



CONGRATULATIONS: Moose Lake/Willow River boys' basketball goes to state. **P6**

Rebels heading to state

MARY ELLEN DEWEY
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It was an exciting week for the Moose Lake Willow River Rebels boys' basketball team. They defeated Duluth Marshall and Pequot Lakes to earn a spot in the Minnesota State Basketball Tournament. There are eight teams left: In the northern section-Minneapolis North (14-1) is seeded number one, Annandale (18-1) second, Fergus Falls (15-7) third and Moose Lake Willow River (18-3) fourth. In the southern section-Waseca (20-1) is number one, Caledonia (21-1) is second, St. Croix Prep Academy (20-1) is third, and Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta (19-2). MLWR played Minneapolis North on Wednesday, March 31 at 1:00 in Osseo (after this paper's deadline). The only other time MLWR has won the sections to go to state was in 2005. The winner of the game Wednesday will play the winner of Caledonia and St. Croix Prep Academy on April 7 at the Target Center at 2 p.m.

Two of Rebels losses this season were to Duluth Marshall 69-70 and Pequot Lakes 84-87 in overtime. These are the two teams that they had to defeat

this week to go to state and they did it.

On Tuesday, March 23 the Rebels were at Duluth Marshall again and shot the lights out. Mason Olson put in 32 points and Logan Orvedahl added 16. At the half, the Rebels led 44-28. The Marshall Hilltoppers were down by 17, but then went on a 12-0 run to close the gap to 53-48 with 12 minutes left in the game.

The Rebels have been shooting almost 50 percent from the three-point mark. Rebels' Coach Wes Cummins said, "It's such a momentum changer when you hit one. It's a nice luxury to have." Orvedahl had four in this game, Phillip Sheetz three, Olson and Carter Johnson each had two. They made 12 of their 13 free throw shots, while Marshall was 2 for 4 from the charity stripe.

Hilltopper's coach, Tom Mitchell stated that the Rebels shot the lights out and played incredibly hard for all 36 minutes. It was hard to match.

Scoring for the Rebels were Olson 32, Orvedahl 16, Johnson, Sheetz 9, Brady Watrin 7, Landin Kurhajetz 6, and Sam Dewey 4.

For Marshall, the Timm brothers were the leaders.



MARY ELLEN DEWEY | PINE COUNTY COURIER

Moose Lake Willow River boys are Section 7AA champions.

Jasper Timm had 26 and Oscar finished with 18. Mason Boos

15, Brooks Johnson 10, Ben Bergeron and Alex Olson each

SEE STATE, PAGE 6

County Board approves two township projects for grant cycle

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The Carlton County Board of Commissioners gave their blessing for two township grant projects that will compete for limited transportation funding from an annual Legislature initiative for Greater Minnesota. County Engineer Neumann requested the Board's support at the Adjourned Session of the County Board on February 22.

Almost all the Carlton County townships inquired into the possibility of funding needed township road projects, but the Highway Department staff explained that the competition throughout the State was strong and success was not good. A proposal must show that the particular project was important to the traffic and trade needs of the local area and have an impact to the region served.

The Townships of Moose Lake and Barnum have requested funding for the Aspen

Road, bordering each township line, for a rebuild of 2 1/2 miles and an application of pavement. Aspen Road runs North and South connecting CSAH 6 and Old Highway 61. The pavement and road base have been poor for years.

Eagle Township is requesting funding an upgrade of the Kingsley Road. Rebuilding the roadbed and paving are called for in the plan. This road provides partial access to the north side of Eagle Lake and would also provide a detour route for Hwy 73 traffic when work is being done on that thoroughfare.

Health and Human Services Director Dave Lee reported that 21% of Carlton County's population have received at least one vaccine shot so far. Commissioner Dick Brenner asked why not all probation officers have been vaccinated. Lee said many of them have been. Brenner responded that if probation officers are working two weeks on and two weeks off during face to face

interaction with their clients, then all probation officers should be vaccinated. Lee said he would look into it.

County residents interested in any updates on the response to the COVID-19 locally can call the number 218-499-6312 which has new information almost daily. The County is planning on starting a hot line to improve resident sign up for a vaccination appointment. It is hoped to start that service once more vaccine is available.

A Committee of the Whole Special Working Committee, focusing on the continuing discussion and planning on the building of a new jail, will be meeting every third Monday of the month at 2PM at the Transportation Building. The next meeting is March 15. With the planning and construction of a new jail taking at least the next three years, this standing committee will meet regularly to follow the progress, ask questions, and spread information into the community.

Where can I get my shot?

ALANEA WHITE
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Locations and options for receiving COVID-19 vaccines continue to open up across the state of Minnesota.

Current Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines allow for all Minnesotans age 16 and older to sign up for an appointment to receive their vaccines. This change by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Governor's Office began on Tuesday, March 30. Groups considered high risk, the elderly and frontline workers are still considered priority groups. Vaccination centers continue to follow MDH and CDC guidelines on who receives vaccine priority.

Statewide resources are available to help you find an appointment for a vaccine. To locate vaccine clinics near you visit the Minne-

sota Vaccine Finder map at <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/locations/index.jsp>

You can also use the state Vaccine Connector, <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/connector.jsp>, to sign up for notifications on when you are eligible to sign up for or receive your vaccine.

Resources and locations for COVID-19 Vaccines in Carlton County are:

CARLTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
Calling (218)499-6310 to register for an appointment is the best way to receive a vaccine through Carlton County Public Health according to Meghann Levitt, Carlton County Public Information Officer. Information about appointment availability is regularly shared through the Carlton County Public Health Facebook and website. As

SEE VACCINE CLINICS, PAGE 8



CARLTON COUNTY
COVID UPDATE

Total number of cases:
3,078

New cases last week: 44

Positive cases

incarcerated at MSOP in

Moose Lake: 91

Barnum cases: 227

Moose Lake Cases: 419

Deaths: 51

People with at least one

vaccine dose: 14,064

People who have

completed the vaccine

series: 9,159

Register to receive a vaccine
through <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/index.jsp>

Contact the Carlton County
COVID-19 Hotline at (218)
499-6312.

Statistics provided by Carlton
County Public Health and Minnesota
Public Health. Updated March 25.

PINE COUNTY
COVID UPDATE

Total number of cases:
2,962

New cases last week: 44

Age range of patients:

0-98 years old

Deaths: 20

People with at least one

vaccine dose: 7,148

Percentage of residents

vaccinated: 24.5%

Register to receive a vaccine
through <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/index.jsp>

Contact the Pine County
COVID-19 Hotline at 320-
591-1690 or public.health@co.pine.mn.us

Statistics provided by Pine County
Public Health and Minnesota Public
Health. Updated March 22.

Saving labor pensions, a little known story

DAN REED

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\$1400 and a \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 response bill is big news at this time. With some glitches, electronic transfers and checks are on the way. Yet another big story included in the response bill centers around \$86 billion set aside to stabilize distressed multi-employer pension funds for the next three decades.

Employee pension funds are built on employee contributions over a period of time, some stretching into decades. Those working pay in to cover their pension at retirement but in fact help pay for fellow employees that have retired. A fund remains solvent if there is a strong workforce paying in, making steady contributions.

There are 1.5 million active and retired union workers affected nationwide, including about 23,000 Minnesota retirees who paid into the Central States Pension Fund. Trouble in funding these retirement benefits did not come over night.

In the financial collapse of 2008, too much of the reserve pension fund money had been invested in high yield Wall Street schemes that lost value quickly. Healthy reserve fund balances disappeared even though those workers contributing continued to apply their share into the same pension plans. At the same time there continued a

loss of union jobs nationally which also put pressure on the pension funds.

Many of the pension plans started paying out more to retirees than workers were sending in. The trustees or supervising staff of these pensions warned that without Federal action the money would run out in 2025. Former Minnesota Congressman John Kline was successful in legislation that did not give more Federal aid but did give the trustees the right to cut retiree benefits.

Some retirees faced pension cuts in the range of 47%. Senator Tina Smith met with labor leaders specializing in the pension issues in 2018, realizing how many workers were affected by this issue. She remembered hearing from one woman in Duluth who said, "I saved and I did everything right . . . losing my pension looks like I will be living under a bridge."

US House of Representatives input on this issue for inclusion in the stimulus package came from Reps. Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Ritchie Neal (D-MA) and Senator Tina Smith kept up the pressure in Senate deliberations. They were successful when the whole act was signed by the President.

Local Cloquet labor activist and long time member of the Teamsters Union Sherman Liimatainen co-chaired the American Pension Justice group that lobbied for

several years for Federal action. Liimatainen commented, "Of course investing in the pension funds is economic stimulus. Renewed pension funding will stimulate years of robust spending for our local and national economies."

Not all unions have had members working during this Covid-19 period. The Musicians Union, for example, has seen Broadway theaters shut down, regional theater and concerts cease, and musicians struggling in local venues. Barbara Eliason Dunkel, native of Kettle River and an attorney in New York now living in Minneapolis, was married to a symphony conductor and who was a member of the Musicians Union.

Eliason Dunkel observed, "Members of the union that have pensions have been told their income will face cuts from that source, some losing half of their monthly check. This pandemic has crippled the music industry and has dried up pension funding."

When will the first money go out to pension funds? Liimatainen cautioned patience. Even though the funding is available, this new Federal money will take a period of time for rule making and major discussions on how the program will be implemented. It is estimated that some affected pension plans would not be allowed to submit applications for financial assistance until March 11, 2023.

Trying to reach the Star Gazette?

Phone: (218) 485-4406

Email: evergreen@mlstargazette.com

Historical Reflections



This week's history photo:

Do you recognize the structure in this photo?

Answer to the history photo from the previous edition:

Demolition of the City Hall/Community Center in Moose Lake took place in March of 2000. It involved removing the brick veneer of the building for salvage. The site is now the post office.

Star-Gazette photo

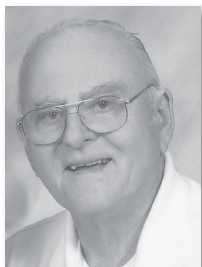
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Historical Reflection?
Call Tahsha at (218) 384-1855

OBITUARIES, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Elmer LeRoy "Roy" Evgen

Elmer LeRoy "Roy" Evgen, 84, Sturgeon Lake, died Tuesday, March 2, 2021 in Community Memorial Hospital, Cloquet. He was born on January 23, 1937 in Minneapolis to Elmer and Jennie Evgen. Roy grew up in the Cedar, Minn. area and attended St. Francis High School. On September 7, 1957, Roy married Frieda "Tootsie" Evgen. They lived in Columbia Heights where they raised four children. Roy worked as a linesman for Donavon Construction until retiring in 1995 to their lake home on Island Lake in Sturgeon Lake where many special memories were made with loved ones. Roy loved fishing and considered himself the "Walleye King" although settling for the northerns and sunfish that often found his bait. Roy loved gardening, country music, and will be well remembered for his great sense of humor. Big hugs and whisker



rubs were often received from Roy. Of all things, Roy's greatest passion was his kids and grandkids.

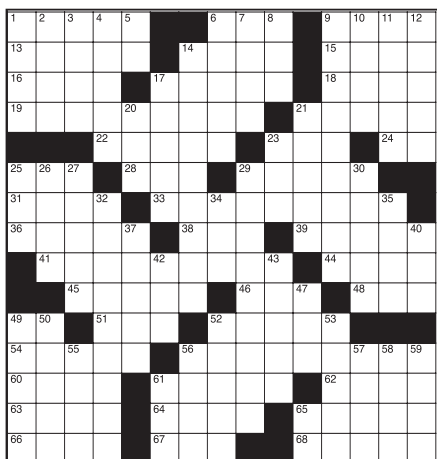
He was preceded in death by his wife, Frieda on December 13, 2020 and a sister: MaryAnn Griep.

Roy will be lovingly remembered by his four children: Rory (Pam) Evgen; Renee (Laurence) Kachinske; Robyn (Danny) Kleszyk; and Laurie (Mark) Faust; Grandchildren: Britney, Jayke, Rhianna, Angela, Tyler, Travis, Spencer, Brandyn, Kady, John; Great Grandchildren: Jaxsyn, Khloey, Charley, Carter, Eva, Ezra, Xavier, Judah, Milo, Nora, Max, and Finley; Godchildren: Mike Griep, Peggy Jo Etchison, Scott Boeschans, and Scott Dahlberg; brother-in-law: Donald Griep; and numerous nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and friends.

A Memorial Service was held at 11 a.m. Memorial Service on Monday, March 8, 2021 in Hope Lutheran Church, Moose Lake. The service can also be livestreamed at <https://boxcast.tv/view/hope-lutheran-churchfuneral-300551>. Cards may be mailed to The Elmer LeRoy Evgen Family, c/o Hamlin-Hansen-Kosloski Funeral Home, PO Box 338, Moose Lake, MN 55767.

Trying to reach the Star Gazette?

Phone: (218) 485-4406 or Email: evergreen@mlstargazette.com



CLUES ACROSS

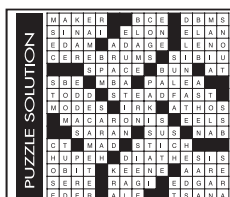
1. One who manufactures
6. Science degree
9. Database management system
13. Desert
14. Inventor Musk
15. Welsh valley
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Saying
18. Comedian and TV host
19. Uppermost portions of the brain
21. City in Transylvania
22. Where astronauts go
23. Men's hairstyle
24. Indicates position
25. One point east of due south
28. Businessmen may have one
29. Grass part

31. Running back Gurley
33. Unwavering
36. Options
38. Annoy
39. Greek mountain
41. Pastas
44. Fishes
45. Wrap
46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
48. Seize
49. The Constitution State
51. Upset
52. 1991 men's Wimbledon champ
54. Central Chinese province
56. Predisposition
60. A notice of someone's death
61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
62. Swiss river

63. Dried-up
64. Finger millet
65. _ Allan Poe
66. German river
67. Brew
68. Kenyan river
- CLUES DOWN
1. Millisecond
2. Acts as military assistant
3. Knot in a tree
4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
5. The Ocean State
6. Point the finger at
7. Parts in a machine
8. Midway between northeast and east
9. Portray precisely
10. Blister
11. Mental illness
12. Nose of an animal
14. What students receive

17. Semitic peoples
20. Beats per minute
21. Family of drugs
23. Atrocious
25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
26. _ or bust
27. Icelandic poems
29. A citizen of Pakistan
30. Very pale
32. Metric linear unit
34. Sea eagle
35. Biblical judge of Israel
37. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
42. Cool!
43. Large hotel room
47. Type of boat (abbr.)
49. Picked

50. Type of hookah
52. Attack
53. Directs
55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
56. Finished negotiation
57. Heroic tale
58. Middle Eastern country
59. Protein-rich liquids
61. Malaysian Isthmus
65. Spielberg's alien



Weekly Forecast

From CBS 3 Meteorologist Dave Anderson

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny Wind: S 5-10 mph 41 27	Partly cloudy Wind: S 5-15 mph 55 34	Mostly sunny Wind: NW 5-15 mph 60 37	Partly sunny Wind: SE 5-10 mph 60 47	Rainy Wind: E 5-15 mph 40% chance of rain 60 46

OBITUARIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Jeff Telker

Jeff Telker was born August 13, 1952 in Moose Lake to Rudolf "Rudy" and Hulda (Johnson) Telker. He departed to be with his Lord on Friday, March



26, 2021 after a courageous battle with ALS. He is survived by his wife, Mary Beth; children, Anne (Andy) Flagge, David (Mary), Russell; grandson, Oscar Flagge; his mother, Hulda; sisters, Susan Kotowski and Karla (Randy) Tschetter; God-daughter, Janna Bode and the entire Bode family, including Shawn, Kelly, Ally, Aaron and Reese.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rudy; and brothers-in-law, Ed Kotowski and Lorin Emrick.

Jeff lived a life of service. He was a lifelong member and deacon of Mahtowa Covenant Church. His community service included the Barnum Fire Department, Barnum School Board, Covenant Park Bible Camp board of directors, and Habitat for Humanity. He went on several Alaskan service trips and worked tirelessly at the Bible camp. He often commented that his greatest gifts were his wife Mary, his family, his Christian faith, and the work ethic instilled by his parents.

He was deeply committed to his family, and holidays often meant driving to connect with his extended family in the Twin Cities, Sioux Falls, or Iowa.

Jeff was a kind and helpful man. Without reservation, Jeff accepted requests for assistance with any building project, although he wasn't as excited about plumbing as carpentry. He said each new project was an excuse to buy another tool that Mary might or might not find out about. He was rarely happier than when he was swinging a hammer or cutting lumber. He was a talented carpenter but made an occasional measurement mistake resulting in a board that was usually an inch too short. In those instances, he'd shake his head and point out that short board would certainly be needed elsewhere before the project was over. He was usually right.

Although infinitely patient with people, Jeff couldn't sit still. He liked to be busy; his garage,

house, and helper projects often running together. He deer hunted but the time in his deer stand was measured in minutes, not hours, and was often filled with thoughts of what he needed or wanted to do next. The other noteworthy exception to his patience was a cat who was trying to help him with a flooring project. It's rumored that the cat survived, but there was a piece of sheetrock with a hammer shaped dent he later repaired.

Jeff's two guilty pleasures were coffee (with real cream, not adulterated with flavored creamer) and talking. Jeff had a quick wit and was known to hold up both sides of a conversation if the talk slowed. He met regularly with the Mahtowa Covenant Church men's group, the Classic Car Rally (a discussion group in Tom Class' garage), and with friends and relatives. If there was coffee and talk, Jeff would be there. When together with cousins Jerry Telker, Sonny Carlson, and Dean Hovey, Jeff sometimes struggled to get a word in. (It was tough, but Jeff managed).

ALS slowed him down, but he continued to "have coffee" with church friends, a Bible study, and his network of buddies. Jeff read more and was amused that he, cousin Sonny Carlson, and friend Tom Class were included as fictional characters in a mystery books set in Pine County. Jeff evolved into a proof-reader for cousin Dean Hovey, and they spent hours discussing the characters, plots, the parts that made him laugh, and the corrections.

Somewhere in heaven there's a table set with steaming cups of coffee. Jeff's there talking carpentry and cars with the other saints.

The family wants to express their gratitude to the ALS Clinic Duluth, ALS Foundation Min., Dr. Amber Erickson, Dr. Rebecca Chase, Dr. Shawn Bode, Dr. Kelly Goeb, Augustana Care Center and Essentia Home Health—Moose Lake for all their incredible care of Jeff.

Celebration of Life will be held Monday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Barnum Community Church. Visitation will be from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The service will also be livestreamed via Facebook Live. Social distancing will be observed and masks are required. Memorials may be directed to Covenant Park Bible Camp and ALS Foundation Min. Arrangements entrusted to the Atkins Northland Funeral Home, Cloquet. To sign the guest book and offer an online tribute, see www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com

Henry Calvin Blocker III

Henry Calvin Blocker III, age 73, beloved husband of fifty-one years to Judy Anne Eskuri Blocker, died on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at his residence in Sumter, S.C.



Born in Reidsville, Georgia, he was the son of the late Henry Calvin Blocker, Jr., and Minta Lou Murray Blocker. Mr. Blocker retired from the United States Air Force with twenty-two years of service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling, camping and loved spending time with his family. Mr. Blocker was a member of Westside Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife Judy of Sumter, he is survived by one son, Paul Lewis Blocker and his wife Anne of Goose Creek; one

daughter, Ginger Marie Blocker of Lawrence, Kan.; one brother, Dana Gene Blocker and his wife Jane of Pawleys Island; one sister-in-law, Dixie Blocker of Ridgeway; three grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Wayne Blocker.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, April 2, 2021 at 12:00 noon in the Bullock Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Aaron Reed officiating. Interment will follow with full military honors in the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery at 2:00 p.m.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 1, 2021 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Bullock Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to The ALS Association South Carolina Chapter, 130 Gardeners Circle, Johns Island, SC 29455.

You may go to www.bullockfuneralhome.com and sign the family's guest book.

The family has chosen Bullock Funeral Home for the arrangements.

STAR GAZING-UPCOMING EVENTS

Star Gazing is a service to readers to publicize upcoming events and activities as space permits. Free events are given priority. If there is a charge or admission cost to the event, a paid ad is required.

April 3 noon at 2 p.m.

Drive Thru Easter Bunny visit

Moose Lake Dairy Queen and the Moose Lake Kiwanis Club will be hosting a free visit with the Easter Bunny for children ages zero to 10. On Saturday, March 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 the Easter Bunny will be at the First National Branch Office drive up window.

April 7 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Wright Senior Club

The Wright Senior Club is open on Wednesdays at 1 - 4 p.m. starting April 7. Cribbage open on Thursdays from 6 - 8 p.m.

April 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry will be open on April 8, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Cromwell Park Pavilion. No boxes or bags needed. Volunteers will fill boxes and bags and bring them right to your vehicle. Cost is \$20.00 per share.

Moose Lake Senior Dining Menu

All in-house dining is cancelled until further notice.
HOME DELIVERY IS STILL AVAILABLE.
Call (218) 485-4937 to place your order.
Please reserve the day before.

\$4.00, Under 60: \$7.50.
There are no income guidelines.
 Carry-out meals available. Meals also include veggies, milk and dinner roll. Call Senior Dining 485-4937. Volunteer Drivers Needed.

Monday, April 5 - Sloppy Joe, Fresh Fruit
Tuesday, April 6 - Southwest Chicken Wrap, Fruit
Wednesday, April 7 - Roast Turkey Dinner, Lemon 7Up Cake
Thursday, April 8 - Special of the Day, Dessert
Friday, April 9 - Harvest Stew, Cookie

Ben Peterson

Ben Jim Peterson, 41, of Erhard, Minnesota, died Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at his residence of natural causes.



Ben was born October 19, 1979, to Gregory J. and Joanne (Musich) Peterson in Moose Lake, Minnesota. He attended Moose Lake Public School, graduating in 1998. He then attended the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Ben was employed at various places, working as a team lead at Knollwood Target and later at Target in Alexandria. Most recently, he was employed as a shift-lead/manager at Walgreens

in Fergus Falls.

He enjoyed all sports and played in rec softball and volleyball leagues in the Twin Cities. He played on the basketball and baseball teams and was manager for the girls' volleyball team while attending high school in Moose Lake. He was a movie fanatic and especially enjoyed science fiction and Justice League movies.

Ben is survived by his parents, Greg and Joanne Peterson of Fergus Falls and brother, Adam (Jennifer) Peterson; nieces, Olivia and Audrey; nephew, Chase of Eldersburg, Maryland. He was also survived by aunts, Jeri (LeRoy) Bergquist of Rush City, Minnesota, Pat (Will) Nelson of Duluth, Minnesota, and Linda (Joe) Rebrovich of Keewatin, Minnesota, and special dog buddy, Clint.

Memorials are preferred to the Otter Tail County Humane Society.

Visitation: One-hour prior to the service at the funeral home

Celebration of Life: 12:30 p.m. Monday, March 29, 2021, at the Olson Funeral Home 711 Pebble Lake Road Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56537

Clergy: Reverend Gretchen Enoch and Vicar Lynn Melchior

Interment: Sunset Memorial Cemetery, Moose Lake, Minnesota at a later date

Arrangements are provided by the Olson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls.

Online condolences may be sent to www.olsonfuneralhome.com

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Call (218) 485-4406 today!

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Star-Gazette website,
www.mlstar gazette.com

Thinking outside the box

Sloth seems to be a curse that plagues many newspaper folk. Being stuck behind a desk, typing away like rock stars with a different type of keyboard leaves little time for physical activities.



A Millennial Mile
Alanea
White

Of late in our house we have been working on improving our physical health. Having a desk job has really hampered my ability to even place in the daily steps competition we continuously host. This week I premiered a secret weapon to combat the tiny trouble of needing more of an ability to get moving while sitting still at my desk; a yoga ball chair arrived at the Moose Lake Office.

Day one of yoga ball office workouts was a lot more work than one would think. Before the official arrival and use of

"the chair" I needed to figure out how to assemble it. A few screws and the chair frame was together, but that yoga ball was a piece of work.

I made sure to purchase a set up that included an air pump. What I didn't anticipate was the pump being defective. Assembly day one turned quickly into how much lung capacity does it take to blow up a yoga ball like a big balloon day.

After reading the instructions, which I always try to do, I realized that simply inflating the ball wasn't enough. Clearly written out in those directions was the next steps, wait 24 hours and then deflate the ball half way. Gasping for breath at that point I was fine with delaying any further attempts to make the ball any bigger than it was.

That day delay also gave me the chance to troupe over to a store and purchase a lung saving air pump.

Assembly day two started off with a bright thought. Those directions clearly said NOT to inflate the ball larger than 22 inches. As shocking as this may seem, there was not a ruler measuring even 22 inches available in the office here. So I got a bit creative.

Knowing what I do about newspaper sizing from my work, I knew that a copy of the Moose Lake Star-Gazette open and laying flat was about 21 inches the long way. This was my ruler!

After what seemed like an extraordinarily long amount of time, the ball was covering the newspaper page and fully inflated.

Today I am well on the way to having more steps and physical activity than I did during all of my hours in the office last week. All of this is thanks to some out of the box thinking.

Alanea White is the editor of the Moose Lake Star-Gazette. She can be reached by email at editor@mlstargazette.com

Write a letter to the editor!

Write a letter to the editor!

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Write a letter to the editor!



April showers bring more than just flowers

It's raining now. A slow, soaking rain. The kind we like in the early days of spring because it helps reduce the fire danger before everything 'greens' up. It has



Going Nature's Way
Kate
Crowley

also been a day of phenological significance. Phenology is the observation and recording of seasonal events in nature and springtime is one of the very best times of year to make those kinds of observations, since so many new things are appearing nearly every day.

There must have been a south wind that blew the birds into our yard this morning. Big flocks of dark eyed juncos were scattered in the trees and on the ground, hopping around in search of bits of food. Then we saw four Red-winged Blackbirds. Joining them on the birdfeeder were two male

Purple Finches. A moment later a Brown Creeper appeared on the trunk of the red pine, hopping upward towards the suet feeder. All of these were exciting sights, but the best was the discovery of two Gold-crowned Kinglets flitting around the branches of the silver maple. The bright yellow stripes on the top of their heads glowed in the grayness around them. These birds are normally found further in the forest, and even then they are hard to spot. Later on a group of Fox Sparrows were seen doing their quirky hop and skip dance under the spruce tree as they tried to uncover seeds or larvae.

It was a day when these birds, most of whom have already traveled long distances, were refueling for the rest of their journey. Some, like the kinglets and juncos, will go as far as the northern limits of Canada to find mates and nest. And at this time of year in northern Minnesota, the rain can easily turn to snow, effectively hiding the food they need for survival. These little feathered bits of life are harbingers of even more beautiful

and bounteous birds to come in the weeks ahead. On a day like this, we need that kind of promise.

April is a month that promises big changes in the surrounding woods and fields. Before the month is over we will be looking for the crocuses to burst into bloom, giving us a jolt of color for our winter weary eyes. Two more subtle and delicate flowers are ones that I will have to look more closely for because both flowers are ephemeral, only blooming for a short time before the trees leaf out and other vegetation outgrows and overshadows them.

The first is Trailing Arbutus, the more difficult of the two to find, but worth the search. We are lucky because it grows in our sandy, acid soil. Trailing arbutus belongs to the Heath family and is technically considered a shrub. Creeping along the ground with woody stems and leathery leaves that stay green throughout the winter, it depends on mycorrhiza (a type of fungus) in the soil to get

SEE FLOWERS, PAGE 5

LETTER GUIDELINES

The Star Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters may be emailed to editor@mlstargazette.com mailed to Moose Lake Star Gazette P.O. Box 449, Moose Lake, MN 55767.

Letters should be typed or legibly handwritten and of no more than 250 words in length (longer letters may be edited).

To be considered for publication, all letters must be signed and include hometown and contact information for verification

purposes. Only names and hometowns will be published. Letters are published at the discretion of the editor and may be edited. Only rebuttals to previously run election-related letters will be considered for publication the week before elections. This policy also applies to endorsement of political candidates.

ELECTION/POLITICAL LETTERS

Election letters endorsing or advocating

for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate will be considered paid advertising announcements. The fee is \$25 for the first 250 words, and \$0.10 per word after that. The Star Gazette has the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid endorsement. Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

MOOSE LAKE
STAR GAZETTE



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WRIGHT-CROMWELL NEWS: Celebrating generosity in our area

BY JENNIE K. HANSON
JKH4PRESIDENT@HOTMAIL.COM

The Farmer's Coop Store Board welcomes Carol Hutar as its newest board member. Carol is finishing up the term of Birdie Harrington who recently resigned from the board. The Coop Store meetings take place at 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the store coffee room.

The Wright Senior Club is opening again on Wednesdays at 1 - 4 p.m. Starting on April 7. All area folks are welcome to attend. Cribbage open on Thursdays from 6 - 8 p.m. and you do not need to be a Senior Citizen to join them.

A special Huge Thank You goes out to the students and staff at the Cromwell Wright School for collecting over \$1780 for the Tri-Community Food Shelf in Cromwell. Great job, to everyone who donated!

Parents and Guardians of Winter Athletes, we will be holding an Awards Night on Thursday, April 1, for the Girls and Boys JV and Var-

sity basketball teams. The program for Girls Basketball will be at 6:30 followed by Boys Basketball at 7:15.

The Parent's and Coaches of Elementary basketball wanted to give a huge THANK YOU to Mr. Foster, for everything he has done this basketball season. It does not go unnoticed.

How about hosting an exchange student next year? Students are looking for host families for 1 semester or full year. Students come with their own insurance and spending money. Just need a bed, three meals a day and a loving family to call home. Interested? Contact Lori Wester 218 343-8802 PAX Coordinator

Cromwell Area Yoga at the Cromwell Pavilion, 11:00-12:00. Wear comfortable clothes, come and leave masked, mask not necessary during the session, Yoga gear provided. \$3 each, which goes to cover City rent and heating costs. Questions email Ann Markusen, markusen@umn.edu or 218-428-3300.

The Bethany (10 a.m.) and Bethlehem (9 a.m.) Lutheran Churches will be open for "In-Person" worship on Easter Sunday at their regular times.

Maundy Thursday worship services will be held at Bethany at 7 p.m. on April 1, and Good Friday Services will be held at Bethany at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 2.

The Cromwell Wright School will be CLOSED during Spring Break - April 5 to 9.

I'll leave you with this: The Church Basement Ladies have this quote: Better to have it, And not need it. Than to need it, And not have it! Well, Here's the new saying For Senior Citizens:

When I find it, I don't need it. When I need it, I can't find it! How true!

That's all the news from the Edge of Wright - Don't get fooled on April 1 and have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Remember you can send me your news at jkh4president@hotmail.com or call at 218-357-2385.

April showers may be hard to come by this year

BY CBS 3 METEOROLOGIST
DAVE ANDERSON
EVERGREEN@MLSTARGAZETTE.COM

We TV weathercasters just love our cliches. I remember one eager young person who joined our team fresh out of meteorology school in 1993 being all excited to tell people to remember their umbrellas during his first rainy day on duty. I asked him how many people up here actually use umbrellas. Then he came up with the idea to compare rainy days with ducks. Call me a mean old party pooper but I told him that was old hat, too.

Another old cliché we beat into the ground deals with our region's up and down temperatures. We always compare that to a roller

coaster. Well, it has been quite a roller coaster around here in 2021. January was nearly eight degrees warmer than normal. February was nearly eight degrees cooler than normal. March went back up to eight degrees warmer than normal.

For April, the long range forecasters think temperatures will average two degrees warmer than normal. For April's precip prediction, despite an uptick in rain in March, we could still use more to fight off the abnormally dry conditions our region has faced for many months. However, we may not get much relief from that this month. Those same long range forecasters think the Upper Midwest will come up a half inch short for rainfall in

the month of April.

April's warmer than average prediction will probably come courtesy of one big warm spell because most of the month should be chilly with a shot at some late season snow. The 1st to 5th should be showery and cool. The 6th to 9th should be sunny and warm. The 10th to 16th should be cool and rainy. The 17th to 22nd should be sunny and cool. The 22nd to 30th aim to be cool and snowy.

The super long range forecast hints at these trends for much of 2021: May will be warmer and drier than normal. Summer will be hotter and drier than normal. Autumn will have below normal temperatures and rainfall.

Trying to reach the Star Gazette?

Phone: (218) 485-4406

Email: evergreen@mlstargazette.com

WILLOW RIVER NEWS: Fun with Easter Bunny goes off without a hitch

KATHI BENNETT
KBENNETTHAUS@GMAIL.COM

HELLO ALL,

Beckie M. wanted everyone to know that she will be having free car washes again...No, that is an old joke...she will be flushing hydrants in the city of Willow River April 10 through April 25. If you see her out there give a honk.

Department of Natural Resources Firearms Safety classes sign up night will be Monday, April 12 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Finlayson-Giese Sportsman's Club. Please call George Slama to sign up for a slot as there are only 25 slots

available, at 320-233-6381.

The Willow River Community Club would like to thank the Willow River Fire Department for helping make the Fun With the Easter Bunny event go off without a hitch despite the rainy weather. We had a great turnout. Thanks to all of you who made it. And thanks to all of those who donated. The Easter Bunny really did have fun...and so did the kids.

In regard to the Willow River School: Kindergarten Roundup will be held May 7, 2021. This is for children who will be five years of age before September 1st. Individual family visits will be scheduled. Families who

are considering or planning to attend Kindergarten in the Fall of 2021 at the Willow River Area School are invited to sign up. Parents and children will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and explore the classrooms. Each family will receive an enrollment packet to complete and return. Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate. For more information contact the school at 218-372-3131 or look on the website: isd577.org.

Register now for Fall 2021-22 Early Childhood Classes. To register go to: <https://forms.gle/gfuyR3x6qHFRktk3A>. This registration is listed as a "full in person

learning model." Classes, availability, and models may change based on MDH, MDE, and CDC Guidelines. For questions call or email Ms. Chas at 218-372-3131 x 169 cbalut@isd577.org.

At the Churches: To Holy Angels, St. Mary's and St. Isidore's parishioners, a heartfelt thank you to all that made a contribution to the Knights of Columbus Council 4798. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. With your contributions they will be able to continue their works of charity. With the changes that have recently been made due to the virus, we hope to begin planning some

fundraiser events. Please follow our websites @ holyangelsmooselake.com and stmarywillowriver.org and stisidoresturgetonlake.org and the bulletins for updates and information pertinent to our three parishes. Please note that St. Mary's Church is open for private prayer and devotion Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Every third Sunday of each month, the Knights of Columbus will be praying the Rosary

before Mass at St. Mary's Church. For Prayer Line Requests for St. Mary's please contact Judy Prachar at 218-372-3409 or you may make requests through the website: www.stmarywillowriver.org. Legion of Mary will be at St. Mary's Center every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Also, on Wednesdays' Eucharistic Adoration will be from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Church.

Have a great week.

FLOWERS: Seeking the color pink this month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the necessary amino acids. It is highly sensitive to environmental disturbances, like logging and grazing, and cannot be transplanted successfully. We have been thinning our forest this winter, so we will see whether that has had an impact on the flowers.

This makes it all the more special to us and each spring we go down the trail scanning the ground. Sometimes it is the sweet

fragrance from the tiny flowers that we first notice, but most often we must get down on our hands and knees and press our noses close to the ½" wide tubular, pink blooms and inhale the delicate, exquisite scent.

Around the same time, further in the sandy soiled forest we will look for another pinkish bloom that stands above the leaf litter on hairy stems. Each blossom will have between five and 12 sepals (normally six). This is the round-

lobed hepatica. Its three leaves develop later, with a liver like shape, which led people in earlier times to believe that the plant could be used to treat diseases of the liver.

Though pink is not a color to jump out at you (except for the pink Ladyslipper, which won't be seen until late May), it is a color that stands for beauty, grace and goodness. It is a color I will seek in this month of starts and stops, an ephemeral color, just right for the flowers that wear it.



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April 2 & 3

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90 Chestnut Ave. Carlton, MN

Food by Chickadee Coffee House

at 4 Seasons Complex

For Reservation, Show times or places
contact AC Expos at 218-290-0274.

Visit us at ACEXposgunshows.com for upcoming shows

Visit the Moose Lake
Star-Gazette website,
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STATE: Moose Lake Willow River boys head to state tournament after win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

had 2. Jasper Timm sunk five threes.

On Thursday, March 25 MLWR traveled back up to Pequot Lake High School. When Cummins took over the head coaching job at MLWR, these players were in sixth and seventh grade. There was talk about cutting nets down after winning. The kids put in the time year-round working on their game, never missing summer practices for five years. One of the coaches put a step-ladder and scissors on the bus before the team left Moose Lake. The kids got to cut down the nets. The Rebels came home with an upset victory 57-51 over top-seeded Pequot Lakes Patriots and the Section 7AA championship. The award ceremony was banned by the state high school league because of COVID restrictions.

The coach tells all the players to just keep shooting and they have complete freedom to shoot whenever they

want to and that makes the Rebels tough to beat because any given player can contribute to the win.

In this game, Sam Dewey made five out of the six threes he shot for 83% efficiency and his shots came at crucial times in the game. At the start of the second half, the Rebels led 25-18, but the Patriots quickly made a run and were in the lead 26-25. Patriot Wufflestad hit two threes and Alex Morgan put one in for an 8-0 run. Sheetz went in and put a stop to that with his own three. The score was 33-33 with 12:53 minutes left on the clock, when Dewey made his first second half shot from the arc and the Rebels took the lead for good.

With 7:52 to go until the buzzer, the Rebels led 45-44 and Dewey hit back-to-back threes. The Patriots took a time-out with 3:33 remaining and the Rebels were leading 54-44. With 1:44 left the Patriots were closing the gap, trailing by five 54-49

and the Rebels hadn't scored. The Patriots had to foul to get control of the ball away from the Rebels. The last three Rebel baskets were free throws, two by Olson and Johnson's one to end the game.

The Rebels know that they can score because they were state leaders all season in points scored in a game averaging 85.1 points per game. Great defense is what wins games and the Rebels were right on for all 36 minutes of this game.

The Rebels enjoy making threes. In a regular season game earlier this year, they hit 20 of the them. In this game they made 11. Dewey led with 5, Sheetz and Olson each had 3. Olson led in scoring with 19, Dewey followed with 15, Johnson 13, Sheetz 11, Brady Watrin 5, Landin Kurhajetz 2 and Johnson 1.

For the Patriots, Simon Wufflestad led with 15, Morgan 12, Bode Magnus 9, Sam Rysavy 7, Eli Laposky 6 and Nic Kotaska 2.



MARY ELLEN DEWEY | PINE COUNTY COURIER

Senior Captain Mason Olson was the first player to start cutting down the net in the Pequot Lakes gym.

Congratulations MLWR boys' basketball from the staff of the Star-Gazette and Evergreen Shopper!

We're replacing an aging pipeline with much safer, state-of-the-art infrastructure.

How will the Line 3 replacement help keep the environment safe?

For over 70 years, our employees have worked and lived with their families in Minnesota, treasuring the magnificence of her great outdoors. Nothing is more important to us than the safety of the environment and the people who live and work along our pipelines. From a company perspective, safety and environmental protection are not just an Enbridge core value—they're the very foundation of our business.

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We've developed the route for our Line 3 replacement to avoid impacts to people and the environment. At every turn, we've maximized opportunities to follow existing utility corridors, and done extensive environmental planning to ensure sensitive Minnesota resources are protected.

By replacing Line 3, we'll also minimize future maintenance activities, and the resulting disruptions to landowners and the environment.

Learn more at enbridge.com/Line3US.





MIKE DRAHOSE | PINE COUNTY COURIER

Easter Bunny comes to town, Willow River

The Willow River Community Club and Willow River Fire Department hosted a visit from the Easter Bunny on March 27. Rainy weather moved the event inside the Willow River Fire Hall.

Easter Services

Palm Sunday, March 28th • Maundy Thursday, April 1st
Good Friday, April 2nd • Easter Sunday, April 4th

Attend an Easter Celebration at a local church!

Oak Lake Lutheran Church

53131 Shadow Oak Rd
(218) 485-8710
Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Good Friday Worship 7 pm
Easter Service 9:30 am
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Trinity Lutheran, Bruno
75711 MN-23, Bruno, MN 55712
(320) 838-3596

Good Friday Worship 4 pm
Easter Sunday Worship 7 am
Followed by Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Hope Lutheran Church

204 Elm Ave. Moose Lake, MN
(218) 485-4673
Palm Sunday Worship 9 am
Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30 pm

Easter Vigil Saturday Worship 6:30 pm
Easter Sunday Worship 9 am & 10:30 am
Reservations are Required
Drive in and tune in service available

Holy Angels Catholic Church

60 Hartman Drive, Moose Lake, MN
(218) 485-8214
St. Mary's Catholic Church
8118 Lake St., Willow River, MN
(218) 372-3284

St. Isidore's Catholic Church
9010 Main St., Sturgeon Lake, MN
(218) 372-3284
Palm Sunday
St. Mary's Church: Mass 8:30 am
Holy Angels: Church Mass 10:30 am
Holy Thursday
Holy Angels Church Mass 7 pm,

adoration following mass until midnight

Good Friday
Holy Angels: Service 3 pm, confessions after veneration of the Cross
St. Mary's Church: Stations of the Cross 7 pm
Holy Saturday
Holy Angels Church: Vigil Mass 8:45 pm
Easter Sunday
St. Mary's Church: Mass 7 am
St. Isidore's Church: Mass 9 am
Holy Angels Church: Mass 11 am

Barnum Community United Methodist Church

3762 Front St., Barnum, MN
(218) 389-3876
Palm Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am
Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm
Good Friday Crossroads Service 6:30 pm with Mahtowa Covenant Church at Barnum Community Church

Easter Sunday Resurrection Celebration Service 9:30 am
All Services are Live Streamed on Facebook.
Sunday's on WMOZ 106.9fm at 8:00 am

Moose Lake Covenant Church

700 5th Street
Moose Lake, MN
(218) 485-4800
Palm Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 10:15 am
Good Friday Worship 7 pm
Easter Sunday Worship 8 am 9:30 am & 11 am

Happy Easter

Moose Lake Golf Club
(218) 485-4886

35311 Parkview Dr., Sturgeon Lake

Happy Easter

CARLTON COUNTY
Abstract & Title Company
408 4th Street
Moose Lake, MN 55767
(218) 485-8713 Fax (218) 389-9893

Happy Easter!

400 4th St.,
Moose Lake
(218) 485-4461

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Happy Easter

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Free tax program helps Carlton County taxpayers

BY MIKE GAINOR

NEWS@PINECOUNTYNEWS.COM

Local taxpayers trying to make sense of the changing tax deadlines and guidelines can find help from the Lakes & Pines free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

And though the income tax deadline has been moved to Monday, May 17, Lakes & Pines Executive Director Bob Benes said the message to taxpayers is the same: Don't wait.

"The new tax codes provide for, hopefully, some more money in your pocket," Benes said. "You could use that now sooner rather than later. And at the end, there's going to be a rush. So get [your taxes] done early."

Benes noted that there will be some other changes this year. Due to COVID-19, there will be no in-person interaction with taxpayers. Also, as tax rules have changed, there may be more opportunities for a larger refund.

"If there are people who haven't in the past filed taxes, but have young children, I'd encourage them to file this time," he said. "You can't

get the tax credit unless you file, and some of the tax credits [for] children and particularly young children are pretty significant in their changes this year."

He also noted that some taxpayers may have to check to see if the latest changes to the tax code affect their refund, most notably the \$10,200 exemption for taxes for unemployment. He said those who have already filed might want to check one last time to see if they might be due a larger refund.

'THAT'S MONEY THAT COMES BACK INTO PEOPLE'S POCKETS'

Benes said the free tax filing program has two main goals. The first is to help people who may not have filed taxes in the past to do so. He said that last year they helped just short of 1,000 people, and assisted them in getting refunds of over \$1,000,000.

"And that's money that comes back into people's pockets and gets circulated into the community — whether that be paying off bills or buying products or going into financial institutions," Benes said. "It comes back into this community, and

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

WHEN ALL COPIED DOCUMENTS ARE RECEIVED BY LAKES AND PINES:

1. A volunteer will call to complete an intake.
2. The return will be completed by a volunteer during the scheduled appointment time.
3. The return will be reviewed.
4. A volunteer will call the taxpayer via phone or video and go over the return with them.
5. Documents will be sent out for signatures. When signed forms are received at Lakes and Pines, the return will be e-filed.

To schedule an income tax appointment, call 320-679-1800, option 4. Property tax appointments will not be available until April 2021.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (SUBMIT COPIES, NOT ORIGINALS)

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION
 - Picture ID
 - Birthdate for all persons listed on the tax return
 - Social Security card or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) card or letter for all persons listed on the tax return
 - Routing and account numbers for your savings account, checking account, and/or prepaid card
2. YEAR-END INCOME STATEMENTS
 - W-2s for each job
 - 1099 forms for retirement, Social Security, unemployment, interest, dividends, stock sales,

and miscellaneous income

- Year-end amounts for MFIP, SSI, MSA, GA, veterans' benefits, workers' compensation
- 3. EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE CREDITS
 - Record of educational expenses you paid for your children in grades K-12
 - Tuition expenses paid for you or your child to attend a college or university (Form 1098-T)
 - Student loan interest statement (Form 1098-E)
 - Child care expenses: Provider name, address, tax ID or Social Security number
 - 4. PROPERTY TAX REFUNDS AND DEDUCTIONS
 - (Note: property tax and renter rebate will not be completed until April.)
 - Homeowners: Mortgage interest and real estate taxes paid in 2020 and 2021 property tax statement mailed by the county in March
 - Renters: Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP)
 - 5. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS
 - Previous year's tax return
 - Verification of health insurance if purchased through MNSure (Form 1095-A)
 - Record of charitable donations

To make an appointment with the free Lakes & Pines VITA program, visit lakesandpinescacinc.fullsate.com/ or call 1-800-832-6082 (Press 4 at prompt).

builds this community. We want those funds ... spent here [at] your local restaurant, your local gas company, your local appliance store."

Their second goal is to provide financial education, so that those who might be struggling with

their finances can take steps toward getting that part of their lives in order. He said, for instance, that they have helped a number of people set up bank accounts.

"Now they've got a relationship with either a credit union or a bank,

and that's a good relationship to have in terms of building credit and the ability to save," Benes said. "And that's part of that financial education as well. We certainly don't hammer it, but it's available for people that come in and find

themselves in a situation where they might have more disposable income than they had in the past. If you aren't used to having a \$2,000 check in your hand, what might you do with it that's going to help you between now and next year — as opposed to what's going to help you just tomorrow?"

Benes said the best part of the program is seeing how the help they give makes a real difference in the lives of those who use it.

"It's the look on people's faces — the relief that they can actually see an amount that's going to come back ... and significantly help them, be it that that needs to be caught up, that car that needs to be paid off or fixed, a new appliance [to replace one] that hasn't worked for years. A light goes on at the end of the tunnel for them. That's pretty exciting in our business."

To make an appointment with the free Lakes & Pines VITA program, visit lakesandpinescacinc.fullsate.com/ or call 1-800-832-6082 (Press 4 at prompt).

VACCINE CLINICS: Where can I get my COVID-19 shot in Carlton County?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

weekly allocations continue the county works to provide up to date availability for those registered. Levitt also said that they work with community and area registered vaccination sites to coordinate appointments if they run out of available doses at their clinics.

CROMWELL MEDICAL CLINIC

To be added to the list for periodically provided doses at the Cromwell

Medical Clinic, call the clinic at 218-644-3811.

ESSENTIA HEALTH MOOSE LAKE

Both patients and non-patients requesting a vaccine with Essentia Health Moose Lake can do so by accessing MyChart, an online communication portal used by Essentia Health for doctor to patient communications. A form is available there for patients to complete. They can also call the Moose Lake facility directly at (218) 485-4481 or an Essen-

tia wide number at (833) 494-0836.

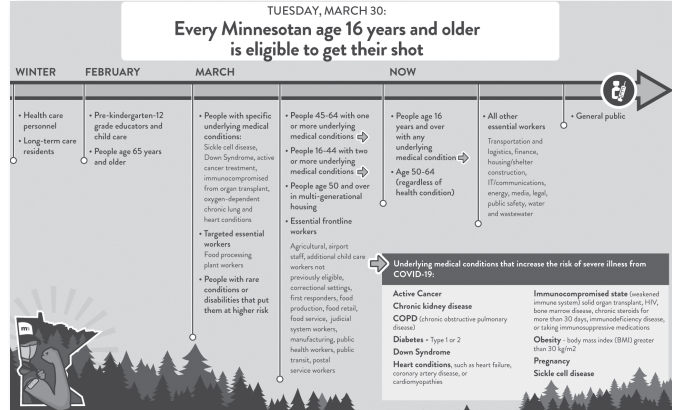
Vaccination clinics usually occur weekly at Essentia Health Moose Lake, usually on Fridays according to Trina Lower Director of Operations for Essentia Health. Essentia follows all CDC and MDH guidelines on who is eligible to receive vaccines. Lower also stated that consistently Essentia Health Moose Lake has been receiving Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines for their allocations but may receive vaccines from Moderna as well as Johnson and Johnson. It all depends on the allocation they receive from the government.

Lower wants to remind those going in for their second vaccine doses not to forget their CDC vaccination card.

GATEWAY CLINIC MOOSE LAKE

Patients on the waitlist are contacted by Gateway Clinic staff when they know an estimated allocation for each week, usually this happens on a Thursday according to Eric Nielsen, Administrator at Gateway Clinic. Gateway receives vaccines on Wednesday and then administers them on either Thursday or Friday following that Thursday estimate.

Patients are encouraged to get on the Gateway Clinic waitlist, so that they can be contacted when they are eligible for their dose. To get on the waitlist patients should complete a questionnaire



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH | SUBMITTED

Updated on Tuesday, March 20 Minnesotans age 16 and older are now able to make an appointment for their COVID-19 vaccines.

either online at <https://gatewayclinic.com/covid-vaccine-request/> or by calling the Gateway Office at 218.485.4491. The questionnaire can also be completed by a friend or family member with the internet for those with limited computer access.

THRIFTY WHITE PHARMACY MOOSE LAKE

Thrifty White Moose Lake located at 60 Arrowhead Lane, Moose Lake, MN can be reached at (218) 485-4401 to register or check vaccine availability. Appointments can also be registered for online by checking their availability at <https://www.thriftywhite.com/covid19vaccine>.

VACCINE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Those eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine currently include:

- Minnesotans 65 years of age or older
- Health care personnel
- Long-term care residents
- Educators and child care personnel
- People with specific underlying health conditions
- Sickle cell disease, Down Syndrome, or oxygen-dependent chronic lung or heart conditions, and those who are in active cancer treatment or immunocompromised from organ transplant
- Targeted essential workers
- People with rare

conditions or disabilities that put them at higher risk

- People 45 years of age and older with ONE or more underlying medical conditions; or, age 16 and over with TWO or more underlying medical conditions
- People 50 years of age or older in multi-generational housing
- Essential frontline workers
- Minnesotans 16 years of age and older with any underlying medical condition
- Minnesotans age 50-64 (regardless of health condition)
- All other essential workforces

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- The mail @ PO Box 226, Braham, MN 55006
- Or by phone: 1-800-247-0748.

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monument@brahammonument.com

Widenstrom retiring as chief deputy

BY MIKE GAINOR
NEWS@PINECOUNTYNEWS.COM

Pine County Sheriff Jeff Nelson has announced that Chief Deputy Paul Widenstrom is retiring on May 21. The Pine County Board of Commissioners has approved Nelson's choice of a replacement for that position. Sergeant Scott Grice will be promoted to the chief deputy position effective May 24.

Nelson said that Grice has been with the Pine County Sheriff's office since 1995 when he started as a jailer/dispatcher.

"Over the years Scott has worked as a patrol deputy, process server, water patrol, school resource

officer, investigator, and most recently as sergeant," Nelson said. "I look forward to working with him in his new role."

Nelson said that based on Grice's skill and experience, he recommends a starting salary of \$90,000.

LIONS HELP FUND AED REPLACEMENTS

The Pine County Board of Commissioners also approved a \$5,196 donation from the Rock Creek Lions. This donation, together with the trade in of four current automated external defibrillators (AEDs), will allow for the purchase of four new AEDs to be placed in squad cars.

Two killed in crash on Hwy. 23

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@PINECOUNTYNEWS.COM

Two women were killed in a crash on Tuesday, March 23 on Highway 23 in Carlton County.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, a 1998 Chevy Blazer driven by Angela Marie Severson, 35, of Pierre, South Dakota was heading northbound on Highway 23 near County Road 8 in the early evening of March 23. At approximately 6:17 p.m., the Blazer left

the roadway, rolled and struck a tree.

The Carlton County Sheriff's Office, Kerrick Fire and Rescue and Essentia Ambulance responded to the scene.

Severson was killed in the crash. Her passenger, Jennifer Lynn Bokusky, 36, of Apple Valley was also killed.

The Minnesota State Patrol reports that neither the driver nor the passenger was wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

It is unknown if alcohol was involved in the crash.



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PUBLIC NOTICES, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2021

The proceedings, in their entirety, are on file and open for public inspection during regular working hours in the Auditor's Office and are also posted on the Carlton County website at: co.carlton.mn.us.

Present: Bodie, Brenner (by video), Peterson, Proulx and Thell. Absent: None. The County Attorney stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related peace-time emergency declaration an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent and declared that necessary conditions were met for remote participation.

Brenner by Bodie all year, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Thell by Peterson all year, to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2021, regular board meeting.

Bodie by Peterson all year, to approve refilling a Disabilities Services Social Worker position.

Brenner by Peterson all year, to approve a service contract with Legal Aid Services of Northeastern Minnesota for 2021.

Bodie by Thell all year, votes to approve an amendment to an existing Community Health Board grant.

Brenner by Thell all year, to approve out-of-state travel to Orlando, Florida, for two Public Health and Human Services staff members to attend the 2021 American Association of Suidology Conference.

Bodie by Peterson all year, to approve the Carlton County Public Health and Human Services Contractor Civil Rights Assurance Agreement Addendum.

Bodie by Thell all year, to approve Wetlands Replacement Plan No. 621003 for Gregg Perich in Thomson Township.

Brenner by Thell all year, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Thell by Peterson all year, to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2021, regular board meeting.

Bodie by Peterson all year, to approve refilling a Disabilities Services Social Worker position.

Bodie by Thell all year, to accept a refund for overpayment from St. Louis County for SAP 009-606-033, SAP 009-661-027 and Twin Lakes Township roads.

Thell by Bodie all year to approve final payment to Ulland Brothers for SAP 009-601-055 (LOW), SAP 009-627-001, SAP 009-651-003, CP 009-151-004, and Silver Brook TWP 2020-01.

Bodie by Brenner all year, to set a closed session to discuss labor negotiations.

Brenner by Peterson all year, to approve the 2020 Carlton County Building Committee Year-end Report.

Bodie by Peterson all year, to approve the use of pandemic relief funds to hire an intern for 67 to serve students negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Bodie by Thell all year to authorize the publication of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Architectural and Engineering (A&E) services related to the proposed jail facility.

Bodie by Thell all year votes to adjourn to the closed session.

Bodie by Brenner all year to return to the adjourned meeting.

Brenner by Peterson all year that this meeting be adjourned.
LeeAnn Purcell
Carlton County Auditor's Department

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 2021)

CARLTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 9, 2021

The proceedings, in their entirety, are on file and open for public inspection during regular working hours in the Auditor's Office and are also posted on the Carlton County website at: co.carlton.mn.us.

Present: Bodie, Brenner (by video), Peterson, Proulx and Thell. Absent: None. The County Attorney stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related peace-time emergency declaration an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent and declared that necessary conditions were met for remote participation.

Bodie by Thell all year, to approve the Agenda as amended.

Brenner by Peterson all year, to approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2021, Adjourned Board Meeting.

Peterson by Brenner all year, to approve the revised Public Health and Human Services 2021 Fee Schedule as on file in the Public Health and Human Services office.

Bodie by Brenner all year to accept the 2020 Zoning and Environmental Services Annual Report.

Brenner by Thell all year, to approve final contracts with SKB Environmental for hauling mixed waste and MSW to the City of Superior landfill and for hauling and disposal of demolition materials to SKB Environmental.

Peterson by Bodie all year, to approve final payment to Northland Constructors of Duluth, Inc. for type of work along CSAH 16 (Washington Avenue).

Brenner by Thell all year, to approve making permanent the Transportation Department reorganization plan.

Peterson by Brenner all year to approve an amendment to the State of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Joint Powers Agreement for Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force (MNHITTF).

Bodie by Brenner all year, votes to approve a request by Ralph and Janet Sundberg for abatement of penalty, interest and cost on three parcels.

Bodie by Peterson all year, to set a closed session for labor negotiations following the close of regular business of this meeting.

Bodie by Peterson all year, to approve updates to the Carlton County Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy as on file in the County Coordinator's Office.

Bodie by Peterson all year, to approve the Carlton County Federal Award Procurement Policy as on file in the County Coordinator's Office.

Thell by Peterson all year, to approve the 2022 Budget Planning Schedule as on file in the County Coordinator's Office.

Bodie by Brenner all year, to accept the expenditure listing for January 2021.

Thell by Brenner all year, to approve payments for Carlton County Covid-19 Relief Grants (Round 2).

Brenner by Bodie all year, except Peterson who voted nay, to approve a 2021 general wage increase of 1.75% for non-represented and confidential staff.

Thell by Bodie all year, to conduct a voter referendum for a one-half of one percent (0.50%) LOST to raise an anticipated \$1.8 million annually.

Bodie by Peterson all year, to purchase Navigate360 Workplace Safety training.

Brenner by Thell all year, votes except Proulx who voted nay, to approve extending a contract for services not to exceed an additional \$15,000.00 with Anthony Mancuso.

Brenner by Thell all year, to approve increasing to 40 hours the normal work week of the Paralegal position.

Brenner by Peterson all year, to approve setting a Jail Project Working Committee Meeting.

Brenner by Peterson all year, to approve posting and filling the position of County Auditor/Treasurer.

Brenner by Peterson all year, to adjourn to a closed session.

Bodie by Thell all year, to close the closed session and return to the regular session.

Brenner by Thell all year, except Peterson who voted nay, to authorize ratification of 2021 labor contracts with Carlton County Teamsters and AFSCME Assistant County Attorney Units.

Bodie by Thell all year, that this meeting be adjourned.
LeeAnn Purcell
Carlton County Auditor's Department

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 2021)

STATE OF MINNESOTA CARLTON COUNTY

**DISTRICT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Court File Number: 09-PR-21-259
Case Type: Informal Probate

Notice of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors (Without a Will)

In Re the Estate of Marilyn Renee Sparks, a/k/a Marilyn R. Sparks and Marilyn Sparks, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Probate Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Name: Jennifer Goodwin
Address: 3690 Carlton Street
Barnum, MN 55707

as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Dated: March 4, 2021
/s/ Robert Macaulay

District Court Judge
Amy Turnquist // Janet Riegler,
Deputy
Court Administrator

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 8, 2021)

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF CARLTON
DISTRICT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
Court File No. 09-JV-21-18

SUMMONS

IN RE THE CHILDREN OF:
Lolita Belem Whitebird, Derek James Beilanger, Alfredo Caballero and Yeng Kong Cha
Parents

To: Lolita Belem Whitebird and Yeng Kong Cha

A petition for Children in Need of Protection or Services was filed with the Court on March 4, 2021, alleging Child(ren) in Need of Protection or Other Services. The Court has set May 18, 2021 at 10:00 am, as the date and time, at the Courthouse in Carlton, Minnesota, as the place, for a hearing to be held in the above-entitled matter.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to appear before this Court on that date at said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That the hearing will be held for the purpose of determining whether the child(ren) is/are in need of protection or services in accordance with Minnesota law.

Failure to appear may result in a finding of contempt of the Court's order to appear or the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of that person summoned or both.

Failure to appear may also result in the Court conducting the hearing in your absence and the hearing may result in an order granting the relief requested in the petition including an order to terminate your parental rights to the child(ren) or an order transferring legal and physical rights of your child(ren) to another adult.

If the Court finds that grounds exist for the petitions, the Court could determine that the child(ren) is/are in need of protection or services and then order any service or other conditions deemed necessary to correct the conditions that led to the child(ren) protection finding.

These services and conditions could include but are not limited to foster care, transfer or custody or termination of parental rights.

In connection with these proceedings, you have the following rights: 1) To be represented by a lawyer at all stages of the proceedings. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you are entitled to have a lawyer appointed for you at county expense. 2) To introduce evidence at the hearing. 3) To cross examine witnesses testifying against the child(ren). 4) To inspect any report filed with the Court, and if it is admitted in evidence, to cross examine the preparer of such report. 5) To obtain a transcript of the proceedings, if you request that they be recorded. 6) To appear decisions of the juvenile court. 7) To have subpoenas issued by the court on your behalf requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses.

The child(ren) has/have the same rights in connection with the proceedings that you do expect that a lawyer will automatically be appointed by the court to represent the child(ren), without regard to whether the child(ren) and parents can afford to retain a lawyer.

If you desire to retain a lawyer, you should do so immediately, so you will be ready at the hearing. If you desire to be represented by a lawyer, but cannot afford the cost, you must immediately notify the court that you want to appointed lawyer.

Date: March 24, 2021
/s/ Janine Morrison
Deputy Court Administrator

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 8, 15, 2021)

City of Moose Lake 2021 Summary Budget Statement

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2021 budget information concerning the City of Moose Lake to interested citizens. This budget is not complete, the complete budget may be examined at Moose Lake City Hall, 412 4th Street, Moose Lake, MN 55767. The City Council approved this budget on December 9, 2020.

General and Debt Service Funds 2020 Adopted Budget

Budgeted Governmental Funds	2021	2020	Difference
Revenues			
Property Taxes	714,461	683,665	30,796
Tax Increments	-	-	-
All Other Taxes	272,000	272,000	-
(Sales Tax, Delinquent Tax, etc.)			
Special Assessments	34,437	35,464	(1,027)
Licenses and Permits	15,350	12,850	2,500
Library	14,127	14,127	-
Campground and Parks	104,500	104,500	-
Public Access Cable Fees	33,100	33,100	-
Riverside Arena	70,000	70,000	-
Intergovernmental Revenues			
Federal	-	-	-
State - General Purpose Aid	945,452	910,723	34,729
State - Categorical Aid	39,229	35,114	4,115
County	5,000	5,000	-
Charges for Services	8,300	14,400	(6,100)
Interest on Investments	4,500	4,500	-
Miscellaneous	110,414	31,600	78,814
Total Revenues	2,370,870	2,227,043	143,827
Other Financing Sources			
Proceeds from Borrowing	-	-	-
Transfers from Other Funds	150,000	150,000	-
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	2,520,870	2,377,043	143,827
Expenditures			
Current:			
General Government	759,390	784,450	(25,060)
Police Department	645,370	657,922	(12,552)
Public Works	200,900	191,202	9,698
Recycling	11,275	10,935	340
Depot	11,800	11,800	-
Campground and Parks	116,050	93,500	22,550
Library	117,670	121,195	-
TIF Districts	-	-	-
Cemetery	16,870	16,868	2
Cable TV / Technology	43,170	42,780	390
Riverside Arena	125,750	125,750	-
Total Current Expenditures	2,048,245	2,056,402	(8,157)
Debt Service - Principal	244,000	223,000	21,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	47,123	50,773	(3,650)
Capital Outlay	162,361	129,100	33,261
Total Expenditures	2,501,729	2,459,275	42,454
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	19,141	38,143	(19,002)

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 2021)

COUNTY OF CARLTON OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR CARLTON, MINNESOTA NOTICE FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Carlton County, Minnesota, until 10:30 a.m., Monday, April 12, 2021 at the County Engineer's Office and at the Carlton County website <https://www.co.carlton.mn.us> for the following:

2021 Specifications Proposal for Supplies as per specifications on file in the County Engineer's Office and at the Carlton County website <https://www.co.carlton.mn.us> to include:

- 1) Dust Control
- 2) Gravel Crushing
- 3) Bituminous Materials

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. By order of the Carlton County Board of Commissioners.
JinYeene Neumann
Carlton County Engineer
1630 County Road 61
Carlton, MN 55718-8170

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on March 25, April 1, 8 2021)

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF CARLTON

**DISTRICT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No. 09-JV-21-15**

SUMMONS

IN RE THE CHILDREN OF:

Dawn Marie Saarela and Barry Steven Martin

TO: Barry Steven Martin

A Termination of Parental Rights Petition was filed with the Court on February 23, 2021, alleging Termination of Parental Rights. The Court has set April 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. as the date and time, at the Carlton County Courthouse in Carlton, Minnesota, as the place, for the Admit/Deny hearing to be held in the above-entitled matter.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to appear before this Court on that date at said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That the hearing will be held for the purpose of determining whether the child(ren) is/are in need of protection or services and/or termination of parental rights should be granted in accordance with Minnesota law.

Failure to appear may result in a finding of contempt of the Court's order to appear or the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of that person summoned or both.

Failure to appear may also result in the Court conducting the hearing in your absence and the hearing may result in an order granting the relief requested in the petition including an order to terminate your parental rights to the child(ren) or an order transferring legal and physical rights of your child(ren) to another adult.

If the Court finds that grounds exist for the petitions, the Court could determine that the child(ren) is/are in need of protection or services and/or terminate your parental rights, then order any services or other conditions deemed necessary to correct the conditions that lead to the child(ren) protection finding.

These services and conditions could include but are not limited to foster care, transfer of custody or termination of parental rights.

In connection with these proceedings, you have the following rights: 1) To be represented by a lawyer at all stages of the proceedings. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you are entitled to have a lawyer appointed for you at county expense. 2) To introduce evidence at the hearing. 3) To cross examine witnesses testifying against the child(ren). 4) To inspect any report filed with the Court, and it is admitted in evidence, to cross examine the preparer of such report. 5) To obtain a transcript of the proceedings, if you request that they be recorded. 6) To appeal decisions of the juvenile court. 7) To have subpoenas issued by the court on your behalf regarding the attendance and testimony of witnesses. The child(ren) has/have the same rights in connection with proceedings that you do except that a lawyer will automatically be appointed by the court to represent the child(ren), without regard to whether the child(ren) and parents can afford to retain a lawyer.

If you desire to retain a lawyer, you should do so immediately, so you will be ready at the hearing. If you desire to be represented by a lawyer, but cannot afford the cost, you must immediately notify the court that you want an appointed lawyer.
Dated: March 3, 2021
/s/ Janine Morrison
Janine Morrison
Deputy Court Administrator

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on March 18, 25, April 1, 2021)

Carlton County Transportation Department Notice

The Carlton County Transportation Department will receive bids for the following projects: SAP 009-003.056. The bids must be submitted electronically to bidvalet@co.carlton.mn.us before April 12, 2021, 10:00 a.m. CST. The majority of the work on this project involves City of Cloquet sanitary sewer and water main utility improvements, Carlton County storm sewer improvements, curb and gutter, ADA compliant pedestrian ramps, sidewalk and shared use path, bituminous surface removal, new bituminous pavement, and sign panels. The Proposal and Specifications and the Plans are available at the Department's OneOffice website at <https://oneoffice.co.carlton.mn.us>.

mn.us/oneoffice. After an acceptable audit of the bids received, a recommendation for award to the lowest responsible bidder will be presented to the Carlton County Board of Commissioners at the County Board Meeting, 1630 County Road 61, Carlton, MN, on April 13, 2021, 8:30 a.m. CST.

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on March 18, 25, April 1, 2021)

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF CARLTON DISTRICT COURT SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATION DIVISION Court File No. 09-PR-21-407

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON AMENDED PETITION FOR DETERMINA- TION OF DESCENT (TES- TATE)

**In Re: Estate of
WILBUR HUGO JUNTUNEN,
Decedent.**

Kimberly B. Eckhardt ("Petitioner") has filed a Petition for Determination of Descent.

It is Ordered that on April 29, 2021 at 8:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Carlton County District, 301 Walnut Avenue, Carlton, Minnesota, on the petition.

The petition represents that the Decedent died testate more than three years (3) ago leaving property in Minnesota. The petition requests the Court probate the decedent's last Will dated January 20, 1989, determine the descent of such property, and assign the property to the persons entitled.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the petition will be granted. If you have objection to this case, please contact Court Administration at (218) 278-2460 option #6 for further instructions as these hearings are currently held remotely due to the pandemic.

Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by:

Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order to each interested person by United States mail at least 14-days before the time set for the hearing.

BY THE COURT
Dated: 3/17/21
/s/ Rebekka Stumme
Judge of District Court
Amy Turnquist, Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Court Administrator

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on March 25, April 1, 2020)

Moose Lake School Board March 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the Moose Lake School Board was called to order by Chair Steven Blondo at 5:01 pm. Board Members present include Julie Peterson [Zoom], Lisa Anderson-Reed, Ben Anderson, Steven Blondo and Jerry Pederson. Absent: Kim Bohnsack. Others present include: Superintendent Billie Jo Steen, Principal Kraig Konietzko [Zoom], Business Manager Kara Burn, Eric Butche, Erin Nordstrom, and Alenea White-media.

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of silence to remember Sarah Haasis

Motion by Anderson-Reed, second by Pederson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Blondo, second by Pederson to approve the February 16, 2021 regular board meeting minutes; approve the

February 2021 Treasurer's Report; approve the February 26, 2021 payroll: checks #70145-70152 for \$5,163.49, electronic transfer of \$82,277.49 and direct deposit of \$126,583.84 for a total payroll of \$214,024.82; the March 4, 2021 supplemental payroll: check #70153 for \$14.30, electronic transfer of \$4,357.34 and direct deposit of \$8,657.87 for a total payroll of \$13,029.51; and the March 15, 2021 payroll: checks #70154-70160 for \$4,852.23, electronic transfer of \$78,971.90, and direct deposit of \$123,078.49 for a total payroll of \$206,902.62; approve the February 22, 2021 bill list: checks #65998-66013 for \$13,758.05; the March 5, 2021 bill list: checks #66014-66043 for \$63,988.72 and wire amount of \$730.79 for a total of \$64,719.51; and the March 15, 2021 bill list: checks #66044-66102 for \$34,688.90 and wire amount of \$61,194.36 for a total of \$95,883.26; approve the hiring of Carmen Jokimaki (Head Cook) effective April 1, 2021; accept the resignation of Chad Robbins (JH Baseball Coach); accept the resignation of Jazmine St. Pierre (Mini Moose) effective March 19, 2021; accept the resignation of Beth Sandstrom with appreciation for her years of service to the district; approve the hiring of Lisa Rust (LTS Language Arts Teacher) for the remainder of school year 2020-2021; and approve the hiring of Crystal Becker to the Mini Moose School Age Care Lead Position. Motion passed unanimously.

Good Things Happening:
-Thank you to Sarah Haasis for her almost 20 years of service to the Moose Lake School and community.

-Thank you to the following individuals and groups who provided support after Sarah Haasis's passing: Beth Sandstrom, Karen Antio, Barnum Schools, Moose Lake PTA, Hope Lutheran Church, Willow River High School, Esko High School, Sara Petry, Nikki Kresky, Alicia Danner, Nikki Peterson, Michelle Berglund, Mickelson Consulting, Melissa Anderson & Associates, Essentia Grief Support Services, Children's Relief Connection, and Moose Lake Community School Crisis Team.

Discussion:
-Board Goals: update/recommendations by Superintendent Steen

Reports:
Complete reports can be found on our school website.

Agenda Items:
Motion by Blondo, second by Pederson to approve the revised FY21 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Pederson, second by Anderson to approve the following reduction for 2021-2022 school year upon recommendation of the finance committee and maintenance department: eliminate groundskeeper position. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Anderson-Reed, second by Blondo to accept a MOU for a reduction in Sue Caroline's position from 140 days to 130 days for school year 2021-2022. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Blondo, second by Anderson-Reed to approve changes to the 2021-2022 calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting/Event Dates
Meeting Date Time Location
Regular Meeting April 19 5pm Board Room/Zoom
Wellness Committee Meeting TBD
Negotiations April 19 4pm Board Room/Zoom
Special Board Mtg- lawsuits March 22 4pm Board Room/Zoom
Facilities Meeting April 5 8:30am

Board Room/Zoom
Barnum/ML/WVR mtg March 31 5pm Barnum

Motion by Pederson, second by Blondo to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 pm.

Steven Blondo, Chairperson
Lisa Anderson-Reed, Clerk

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 2021)

Moose Lake School Board Special Board Meeting Minutes March 22, 2021

The special meeting of the Moose Lake School Board was called to order by Vice-Chair Ben Anderson at 4:04 pm. Board Members present include Julie Peterson, Lisa Anderson-Reed (zoom), Ben Anderson, Kim Bohnsack, Jerry Pederson and Steven Blondo (zoom @ 4:08). Others present include: Superintendent Billie Jo Steen, Business Manager Kara Burn, and Attorney Jay Squires (zoom).

Pledge of Allegiance
Motion by Pederson, second by Pederson to close the meeting at 4:06 p.m. to discuss the mediation with Casper Construction.

Motion by Blondo, second by Pederson to reopen the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Motion by Anderson-Reed, second by Pederson to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Ben Anderson, Vice-Chairperson
Lisa Anderson-Reed, Clerk

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 2021)

Willow River Area Schools ISD # 577 8142 Pine Street Willow River, Minnesota 55795

Unofficial Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the School Board

**6:00 pm Tuesday, March 16,
2021 High School Library,
Room 139**

Call to Order-The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance by Chair David Prachar at 6:00pm. School Board members present were David Prachar, Aziz Al-Arfaj, Sonja Roach, Jennifer Burlak and Connie Mikrot. Bruce Bohaty was absent. Others in attendance were Superintendent and High School Principal Bill Peel, Elementary Principal Neil Schiller, Assistant to the High School Principal Melissa Johnson, District Administrative Assistant Tara Prachar, Student Representative Annika Meyer and three visitors.

Comments and Requests from Visitors-None.

Al-Arfaj recommended amending the agenda to include Item 18: Vaccinations in the School.

A motion was made by Al-Arfaj and seconded by Mikrot to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Burlak and seconded by Roach to approve the consent agenda.

a. Minutes from the February 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.
b. Bills and Claims for February 2021.

c. Treasurer's Report for February 2021.
d. Resignation of Paul Kendle, Bus Driver

e. Coaching contract for Alan Hoffman, B Team Girls Basketball Coach.
f. Coaching contract for Chris Gamst, Junior High Football Coach.

The motion passed unanimously.

For discussion, Bill Peel presented and discussed the current enrollment update.
Peel reviewed Mask Mandate

per Executive Order 20-81 and 20-103.

A motion was made by Roach and seconded by Al-Arfaj to approve the Revised FY21 Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was passed by Mikrot and seconded by Burlak to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Roach and seconded by Burlak to approve the cancellation of the Trap League as a student activity. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Al-Arfaj and seconded by Mikrot to approve the Revised 10-Year Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

For consideration, Burlak presented and discussed, as appropriate, the eight policies noted below:

Policy 401- Equal Employment Opportunity

No board action needed.

Policy 402- Disability Nondiscrimination

No board action needed.

Policy 406- Public and Private Data.

No board action needed.

Policy 519- Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies.

No board action needed.

Policy 525- Violence Prevention (Applicable To Students And Staff).

No board action needed.

Policy 701- Establishment and Adoption of Budget.

No board action needed.

Policy 701.1- Modifications of Budget.

No board action needed.

Policy 702- Accounting.

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Prachar and seconded by Roach to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations. Donations received totalled \$3,500.00.

Roll Call: Burlak, Prachar, Roach, Mikrot, Al-Arfaj
The resolution passed.

Reports:

Student Representative- Annika Meyer shared that the NHS Food Drive is beginning soon. The Student Council continues to work on planning a spirit week. Tomorrow's community blood drive is fully booked.

Elementary Principal Neil Schiller shared that he is grateful to feel a sense of normalcy in the building. Many Elementary students who were choosing Distance Learning have returned, as well as a few more substitute teachers. Teachers are trying to schedule Spring field trips that follow the head guidelines. MCA testing will be starting soon with it being the first year for both 3rd & 4th grade.

Assistant to the Secondary Principal- Melissa Johnson shared that a few high school special education students have been able to work in the PAES lab in Barnum. This is a unique opportunity that allows students to experience work hands on and assess what field of employment they may be interested in. Teacher observations have begun; she has enjoyed being in the classroom and seeing what our students are learning.

Board Members/Committees Curriculum/Policy- Burlak had no further update. Next month they will be reviewing policies 410, 412, 413, 414, 527, 528, and 529.

Facilities/Activities- Al-Arfaj had no further update.

Finance/Personnel/Negotiations- Mikrot had no further update.

BMW-Prachar had no further update.

Superintendent/High School Principal Bill Peel reported that there is upcoming Incident Com-

mand Team Meeting to evaluate possibly changing the learning model. Some local schools that have gone back to full in-person have had increased cases and had to go back to distance learning. It is a hard decision to make with a lot of variables. The community's support is needed to try to keep our students in school by following social distancing and mask wearing guidance.

Willow River Pride:
-Laura Carlson and Tara Prachar for helping with lunch duty as needed.

-Crystal Peterson for her continued diligence in keeping our school updated in MDH guidance, contact tracing, and answering community questions regarding Covid-19 testing, vaccines, quarantines, and contact tracing.

-Rick Frentress and Bill Peel for stepping up and helping to drive school bus while we face a driver shortage

-Our new school aide, Melinda Peel, who helps keep our facility clean and disinfected throughout the week.

Upcoming Meetings:
-March 24 3:30 pm Sports Liaison

-March 31 5:00 pm Barnum-Moose Lake-Willow River @ Barnum

-April 6-1:15 pm Facilities/Transportation/Activities

-April 13 10:00 am Curriculum/Policy

-April 13 3:30 pm Finance/Personnel/Negotiations

-April 20 6:00 pm Regular Board Meeting

-April 28 5:00 pm Barnum-Moose Lake-Willow River @ Willow River

A motion was made by Mikrot and seconded by Roach to adjourn at 6:45 pm. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
David Prachar
Board Chair
E. Bruce Bohaty,
Clerk

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 2021)

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION

The 85th Annual Meeting of East Central Energy (ECE) will be held 11 a.m., Thursday, April 22, 2021 via online meeting at eastcentralenergy.com. The purpose of the annual meeting is to review the 2020 activities of the cooperative and to announce results of director elections. ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

East Central Energy
Board of Directors
Secretary-Treasurer Diane Zimmerman

(Published in the Moose Lake Star-Gazette on April 1, 2021)

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Upsala upsets Bombers ending their season

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The Barnum Bombers would travel to Upsala to take on the Cardinals on March 24. Reed Kornovich would start the night off for the Bombers with a nice 3-pointer.

Next it would be Jake Hultgren sending in the long bomb for three to put the Bombers up 6-0. The Cardinals would finally get on the board driving in to the basket for two points. Joe Peterson would then take his turn at launching in the long range shot for another three for the Bombers. The Cardinals would soon foul Peterson to put him on the line for a pair of free-throws, giving the Bombers an 11-2 lead.

The Cardinals would then go on a scoring run of their own bringing themselves to a two point deficit, 11-9. Garrett Coughlin would stand his ground and put up the ball for two points, while Hultgren would again find himself on the line to sink a pair of free-throws to give the Bombers a 15-9 lead. The Cardinals would then

move the ball down the court and put up the long ball to move the score to within three points once again. Willie Richardson would then find his way to the line to sink a pair of free-throws. The Cardinals would again make a short run and move to within 1 point of the Bombers, 17-16. Hultgren would then drive to the basket to land his shot, while getting fouled to put him on the line for the extra point that he would easily land, 20-16.

Again, the Cardinals would land the long ball to bring themselves to within one point again. The Cardinals would then drive to the basket landing a shot of their own while drawing the foul from the Bombers, also landing the extra point giving them the lead, 20-22. Matthew Berry would then find a way to move to the basket to tie the game up at 22 all. The Cardinals would then drive to the basket a couple more times before the first half would come to an end giving them a 22-26 lead going into halftime.

The Cardinals would come out of halftime ready to score and would

add four points onto their lead before the Bombers' Hultgren would go to the line to sink one of two from the free-throw line. The Bombers would then go on a scoring run of their own as Coughlin, Kornovich, and Richardson would all score bringing the Bombers to tie up the game, 30-30. The Cardinals would then go to the line to regain the lead sinking one of two for a 30-31 lead.

Richardson would not be denied as he would go to the line to sink one of two to tie the game up once again. From that point on though the Cardinals would begin to pull ahead of the Bombers with small spurts to take the game, 56-65.

Reed Kornovich would lead the Bombers with 17 points, while Joe Peterson would add 11 points. Jake Hultgren would end the night with nine points, while Willie Richardson would add in seven points. Garrett Coughlin, Mathew Berry and Max Moors would all add in four points to end the Bombers season falling 65-56 to the Cardinals of Upsala.



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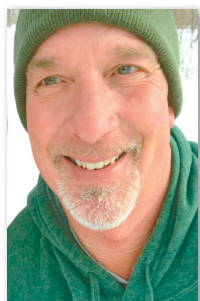
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'Sillies on the Sidewalk'

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