

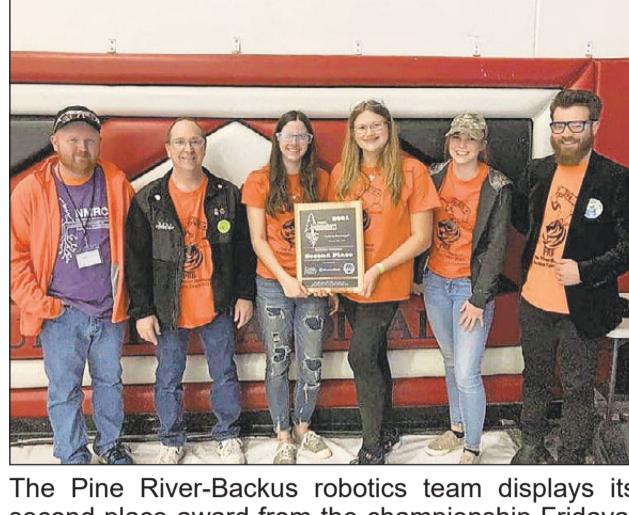
Pequot Lakes, PR-B place in robotics contest

The Pequot Lakes and Pine River-Backus teams placed first and second, respectively, in the Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference Championship tournament Friday, Oct. 29, in Upsala.

This year's game required robots to pick up power cells (foam dodgeballs) from around the playing field and put these pieces into designated goals for points. With enough power cells, the team moves on to stage two where they interact with a rotating control panel for extra points.

Finally, at the end of the round, the teams attempt to hoist their 100- to 120-pound robots off the playing field on a pivoting balance bar for bonus points. A large number of bonus points are awarded for each robot that can successfully climb off the ground, as well as an additional bonus if the balance bar is level. These bonuses often become a deciding factor in which side wins the 3-v-3 match.

At the Oct. 29 event, Pine River-Backus and Pequot Lakes each competed in six qualification matches. At the end



The Pine River-Backus robotics team displays its second-place award from the championship Friday at the tournament in Upsala. Pictured are Jake Shetka, Mike Shetka, Alexa Tuchtenhagen, Maranda Altepeter, Camryn Good and Andrew Rudlang.

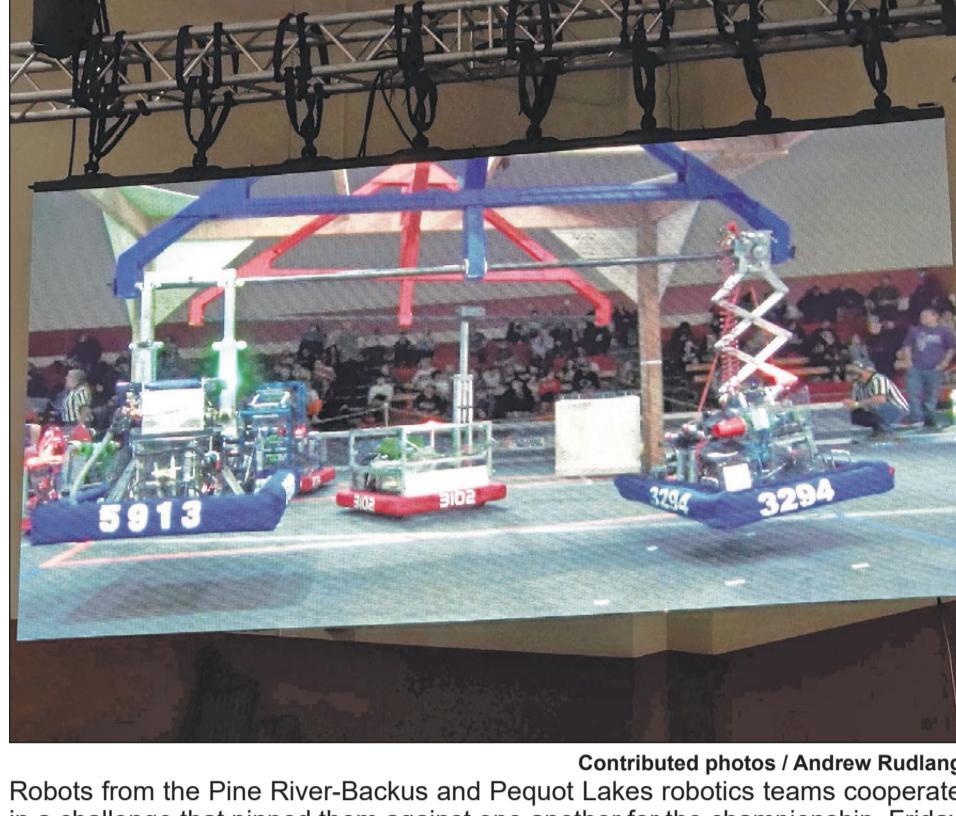
of qualifications, Pequot Lakes was ranked first with five wins and one loss; Pine River-Backus was holding third with four wins and two losses.

A random set of six teams plays each 3-vs-3 match in qualifications, so Pequot Lakes and Pine River-Backus played together on the same side and won one of their last qualification matches together, with both teams successfully hoisting their robots at the end for the match bonus points netting the win.

Pequot Lakes and

Pine River-Backus then competed on opposite sides for the championship finals. In the final match, Pequot Lakes' alliance prevailed to take home first place. Pine River-Backus had also climbed from a ranking of third to second place.

There were 17 teams from 16 schools in the event, which was hosted by Upsala High School by the UC-Botics team under the Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference, a regional association of Greater Minnesota teams with 30 member schools. Pine River-Backus is one of



Contributed photos / Andrew Rudlang

Robots from the Pine River-Backus and Pequot Lakes robotics teams cooperate in a challenge that pinned them against one another for the championship Friday at the tournament in Upsala.

the founding members.

Pine River-Backus and Pequot Lakes are registered members of the multinational FIRST Robotics Competition. Every year in January, FIRST announces a new game for which the teams must build a compatible robot. The game takes place on a 50-foot field with three teams

on one team competing against another team of three.

To prep for the annual competition, teams attend FIRST events as well as optional competitions to test their robots.

The 2021 event was a replay/continuation of the 2020 game, which was interrupted

by COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Pine River-Backus' 2020-2021 team included Maranda Altepeter, Camryn Good and Alexa Tuchtenhagen, along with coaches Mike Shetka and Andrew Rudlang. Additional adult mentors included Tony Andrys, Ryan Hunt, Jake Shetka and Les McCoy.

Pequot Lakes students to perform 'Mary Poppins'

The Pequot Lakes High School musical "Mary Poppins," presented by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh with special arrangement by Music Theatre International, will be staged at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, in the high school auditorium.

Ticket prices are \$5 each for any age and are general admission. Buy tickets using this link: <https://www.van-coevents.com/us/eventlist/isd186>.

A cast and crew of 42 have been rehearsing since late September and look forward to opening night.

Mataya Larson stars as the titular character, while Brayden Werk will portray Bert.

The rest of the cast includes Chris Hankins, Natalie Thrun, Elle Knettel, Antje Northway, Alessandra Hartwig, Caitlyn Moser, Jessica Fabian, Gavin Hummel, Cassidy Shankle,

Paige Strong, Cora Carlson, Makayla Thorson, Maeve Rohr, Trinity Bailles, Hannah Ellstrom, Nora Floberg, Gracie Kruchten, Chloe Schnell, Abigail Thorson, Anniston Morris, Avery Millard, Anne Rohr, Jaxon Bunnis, Maury Zins, John Welu, Alex Winch, Harper Sundvahl, Emma Jones,

Delilah Burton, Molly Ross, Amelia Hartwig, Peyton Paul and Lola Chase.

The tech crew includes Emma Schott, Ethan Moser, Erin Kempka, Paxton Wait-Learned, Anne Rohr and Sophia Stegner.

The production is directed by Susan Mathison-Young.

PR-B students to stage 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

The Pine River-Backus High School theater is revving up for the season with this year's presentation of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," a story about a family of juvenile delinquent children who bring their own creative flair to the tra-

ditional Christmas story.

Students will perform the play at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, at the school.

Tickets will be available at the door 30 minutes before showtime. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5

for students and seniors. The cast includes:

► Imogene Herdman: Miqaella Williams.
► Ralph Herdman: Cassin Humphrey.
► Gladys Herdman: Adelheid Gregory.
► Claude Herdman: Evan Richter.

► Ollie Herdman: Bethany Schultz.

► Bob Bradley: Cody Deplazes.
► Grace Bradley: Olivia Anderson.
► Beth Bradley: Arya Compton.
► Charlie Bradley: Nesika Bellville.

► Reverend Hopkins: Miles DeSanto.

► Alice/Luanne: Kate-lyn Denton.
► Ivy/Betty: Mara Adams.
► Helen: Trinity Osman.
► Elma: Keylah Ken-drick.

► Teddy: Skyler Rugroden.

Director is Jen Anderson. Stage manager is Tiara Crannell.

Vocal director is Kate Davis. Orchestra director is Ben Kinser. Rehearsal pianist/choreographer is Teresa Hamp.

Be sure to celebrate National Community Education Day on Nov. 11

It's time to celebrate you! National Community Education Day is Nov. 11, 2021, and is a day to recognize you, our community, for your continued efforts to embrace learning at all ages. It is also a day to say thank you to all community members who support and participate in Pequot Lakes Community Education.

Just how did community education get started in Minnesota anyway? In 1969, Minnesota's governor (Harold LeVander)

called a statewide summit and began the discussion to bring community education to Minnesota. The purpose was to identify ways in which public school facilities could be used by the community for educational, social and recreational purposes beyond the regular school day and year.

In 1971, Minnesota passed legislation that included funding for the establishment of 67 local community education programs. Today, you'll find community education in every Minnesota school district.

How long has the Pequot Lakes School District been running community education programming? Pequot Lakes

started community education 45 years ago in 1976.

Community education has changed a little over that time, but the mission to provide quality and enriching lifelong learning opportunities for people of all ages certainly has not. Our programs range from Early Childhood Family Education and school-aged child care, to literacy, arts, Adult Basic Education) and enrichment opportunities for both adults and youth.

Community education brings community members together to identify and link community needs and resources so that people are empowered to raise the quality of life in their communities.

We invite you to come learn

with us! Classes are offered for all ages and interests throughout the year. Check out our current community education brochure, visit our website at www.isd186.org (then click on "Community Education" across the top), "Like" us on Facebook or give us a call.

We are excited to share all of our exciting opportunities with you!

Are you interested in getting involved in community education?

► 1. We are always looking for class instructors to share their hobbies, interests and passions.

► 2. We are in need of community members to join our Community Education

Advisory Council. Advisory council members help make decisions and give advice on the day-to-day functions of community education.

If either of these opportunities interests you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at 218-568-9352.

Stop in and see us on Nov. 11 to celebrate National Community Education Day. We'll have a Facebook giveaway, special treats available in the community education office, and some free Patriot swag for anyone purchasing new Patriot gear. See you soon!

Joell Tvedt is the Pequot Lakes Community Education director.

Cass County benefit distributes record \$17,000 to youth in 4-H activities

The Cass County Friends of Youth State Fair Scholarship Fund committee awarded \$17,000 to 34 county 4-Hers this year to help defray their expenses for exhibiting at the State Fair and regional state competitions around the state. Each recipient received \$500.

Backus residents Barb Frederick and Leo and Sue Elyea, co-chairs of the committee, announced the amount of the fair scholarship awards financed by fundraising, including direct donations, and a June benefit golf tournament at Tianna Country Club

at Walker.

"We again thank all the individuals, businesses and organizations who supported the fundraising this year," Frederick said in a news release. "We were able to help 4-Hers with their expenses who won with projects at the county level who could attend the State Fair and additional state and regional competitions held elsewhere because of COVID restrictions."

Dog and horse shows and some exhibits normally displayed in the 4-H Building - closed this year - were held elsewhere.

The three-co-chairs, after holding the event for eight years, retired after completing this year's fundraising. The Cass County Fair Board is creating a new Friends of Youth Committee to continue the fundraising. Leo Elyea hopes someone will also come forward and continue to organize the golf tournament, which was his responsibility.

The scholarships help pay for travel, lodging, meals and entry fees for a large variety of exhibits, including non-animal and livestock entries. Fees alone run well over \$200, depending on the

event. Additional significant costs include animal transportation, feed and tack supplies and gate admission for families and their children.

This was the eighth year of the golf tournament and fundraising organized by Frederick and the Elyeas, and ninth for the accompanying fundraising. The three came up with the idea when they were concerned that many Cass County youth who won contests at the county level were unable to afford the expenses associated with the trip to St. Paul.

Leo Elyea, an avid golfer, organized the golf

tournament in addition to assisting with other donations. Frederick is a longtime county 4-H coordinator, and Sue Elyea has a history of county fair involvement.

Supporting groups, businesses, organizations and individuals sponsored golf teams, purchased hole sponsorships and donated cash, prizes, advertising and other services to the golf tournament or made direct contributions to the fund. A record 21 teams entered the golf tournament, and that revenue along with donations helped more than triple the \$6,000

donated to 4-Hers in 2019, the last year the tournament was previously held.

Two media organizations and one veterans organizations assisted with publicity. Ed Delahunt of Delahunt Broadcasting donated thousands of dollars of advertising during the eight years on the company's Park Rapids and Walker FM stations. Dave DeLost, of the Pine Cone Press, donated the extra cost of color advertising. The Backus American Legion paid for all remaining advertising costs in the Press and other publications.