercial activity moved downtown or to the Minnesota Highway 33 corridor over the years.

The West End of Cloquet is one of those sites. Once the thriving center of Cloquet, it held the City Hall, police station, and many of the most important businesses in town. The original town square was in the West End. So was the train station, and the town's movie theater. But after Highway 33 sliced through town, the West End morphed into empty storefronts and declining buildings.

But it never lost its charm, and in recent years the west end has seen some signs of revitalization. The Chief Theater has been converted into a coffee house and a busy ministry; a fancy restaurant opened in the First National Bank building that attracted huge crowds before closing down, proving the area can attract clientele; and there's been some storefront renovations and improvements. The neighborhood's old-world charm is one of the reasons we decided to open our newspaper office there, in the same building that housed the Pine Knot 70 years ago. And, we've seen other neighbors move in, too, in the past few years. You might say that the West End is ready to flourish.

This Saturday, there's a block-party-style celebration of the revitalization initiative called the West End Flourish. The festivities are the brainchild of our own Ivan Hohnstadt, advertising manager of the Pine Knot News, and will show off the neighborhood and showcase the artists, musicians, crafters and history of Cloquet's original downtown. The event runs 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. along Avenue C, and spills over into Wentworth Park and along Vine Street and Avenue B, which will all be closed to vehicle traffic. There will be plenty of booths, activities, music and food trucks offering a variety of fare.

We applaud this type of activity, even if our applause is somewhat self-congratulatory, because we believe in our neighborhood and we cherish the historical significance of the area. Major events like this West End Flourish gathering invite the entire town and region to celebrate a unique neighborhood and encourages redevelopment, which benefits the whole area. It's a truly family-friendly event and, from the feedback we've received so far, we expect big crowds.

It's going to be a great party, and we hope to see you there.



# It's a puzzle why we don't have an animal shelter

When a new lawyer gets into town, they're often inundated with requests from local organizations, asking us to get involved and volunteer with their group. It's a great way to quickly become a part of the community and to show some dedication to the people who will, eventually, become your clients.

At least, that's how it happened to me. When I started working at the Newby law firm in 1999, it wasn't weeks before I had been "volunteered" for all sorts of local groups, from the Relay for Life to the CDIC, a local community economic development group. I was asked many times over the years to join the Friends of Animals, especially from "The Lindas": Linda Quarnstrom, who owned WKLK at the time, and her friend Linda Towne, a former nurse, chiropractor and current owner of the Vision Pro chain around here. Those two were hard to resist — and they were relentless in asking for help with their pet project, Friends of Animals.

That was an interesting group. It was started privately, by local do-gooders who saw a need that just couldn't be filled by the city or county governments. For years, they were very active in placing strays and caring for animals, and in prevention, education, and support for animal rights. Even though it wasn't really my cup of tea, I did volunteer a decent amount occasionally when a lawyer would be beneficial to them (and when the Lindas persuaded me to help). It was a shame when the organization folded a few years ago due to, in my opinion, growing too fast.

When Friends of Animals went away, it left a void that hasn't been filled. There's no

animal control in Cloquet anymore, and it shows. There are too many strays, and it's a burden on the police who get called all too often to deal with animal control issues. It's not really the cops' job to act as animal control, and their time is better spent on other police work. So, it would be nice to see some kind of revival of the Friends of Animals.

Recently, a concerned citizen asked Cloquet city administrator Tim Peterson about the lack of a pound in Cloquet. Tim shared his response with me and gave me permission to pass it along: "The City of Cloquet,

Carlton County, and most all other cities and townships in the area were supporters of the Friends of Animals. We all contributed both our vocal support, but also financially each year. However, that organization closed based on their own decision due to several different factors. I would also like to point out that representatives from each governmental entity met with the Friends of Animals organization on multiple occurrences to try and make it work; however, this proved unsuccessful.

"We would still surely be supportive of a shelter. In fact, the City of Cloquet continues to budget funds for animal control that could easily be sent to an organization that fulfills that shelter need. But the City of Cloquet does not have the resources to own and operate this shelter. That is why we have programs to spay, neuter, and microchip pets. These programs have been very successful and help return pets to their owners quickly and safely.

"The City would absolutely be interested in supporting a private organization that wants to start, own, and operate a shelter."

I think such an organization

could happen again, just like it did years ago with the Friends of Animals. They could even call themselves "Friends of Animals." I know a certain local lawyer who would be willing to help them organize, legally. But someone needs to step up and take the place of the original organizers. It takes a lot of work, and a lot of dedication to make such an organization work. But I'm certain there are plenty of people out here who can do it. All it takes is one strong leader to take charge.

And there's plenty of people left over from the Friends of Animal days who, I bet, would be willing to meet with the new team and help guide them in the right direction. Tim suggested that if a group did form, they should contact the city's Economic Development staff to help find a suitable location for a shelter. That office is terrific, and would certainly be a good resource for a new Friends of Animals. So would many other groups, I'd bet, from the Rotary Club to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to service organizations of all kinds.

Carlton County can certainly support an animal shelter. It has in the past, and should be able to do it again. Other small counties in our area can support a shelter, like the Lake County Humane Society in Two Harbors and Arrowhead Animal Rescue in Cook County, and those are both run by volunteers. With the right group, it can happen here, too.

I bet even the Lindas would be willing to meet with the new group.

*Pete Radosevich is the publisher of the Pine Knot News community newspaper 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.*

HARRY'S GANG



Pete Radosevich

## CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 10 story, "Residents frosted by snowmobile trail vote," the Pine Knot reported that the Wood City Riders backed out of creating a snowmobile trail in May 2021. The story should have said the club had to reroute the proposed trail due to property owners backing out of agreements. The trail was fully funded by then and permits were granted for the majority of the route, according to president Chris Rokke. Read this week's update on Page 4 for more information.

•••

A couple "greats" were left out in the Sept. 17 Pine Knot story, "Tribal farm grows souls as well." Kaitlyn Walsh was named after her great-grandmother, and her great-uncle, Leland Debe, started the garden program.

*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.*

### INSIDE

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



Chamber fetes its own  
**Page 4**

## New generation takes over at B&B

Jana Peterson  
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Three years ago, a stranger from New Jersey wanted to buy B&B Market, but Kim Lind turned him down. "Whatever I wanted he would have paid, but I couldn't do it," she said. "Because I still have to live here. You have to be involved in the community."

Just over a month ago, however, Kim and John Lind signed the sale papers for their beloved store at 506 Big Lake Road. They had a buyer they believed in. And maybe because — after 33 years of running around like crazy, a pandemic and

three young grandchildren — selling seemed a little more appealing.

The new owner, Cloquet's Jake Richardson, has worked at B&B for eight years, since he was 15. He bought the store and the catering business on Aug. 27. Richardson turned 24 on Wednesday, and celebrated by working all day.

"I'm always here," the smiling new owner said Tuesday. "This is my new home."

Kim isn't fazed by his youth. "That's how old we were when we bought the store from my parents," she said. "I was 24 and John was 26."

*Continued on Page 22*



Jake Richardson is the new owner of Cloquet's B&B Market. John Lind and his wife, Kim, sold the business to the longtime employee, who is 24. John was 26 and Kim was 24 when they took over the store.  
Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News



Star Club turns 100  
**Page 21**



## MUSIC, MERCH AND MIRTH IN THE WEST END



**Above:** People enjoy acoustic Americana folk rock tunes by Maintenance Free members Mark Levings and Hewitt Station during Saturday's West End Flourish event, a kind of street market combined with art fair and block party designed to bring people down to Cloquet's historic business district. **Top:** The Ivory Garden, an outdoor piano and garden boxes next to Wood City Nutrition, attracted a lot of interest Saturday. Krista Gardner spent months weatherproofing and decorating the piano with tile mosaic. It will sit outside for probably another month and then come back out after the snow melts next spring, ready for anyone who wants to make music.

See more photos and the story on **Pages 12-13.**

Photos by Jana Peterson

### CARLTON COUNTY

## Board settles on new jail site

Dan Reed  
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It's official. After more than two years of studies and debate, the Carlton County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday to build a new justice center north of the current transportation building. The justice center will house both the jail and courtrooms with space for support staff — including administration, the county attorney's office and sheriff's office — at a possible cost of more than \$70 million.

On Monday, the board approved a working plan for the Justice Center site south of the Carlton Junction on Old Hwy 61, permission to explore bonding possibilities for the building, a plan for paying for the building complex, along with a proposed female offender program.

The county doesn't have much of a choice regarding the new jail itself. It's out of date and out of compliance, the state has said.

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# WEST END DOES THE BUSTLE

The West End Flourish in Cloquet Saturday had a lot going along four streets in the district. **Above:** Children enjoyed painting suncatchers outside the Pine Knot News Saturday. **Right:** Dan and Jeanne Doty play guitar and accordion at the Agate Encores market booth. **Far right, middle:** Troop leaders and members of Boy Scout Troop 171 offered anyone who was interested a chance to try their hand at archery. **Bottom right:** Rylan Henagin, 10, tries his hand at blacksmithing during the local blacksmith demo Saturday. **Below:** It wasn't just the kids who took on a suncatcher project.



**PHOTOS BY JANA PETERSON  
PINE KNOT NEWS**





Children did art projects in the street Saturday during the West End Flourish in Cloquet, including decorating masks provided by County Seat Theater.

## West End springs to life

Jana Peterson  
jnews@PineKnotNews.com

Hundreds of people made their way to Cloquet's most historic business district Saturday to walk the streets and shop, eat, dance and commune with old and new friends and acquaintances.

Part art fair, part block party, part car show and part market, there was something for everyone, including food and drink from four local food trucks along with Common Ground Coffee Bar & Deli, which was bustling all day long, according to manager Maggie Schulstrom.

"It was really great to see all the local community people come down," Schulstrom said, adding that a lot of people said they would come back again. "And I loved the pop-up music. People just loved having places to go and people to see."

In all, five blocks' worth of streets were blocked off so vendors could set up and people could meander on foot. Think combination art fair, block party, market and food court, all surrounded by buildings that are among Cloquet's oldest.

There was music on nearly every block — busker style — and vendors offering everything from blacksmithing and yoga demonstrations to clothing to all-natural soaps along with a wide variety of arts and crafts. For kids, there was mask making with County Seat, singing with Music Together, blacksmithing, art projects and

space to roam. For car buffs, there were cars on display outside of Bridges Customs at Vine and Avenue B. Just down the street, Boy Scout Troop 171 were teaching archery, demonstrating Dutch Oven cooking and selling popcorn and pea soup dinner tickets in addition to volunteering their youthful energy with set up.

Outside one of several vacant buildings in the West End, organizers invited people to share their ideas for a more vibrant business community. Some of the answers were drawn, others written down. The ideas ran the gamut: Brewery! An art class, an animal shelter, trampoline park, thrift store and multiple requests for a restaurant and/or brewery. Other suggestions included a hobby supply store, a "play place," more flowers and even a fire pit.

Someone drew a tree and flowers, someone else a Game Stop store. Another budding artist created a vision including the river with a walking path, live music, a bookstore, bakery, bistros and wine bars along with a monthly craft market. "Imagine Paris in the 1920s," they wrote.

"Murals, gardens, music, dance, party, roller skating," wrote another.

Judging by the positive reactions to Saturday's event, Pine Knot News ad director Ivan Hohnstadt — who was the brains behind the event — said the Pine Knot may make it an annual affair, or even a spring and fall thing, depending

on volunteer or West End business owner support.

"I thought this was a great way to get the community together and bring some attention to the West End," said Kristen Kozelouzek of Swells and Flutter, who sold handcrafted jewelry and art. "It was fun chatting with everyone that stopped by and we loved that so many people brought their dogs out to walk around."

Library director Beth Sorenson said they saw a lot of people she doesn't see in the library, so it was nice to be able to let them know about some of the services, programs and materials they have available.

"There were also some businesses and organizations that I didn't know were available in town so it gave me a better perspective of the community," Sorenson said.

Saturday's event accomplished several goals, Hohnstadt said. It brought people together; it highlighted many of the West End grant projects — including the debut of the Ivory Garden, a new outdoor piano and garden boxes next to Wood City Nutrition created by Krista Gardner — and it reminded people of what's already here, so they will visit more often, or consider becoming part of this growing business community.

Carol Risdon, who owns The Rock Place, said she'd love to see something like Saturday's event happen more often. "The West End came alive," she said.



# THANK YOU

## FOR MAKING THE

### WEST END

# flourish

## A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

The Pine Knot News extends its heartfelt thanks to these organizations and individuals for contributing to the success of this event:

- Cloquet Sanitary Service, for providing garbage service for the event
- The Northern Printery, for printing posters
- Boy Scout Troop 171, for helping set up tables, chairs & garbage cans
- The City of Cloquet Police and Street Department for their help with road closures
- Cloquet city administrator Tim Peterson, public works director Caleb Peterson, and community development director Holly Hansen for their assistance throughout the planning process
- to the volunteers who helped plan this event — Ivan Hohnstadt, Jana Peterson, Rose Chu, Ali Bilden-Camps, Ron Stigers, Joel Soukkala, Linda Erickson, Timothy Soden-Groves, and Emily & Glenn Swanson
- to all of the West End Flourish artists and creatives who brightened and beautified the neighborhood with their work
- and to all the vendors and everyone who came out to celebrate in Cloquet's Historic West End.

West End Flourish funding made possible by

SPRINGBOARD  
for the arts

RETHOS  
PLACES REIMAGINED

BUSH  
FOUNDATION

Imagine  
CLOQUET

oldenburg  
arts and cultural community

Pine Knot  
News





# Celebrate in Cloquet's Historic West End Saturday, September 25 • 12 p.m. – 6 p.m

You're invited to join the fun as we celebrate revitalizing the area through the arts.

part block party • part art fair • part music fest • part kids' activities • part farmers market • part business expo •  
All FREE fun, entertaining and informative!

### AGATE ENCORES COMMUNITY CONCERTS

Agate Encores Community Concerts, whose mission is to present professional entertainment to the greater Moose Lake Community, returns with an exciting year of four live concerts! Stop by the booth for information and tickets.



### TED EASTMAN TRIO

The Ted Eastman Trio is comprised of Ted Eastman, accordion, Terry Cibulka, drums, and Rose Kuhlman, clarinet. The trio plays

a wide range of styles including big band, jazz, rock country and, of course, polkas.

### BROOKE AND CALEB

Brooke and Caleb Anderson of Mahtowa have honed their musical sound in the living room of their small beef farm, after the kids go to bed. While mostly seen playing with the Holy Hootenanners, the two have recently taken to performing some as a duo. Brooke is an accomplished lyricist and crafts contemplative folk songs about motherhood, literature, and life.



She holds down a rhythm with her guitar or mandolin, while tapping both feet with a stomp box and foot tambourine. Caleb, a native of Cloquet, has found his musical footing in gospel,

blues, and country, and flavors each song at the piano, which is never short of adventurous. Brooke and Caleb grace the stage with tight vocal harmonies, super cute banter, and toe-tapping music rooted in Americana.

### HOLY SMOKES CATERING

Holy Smokes Catering is a 28-ft mobile food trailer with an NSF-certified wood-fired smoker. All their meat is smoked over aged oak. Their menu features smoked turkey, pork and beef brisket open-faced sandwiches, breakfast sandwiches, Cubanos, nachos and smoked Gouda mac and cheese.



### WINKY DINKY DONUTS

Winky Dinky Donuts serves up fresh mini donuts, shaved ice, and soda.



### MUSIC TOGETHER IN CLOQUET

Music Together of Cloquet offers more than just a music class. It is about connecting with music with your child and with other families in our community. In each 10-week semester, you'll be supported and inspired to discover your young child's inner music-maker by simply playing with music ... together.

### RELIABLE INSURANCE AGENCY

Reliable Insurance Agency is a locally owned independent insurance agency representing many different companies and has been in the community since 1974. We can offer coverage for all lines of insurance. Please stop by our booth to visit with one of our agents and register for our door prize.

### UNITED WAY OF CARLTON COUNTY

Learn about the United Way of Carlton County's upcoming Operation Community Connect event or register for their Mud & Mutts virtual 5K walk/hike or 10K run event taking place the week of October 3. They'll have activities for kids too. United Way of Carlton County fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.

### CHAIRS BY KRIS

Chair artist Kris Nelson will have several of her chairs on display. Many of the chairs are available for purchase and greeting cards featuring her work will also be available. Kris is a West End Flourish grant recipient and has been busy painting chairs for West End businesses. She recently completed "Psycho Reflections" – featuring Alfred Hitchcock and painted on two century-old theater seats. You're invited to share your Hitchcock "Psycho"



memories. Her chair honoring Northern Printery will be on display, and she'll also be painting a chair commemorating the Pine Knot News. There will also be an activity table for children. Children are invited to visit and play a chair-related game.

### CLOQUET LIBRARY

Visit with friends of the Cloquet Library and learn what's new. Complete a brief survey, and they'll give you a bag of chips for your trouble. You can also register to win a door prize drawing.

### 218 BRAND FISHING LURES

218 Brand fishing lures features custom-made fishing lures. Shop their selection of soft plastics, custom-made bass fishing jigs and 218 Brand hard fishing lures.

### IRIS KELLER

Iris Keller is an artist who has worked on many projects in town, the schools and with CHS theater. She loves to work with materials from nature.

### PINE KNOT NEWS

Visit the Pine Knot Gallery, meet staff and contributing writers. This will be the last chance to view and purchase art from our "Art is of the Birds" exhibit, featuring 16 local artists. Register for door prizes. There will be free old newspapers for the taking if you need them for packing material, wrapping fish or a papier mâché art project.

### SKUTEVIK'S FLORAL

Skutevik's Floral is extending their Saturday hours and will have free flowers for the first 150 guests. You're invited to visit the store to register for door prizes from CrystalsMNCreations, Dälarinia Woodworks and Skutevik's Floral. Save 20% on houseplants and shop their fall décor items.

### ANDI DESIGN SHOP

Andi Design Shop seeks to create hand-made toys and gifts that invoke imagination and can be a cherished part of your little one's playtime adventures. Shop an assortment of gifts and toys.



### FRANK'S CRAFTS

Frank Nelson will have a wide variety of creative and practical handcrafted birdhouses for sale.



Music Together  
Cloquet

Contact us to visit a class!

Meeting at Community Memorial Hospital  
musictogethercloquet.com  
(218) 216-6986

**HUGE SALE!**

The Rock Place  
**50% OFF anything over \$10**

Agates  
Petrified wood  
Crystals & Minerals  
Jewelry  
*necklaces, bolos & belt buckles*

All sales final  
113 Avenue C • Cloquet  
879-3968

**Additional vendors are wanted and welcome to participate. Register online at [www.OACC.us/programs/west-end-flourish/](http://www.OACC.us/programs/west-end-flourish/) or contact Ivan at [ads@pineknotnews.com](mailto:ads@pineknotnews.com) or 218-391-3696. Register no later than Thurs., Sept. 23**

**HANDMADE MAMA**

Handmade Mama is a children's clothing boutique located in the Holiday Center, Downtown Duluth. All clothing products are manufactured locally.

**THE ROCK PLACE**

The Rock Place is having a huge sale with 50% off Brazilian agates, petrified wood, crystals, minerals, and all jewelry priced over \$10. Their jewelry includes necklaces, bolos and belt buckles.

**JULIE'S EGG ROLLS**

The Podvin family will be serving Julie's famous egg rolls and other authentic Filipino food from their iconic big green food truck.



**BLACKSMITH DEMONSTRATION**

Local blacksmiths will be demonstrating how to make a wrought iron hook, and they're willing to teach you how to make one of your own. They will have a variety of handcrafted iron-work for sale.

**CHRISTOPHER HENAGIN - THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

Christopher Henagin is a Thrivent financial professional who provides personalized financial guidance to people at all stages of life. Visit with Christopher to find out more about the financial advice, investments, insurance, banking, and generosity programs to help you make the most of what you've been given.

**WOOD CITY NUTRITION**

Stop by Wood City Nutrition to learn more about their Herbalife shakes, nutritional supplements and their supportive weight loss challenges.

**ROOM AT THE TABLE**

Simple. Good. Food. That is what you'll find at the Room at the Table mobile food truck. Smashburg-



ers are at the core of their everchanging menu. Stop by and see what's new!

**LISA MONTMINY AGENCY - FARMERS INSURANCE**

Lisa Montminy Agency - Farmers Insurance. Lisa recently purchased the Farmers Insurance Agency on Avenue C and is excited to be a part of the September Celebration. Stop by and meet one of the West End's newest business owners.

**COMMUNITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Visit with a representative from Community Memorial Hospital's Speech Therapy Department and learn about the many services available to children and adults at CMH. Take their Hula-Hoop Challenge! Kids of all ages, who can Hula-Hoop for 15 seconds will win a prize!

**FORMER ROBERTS HOME FURNISHING BUILDING**

Meet the new owners and learn about their plans for the space. The set of the YouTube channel Rise of the Podcast (a weekly Star Wars and pop culture live streaming podcast) will be on display. You're invited to be an audience member for the live podcast at 7 PM. The plans for the building include providing space for enterprising media creators and being a local resource for these creators.

**OLDENBURG ARTS & CULTURAL COMMUNITY**

The Oldenburg Arts & Cultural Community (OACC) is one of the lead organizations of the West End Flourish program in Cloquet. Visit with them to learn more about this ongoing initiative. Visit their "Imagination Station" and share your ideas of what you'd like to see in Cloquet's Historic West End.



**Carlton**  
Tuesdays  
4 to 6 p.m.  
McFarland Park  
Hwy 210 & Grand

**Cloquet**  
Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Premiere Theatres

**Find us on Facebook**

**MN ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS**

The mission of the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) is to end veteran homelessness in Minnesota. They provide services to veterans, including housing, employment and legal aid, that address the reasons for veterans' homelessness in creating sustainable housing opportunities.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will have an information table and answer questions about membership.

**MAGNOLIA CAFÉ**

The Magnolia Café will be bringing their freezer and serving up ice cream cones and fun sundaes.



**JAMES WITTA**

James Witta is a Dylan-esque performer. He will be bringing his guitar and harmonica and performing a wide variety of styles, mixing in his originals with 1970s vintage cover songs, folk, gospel, blues and old standards.



**RARE OPPORTUNITY – IMMEDIATE OPENINGS**

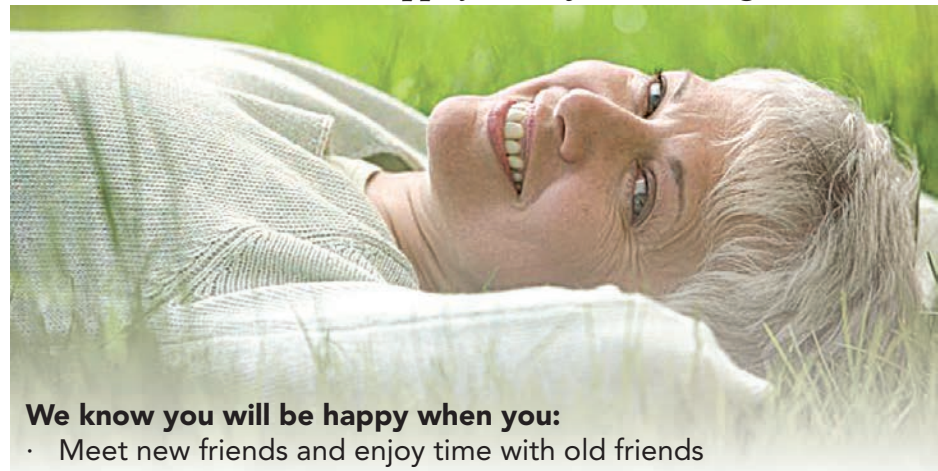
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Visit our website at [www.evergreencloquet.org](http://www.evergreencloquet.org)

**West End Flourish September Celebration**



Open House

OPEN UNTIL 3 P.M.  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

FREE FLOWERS\* \*While supplies last

20% OFF HOUSEPLANTS

Register for Door Prizes from Skutevik's and local artists  
CrystalsMNCreations and Dälarnia Woodworks.

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Closed on Sunday  
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Across the street from the train at 305 Broadway Street in Cloquet

# West End ...

Continued from front of Extra section

## Spotlight

The city of Cloquet has led the efforts to revive the West End, by first undertaking massive projects to renovate and improve the network of parks that cluster in along the river and on either side of Highway 33, along with rebuilding Broadway Avenue into a roadway that was more friendly to pedestrians and easier to navigate.

Additionally, the Cloquet Economic Development Authority offered low-interest gap loans and grant money for building improvements to businesses that were owner-occupied in the West End; the city also put out a call for brew pubs or other destination drinkeries to consider the West End.

More recently, revitalization efforts received a nice boost when the city was selected for the 2020 Artists on Main Street cohort, along with three other Minnesota municipalities. Over two years, Cloquet will receive \$30,000 for project funding and program implementation.

The following grants were approved in the first round:

- West End Art Day: Painters set up July 17 in Fauley Park to paint or sell their art. Children could paint suncatchers and canvas. There was live music and a food truck. Phyllis Ducey.
- Random Finds Of Art:



Art has come to the West End this year as part of an arts initiative. Elizabeth Peterson painted the Common Ground building during West End Art Day in midsummer. Jana Peterson / Pine Knot News

Artists painted mini canvases at Wood City Nutrition in August. Paintings were distributed throughout the West End in September for people to find and keep. Some are still hiding out here. Margie Helstrom.

• Wood City Floral Allegiance: Large tree trucks were given new life as planters along Avenue C,

and placed outside local businesses. Debra Zime.

• Plein Air Paint-Out: Artist Julia Jaakola has hosted more than one "paint-out" for artists in the West End. She also did landscaping work outside the old Smokies building and will paint signs for the new business.

• Ivory Garden: Photographer

and musician Krista Gardner will bring an open piano for the public to play, with a flower display.

• Have a greet seat: Local "chair lady" artist Kris Nelson is painting four chairs for businesses in the West End to showcase the culture and beauty of the area.

• Rekindle Community: Carl-

ton County Historical Society will host an educational tour, a documentary video, and a historic photo display. They will collect personal stories from the participants to add to the history of the area. Charley Langowski.

• Cloquet Chronoquest: Historic geocaching where a QR code will show participants a historic photo taken in the same place the participant stands today. Matthew Krafthefer.

• Land of Stories: Outdoor youth puppet theatre production will braid together traditional Anishinaabe, Finnish, Irish and Judeo-Christian creation stories. Lindsay Swan.

On Sept. 25, many of those ongoing efforts will be highlighted at the West End Flourish celebration, with seed money coming from a grant. Avenue C, Avenue B and Vine Street will be closed from noon to 6 p.m. for a celebration of the West End and the arts, and many other things that make Cloquet unique. Vendors will line the streets, Wentworth Park will be a hub of activity, and the VFW parking lot will be transformed into an outdoor food court, featuring Carlton County food trucks.

"We're throwing a party to showcase the West End Flourish efforts and encouraging people to imagine what Cloquet's Historic West End could be," said organizer Ivan Hohnstadt, Pine Knot News advertising director. "This is the Pine Knot's neighborhood. Why wouldn't we champion it and encourage others to help us revitalize the area?"

**Kid Scoop** THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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## The Great Skateboard Debate

Should people be able to ride skateboards on sidewalks? Some people say, "For sure!" and others say, "Definitely not!" Today's Kid Scoop looks at both sides of the issue and lets you ask, think and decide for yourself.

**Skateboards on sidewalks? YES!**

Streets are dangerous places to ride skateboards. Riders risk being hit by a car or falling in front of one.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests that skateboarders should never ride in the street.

**Skateboards on sidewalks? NO!**

Some people are afraid that skateboarders zipping along sidewalks endanger pedestrians, especially older people and small children who may have difficulty getting out of the way of a speeding skateboard.

Concerns for the safety of skateboarders and pedestrians has led to the development of skate parks in many communities.

**What's YOUR opinion?** Before you answer, ask, think and then decide.

**Ask!** Ask friends and family members for their opinion. Write down their reasons for or against skateboarding on sidewalks on a sheet of paper.

**Think!** List three reasons why some people say YES to skateboards on sidewalks and three reasons why some people say NO to skateboards on sidewalks.

YES	NO

**Decide!** You've asked questions, you've thought about what each side has to say. Now it's time for YOU to decide. Write down your opinion here:

**Find the two identical skateboarders.**

**Extra! Extra! Skateboard Scavenger Hunt**

Look through the newspaper to find:

- A picture of a street or sidewalk
- Something with wheels
- A person who might ride a skateboard
- The letters that spell pedestrian

Standards Link: Research: Students compare information and draw conclusions.

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

The most important piece of equipment a skateboarder needs is a

--	--	--	--	--	--

Use the Skateboard Secret Code to find the answer.

A	E	H	L	M	S	T

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

**Double Double Word Search**

SKATEBOARD DEBATE SIDEWALKS AFRAID OPINION RISK SECRET SAFETY RIDE WHEELS HELMET ASK THINK PATH ISSUE

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

S	T	D	R	E	U	S	S	I	T
N	O	I	N	I	P	O	I	T	E
A	S	A	Y	S	D	A	D	H	R
K	F	R	E	E	I	E	E	I	C
N	S	F	B	T	H	E	W	N	E
D	R	A	O	B	E	T	A	K	S
H	T	A	P	T	E	M	L	E	H
E	W	H	E	E	L	S	K	S	T
R	E	Y	T	E	F	A	S	E	T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

**Having a Say**

Look at the letters to the editor section of your newspaper and read a letter that interests you. Do you think the person did a good job of expressing his or her position on this debate? What could you add to their letter?

Standards Link: Language Arts: Students respond to comments (e.g., gives reasons in support of opinions, responds to others' ideas).

**Write On! Brain Builders**

List three to five ways you can think of to exercise your brain.

**Kid Scoop Together: History of Skateboards**

Below are some TRUE facts about skateboarding history as well as a few that are FALSE. Do the math under each statement. If the answer is EVEN, that statement is TRUE. If the answer is ODD, it's FALSE.

**1958:** The skateboard is made from roller skates attached to a board. It is a way to surf when there are no waves—sidewalk surfing.  $12 + 14 - 8 =$

**1963:** The first skateboard contest is held in California.  $27 + 19 - 4 =$

**1969:** Tony Hawk wins the stunt competition at the first X Games.  $21 + 11 - 9 =$

**1973:** The invention of urethane wheels turns a formerly noisy, bumpy ride smooth and silent. Because the urethane wheels grip concrete better, curbs, ditches and other terrain become skating courses.  $27 + 15 - 3 =$

**1976-78:** The California drought forces homeowners to drain their pools. Empty pools become mini-skate parks. New tricks are invented.  $19 + 19 - 8 =$

**1977:** President Jimmy Carter makes history by skateboarding to his inauguration ceremony.  $27 + 19 - 5 =$

**1985:** Scientists in Norway discover an ancient skateboard dating back to the year 535 A.D.  $17 + 13 - 7 =$

**2000s:** Many cities have built skate parks and provide camps and lessons that are available to young people.  $22 + 8 - 4 =$

Standards Link: History/Social Studies: Students know how to interpret timelines.

**Kid Scoop-doku™**

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word SKATER in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

R	S			K
	K	A		T
S	A	T		K
K	T	E	S	
	E	K		R
T	R		K	A