

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT

Johnson Joins
Widseth’s
Environmental
Team

Wyoming, Minn. — Leif Johnson, PG, has joined Widseth as an Environmental Scientist. He has more than 15 years of advanced geological, engineering, and environmental experience in mining and heavy industry projects. He also has extensive experience in project management, geotechnical and geological investigation supervision, geological modeling, GIS and data analysis, business development, technical report writing, and mineral exploration. He holds a Master of Science in Geology and Geological Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Johnson is responsible for project management of solid waste projects and environmental site assessments. He provides technical expertise on geological issues with staff engineers and clients. In addition, he provides field oversight and coordination with contractors and drillers on environmental field investigations.

Widseth is a multi-discipline firm of more than 200 employees providing architecture, engineering, land surveying, and environmental services. Its offices are located in Wyoming, Alexandria, Bemidji, Brainerd, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Mankato, and Rochester, Minnesota, and Grand Forks, North Dakota. More information is available at Widseth.com.

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OBITUARIES

Jakub T. Ryba

Jakub T. Ryba, 87, of Pequot Lakes, MN passed away peacefully on April 8, 2022. Jakub was born in Chicago, IL on May 19, 1934, the son of Walter and Tessie Ryba. He was united in marriage to Herma Schönbach in 1957. Jakub served in the Air Force for 22 years. He then worked as a business manager for Leighton Barracks in Würzburg, Germany until 1995. He spent his retirement years on his ranch in Pequot Lakes. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a handyman of many trades. Jakub is survived by his wife, Herman; Sons James and Bruce (Sara); Grandchildren James Jr, Jack, Casey and Jacob; Brother George. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Dorothy. A private family service will take place at a later date.



Wayne Leek

Wayne Leek, age 95, of Pequot Lakes, passed away on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at his home. He was born to Elbert and Marcia Leek on March 22, 1927, in Staples, MN. Wayne served in the U.S. Navy and was a member of American Legion Post 49 in Pequot Lakes for 75 years. Wayne is survived by his wife, Vera; sons: Steven Leek (Connie), Leslie Leek (Debbie), Alan Leek (Sally); 7 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Warren Leek; and sisters: Sally Johnson, Jean Manford and Ramona Leek. Services were held on Saturday, April 9, at Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pequot Lakes. Burial in Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls.

Pine River Area
Food Shelf thrives
on generosity

The Pine River Area Food Shelf has been generously supported by many groups and individuals during our March food drive. We really appreciate your thinking about your neighbors in need. March is the month we build our funding for stocking the shelves throughout the year. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who donated! We are entering another inflation period, which is reflected in the grocery stores' increase in prices – especially for fresh produce. Our value is to continue to have available fresh fruits and veggies for neighbors to feed their families healthy meals. I'm shellshocked when I go to the grocery store and want to just pick up a bunch of bananas. When I see three digits \$X.XX on prices per pound or per item in fresh produce, I don't know how many people can afford these items. This is why we are here to serve you. We welcome you to come in and supplement your food needs by visiting our food shelf. Our food shelf coordinator, Jodi



KATHLEEN
STEPHAN
PR-B
Family
Center

Perry, is retiring and our office manager, LuAnn Gravelle, will be coordinating the food shelf. Our neighbors in need will remain our chief focal point and we are working on alternative methods to provide fresh produce. We've learned that fresh produce and healthy choices make a real difference in the physical and mental health of families. We want you to "Eat Well and Be Well." Recipes are also available to help people use the produce in a manner that will be pleasing to the palate. If you can donate to the Pine River Area Food Shelf, please mail a check to P.O. Box 1, Pine River, MN 56474. If you have groceries to donate, drop them off at the family center at 245 Barclay Ave., Pine River, during business hours. Questions? Please call us at 218-587-4292. Kathleen Stephan is a volunteer at the Pine River-Backus Family Center.

Essentia Health-St.
Joseph's Medical
Center, Brainerd

Derek and Storm Knutson, Little Falls, a girl, Apollonia Christina Eunice, 7 pounds, 11 ounces, Feb. 21, 2022. Grandparents are William and Christina Winkelman III, Fort Ripley, David Knutson, Pequot Lakes, and Debra Holtz, Valleyhead, Alabama. Kevin and Alexis Anderson, Lake Shore, a boy, Baylor Mark, 7 pounds, 11 ounces, March 16,

2022. Grandparents are Blair and Garnet Zaffke, Backus, and the late Steven Fisher, and Larry and Kim Anderson, Lake Shore.

Lakewood Health
System, Staples

Elaine and Edward Mahana, Breezy Point, a girl, Anya Kay Antoinette, 5 pounds, 13 ounces, March 10, 2022. Megan and Collin Rehbein, Nisswa, a girl, Rosalie Claire, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, March 23, 2022.

Cuyuna Regional
Medical Center, Crosby

Amy and Kalen Stoneking, Crosslake, a girl, Ramona Jo, Jan. 13, 2022. Grandparents are Richard Claypool, Laurie Stensland, Carolyn Yotter and Lewis Stoneking. Great-grandmother is Hazel Yotter, Crosslake. Amy and Nick Hummel, Breezy Point, a boy, Fitzpatrick Eugene Wolfgang, Feb. 6, 2022. Grandparents are Jean and Kevin Hummel, Crosslake.

Great-grandparents are JoAnn and Pat Lee, Hinckley/Mora. Mike and Kaylee Bickford, Deerwood, a girl, Nova LaVonne, Feb. 14, 2022. Grandparents are Tony and Teresa Smude, Brainerd, Mary Smude, Brainerd, Randy Bickford and Kathy Path, Breezy Point, Penny Bickford, Bettendorf, Iowa. Great-grandparents are Bonnie Smude, Brainerd, and Phyllis Bickford, Delmar, Iowa. Jessica Lueck and Ross Ruehling, Merrifield, a girl, Trinity

Kay Ruehling, March 2, 2022. Grandparents are Dale and Deb Ruehling, Nisswa, William Fortune IV, Brainerd, and Della Bosaaen, Brainerd. Great-grandparents are William and Marlowe Fortune, Brainerd. Amy and Jason Hite, a girl, Rylie Jeanne, March 13, 2022. Grandparents are Barry and Bertie Hite, Emily, and Earl and Jeanne Rick, Nisswa. Great-grandparent is Donna Hite, Emily.

LOOKING BACK

50 years ago, April 13, 1972

Rep. Bill Walker of Pine River announced his candidacy for the office of Public Service Commissioner. Ad: On sale at the Outpost in Jenkins: Red potatoes – 10 pounds for 25 cents. 40 years ago, April 15, 1982 The Pequot Lakes City Council heard a proposal to convert the old school building east of town into a 22-unit condominium complex. A worldwide glut of



crude oil drove gas prices down 15 cents per gallon in Minnesota, averaging \$1.21 per gallon. 25 years ago, April 17, 1997 Pequot Lakes High School plans to offer more Spanish and math classes in the coming school year. Pequot Lakes girls' basketball coach Jon Dale is named the Section 7AA Coach of the Year after a

21-4 season.
10 years ago, April 12, 2012

The Crosslake Economic Development Authority announced that Crosslake Community School is looking to expand, possibly near the community center. Vanessa Lane and Abby Palmer each won three events as the Patriot girls track team finished first at the Pierz Invitational. Boys pole vaulter Tyler Tappe tied the school record with a vault of 14 feet. - Compiled by Dan Determan, Staff Writer

PAGES FROM THE PAST

60 years ago, April 13, 1962

(Headline) Steps taken to form Civil Air Patrol here (Headline) Christy's Plumbing to salute local business men. 50 years ago, April 13, 1972 (Headline) Pine River school lunch menu Monday: macaroni and cheese, meat slice, buttered beets, peaches, spice cake, plain and peanut butter sandwiches, milk.



William Torgerson, 71, Deerwood, died Sunday, April 7, 1972, at the University Hospital. 25 years ago, April 10, 1997 (Headline) Land donated for Backus Head Start center: Zaffke family offers to give property located near school for building (Headline) Bids in for

P.R. treatment plant
10 years ago, April 12, 2012

(Photo) Erik and Melanie Lindquist, of Pine River, pose with Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton following his signing a bill into law April 5 that all buses manufactured for use in Minnesota after Jan. 1, 2013, be equipped with a "crossing gate" safety arm. (Headline) Pine River laundromat underway - Compiled by Travis Grimler, Staff Writer

WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Here are highlights of what was published in the Echo Journal e-papers online in the past week. Each e-paper is seven to nine pages of bonus news from around the world, including national, state, business, entertainment and sports news. ► Thursday, April 7: Ukraine seeks ruinous sanctions on Russia amid European hesitancy. President Biden extends student loan pause through Aug. 31. Duluth celebrates as mayor declares

Daniel Durant Day. ► Friday, April 8: Major hurricanes expected in 2022. Major League Baseball predictions. New Ulm students, community rally to address LGBTQ+ harassment in school. ► Saturday, April 9: Historic Supreme Court pick lauded at White House. Jury acquits Michigan men accused of conspiring to kidnap governor. Will Smith is banned from academy

events, including Oscars, for 10 years. ► Sunday, April 10: Anti-LGBTQ proposals flooding U.S. state legislatures. U.S. airfares are up 40% since January, and more increases are expected. Fishing leagues gain popularity among student anglers. ► Monday, April 11: Ukrainian forces brace for new Russian attacks in the east and south. Nine things you should never pack in a

checked bag. Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Dwayne Haskins dies after being struck by a vehicle in Miami. ► Tuesday, April 12: Philadelphia to become first major city to reimpose indoor mask mandate. President Biden cracks down on "ghost guns." Twin Cities agencies explore pooling resources for anti-scale fencing. ► Wednesday, April 13: Find this week's Echo Journal pages,

along with extra pages of state, national, world, sports, business and entertainment news. Subscribers, be sure to activate your online access that is free as part of your print subscription by visiting pineandlakes.com/activate. For those who haven't yet subscribed, consider doing so by visiting pineandlakes.com or calling 218-855-5897 to keep up not only with local news, but so much more offered in our daily e-papers.

Essentia Health urges childhood immunizations during lag due to pandemic

Essentia Health pediatricians encourage parents to seek recommended vaccines for their children as childhood immunization rates have dropped precipitously during the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant number of youngsters have fallen behind schedule and aren't receiving sufficient protection against preventable diseases such as influenza and measles. Many people have

opted to avoid hospitals and clinics the past two years, leading to a decline in preventive care. That includes well-child visits during which routine vaccinations are administered. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a 14% drop in "public sector vaccine ordering" among children in 2020-21 vs. 2019, and a 20% drop in measles vaccine ordering. In Minnesota, 33.5% of

2-year-olds were not up to date on their vaccination series in 2021, compared to 25% in 2020 and 20.7% in 2019. These lags could have long-term impacts on children's health and, by extension, the health of communities. This is especially true as more children return to in-person learning and other activities. "We acknowledge the uncertainty and disruption

COVID-19 has had on all of our lives; however, we must not ignore the health and well-being of our children and teens," Dr. Jonathan KenKnight, an Essentia Health pediatrician, said in a news release. "Vaccines, along with routine preventive care, are an important way to ensure your child or teen is healthy and protected, as well as ensuring they are doing

well both physically and emotionally." Vaccine schedules as recommended by organizations such as the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians cover about 14 different diseases. According to the CDC, among children born from 1994 to 2018, "vaccinations will prevent an estimated 936,000 early

deaths, eight million hospitalizations and 419 million illnesses." Contact your primary care provider to check your child's immunization status. You also can visit the Minnesota Department of Health's Immunization Information Connection. Visit Essentia Health's website to learn more about pediatric primary care.