Inside: Polymet permit issue... See /3 ATVs hitting the trails...See /1B Bear harvest up... See /4B



CITY OF TOWER

Tower City Hall vandalized Labor Day weekend break-in under investigation

Wild

rieing...

See /1B

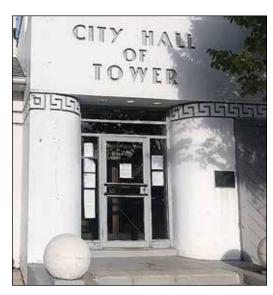
by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

TOWER- Shattered glass, tripped electrical breakers, toppled furniture, and a trail of blood smears greeted city officials here early Sunday morning as they surveyed the chaos that resulted from an overnight break-in at Tower City Hall. Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad said he received a call at 5:24 a.m. Sunday from Breitung Police Deputy

Jason Sanderson. "He said, 'Sorry to wake you up in the middle of the night, but somebody Shattered glass and a trail of blood were part of the damage at the Tower City Hall early Sunday morning. photo by J. Summit

has broken into City Hall," Kringstad said. "He said he was in the process of securing the building, but he thought I should come in." It was clear from the outside that things were amiss when Kringstad

See...TOWER pg. 9





Jonathan Pliett, above, a third-grade student at Washington School in Ely, wears a protective face shield on his way into school Tuesday morning on the first day of the 2020-2021 school year. Tower-Soudan Elementary School first-grader Kia Gagnon, below right, departs the bus. A North Woods

PUBLIC HEALTH Ely COVID-19 cases quadruple in three weeks Situation eases on the

Bois Forte Reservation

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The reported number of positive COVID-19 cases in the Ely zip code jumped by nine between last Thursday and Tuesday, accord-

ing to St. Louis County COVID-19dashboard data. The total



more than a fourfold

number of cases identified with Ely on Tuesday was 21

student, below left, wears extra coronavirus protection on his way to school. Timberjay staff photos



CITY OF ELY

Garbage contract debate rages to conclusion

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY – After more than a year of debate, Ely City Council members last week unanimously approved the recommendations of the sanitation committee to award contracts for commercial waste disposal in the city to two companies, G-Men Environmental Services and Northern Routes Rolloff. The competition began when a local major business owner voiced unhappiness with not having convenient refuse service available. First the sanitation committee, and eventually the full council,

agreed to make commercial service hauling available to multiple providers as a way to provide more options for commercial customers.

See...ELY pg. 9

increase from Aug. 20, when there were five or fewer cases reported.

The county does not report specific case numbers for zip codes with five or fewer cases due to confidentiality concerns.

See...COVID pg. 7

GOVERNMENT

Deb Spicer named interim clerk for Greenwood Twp.

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP-In a meeting that took less than five minutes, the Greenwood Town Board, Friday, unanimously and without discussion appointed Deb Spicer to serve as the interim clerk, following the resignation of Sue Drobac last weekend.

Drobac resigned after the town board cut her pay and hours, leaving her in a position that she said made it impossible to fulfill her duties as township clerk.

After accepting the resignation and formally declaring the position vacant, Chairman Mike Ralston asked, "Does anyone

See...CLERK pg. 8





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Community notices

Four artists with four visions, Art Show 4x4, Sept. 22 through 24

ELY – A socially-distanced art presentation, Art Show 4x4, will be held later this month at Miner's Dry House. Four Ely-area artists, John Retzloff, Andy Messerschimidt, Cecilia Rolando and Shawn Chosa will be featured on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 22-24. The Miner's Dry House is located at 105 Miner's Lake Landing Road. As per state public health mandate due to the coronavirus, protective face masks and proper social distancing will be required of all visitors.

Lake Country Power seeking nominations for #WhoPowersYou Contest

REGIONAL- Lake Country Power, along with Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, is pleased to announce the fifth annual #WhoPowersYou Contest celebrating local heroes. It's a chance for Lake Country Power members and employees to nominate someone making a difference in the community and an opportunity to celebrate the power of human connections.

In addition to being locally and nationally recognized, nominees can win up to \$5,000 for the cause they champion.

To nominate a local hero, co-op members and employees can go online to whopowersyou.com and submit their nominee's name, photo and a brief description of how they make a difference locally. Nominations open on Sept. 8 and must be submitted electronically by midnight on Oct. 9.

An independent panel of judges will select winning entries based upon the positive community impact and creativity of the entry. The winners will be announced in October.

Prize money totaling \$9,000 will be awarded as follows: Grand Prize: \$5,000, Second Place: \$2,000, Third Place: \$1,500, Honorable Mention: \$500.

Lake Country Power and Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives launched the #WhoPowersYou Contest in 2016 to celebrate people making a powerful impact in their community. Only members of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, including those in Lake Country Power, are eligible to participate. This is a nationwide contest.

Attend a Greg Herriges concert virtually via the Lyric, Sept. 10

REGIONAL- The Lyric Center for the Arts has had to cancel a lot of programs since March of this year. Now they have found a way to bring the performers to your house.

On Thursday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m., the Lyric will live-stream a House Concert with Minneapolis guitarist Greg Herriges. By purchasing a ticket at LyricCenter4Arts.com you will receive a secure link



to the concert. Just like at the Lyric,

audience members will be able to chat with the performer during and after the show.

Greg Herriges plays an eclectic mix of original and traditional world ("whirled") music on guitar, voice, and bouzouki (Greek lute), with

a dazzling approach honed by his studies of Asian and other international styles. A virtuoso performer and award-winning composer, his music and writing have found international acclaim. Greg was selected to receive the 2009-10 Bush Artist Fellowship for Music Composition, which speaks volumes for his artistry and dedication to his music. With a background in progressive rock and fingerstyle guitar, Greg studied ethnomusicology (traditional world music), working with masters of Indian classical music, Chinese pipa, and Indonesian gamelan. Mixing those influences with his own acoustic sensibilities, he puts new spins on everything from Turkish folk and Bollywood film music to Japanese koto tunes and surf-rock. While COVID is keeping us from coming together as an audience for live performances, live streaming technology is rising as a way to keep us engaged in the arts," says Mary McReynolds, Executive Director of the Lyric. "We plan to be able to use it for other music and theatrical performances. COVID restrictions have hit performance spaces especially hard. Monthly costs for operating a building don't stop even though the income has temporarily dried up. Non-profit venues like the Lyric exist to bring the arts to our communities and help feed our local economies so we hope we'll draw an audience through live-streaming.' To get the link for the Greg Herriges House Concert go to LyricCenter4Arts.com. Tickets are \$10 for individuals, \$20 for two and \$25 for a family to view together. Concert time is 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Apply to be a Master Gardener



Master Gardeners spend 50 hours volunteering in their community in their initial year and 25 hours in subsequent years. submitted photo

REGIONAL- The application period to become a University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener is open now through Thursday, Oct. 1.

Extension Master Gardeners bring science-based horticulture knowledge and practices to Minnesota, promoting healthy landscapes and building communities through volunteer efforts.

Master Gardeners are respected as reliable sources of gardening information for Minnesotans. What many don't know is that becoming a Master Gardener gives volunteers a chance to expand their interests in areas including sustainability, local foods, pollinators and climate change. Master Gardeners also put their skills to work conserving green spaces, native plants and clean water.

The University of Minnesota has trained thousands of Master Gardeners. Each year they contribute more than 140,000 hours of service in Minnesota communities.

This year the training will be all online and spread out over 14 weeks, making the program more student-friendly than ever. To become a Master Gardener, individuals commit to completing online training and 50 hours of volunteering in the first year. After the first year, they commit 25 hours to annual volunteer work; many choose to devote more time to the program.

"Now more than ever, people around the state are turning to gardening as a soothing, family-friendly endeavor and a way to serve neighborhoods and communities. Interest in growing food is high, as is commitment to addressing local issues such as water quality and preservation of native plants," said Tim Kenny, statewide director, Extension MasterGardener Volunteer Program.

Master Gardeners come from all ages and backgrounds. To learn more about the program and apply, visit z.umn.edu/ MG_info.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Business Development Series returns for Ely-area businesses

ELY- The Ely Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the City of Ely, is pleased to announce the return of the Business Development Series made possible by a generous grant from the Blandin Foundation.

Three virtual workshops and one OnDemand video comprise the first portion of a six-part development series. Each session is offered free of charge to the business community.

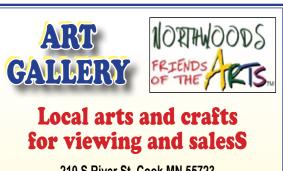
"Recruiting 102"

is a three-hour workshop allowing participants to update their job descriptions, interview approaches and guides and onboarding plans. The virtual workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 1-4 p.m. Register by Wednesday, Sept. 16.

"Managing Conflict" is the second workshop in the series and focuses on solving complex problems more seamlessly, with participants learning a conflict management framework on conflict styles. The virtual workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 24, from 1-3:30 p.m. Register by Wednesday, Sept. 16.

"C on c e p t s of Situational Leadership" guides participants through a comprehensive, handson workshop to learn the language and practice of situational leadership. This virtual workshop will be held over two days, Tuesday, Sept. 29 and Thursday, Oct. 1, from 1 - 3:15 p.m. Register by Friday, Sept. 11. "Recruiting 101" is an OnDemand recorded workshop covering the importance of pre-interview strategies, the interview, and onboarding on new employee engagement and productivity. Contact the Ely Chamber of Commerce at 218-365-6123 for access details.

Cecilia Quattromani from CQ Squared is leading these sessions. Seating is limited so please reserve your spot early by contacting 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org.



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Northwoods Business Incubator sessions begin Sept. 17

ELY- As the summer season begins to wind down, Northwoods Business Incubator sessions are starting back up. Incubator meetings started last winter but they came to an abrupt halt as COVID-19 restrictions limited in-person meetings. The first several upcoming meetings will be held virtually.

On Thursday, Sept. 17, from 9 -10:30 a.m., Curt Walczak from the Northland Small Business Development Center will discuss "DIY Website and SEO for Your Organization or Small Business." The session is interactive and will illustrate how you can use software and hosting companies such as Wix, Weebly and Squarespace. Curt will also share details on how to do

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The second Northwoods Business Incubator session, scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 9 a.m., features Liz Uram on "Mastering Zoom," which is a valuable topic for everyone during this very virtual time. Liz is also the keynote speaker for the Ely Chamber of Commerce's Celebrate Ely Business Networking Dinner scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Grand Ely Lodge.

Northwoods Business Incubator sessions are open to everyone – business owners, managers, employees and entrepreneurs. Contact the Chamber office at director@ely.org or 218-365-6123 to reserve your spot. Watch for additional details on the Celebrate Ely Business Networking Dinner coming soon.

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Recruiting 101 On-demand 90- minute video. Contact us for access link	Recruiting 102 September 23, 1-4 p.m. Register by September 16	Managing Conflict September 24, 1-3:30 p.m. Register by September 16	Concepts of Situational Leadership September 29 & October 1, 1-3:15 p.m. Register by September 11	Business Development Series All sessions are free. Registration is required.

The Business Development series is provided by the Ely Chamber of Commerce and City of Ely through a generous grant from the Blandin Foundation. Cecilia Quattromani from CQ Squared is leading the virtual workshops. Contact 218-365-6123 or director@ely.org to reserve your space. To learn more about the workshops, visit www.Ely.org/Workshops





Blandin Foundation



ELY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COPPER-NICKEL MINING

PolyMet water permit heads back to Court of Appeals

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The Minnesota Court of Appeals will take its own look at the actions of the state's Pollution Control Agency, after a district court judge found that the state agency did not break permitting rules when it pressured the federal Environmental Protection Agency to delay issuing public comments on its proposed water discharge permit for PolyMet.

The Ramsey County judge, John H. Guthmann, issued detailed "findings of fact," in a 104-page opinion released Sept. 3. "The request to delay written comments until later in the permit review process was not an effort to avoid written comments altogether or skirt a regular procedure or requirement," wrote the judge in his decision.

The ruling comes in the wake of a trial in which a coalition of environmental groups and the Fond du Lac Band accused the MPCA of trying to bend rules to suppress criticism from professional staff at the EPA and hide the evidence by deleting records.

Paula Maccabee, head legal counsel for plaintiff Water-Legacy, said her organization plans to appeal.

The recent court ruling is just one part of a broader case against the water discharge permit, known as an NPDES permit, that environmental groups and the Fond du Lac Band continue to pursue. They contend that the permit that the MPCA issued to PolyMet in December 2018 fails to comply with the federal Clean Water Act— and that broader question remains before the Court of Appeals.

"The main point of our appeal is still that the permit was

no good and wouldn't protect our water," said Maccabee.

PolyMet's NPDES permit has been suspended until the court proceedings conclude, which could take well into 2021, or beyond.

The Court of Appeals, in a rare move, had asked Judge Guthmann earlier this year to engage in fact-finding over the allegation that the state and federal regulators had, in effect, colluded to keep unfavorable comments from the EPA out of the permit's administrative record. The administrative record is generally critical to judicial oversight of agency decisions, so any effort to limit that record could be viewed as improper by the courts.

Last week's decision focused only on alleged irregularities in the procedure used by the MPCA and the EPA in seeking federal input into the PolyMet permit. The district court was never asked and never undertook consideration of the merits of the NPDES permit itself.

Nor did the district court examine or weigh-in on the actions of the EPA, which is not subject to the control of a state judge. A federal Inspector General continues to investigate the actions of EPA officials who kept the agency's professional staff from voicing their objections to the draft permit in the usual written form. Instead, EPA staff were limited to reading their concerns over the phone, an action that meant those concerns would not get press attention or be part of the administrative record. The EPA offered no comment on the final permit that the MPCA issued to PolyMet, but Maccabee argues that the final permit never adequately addressed the verbal concerns that the EPA had raised on the

draft permit.

Even so, officials with both the MPCA and PolyMet, saw the decision as an opportunity for a victory lap. "With today's decision, the court renewed its confidence in the MPCA's permitting process for PolyMet," said MPCA spokesman Darin Broton in a written statement. "While the MPCA always strives to do better, the court overwhelmingly said the agency's permitting procedures were not irregular."

John Cherry, PolyMet's chairman, president and CEO, said the company is "pleased with the district court's ruling and looks forward to defending the challenge to the water permit currently pending in the court of appeals."

What defines an "irregularity"?

Judge Guthmann essentially confirmed many of the actions alleged by the plaintiffs in the case, although he ascribed more benign motives to agency officials than the plaintiffs contend. The proceedings before Judge Guthmann confirmed that high-level MPCA officials wanted EPA staff to delay submitting written comments, which they knew were critical of the draft permit they planned to issue to PolyMet. The judge also found evidence that MPCA was motivated in large part by concern over the press attention that critical EPA comments might generate. Despite those findings, the judge determined that the MPCA actions did not constitute "procedural irregularity," since neither state law nor a memorandum of understanding between the two agencies explicitly prohibited such actions.

Even so, Guthmann did find two instances in which the state



departed from regular procedure when issuing the NPDES permit.

The MPCA wrongly deleted emails, including from then-commissioner John Linc Stine asking the EPA to delay its comments. These documents were only made public when EPA employees leaked them to WaterLegacy. Guthmann said if the emails had not been destroyed, the MPCA would have been required to disclose them as public records.

And Guthmann said the MPCA failed to put a timely "litigation hold" on records to preserve them for court challenges. Guthmann said these actions were, "at best," the results of "poor training and careless management of the potential administrative record."

Maccabee said those findings were unprecedented. "This is the first time in Minnesota history that any judge has found a state agency has engaged in procedural irregularities, and even destroyed two exhibits, which were the two smoking guns," she said. According to Maccabee, the proceedings proved successful in the end because they brought valuable evidence into the administrative record, that the MPCA had sought to exclude.

If built, PolyMet would be the first mine of its kind in the state. The company, which is owned primarily by the Swiss mining giant Glencore, promises 360 direct jobs and plans to extract copper, nickel, platinum, cobalt and other metals at an open pit mine near Hoyt Lakes for 20 years. The controversial project has been challenged repeatedly by opponents who say copper-nickel mining could result in toxic water pollution of the St. Louis River watershed and Lake Superior, though PolyMet maintains it can safely extract the metals.

MinnPost's Walker Orenstein contributed reporting for this story.





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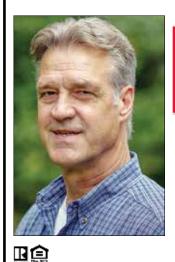




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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Tribes lead on COVID-19

Shared identity, respect for elders create a foundation for an effective response

Across northern Minnesota, tribal governments have shown remarkable leadership in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. As we've reported here, the Bois Forte Band has been out front locally in their efforts to inform, test, and respond to outbreaks of the disease on the reservation.

The Bois Forte have established strict protocols for slowing the spread of the coronavirus, by instituting a mask requirement at their facilities, including Fortune Bay Resort Casino, and they did so long before Gov. Tim Walz issued such an order statewide. They've been using temperature checks at the entrance to the Fortune Bay compound to screen out those who are potentially ill and they've regularly set up community testing for both band members and the general public.

And they've been aggressive in keeping band members who do test positive quarantined at home. At the same time, they've been remarkably transparent about their approach to the disease and about informing the public when band members do test positive.

We wish there were as much transparency off the reservation.

While, as we've seen, such an approach does not guarantee success in completely controlling the pandemic, the sense of community and respect for elders that permeates native culture in Minnesota ensures that tribal governments take COVID-19 seriously.

At a time when so much of American society is bitterly divided, we can take a lesson from the common purpose that is so frequently on display on our northern Minnesota reservations. While the reservations certainly have their contentious battles at times, they also have a shared sense of identity that keeps those divisions from becoming self-destructive. That sense of identity with a community in which we live is, sadly, fading from the broader American culture, as too many of us find our identity in disparate online groups or among Facebook "friends," many of whom we've never met.

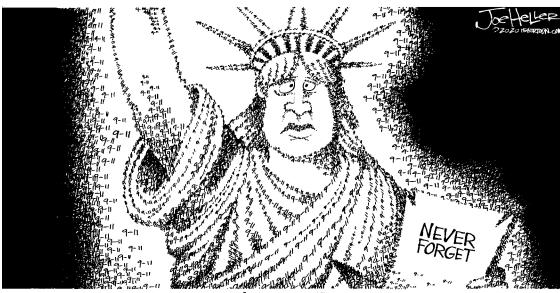
We have increasingly isolated ourselves in political silos, where we only talk to those with whom we agree and demonize those who don't share our convictions.

The loss of community in the broader American society reflects a concerted effort by some of our political and opinion leaders in recent decades to discourage such thinking. While, for much of our history, Americans banded together to create community, in more recent years we have been sold the myth of "rugged individualism," as if this nation was somehow built by cantankerous mountain men. That, of course, is nonsense, dreamt up in Hollywood, bearing little relation to American history. It was common effort and a focus on the greater good (at least the greater good of those of European ancestry) that built America.

Today, consideration of the greater good has all but vanished from America, for any group, in favor of self-interest.

Fortunately, despite the many challenges that life on the reservation still presents, band members are buoyed by a shared identity that keeps a broad majority paddling in the same direction.

Traditional respect for their elders is another reason that native tribes take the COVID-19 pandemic so seriously. This is a disease that has hit the elderly very hard- and native culture does not share the view of some in our nation's capital who have suggested the deaths of the elderly don't really matter.



INGRAINED

Letters from Readers

Law enforcement urges your vote for Bakk

OPINION

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association represents Minnesota's public safety officers, including police, corrections officials, dispatchers, and firefighters.

We're writing to urge your support and vote for Sen. Thomas Bakk in the General Election on Nov. 3. The MPPOA wholeheartedly endorses Tom because he is an exceptional advocate for the towns and townships in the area.

Bakk is a strong supporter of our first responders and public safety officials. He stands against attempts to defund and dismantle the police, and he promotes public safety legislation that keeps communities safe.

Please join us in supporting Sen. Bakk in the General Election on Nov. 3.

Brian Peters Executive Director Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association St. Paul

Trump defenders need to make excuses for him

An individual who identifies himself as Scott Atwater in commenting on the Timberjay website, claims I misstated Mr. Trump's comments regarding the injection of disinfectants. Donald Trump did, in fact, state the words inject and disinfectant in his address to the public. In the video with Dr. Birx, this is exactly what Trump said on April 23: "A question that probably some of you are thinking of if you're totally into that world, which I find to be very interesting. So, supposing we hit the body with a tremendous, whether it's ultraviolet or just very powerful light, and I think you said that hasn't been checked, but you're going to test it. And then I said supposing you brought the light inside the body, which you can do either through the skin or in some other way. And I think you said you're going to test that too.

Sounds interesting, right? And then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in a minute, one minute. And is there a way we can do something like that by injection inside or almost a cleaning, because you see it gets in the lungs and it does a tremendous number on the lungs. So it'd be interesting to check that. So that you're going to have to use medical doctors with, but it sounds interesting to me. So, we'll see, but the whole concept of the light, the way it kills it in one minute. That's pretty powerful."

It wasn't contrived by the media. Mr. Atwater doesn't want to admit that it's public record. I did not chop that up into sound bites. The media did not chop that up either. I watched the entire episode live and watched the doctor try not roll her eyes at him when he said that. You say he misspoke. This is our President trying his best to be presidential? When a citizen is looking for leadership from a President, we get statements like this and we're supposed to think he misspoke? Mr. Atwater should watch the video for himself.

> **Brian LaFrenier Embarrass Twp.**

Somehow, Americans will eventually learn

Somehow, Americans will learn if power can corrupt, powerlessness also corrupts. The corrupt power of, by, and for the few diminishes the power of, by, and for the many. Private and corporate capital is treated favorably while public and worker capital is merely a resource to be exploited. The few have the money, but the many have the numbers.

Somehow, Americans will learn a vote in the workplace is necessary for economic democracy to overcome gross inequality brought on by an oligarchy that manipulates and manufactures consent to "legitimize" the system. Capitalism posing as a neutral and natural order is a nonsense claim and separating economics from politics obscures the truth. Capitalism is a human contrivance of stacked rules that favor outcomes for the rich.

Somehow, Americans will learn attacking that critics of capitalism has created a boogey man caricature of democratic socialism by lumping it together with totalitarian communism. Nothing could be further from the truth. Unions have been demonized and destroyed to silence the voice for collective action. Interests of the rich and powerful are not the interests of the many.

Harold Honkola Roseville

Time to match Trump claims with reality

Reverence for the elders is built into native culture and it manifests itself in the case of the pandemic with a sense of shared responsibility to keep elders safe from harm.

In that sense, it should be no surprise that tribal governments have shown leadership in the face of the coronavirus. Native culture, in general, builds a foundation of identity, community, and respect, that makes a coordinated response possible. These are values that the rest of America desperately needs.

Somehow, Americans will learn not to blame the underprivileged for our nation's problems and direct our anger and animosity at the overprivileged who run the show. Under capitalism, the top 10 percent get 90 percent of the wealth and the bottom 90 percent gets 10 percent. Why? Capitalism, an economy ruled by the wealthy few, decides what, when, where and how to produce, plus how to use the profits.

Somehow, Americans will learn the system wasn't designed to work for most of us. The employer-employee relationship places the power to hire and fire in the hands of a very small group (employers) and a very large group (employees) are powerless. Unemployment is a mighty lever to pit worker against worker.

When the Vice President showed up on the shores of Lake Superior bragging about jobs I wondered: Where? Really? Because of the tax cut that mostly went to the richest folks? Almost four years and I wondered how much time did the administration need? This administration has repeatedly attacked companies like Boeing, Amazon, and now Goodyear! Yet, six Iron Range mayors have endorsed Trump! This is not an effective job-creating administration. I think it is time for folks to wake up and smell the coffee, as they say.

Rev. Charles D. Barnes Aurora

I'm Scarlet Stone, and this is 2020

Lots of murky water has flowed over my dam since my last column in May of 2019. I am still working for the Timberjay and celebrated my twelfth anniversary there in mid-August. I also continue working as a Co-Manager with Mary Batinich at the Vermilion Park Inn in Soudan. I'm still designing

and printing T-shirts in my basement and will be doing it until years. Bill decided he did not



I expire, I would expect! The business name having been Rollin' Stone Screenprinting, is now more like Lone Stone Screenprinting. Bill and I divorced this past spring during the craziness of this COVID-19 pandemic.

I had made a trip to Missouri last Christmas with my

son and his sweetheart of eight

want to go and I was upset with him. The trip was great but as I drove home I felt so tired. There were growing tensions between Bill and me...spending money, his work hours, booze, lack of motivation and honesty. In January of 2020 we learned we were going to be grandparents, with a baby due in October. Such a surprise and a joy! Bill, however, gave me the long face a few days later stating he was not old enough to be a grandfather and I stated he was in a midlife crisis! Bill continued to spend more time away from home following night shifts at work,

offering some pretty far-out explanations. In late February, out of the blue I decided to stop cocktailing give it a rest. It was a good thing I did because I may have ended up in jail or worse reacting to what followed. We were hearing of COVID's power and its arrival on our shores. Horrible reports of related deaths in overcrowded hospitals surpassed the news about Kobe Bryant's and his daughter's tragic deaths.

There were shortages of medical supplies...PPE's, like masks, gowns, gloves, and sanitizer. I felt I needed to do

something rather than sit and watch, so I decided to start sewing masks made from a pattern I got online. I received fabric and elastic donations from many who also wanted to help in some way through providing materials. My hours had been reduced at both jobs so donating masks turned into selling them at a modest cost for needed income. Bill helped too, because by then bars and restaurants were closed so he was out of work.

He was also wrestling with deepseated fears that we were in

See LOSS....pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Mayor Novak does not speak for me

I do not believe it is legal for elected officials to use their positions for political purposes. The individuals occupying those offices are endowed with the right to support whomever they wish. But in their official capacities, they are not allowed to.

Further, Mayor Novak does not speak for me.

Lynn Evenson Elv

Trump and Republicans fight for America

Do we have a fake newspaper? Why do I know we can, if wanted, not wear a mask? It is safe not to wear one outside. Why was our President without a mask? Could it be he was told it was safe? What is wrong with you? Did you join the ones who hate America? Trump's convention was the best. We the People were invited to talk to tell what the President did. Because of Obama and Biden, the parents' daughter was beheaded. Biden and Obama did nothing. They said their daughter would be alive. It is so sad that you are willing to give up our beautiful country. The Democrats made us do this with masks, etc. We

could have lost no jobs, etc. This was all of the far, far left of our great Democrat Party. Why is it that all the outbreak of violence is from Democrat Mayors?

How can you even question our President? He has been through hell for We the People. He has broken every record. It was shown where the Dems are at - you hate America. Well, We the People are taking our country back. It's sad seeing how you are tearing our country apart, etc., after what I saw every night at each convention. It was us there. Shame on you. You will not take our country. We can go without a mask. You have nothing to offer these people whose loved ones died. Trump has always loved our country. All of our statues destroyed, our history. Well, you will lose; we have the best on our side. God!

> Peggy Goodwin Aurora

Honesty matters in a president

"All tyrannies rule through fraud and force, but once the fraud is exposed, they must rule exclusively on force." George Orwell.

We watch a steady increase in a leader's lying on public forums, in twisted tweets, and any forum that amplifies his lies

Welcome support for decency

Leah Rogne and Fred Schumacher and Bev and Lee Peterson supported the campaigns of Joe Biden and Rob Ecklund on Labor Day beside Hwy. 53 in Cook. We were very pleased with the positive responses from many, many passers-by, in vehicles and on the sidewalk. Standing in the chilly wind was worth it. The majority of people who reacted were very nice, smiling, tooting the horn, thumbs up, words of encouragement through rolled-down windows, several pulled over and thanked us for being out there. Sadly, concerning but not unexpected to me, were the extremely animated responses from a sizable number of Republicans who drove by. Double middle fingers, heads out the windows screaming, "xxxk you!!"

One thing Trump has sure been able to do is to

rather than hide or expose them as such. One tracker counted 23.3 lies per day, with a substantial increase since COVID, a time when the public needs to be able to trust and rely on its leaders.

Aheadline in the Minneapolis Star Tribune pointed out that nearly all Trump claims about Biden's positions were false. Another headline stated how the GOP created an alternative reality beyond the pandemic.

An unimaginable interview took place on FOX with Laura Ingraham desperately trying to steer Trump to a reasonable stance, as he continued to spew a bizarre conspiracy theory about thugs on an airplane, the source of the twisted tale eventually disclosed on Facebook.

"...once the fraud is exposed, they must rule exclusively on force."

I hold my breath as images of militarized forces attacking peaceful protesters emerge This is not who we are as

a nation.

This is who we must not and cannot be.

Honesty matters.

Truth matters. Compassion and understanding matter.

Peace matters.

The Petersons and allies had both good

bring out what Republicans really are at their

core. I sure hope decency prevails in November.

campaigning for Biden and Ecklund.

and bad feedback while

Lee Peterson

Greenwood Twp.

submitted photo

A leader of a nation does not view those who disagree with him as an enemy.

That is not how it works in a nation that encompasses many different voices, backgrounds, perspectives, experiences, and opinions.

> **Ellie Larmouth** Tower

ENGAGED CITIZEN

Be a critical thinker when consuming news media

by KEITH STEVA

Timberjay Contributer

These days there are so many media outlets that include cable networks, traditional TV networks and a variety of internet social media. Media is a way to inform and influence readers and viewers and, in a democracy, as in the United States, a way to hold government accountable.

Because there are so many media on TV it is important that viewers use critical thinking skills. Everyone has the ability to think critically and independently. It begins with asking who, what and why and not automatically believing what you hear from media stars you might watch the most. It is comparing media outlets for yourself.

Fox News with its opinion programs was founded by Rupert Murdoch in 1996 to broadcast his version of U.S. conservative republican politics. Murdoch is an Australian billionaire immigrant to the U.S. who holds dual citizenship. He inherited a chain of Australian newspapers from his father and built his portfolio by acquiring other news outlets from around the world. He also owns the Wall Street Journal and the New York Post.

Murdoch pays multi-million-dollar salaries to his opinion celebrities to push Murdoch views to the President and all Fox Opinion viewers. In 2016, Fox changed its Fair and Balanced slogan to Most Watched, Most Trusted. That indicated a move for more fixated broadcasting of his conservative republican views.



owners of this AT&T conglomerate holding company include Vanguard Group, BlackRock Fund Advisors, Newport Trust Co. Its ownership is shared.

AT&T started as a subsidiary of Bell Telephone Company, founded by Alexander Graham Bell in 1877. It grew to become a holding company of subsidiaries.

of the NBC Universal Media company that is owned by Comcast, based in New York City. NBC was founded in 1926 by RCA and its parent company General Electric. NBC is the oldest major broadcast network in the U.S. Vivendi, a French media, merged its assets with GE forming NBC Universal. Comcast purchased controlling interest in 2011.

ABC is the flagship of Walt Disney Television, a subsidiary of the Disney Media Networks of the Walt Disney Company. ABC launched as a radio network in 1943. It extended its operations to television in 1948, following in the footsteps of established broadcast networks CBS and NBC.

CBS is the flagship property of the CBS Entertainment Group division of ViacomCBS. CBS began as a radio network in 1927. It was later purchased by Columbia Phonograph Company, the parent of the Columbia record label. Over time it was CBS Corporation until it came under Viacom which was part of a spin off of CBS Corporation.

original owner maintains significant ownership of the company where he can push his political agenda without collaboration and no accountability.

The others are large corporations accountable to many owners with a diversity of political interests all at the same time.

As you think about who to vote for in the 2020 Presidential election think about which networks you are watching, who owns them, and what they want you to think. Are they providing information (pro and con) or are they telling you what and how to think?

It is always best to think for vourself. Get information from more than opinionates from a single network. Compare the information among networks You can then be a well-informed voter prepared to confidently cast your vote.

NBC and MSNBC are part

Here is information about media outlets that may help you during this election season as you sort out who is trying to influence your vote and why.

CNN was founded by Ted Turner in 1980. It is now owned by AT&T's WarnerMedia. Top

From a critical and independent thinking perspective one noticeable difference among these TV and Cable Networks is that Fox is the one where the

LOSS...Continued from page 4

the biblical "end times." When we'd met he had told me about his emotionally abusive stepfather, whom he described as being, "One AMEN away from a Pentecostal snake handler." While growing up, he been shovel-fed end-time and Armageddon prophecy stuff, so I understood the source when he started talking about buying more guns, ammo and going north to live in the woods. "Bill, neither one of us has the skills...forget it...I'm staying in Soudan," I said. The COVID news and constant media coverage was becoming overwhelming for everyone... everywhere.

One night, out of the blue, Bill said he missed his friends and was going to play pool in town at a house where they often gathered. I was concerned because we were supposed to be "sheltering in place." He left the house anyhow, and I went to bed. Around 3 a.m. I went downstairs and his van was still gone. My gut told me to go see where he was, so I dressed and drove to Tower. His van was parked outside the "party house," and was covered in a dusting of snow. I was worried about Bill and his frame of mind so I got out of my Jeep, walked to the door, and knocked. There were some lights on inside so I

expected someone to be there. I opened the door a bit and called his name, "Bill?" There was no answer so I went inside. I walked through the kitchen and down the hall; then I heard Bill's snoring on the other side of a closed bedroom door. I stopped, took a deep breath, turned the knob and pushed open the door. There, covered up to the waist with dark gray, rumpled sheets they lay.... passed out. Poorly-rendered tattoos covered her arm. A dirty, stained pillow that was trying to escape its case was stuffed behind his head. I stood there in my Celtic green cape like a warrior clan woman. Tension mounting, I promptly reached down and took hold of the hand of my Texas-born husband, and lifted a lifeless arm that quickly flopped to stillness when I let go. In a firm voice I said ... "Houston, we have a problem!" Neither one even lifted an eyelid. I could barely believe what I was seeing. Visions of our wedding day in Grand Marais, romantic days in Italy, our home and the deck we'd built, snowmobiling, laughter, enjoying friends and family.... all rushed forth and capsized my fixed gaze. In calmness I lifted my iPhone and took a picture, locking it in place for all of time...then turned and walked

back down the hall. I spoke in my strongest steadfast voice, "Well Bill...it looks like you found a new place to live."

I drove home through the darkness, put on my plaid flannel nightgown, climbed into bed, curled in fetal position, and wept deeply, soulfully, like I had not done since my mother died in 2012. What in the hell was I going to do? At my order, Bill came to get his things the next day. I'd placed bags and boxes of his possessions outside on the deck. Then he left. Later that day, and for days and weeks to follow, I sewed masks. I filled order after order, sewing on my mother's old sewing machine, the same machine I'd used back in high school. I felt so alone and it was soothing therapy. The same week Bill left, my son and his sweetheart had a miscarriage. That's swell, I lost a husband and grandchild in one week. It was raining and pouring in my life.

I listened to speakers on YouTube covering topics on healing, meditation, spirituality, and addiction. Bill came to see me weeks later and told me his actions were largely due to falling into an old habit of "non-alcohol" substance abuse. It made much more sense to me then, and I told him to stay and I would assist him in getting professional help, but within a few days he left again. I saw him occasionally but worried about him daily.

I decided to legally end the marriage because I needed to protect myself and my assets... including my sanity. I did an online divorce and in three weeks it was done. Then I moved quickly to separate our finances. I had done this all before. With the divorce final, after over one hundred days of not drinking, I dressed up, took myself to town, sat outside at a bar table and had a great big cocktail. I made a choice to end my abstinence on that day...but will get back to it. I am like that.

Learning to be alone has been a gift in a tough package to unwrap. I'm still unwrapping.... but now seven months into my craziest-of-all-COVID events I amenjoying MY space. In the late spring, business at the Inn picked up and I got very busy. I pushed myself out the door all summer for walks, flowers, gardens, lawn-mowing, to operas, on adventures with my son, but I never quit worrying about Bill. Just last week he moved into his own apartment and is taking better care of himself. I am so very glad and relieved.

In our humaness, particularly when driven by fears such as the COVID-19 pandemic, we more easily obsess with one thing or another, seeking comfort in alcohol, drugs, a lover, while we try to be comfortable in our own skin with the choices we make. Or maybe we just tuneout. I choose to tune-in and in doing so, see strings of learned lessons trailing behind me. Tin cans, empty-of-forgiveness and apologies, jostle along clinking and clanking as I continue moving ahead on my journey. I forgive the others and myself for what happened. I struggle with my desire to sit in bars, preferably with details of mining's past days around me, and drink. I tell my story so others can know about fear, hurt, betrayal, substance abuse, loss and to somehow find a way back to wholeness of spirit.

So...as Barbara Walters used to say "This is 2020!"

"I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul."

Invictus: William Ernest Henley

Author's note: Bill is aware of me writing about him in my column and says,"You have earned it and it will be empowering."

6 September 11, 2020

TOWER-SOUDAN LOCAL NEWS

Left: Harley

grade.

Below: Kindergarten

Banks is ready

to start second

student Corey Goodbird gets

some help

from his little

Tower-Soudan Elementary opened to students

on Tuesday. There were a lot of changes in place, but the things that haven't changed are

the smiles on the faces of the students and

Left: First day brothers, COVID-style, (from

left) Jayden, Jason, and Brendin Villebrun. Below left: Assistant Principal John Jirik

visits with students during breakfast.

the staff.

Week of Sept. 14

Monday

TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

Tower City Council, 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 14.

Tuesday

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Sept. 15.

Greenwood Fire Dept.-Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Tower AA- Open Basics-7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.

Thursday

AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open). 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, use the rear side door entrance.

Vermilion Country School **Board- Meetings** posted online at vermilioncountry.org.



election ballot on Nov. 3, Eagles Nest Township voters will have some new faces to get to know. The following are brief biographical introductions to the new candidates, all running unopLakes School Board for four years, where his main achievement was working with the districts to consolidate A-HL and Biwabik Schools into the Mesabi East School District. He was a volunteer firefighter in Aurora for 21 years including being trained as an EMT and first responder. He also served as a councilman for the City of Aurora for eight years.

"My experiences in the public sector shows the dedication I have to the community," he said. "In these settings, it is important to maintain transparent communication, be a critical thinker, observe facts and details surrounding a variety of situations, offer concise decisions on a variety of topics, and problem solve while all the time working within a team setting. "I appreciate my current community as much as my last which is why I wish to spend another term as supervisor. Welcoming new ideas while at the same time maintaining traditions of the land, I appreciate the opportunity to serve our community once again."

When our daughter Rebekah was three months old, she began spending her childhood summers here. "When Valerie and I were both retired in 2017, after careers on the East Coast, we chose to make this our year-round home," he said. "Our love for this community has only grown since we have been able to be here full-time."

"I am old enough to have listened to President Kennedy say to all of us to ask what we can do for our country. I believe in public service," Sherman said. "It is why I served for 39 years as a federal prosecutor, in Philadelphia, New York City, Miami and Rochester New York, working in each community to fight political corruption, violent crime and health care fraud. It is why I volunteered last year to become a member of the Eagles Nest Fire Department as an emergency medical responder. It is why, when I heard a vacancy was opening up in Eagles Nest on the Board of Supervisors, I put my name on the ballot." "Government is not a problem, but it does take work and the participation of good people to maintain it as a helpful source of support for our community," he said. "I think Eagles Nest has been well-governed. I hope to be able to contribute to continuing that tradition."

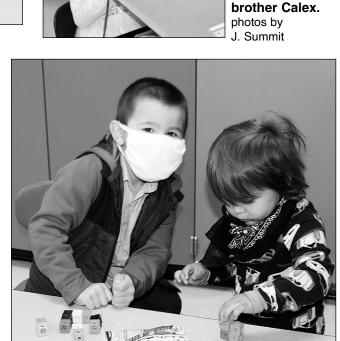
Nest Township full-time since 2008 and during that time he has participated in three township task forces, including one about the assessment process, another about township roads, and living around bears.

"I retired as the Executive Director from the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District in 2008," Soderberg said. "Locally, I served on the Ely Utility Commission and the Board of the Ely Golf Club, in addition to being the Secretary of the Rotary Club of Ely and the Board of the Ely Regional Community Complex."

"I am familiar with /nship government both locally and from my work career where I dealt with multiple townships around Duluth and Cloquet. I volunteered to fill in for the absence on the Town Board and have decided to try to fill the remainder of that two-year term," he said. "I am familiar with how the Board does its work and I think that I can be helpful to the Board and our community."

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY







ELECTIONS

Supervisor B Seat: NEST TWP- With four open **Skip Carlson** seats on the upcoming

Carlson is the only incumbent on the ballot. Carlson is running for his third term as an Eagles Nest Township Supervisor. His family has owned property on Armstrong Lake since 1960. "In 2009 my wife Donna (whom I have been married to for 52 years) and I became permanent residents on the lake," he said. "Before becoming residents of the lake, we raised two daughters, Tracy and Angel, and also have three grandchildren. Through the years, the importance of living in pristine wilderness has been a priority, and maintaining the environment is just as important." Carlson is a graduate of the Aurora-Hoyt Lakes School and a graduate of Staples Area Technical School where he received a degree as a Machinist. His roots have always been in this region but for a short stint from 1967-1970 during the Vietnam War when he worked at Numeric Machine in Minneapolis as a machinist for the government. "However, the city life was not for me," he said, "and I returned to the Iron Range and made Aurora my home." Carlson worked at Erie Mining in Hoyt Lakes then at Arcelor-Mittal in Virginia where he remained for thirty-one years as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic Technician. Carlson was a member of the Aurora-Hoyt

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EAGLES

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Supervisor C Seat: Frank Sherman

Sherman began yearly visits to Eagles Nest with his wife, Valerie Myntti, over 30 years ago, staying at the cabin on Lake 3 that had been in her family for three generations. He learned to enjoy taking sauna from Valerie's father, Don Myntti, who had helped to build it.

Supervisor D (two-year term): Kurt Soderberg

Soderberg was born and raised in Ely, went to Vermilion Community College, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota-Duluth, receiving a Master's Degree in Psychology. Soderberg and his wife, Barb, spent their working careers in Duluth, but have had a cabin, now our home on the Trygg Road since 1983. They have been in Eagles

Township Clerk: Keelv Drange

Drange is originally from Duluth and has lived in Ely since 2006, when she moved here to attend Vermillion Community College. "I briefly left Ely to attend college in Wisconsin, earning a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management," she said. "I have been living in Eagles Nest Township since 2012 with my husband Andy and son Tanner. I am a silvicultural forester with the U.S. Forest Service and for the past year I have been serving as deputy township clerk in Eagles Nest."

In addition to being deputy clerk, she is on the Eagles Nest Committee for Emergency Preparedness and serves as road ambassador for the road system.



Libraries

Ely library Hours: Monday — Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays — 8 a.m. to noon Closed on Sundays Phone: 365-5140

Babbitt library

MondayNoon-6 pmTuesdayNoon-6 pmWednesdayNoon-6 pmThursdayNoon-6 pmFridayNoon-5 pmPhone: 827-3345

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous AA - 7 p.m. Mondays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely **ELY WOMEN'S OPEN** AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely. BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend. **BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., upstairs at Woodland Presbyterian Church. **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely. **ELY FOOD SHELF -**Third Wednesday each

month, 15 W. Conan St. **ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED** - Study materials and pre-test available. Tower by appointment. Call 218-365-3359,

by ABBIE REHBEIN Ely Memorial High School

ELY - Crayfish- an aquatic invertebrate residing in Minnesota's lakes, ponds, and streams. When one hears the word "crayfish" you might think about eating a platter of them. Or perhaps watching crayfish flitter in the shallow waters of a swimming beach. When I think of crayfish, invasive rusticus "rusty" crayfish wreaking havoc in aquatic ecosystems flashes in my mind. Rusty crayfish are native to the Ohio River Basin. They are an invasive species in Minnesota. I was introduced to trapping rusty crayfish at the beginning of summer. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic,

Breathing Out

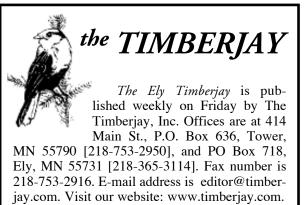
I was an avid member

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



turning very red juicy tomatoes delight

the contrast to green



Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office

Ely student spends summer trapping crayfish

OUTDOOR RESEARCH



Ely High School student Abbie Rehbein, left, spent part of her summer trapping and researching rusty crayfish around the Ely area. submitted photos

of the Science Club at Ely Memorial High School during the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. DeRemee, my biology teacher and Science Club advisor, asked me if I was interested in participating in the Water Project with Jill Swanson from Ely Community Resource. I asked him, "What's the Water Project?" He explained that the project involved canoeing and research on invertebrates. I was hooked.

The Water Project began in 2016. Over the years, there have been 10 Ely high school students and three Vermilion Community College interns who have helped trap crayfish in the Burntside River and collect spiny water flea data on Burntside Lake. This spring, Jill Swanson, who presides over the Water Project at ECR, emailed me to schedule when I would be available to go crayfish trapping. We met at Burntside River in early June. We have been cancerng there hearly every week over the summer. The reason rusty crayfish are being trapped is because they have made an unwelcome appearance in the Burntside River. The Burntside River runs from Burntside Lake to Shagawa Lake. Shagawa has rusty crayfish and they are slowly working their way upstream. We want to prevent the rusty crayfish from moving into Burntside Lake. Their aggressive behavior causes harm to the ecosystem because they eat native fish eggs, destroy vegetation beds, and compete with native crayfish for resources. Rusty crayfish are being stopped in their tracks by the invasive bounty hunters of Burntside River, Jill and Abbie. During our canoeing expeditions, we put out nine traps at four different spots along the river. When it is available, we use chunks of sucker fish for bait. When not available, we turn to pieces of hot dogs. I noticed that not only do crayfish like the hot dog bait, leeches do too! Every so often when I would pull a trap





invasive plants are being introduced to lakes. That way, Minnesotans can be informed on properly cleaning, draining, and drying their watercraft so as not to bring invasive plants or animals that could alter our lakes.

With the amount of canoeing I have done, there have been many memorable experiences. During the third week of canoeing, my phone fell out of my pocket as I tossed a trap into the water. The phone is somewhere at the bottom of the Burntside River, never to be seen again. I hope the crayfish can at least use it to watch cat videos and call their buddies in distant lands. Ely is an oddity. After attending school in larger towns, I know that opportunities such as participating in the Water Project independently as a high school student are slim to none. Thanks to Julie Hignell, Jill Swanson (Ely Community Resource), Liz Anderson (Lake County Soil and Water), Darren Lilja (Forest Service), as well as the motivating and caring teachers in Ely, I have had experiences that most high school students unfortunately do not get to have. If an experience such as this is of interest to you, do not hesitate to contact Ely Community Resource. This article is dedicated to all the students across the United States and around the world who do not have proper resources to get involved in enrichment activities like the Water Project.

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out of the water, there would be a gargantuan leech, the size of a large flat pickle, in the trap. An occasional tadpole or small fish would be seen as well. Not only did we see the creatures we had trapped, we also saw ducks, blue herons, eagles, deer, turtles, many insects, and even a black bear. It has also been interesting to see the aquatic vegetation and insect populations change throughout the weeks and months of summer. From yellow water lilies, to white water lilies, water marigolds, river grass and cattails to dragonflies, damselflies, moths and ankle-biter flies; the river is constantly changing.

Monitoring veg-

etation in local Lake County lakes is an another part of the Water Project. Liz Anderson, AIS Program Coordinator and Water **Resources** Technician with Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, has taken us out on South Farm, Garden, Cedar, and White Iron lakes to perform AIS early detection and baseline monitoring. During this monitoring, we identify and record the vegetation seen in the lake as well as check for spiny waterfleas (none so far!) and measure the transparency or clarity of the water with a Secchi disc. I have learned about a variety of plant species in the local lakes, thanks to Liz. It is important to know if

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NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

A different but happy start to a new school year Students and teachers having to learn new routines and procedures

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- You didn't need to see children's mouths to know they were happy to be back for the first day of a new school year at North Woods School on Tuesday.

You could see it in the eyes peeking above the masks as students unloaded from buses, you could hear it in the excited voices of friends sharing greetings, and you could see it in the sprinting youngsters rushing to get inside to see their teachers.

Still, the first day of school in the age of COVID-19 just wasn't quite the same at North Woods.

"We are used to the first day being an event," Principal John Vukmanich said. "We usually start with a big group in the gymnasium and welcome all the kids back and introduce new teachers and do a lot of 'Go, Grizzlies!' We weren't able to do that, but we're still very excited to see the kids. But the changes in social interaction made today feel a little bit different than a typical first dav.'

Another difference is that returning students can't count on using their past experience to guide them when it comes to once familiar routines, even something as simple as staying in line.

"They're used to walking down the hallway in a line and not falling behind," Vukmanich said. "And now we want them to walk spaced. So, we're re-teaching them some things they've been used to doing for years."

However, students and staff alike seem to have learned one new procedure quite well.

"The mask thing acly went great," Vukmanich said. "As I walked the hallways I didn't have to tell any student to put a mask on. They were all wearing them."

Helpful, too, was the ability to take classes outside where they could get "mask breaks," a practice Vukmanich said most teachers will take advantage of as long as weather permits.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to the daily routines and instruction is the need for staff and children to maintain social distance wherever possible.

"It's going to take some teaching and reminding to get kids to take the ownership to keep themselves socially distanced," Vukmanich said. "A lot of these kids haven't seen each other for almost six months. We're doing lots of reminding, lots of encouragement.'

Social distancing also presents a challenge when it comes to situations where teachers might naturally comfort a distressed child by close interactions such as hugging. Vukmanich said that teachers would be working with children to learn techniques to self-regulate and calm themselves.

Classrooms at North Woods are about 80 percent full, Vukmanich said, with about 20 percent of students and families choosing to do distance learning. The first week of school will be used for shaking out any problem issues with connectivity, Vukmanich said. The school encountered difficulty with slow speeds for connections to Zoom and Google Classroom on the first day.

"We have a lot of kids that we have to get connected," Vukmanich said. "Technology was a little bit hit and miss today."

Vukmanich said he was pleased and gratified at how North Woods staff across the board handled the first day of the new school year.



Above: The first faces many North Woods students saw to start the new school year on Tuesday were their bus drivers. Driver Peter Mock waves a warm farewell to the last of those he dropped off at North Woods.

Right: Once inside the school, the front office was the first stop for many junior and senior high students. Staff and students alike will be learning how to recognize each other in spite of masks as they settle into the new year. photos by D. Colburn

"I'm so proud of them for their adaptability," he said. "I could see on their faces and hear when talking with them how excited they are to see their kids again. That makes me excited that they're so excited about getting back into school."



COOK PUBLIC LIBRARY **Library services continue** while building is closed

COOK- The Cook Public Library continues to provide a wide range of services even though the building is closed.

The library owns over 10,000 items including books, DVDs and audio books. The library is a member of the Arrowhead Library System and can request books and DVDs from all across the state. Visit www.alslib. info to search the regional online catalog.

Curbside pick-up available Monday İS – Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call ahead to schedule your pickup time. Staff will bring your items outside in a plastic bag.

By offering curbside delivery, library staff are able to serve more patrons in a more equitable way than opening scenarios that would limit the number of people inside the library.

Director Library Crystal Phillips said, "We

understand that our patrons want to come into the library and browse tions, please call the lithe shelves. We also brary at 218-666-2200 or know that the only way to continue to serve the public right now is by ensuring Margaret (Jarka) and I are healthy, which means keeping the building closed. If we get sick, there won't be any curbside services available."

The library has a limited number of hotspots that began circulating on Sept. 1. Patrons must have an Arrowhead Library System card, be at least 18 years old, and live in the North Woods School boundaries to be on the hotspot wait list.

Wi-Fi is available outside the library building and in the City Park behind the library 24 hours a day.

The outside book drop is open for returns. All returned items and items coming from other libraries are quarantined for seven days before

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ELECTION 2020

County elections head: Voting twice would be hard to do

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Minnesota law makes effort subject to felony prosecution

REGIONAL — For weeks, President Trump has urged his supporters to vote twice in the Nov. 3 presidential election once by mail and a second time in person on Election Day.

But Minnesota voters wouldn't be allowed to vote twice, according to Phil Chapman, elections supervisor for St. Louis County.

"Election judges are able to tell if someone voted absentee or through a mail-in ballot," said Chapman. That's because each county maintains a voter roster, which county elections officials transmit to election judges in each of the polling places in the county on the morning of the election. That roster indicates which voters on the list have already submitted absentee ballots, which go automatically to St. Louis County's elections office, so those voters would be prevented from voting again by their

local election judges.

And county officials call polling places to inform election judges of additional mail-in ballots they receive on Election Day before the close of voting. Any ballots that arrive after Election Day are cross-checked with those cast in-person, according to Chapman.

Under a change in state election law, those late-arriving ballots can now be counted, but only if the voter has just voted once. If the voter also cast a ballot on Election Day, Chapman said their mail-in ballot would be rejected.

That's one reason why such attempts to vote twice are rare, according to Chapman.

That kind of vigilance should help prevent any voter from taking President Trump's advice and attempting to vote twice. While the county is almost certain to reject any attempts to vote twice, any voter who successfully

casts two ballots could be subject to prosecution. Minn. Stat. 204C.14 makes it a felony to intentionally vote "more than once at the same election."

That same law prevails in most U.S. states, which is why Twitter flagged the President's tweets on the subject as a violation of its rules on election security.

Chapman said he's confident that the president's remarks won't complicate the work of election officials. "That's because there are processes and procedures in place to stop it [voting twice] from happening," he said. "Statewide, Minnesota and St. Louis County run a very solid election. There really are very few issues in Minnesota."

Even so, Chapman expressed frustration that misinformation about the voting process is being widely disseminated. "We do our best to get the correct information out and there and keep people on the right track," he said.



COVID...Continued from page 1

The city of Ely had the

State and county Education Commissioner associated with schools Ricker also asked the busi-school children who might

area's first reported cases of COVID-19 associated with long-term care facilities last week when Ely Carefree Living reported three cases, consisting of two residents and one staff member. Those cases brought the total number of Ely-area cases to 12 as of last Thursday.

Spectrum HealthCEO Merle Sampson reported the Carefree Living cases last week, noting that these were the first among the company's 13 assisted living facilities.

The increase in Ely helped to push St. Louis County over 1,000 total cases since the start of the pandemic. Cumulative county cases stood at 1,060 as of Tuesday, while the state eclipsed the 80,000case milestone over the Labor Day weekend.

Meanwhile, the recent outbreak of cases on the Bois Forte Reservation in both the Nett Lake and Vermilion sectors appears to be on the wane, as only one new case has been reported since Aug. 31.

According to a report posted Tuesday on the Bois Forte website, out of a total of 17 cases, ten in Nett Lake and seven in Vermilion, only two in Nett Lake are considered currently active. All of the others are no longer contagious and have been released from isolation. officials have repeatedly warned of increasing community spread of COVID-19 in recent weeks, and Bois Forte Community Health Nurse Teri Morrison reinforced those concerns on Tuesday as she encouraged people to remain vigilant in practicing preventative guidance.

"Almost everyone I've seen has caught it from someone they're comfortable with," Morrison said.

Morrison praised the work of the tribe's community health team and other workers who have been providing essential services to those in quarantine and isolation, and commended the community at large for their cooperation.

"I think the community has been really good at wanting to make sure other community members are safe," Morrison said.

However, the Orr zip code also experienced a holiday weekend increase, going from 11 last Thursday to 15 as of Tuesday. Only one of those cases was reported by the Bois Forte band to be associated with Nett Lake.

Community spread

While state Department of Health Infectious Disease Director Kris Ehresmann and state Department of Mary Cathryn Ricker focused primarily on the start of school during a Tuesday press conference, Ehresmann commented on recent data that shows the rate of positive COVID-19 tests has increased more than the testing rate itself.

"What we're seeing is more and more community transmission," Ehresmann said. "That means the proportion of individuals who are likely to test positive has increased, so even if we're not testing as many people we're probably more likely to find positives because of the amount of spread that's happening in the community. That's concerning."

There have also been 236 cases of COVID-19

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since Aug. 1, Ehresmann said, primarily among staff members.

"Eighty-one percent of those cases were staff," Ehresmann said. A few cases involving attendees came at the end of summer session classes, she said, and most cases have been single cases not associated with clusters.

Ehresmann and Ricker both emphasized the importance of parents in keeping schools COVID-free by monitoring children's health and keeping them at home when they have symptoms of illness, as well as practicing social distancing and wearing masks when appropriate, and avoiding large social gatherings.

ness community to practice flexibility in working with employees who have have to stay at home if a child is sick.



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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

No support for reducing supervisor salaries

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editorw

GREENWOOD TWP- A proposal by Greenwood Chair Mike Ralston to reduce township elected officials' salaries in 2021 by approximately 40 percent failed for lack of a second at the Sept. 8 town board meeting.

Ralston again pressed the board to seriously consider budget cuts, stating the township's unrestricted reserves were dipping below its current annual spending, and next year's levy, at \$150,000, is less than half the township's projected spending.

The town board cut the clerk's pay in August by a little over 40 percent, a move that eventually led to the clerk's resignation. The township is currently working with an interim clerk and interim treasurer, both now on hourly pay.

Ralston's proposal did not include any reductions

in fire department officer salaries, which currently total a little over \$25,000 a year. Town board salaries budgeted for 2020 totaled \$65,287. Ralston's proposed cuts would reduce spending by a little over \$26.000 for 2021.

The board, once again, did not have a substantive discussion about the budget.

The meeting, via teleconference, will be continued on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m., because township officials were still working on getting financial accounts transferred to the new interim clerk Deb Spicer and interim treasurer Belinda Fazio. The board is expected to approve paying the bills and payroll on Thursday.

Departing clerk Sue Drobac did not leave computer passwords for the township computer, leaving the new interim clerk in the same position Drobac was in when first

elected, without access to township files. The township was working with its computer tech firm to grant access, which Ralston expected to happen in a day or two.

Broadband

The township is still waiting for a proposal from NEO, the firm working with the Blandin Broadband Committee, and Ralston also told the board that CTC was still interested in working in the township.

"I know a lot of people want to broaden coverage of broadband," Ralston said. "The future of the area is broadband. It is the second-coming of the telephone up here."

Supervisor Byron Beihoffer said he wasn't hearing any enthusiasm for broadband.

"It looks like the community isn't that gung-ho," said Beihoffer, who said he had been talking to his neighbors. "A lot of people don't want to spend one or two million dollars hooking up when they are happy with the internet they have."

Ralston said he would keep the issue on the monthly agenda, and noted that before any township money was spent, they would "bring it up to a vote of the township."

Other business

In other business the board:

≻ Heard from Tammy Mortaloni, who is overseeing the paperwork for the CARES Act spending. The township has received \$22,500 and has spent between \$8,000 and \$9,000 so far on covered expenses related to the coronavirus. She told the board that all this spending will be audited by the state next year.

"It has to be a necessary expense that was not budgeted for," she said.

The township has purchased some new emer-

gency responder equipment, including pagers, and Mortaloni said they are looking at purchasing additional new pagers.

> Suspended two township policies relating to contact with the township attorneys. This was recommended by the township attorney, Ralston said, who had concerns about issues with attorney-client privilege.

 Approved purchasing portable landing zone lighting for medical helicopters, along with a new infrared camera for the fire boat.

➤ Discussed a letter from the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and the Minnesota Fire Marshal regarding a complaint that had been made about the township's fire department roster being overstated, which meant additional training funding allocated to the township. The letter noted there were not clear guidelines

in place to determine who remained on the roster, and when a member is no longer eligible. The letter stated the training reimbursements granted to the township were not found to be excessive, even after adjusting the rosters, and added that the township had not used, and therefore requested, the full amounts that were allocated.

▶ Heard that the Minnesota Association of Townships can help the board develop a plan to restart in-person meetings at the town hall. Meetings would need to be limited to 25 percent of the town hall's capacity, social distancing would be required, and mask wearing would be strongly encouraged. Township officials were not certain of the town hall capacity, so said they would discuss the issue again.

CLERK...Continued from page 1

want to present a candidate to serve as interim clerk until the next election?"

Supervisor Carmen DeLuca nominated Deb Spicer, and without any other nominations put forward by the board,

voted to put her in the role.

Spicer had expressed interest in the position last winter, running against then incumbent clerk Drobac in the election last March, but lost the vote 186-102.

Spicer, who owned and operated the popular breakfast and lunch spot, the Wayside Café, on Old Highway 77 from 2004 to 2015, said she was running for the clerk spot because she thought it would be a good opportunity. Spicer had said she is not ready to retire, but also is not ready to be working 24/7, which was often the case when she ran the Wayside. Spicer's background also includes property manage-

ment, including oversight of a large management company's maintenance department, as well as working at US Bank as an architectural analyst.

When interviewed last winter, Spicer said "I would look forward to serving the township."

Spicer will serve until a new clerk is elected at the annual meeting in March to serve out the remainder of the two-year term, which ends in March 2022.

STATE CORRECTIONS

Commissioner blames 'Senate inaction' for MCF-Togo closure

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL-The head of the state Department of Corrections told a state House committee that closing the Togo and Willow River correctional facilities was "one of a range of really bad options" during a recent virtual hearing. The ultimate fate of the facilities remains in limbo ahead of "draconian."

"The deficiency results from Senate inaction on the agency's supplemental budget request," Schnell said. "The decision to close these facilities was at the top of the list of the most difficult decisions I've ever had to make in my career."

But District 32A Rep. Brian Johnson, R-Cambridge, grilled Schnell about why the department should even have a budget deficit to contend with.

"We've been running short-staffed for two years," Johnson said. "We fully budgeted for Schnell said that the employees, including 50-plus new employees, and we've never been fully staffed. At times we were over 100 short. Overtime is less expensive tha a fulltime employee. I'd really like to know how we got this huge deficit when we haven't had full staff." Schnellnotedthateven though the overall inmate census had dropped, it takes the same number of staff to operate housing units whether inmates are single or double-bunked. Larger institutions have been utilizing single-bunk arrangements to minimize COVID-19 risk.

Legislator grills corrections head about budget overruns

"The reason you aren't seeing the big reductions is that unless we start to pack people in closer and shut down posts, which has implications from a COVID standpoint, we don't realize the savings because of that," Schnell said. "We need to keep the programs the way they are," Johnson said. "We need to look at other places to make up this shortfall, and it's a huge shortfall."

Willow River testified about the effectiveness of their Challenge **Incarceration** Programs and the detrimental effects closing the facilities would have on families, community services, and future offenders who would benefit from the program.

"If this program is not funded, it will be a is focused on the here and now, which he probably has to be, but please don't allow a quick fix to the budget that we will all pay for years to follow."

A supplemental funding bill similar to one already passed by the House, but not acted upon by the Senate, is expected to be introduced when Gov. Tim Walz calls the legislature back into special session later this month. Without additional funding, MCF-Togo is expected to be closed by early December, and MCF-Willow River in January.

an upcoming legislative special session.

DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell and others testified before an online hearing of the Minnesota House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform committee on Sept. 1, and Schnell called his recommendation to close the facilities to help fill a \$14 million budget shortfall other alternatives, such as closing units in larger facilities or making another system-wide round of personnel cuts, would not achieve the agency's financial or service needs. "We considered

options that would help us achieve the required savings and have the least impact on bed space," Schnell said.

Current and former employees of Togo and huge step in the wrong direction," said 32-year Togo veteran and former captain Terry Sullivan. "The savings to the taxpayers is a verifiable amount. I really compare this decision to not spending \$10 for caulking for your windows when you know over time it will save much more in reduced heating costs. The commissioner

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ely Chamber seeks award nominations

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

The Ely ELY – Chamber of Commerce seeks nominations for four annual awards to recognize and celebrate the commitment of the extraordinary people and businesses of the community.

'Help us honor the hardworking individuals, groups and businesses whose contributions elevate our region and make it a better place for everyone to work, live and visit by nominating someone you feel should receive recognition," said Eva Sebesta, the chamber's executive director.

In 2009, the chamber established the Jackpine Bob Cary Community

Spirit Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual or group for their unselfish giving and promotion of Ely, which has had a positive impact on the Ely area and tourism.

The Good Neighbor Business Award recognizes any for-profit business, and nominees do not have to be members of the Ely Chamber of Commerce. Nominees should be actively involved through time commitment or financial support of projects and activities that significantly contribute to the quality of life in the community.

Anewawardthisyearis the Good Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award, which will recognize a community member for their ongoing commitment to Ely as

demonstrated through their volunteer efforts.

A second new award is the Excellence in Customer Service Award, designated to recognize an employee who makes a positive impact on customer and guest experiences.

To nominate an individual or business for one of these awards, compose a short statement of 150-500 words of why you feel they deserve recognition. Identify specific, recent achievements that describe the nominee's work and its impact on our community. Submit nominations to the ElyChamberofCommerce, 1600 E Sheridan St, Ely or via email at director@ ely.org. Nominations will be accepted through Wednesday, Sept. 30.

ELY....Continued from page 1 ____

Currently, all city trash service is provided exclusively by G-Men, and that firm will continue to provide residential service on an exclusive basis.

The new commercial contracts will take effect Nov. 1, pending the submission of all required paperwork. That issue of the required paperwork, in particular, the lack of verifiable insurance and bonding which is a requirement of the application process, drew pushback from a competing refuse hauling company and a council member.

Jeremiah Day, owner of G-Menin Ely, addressed the council during the "request to appear" portion of the agenda at the Sept. 1 council meeting. He noted that the request for proposal application details required that all applicants must show the ability to procure insurance and a bond in the amount of \$100,000.

that G-Men fulfills all the requirements in our proposal and we have for the past year and will continue to do so as required in our residential contract," Day said. "I also want to point out that the (Minnesota) secretary of state does not have the other proposed business registered in the state."

Northern Routes did not provide the required liability insurance information in their proposal and was not registered with the Secretary of State's office at the time of their application.

Council member Heidi Omerza also questioned the incomplete contract proposal application from Northern Routes.

"When we look through hires' applications, if all the requirements are not met, if they don't take the time to investigate what is needed, we generally just throw

"I want to point out (the applications) out," she said.

"I am a little concerned about the fact that we have a lot of requirements that we are legally held to as a city when it comes to sanitation," she added. "I was assured that when we got to the end of this process, I would feel comfortable with the end result, and I still have a lot more questions than I have answers. What assurances do I have with one complete application or request for proposal and one that is partially done? How do I know, by what date, will we have all the (requested information) fulfilled?"

Council member and sanitation committee member Paul Kess noted that the contract application calls for all requirements to be in place by that commencement date of the contract on Nov. 1.

City Attorney Kelly Klun stated that the contract calls for the contractor to furnish, within 15 days of the city's request, a copy of a statement of valid bond.

"Nov. 1 is the day the contract begins," she said. "If the council agrees, the 15-day window starts tonight when the contracts are approved. There is no ambiguity that the bond must be in place when the contract begins."

Klun added, "I think we should have some assurance that the bonding will be in place. Within 15 days we will need assurance from an insurance agent or the bond."

Mayor Chuck Novak suggested the motion to approve the contract proposals include the stipulation that Secretary of State registration also be in place when the contract commences.

"This has been an evolving situation," Novak said. "I will reserve a lot of my comments on how we got to this point. How we

got here is problematic in my mind but that is in the past. We are here today." Omerza continued to

voice reservations. "I've had some sleepless nights over this, a lot of sleepless nights," she said. This whole process has bothered me to no end. I am going to support this and I will probably lose more sleep over supporting it, but I am doing it because we have a good provider. And I'm convinced that our good provider will continue to provide both on the residential and on the commercial side. I have no skin in this game whatsoever. I cannot reiterate how important it is that when we put out requests for proposals, applications, or anything else, you need to fill out the paperwork and you need to do what we say. I feel like we are sliding backward on this one.'

According to rate information submitted

as part of their respective proposals, Northern Routes will charge \$12.50 per yard, while G Men set a rate of \$13.60 per yard. The contract includes requirements related to pick up procedures, equipment, maintenance of vehicles, provision of storage carts, and insurance and bonding.

"We have an obligation to follow what we agreed to as a council," Novak said. "This is not the time to change our mind. At this point we are bound to move forward on this motion. I still have heartache as to why we got to this point. And we can talk about that 'til the cows come home, but it ain't going to do any good. We are here where we are."

The motion passed unanimously. Clearly upset with the proceedings, Day stormed out of the council chambers.

TOWER....Continued from page 1 –

arrived.

"There were tables from D'Erick's laying around on the grass, and there was a bunch that were moved and barricaded in front of the doors, including one of the big heavy wooden picnic tables that was leaning up against the door farthest to the west," Kringstad said.

A heavy bench that sits on the sidewalk had been moved onto the

landing by the front door of city hall, and the glass main entry door had been kicked in, Kringstad said.

Once inside, one or more vandals went to work causing a variety of damage on the city hall's lower level. Plastic bags were stuffed in toilets in the men's and women's restrooms, which were then flushed, flooding the floors. Furniture was moved around, and a door

frame was damaged.

"A door that goes down to what I would call the 'dungeons' of the city hall, that lock there was jimmied and the molding around the door was broken so they were trying to get down into the lower level," Kringstad said.

Kringstad also speculated that whoever was in the building also may have gone into D'Erick's, as the interior door was propped open.

All of the circuit breakers in the electrical panel had been shut off, and the elevator was stopped about four or five inches below floor level, Kringstad said. The electricity outage caused the city's internet connection to drop, and it wasn't restored until Tuesday morning.

There was no evi-

dence that anyone had gotten into the office area, and nothing appeared to be stolen, according to Kringstad.

Kringstad said that Sanderson discovered blood on the breaker box, on light switches, on a wall, on the floor, and outdoors on a discarded whiskey bottle, and that he collected samples to be analyzed. Kringstad said he hoped the results would identify

who was in the building.

"Otherwise it's going to be difficult to prove who had actually done the damage," he said. "As far as I know, there are two immediate persons of interest."

Attempts to contact Breitung Police for additional information were unsuccessful before press time.



A Year of 4-H Learning in North St. Louis County

Throughout Minnesota, 4-H educators and youth are putting their innovation skills to work as they create alternative experiences to replace 2020 county fairs, including the St. Louis County Fair. During the week of August 4-9, North St. Louis County 4-H'ers shared their skills and accomplishments with judges in a modified showcase environment, as necessitated by COVID-19. To help safeguard health, the events are not open to the public. "This has been a challenging year for 4-H'ers. We're truly proud of how they've risen to the occasion to help make their showcases happen," said Extension Educator Nicole Kudrle, "We've seen some amazing displays of ingenuity from North St. Louis County 4-H'ers," "4-H's priority is to provide learning and leadership experiences that guide youth in building relationships, developing communication techniques, and strengthening organizational skills," said Jennifer A. Skuza, Extension Center for Youth Development Associate Dean and State 4-H Director. "We've been committed to helping maintain the county fair experience as much as possible, recognizing that possibilities and limitations vary among all of Minnesota's 87 counties."

Here are the results from judging. Educator Nicole Kudrle noted that the events could not have been conducted without the help of families, volunteers and other partners. "We're grateful to 4-H supporters for helping us put youth at the center of our alternative fair and creating a memorable, meaningful experience."

To learn more about 4-H, contact Extension 4-H Educator Nicole Kudrle at 218-404-6596 or visit the website, www.4-H.umn.edu.







Andrea Herbranson



North St. Louis County 4-H Virtual Fair Judging Results

- Ada Boe, Grade 3, Eveleth, Club: Wilpen
- Project Area: Fine Arts-Red Ribbon; Photography Elements-Blue Ribbon; Photography Elements-Blue Ribbon; Photography Elements-Blue Ribbon; Photography Manipulation-Red Ribbon
- Alice Sopoci, Grade 4, Angora, Club: Baytree-Field Project Area: Pets-Grand Champion; Crafts-Red Ribbon; Fine Arts-Red Ribbon; Fine Arts-Red Ribbon;
- Clothing/Textiles/Non-Garment-Red Ribbon; Clothing/Textiles/Non-Garment-Blue Ribbon Amber Sopoci, Grade 7, Angora, Club; Baytree-Field

Dog-Grand Champion; Fine Arts-Red Ribbon x3; Photography Elements-Blue Ribbon; Photography Elements-Grand Champion; Photography Elements-Reserve Champion; Dog Show Rally-Blue Ribbon x2; Dog Show Obedience-Blue Ribbon; Dog Show Obedience-Red Ribbon; Dog Show Agility-Blue Ribbon x2; Dog Show Agility-Blue Ribbon; Dog Show Jumpers-Blue Ribbon x2; Dog Show Showmanship-Blue Ribbon

Ribbon; Engineering Design-Blue Ribbon; Pet Show-Blue Ribbon; Fair Food Challenge-Blue Ribbon

Project Area: Rabbit Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Rabbit Purebred Large Sr. Buck-Red Ribbon; Beef Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Breeding Beef Exotic Jr. Yearling-Blue Ribbon; Market Beef Market Steer-Blue

Project Area: Fine Arts-Blue Ribbon; Food Preservation-Blue Ribbon; Beef Showmanship-Red Ribbon; Breeding Beef English Cow & Calf-Blue Ribbon x2; Clothing/Textiles/Clothes You Make-Blue Ribbon x2; Clothing/Textiles/Clothes You Make-Red Ribbon; Purebred Dairy Jr. Calf-Blue Ribbon; Shop-Blue Ribbon;

Project Area: Beef Showmanship-Red Ribbon: Breeding Beef English Cow & Calf-Blue Ribbon x2:

Project Area: Photography Elements-Blue Ribbon; Photography Manipulation-Blue Ribbon; Photography

Project Area: Dog-Blue Ribbon; Plastic Art Sculpture Challenge-Blue Ribbon x2; Crafts-Red Ribbon;

Project Area: Plastic Art Sculpture Challenge-Blue Ribbon; Self Determined-Blue Ribbon; Crafts-Red Ribbon; Fine Arts-Red Ribbon; Home Environment-Blue Ribbon

Project Area: Plastic Art Sculpture Challenge-Blue Ribbon; Self Determined-Blue Ribbon; Self Determined-Red

Andrea Herbranson, Grade 12, Mt. Iron, Club: Spirit Lake Project Area: Child & Family Development-Blue Ribbon; Crafts-Blue Ribbon x2; Crafts-Grand Champion

Avery Ellerbroek, Grade 3, Ely, Club: Ely Knight Hawks

Bridget Schelde, Grade 10, Angora, Club: Baytree-Field

Cheyenne Schelde, Grade 4, Angora, Club: Baytree-Field

Avi Walzak, Grade 5, Meadowlands, Club: Wilpen

Ribbon; Pet Show-Blue Ribbon

Purebred Dairy Jr. Calf-Blue Ribbon

Manipulation-Grand Champion

Pet Show-Blue Ribbon

Elijah Boe, Grade 10, Eveleth, Club: Wilpen

Project Area: Pet Show-Cloverbud Participation

Shop-Grand Champion













Bridget Schelde



Learning & Leadership Hailey Lewis, Grade 4, Iron, Club: Wilpen

Project Area: Rabbit-Purebred-Large Jr. Buck-Blue Ribbon; Rabbit-Purebred-Large Jr. Doe-Blue Ribbon x2; Rabbit-Purebred-Large Jr. Doe-Blue Ribbon; Rabbit-Purebred-Large Sr. Buck-Reserve Champion Hailey Lindula, Grade 4, Iron, Club: Wilpen

Project Area: Rabbit Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Rabbit Purebred Large Breed Sr. Doe-Red Ribbon; Rabbit Purebred Small Sr. Doe-Red Ribbon; Chickens Mature Egg Production Pen-Blue Ribbon x2; Dairy Cattle Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Ducks-Blue Ribbon x2; Grade Dairy Jr. Calf-Blue Ribbon x2; Meat Goat Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Meat Goat Jr. Breeding Doe-Blue Ribbon, Poultry Showmanship-Grand Champion; Pet Show-Blue Ribbon Heidi Lindula, Grade 5, Iron, Club: Wilpen Project Area: Rabbit Showmanship-Blue Ribbon, Rabbit Purebred Large Sr. Buck-Blue Ribbon; Rabbit Purebred Small Sr. Buck-Blue Ribbon; Swine Light Weight Crossbred Barrow-Blue Ribbon;

Swine Light Weight Market Gilt-Blue Ribbon; Swine Market Gilt-Blue Ribbon; Swine Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Rabbit-Purebred-Small Jr. Buck-Red Ribbon; Rabbit Purebred Small Sr. Doe-Red Ribbon; Beef Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Breeding Beef Mixed Jr. Yearling-Blue Ribbon x2; Dairy Cattle Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Grade Dairy Jr. Calf-Blue Ribbon; Meat Goat Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Meat Goat Sr. Breeding Doe-Blue Ribbon Pet Show-Grand Champion; Fair Food Challenge-Blue Ribbon

Ireland Koski, Grade 4, Hibbing, Club: Wilpen Project Area: Pet Show-Blue Ribbon Jonathan Walzak, Grade 7, Meadowlands, Club: Wilpen Project Area: Beef Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Breeding Beef Mixed Jr. Yearling-Blue Ribbon

Madeline Grass, Grade 3, Iron, Club: Wilpen Project Area: Swine Heavy Weight Crossbred Barrow-Blue Ribbon; Swine Light Weight Crossbred Barrow-Blue Ribbon; Swine Market Gilt-Blue Ribbon; Swine Showmanship-Blue Ribbon; Swine Purebred Breeding Gilt-Blue Ribbon

Magnus Trembath, Grade 8, Embarrass, Club: Vermilion

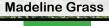
Project Area: Food Preservation-Blue Ribbon; Rabbit Showmanship-Blue Ribbon Rabbit-Purebred-Small Sr. Buck-Grand Champion; Pet Show-Reserve Champion

Mary Koski, Grade 6, Hibbing, Club: Wilpen

Project Area: Pet Show-Blue Ribbon Miranda Mackai, Grade 2, Embarrass, Club: Vermilion Project Area: Cloverbuds-Participation x4 Sara Anderson, Grade 3, Cook, Club: Baytree-Field Project Area: Pets-Blue Ribbon; Child & Family Development-Red Ribbon Sawyer Lindula, Grade 2, Iron, Club: Wilpen Project Area: Cloverbud Rabbit Showmanship-Participation; Cloverbud Swine Showmanship-Participation Cloverbud Beef Showmanship-Participation; Cloverbud Dairy Showmanship-Participation; Cloverbud Goat Showmanship-Participation; Pet Show Cloverbud-Participation Wren Koski, Grade 1, Hibbing, Club: Wilpen Project Area: Pet Show Cloverbud-Participation









Not pictured: Hailey Lindula, Heidi Lindula, Ireland Koski, Mary Koski, Miranda Mackai, Sara Anderson, Sawyer Lindula, Wren Koski

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HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

North(ountry

Ely boys take first at Virginia, girls second

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

VIRGINIA - In the first meet of the season last week, the Ely Memorial High School cross country team picked up where they left off last fall with strong finishes. The boys team took first place and the girls team came in second at the Virginia Triple Tri.

Reflecting competition modifications enacted by the MSHSL, the event was divided into three-team heats, rather than nine teams all running at once, with all results combined

and team standings.

The 5.000-meter course at Virginia Golf Course allowed for plenty of social distancing by spectators and featured 174 total finishers. Ely fans endured a chilly early-morning start as the Timberwolves were part of the 8 a.m. heat, according to Ely head coach Jayne Dusich.

The Ely boys team, paced by seniors Emmett Faltesek, 17:53.9, and Jasper Johnston, 18:14.9, and junior Gabriel Pointer, 18:18.6, tallied 46 team points and edged out Greenway-

to determine the order of finish Nashwauk-Keewatin by a single point to take first place.

The rest of the Ely boys varsity team runners and their times included Jake Cochran, 19:03.4, Joey Bianco, 20:46.8, Leo Stalmer, 20:49.8, Jon Hakala, 21:24.8, Caid Chittum, 21:57.4, Jace Huntbatch, 21:59.9, Ben Cavalier, 23:15.3, and Dylan Durkin, 28:19.8.

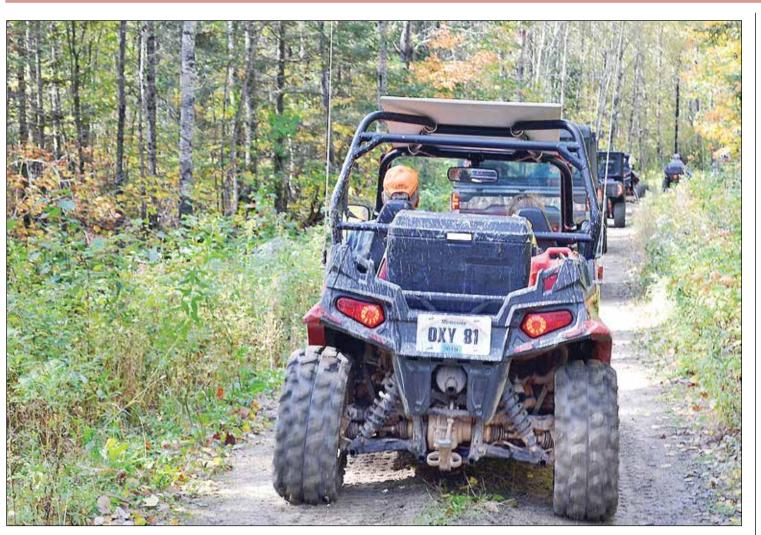
Other team results included Virginia, 62, Hibbing, 90, Mountain Iron/Buhl, 145, Eveleth/Gilbert, 149, Deer River/Northland, 156, and Chisholm, 219.

The Ely girls team was paced by two sophomore runners, Zoe Devine, 21:37.1, and Phoebe Helms, 22:07.5, to give the team a second-place finish with 64 points. Hibbing took first with 46 points. Mountain Iron/Buhl was third with 78 points, followed by Greenway-Nashwauk-Keewatin with 84 and Virginia with 86.

Other Ely varsity girls finishers and times included Brynn Vollom, 24:15.0, Gracie Pointer, 25:05.8, Julia Schwinghamer, 25:39.7, Laura Holmstrom, 25:39.8, Sydney Durkin, 25:45.2, Cora Olson, 26:32.9, Elsie Vollom, 28:06.9, and Amelia Pluth, 29:51.6.

"Emmett. Jasper and Gabriel all had good first races," Dusich said."Zoe and Phoebe stayed up front and ran well. It was good to run one to see what they all need to work on as the season continues."

The Timberwolves varsity team was set travel to the G-N-K Triple Tri on Thursday, Sept. 10 at the Eagle Ridge Golf Course. Ely returns to Virginia's Olcott Park on Thursday, Sept. 17 for the Virginia Double Dual.



OFF ROAD

Prospectors to host **ATVAM "ride and rally"** Guided trail rides to range from 25-180 miles next weekend

SWIMMING NER/Ely hosts I-Falls in season kick-off

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

BABBITT - With fans only allowed to watch via live webstreaming, the Northeast Range/Ely girls swim team opened the season last Tuesday with a dual meet against International Falls.

The visiting team won all but two events on their way to a 60-34 win over the Nighthawks.

Morgan McClelland swam to a victory in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:25.03, outpacing I-Falls' Kaitlyn Hostetter by 11 seconds (2:36.72).

In the 200 individual medley, Lilly Tedrick, 2:43.94, edged out I-Falls' Gracie Bowles, 2:45.19 for

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - Hundreds of ATV riders from across Minnesota will be ripping through the woods on their ATVs as they venture out on area trails next weekend. A three-day event, the annual convention of the ATV Association of Minnesota (ATVAM), is hosted this year by the local Prospector Loop ATV Club, Sept. 18-20.

As many as a dozen guided rides with starting points in Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass and Tower are part of the "Ride and Rally" this year.

This is the second year in a row that the event will be held in the North Country. Last year the gathering was in Crane Lake, hosted by the Voyageur Country ATV Club, and featured the dedication of a \$1.26 million bridge over the Vermilion River.

Public health concerns over the coronavirus pandemic are forcing the Prospector Club to scale back on some event activities. The annual banquet that was planned for the Grand Ely Lodge is canceled. The group's fundraising auction will transition from a live, standing-room-only event to an online auction on eBay.

'But that hasn't dampened the spirit of ATVAM and its members, who belong to 70 ATV clubs that build and maintain the state's many outstanding ATV trails," said Dave Halsey, communications direc-



tor for ATV Association of Minnesota.

To allow for social distancing, registration for the event and the many rides offered is available online. All rides are listed on the ATVAM website at www. atvam.org.

"Each ride is unique and we have staggered starting times from seven locations to spread people out," said Nick Wognum, Prospector ATV Club president.

In addition, each ride has a maximum number of vehicles to keep group sizes down and social distancing easier to manage during stops on the trails. Rides vary from 25 miles to a 180-mile roundtrip from Ely to the Trestle Inn, ten miles from Lake Superior. That ride is already full.

See RIDE...pg. 2B

Quick tips for ATV riding

Minimize your impact by traveling only in areas open to four-wheel drive vehicles. Knowing how to minimize your impact on the environment when you ride is critical. Below are some quick tips on responsible ATV riding in the great outdoors.

► Travel responsibly on designated roads, trails or areas open to ATV use.

Minimize wheel spin. Drive over, not around, obstacles to avoid widening the trail.

► Cross streams only at designated fording points, where the trail crosses the stream

► Buddy up with two or three riders, reducing vulnerability if you have an accident or breakdown. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.

►Don't mix riding with alcohol or drugs.

Be considerate of others on the road or trail. Learn the basics of trail etiquette.

Leave gates as you find them. If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).

> Yield the right of way to those passing you or traveling uphill. Yield to mountain bikers, hikers, and horses.

► Proceed with caution around horses and pack animals. Sudden, unfamiliar activity may spook animals possibly causing injury to animals.

the win.

McClelland also finished second in the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:57.25. Tedrick took second in the 100 butterfly, 1:14.97. Other individual runner-up finishers for the Nighthawks included Kelly Thompson, 50 freestyle, 30.44, Anna Larson, 100 freestyle, 1:10.07, and Esther Anderson, 100 backstroke, 1:20.31.

The Nighthawks' relay team of McClelland, Cedar Ohlhauser, Aili Bee, and Thompson took second in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:02.16. In the 400 freestyle relay, Tedrick, Anderson, McClelland and Thompson posted a time of 4:26.31 for second place.

"Our first meet of the season went well," said first year coach Cherie Debeltz. "We had to adjust to the new way of competing under the MSHSL COVID-19 rules. The girls swam well and we are looking forward to the rest of the season."

The Nighthawks were set to travel to Mesabi East on Thursday, Sept. 10, and will host Denfeld High School on Thursday, Sept. 17.

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Safety first as T-S Elementary resumes classes

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- School is different this year, and for students at Tower-Soudan Elementary, that difference starts right on the school bus. Masks, staggered seating, and sanitizer squirts on both hands before leaving the bus. In the lunchroom, students can sit only four to a table that easily seats three times as many. Masks do come off while eating, but are back on once done and ready to return to the classroom.

Classrooms look a bit sparer, but still are just as welcoming as in previous years. It takes an extra moment to recognize students, many of whom have sprouted up inches and inches since last in the building in March.

Teaching plans now include plenty of time outdoors, when both stu-



dents and teachers can take off their masks. Teachers are asking that students always come prepared to spend time outdoors. Some teachers added camping chairs to their back-toschool supply list.

"You are going to find my class outdoors on the tennis court as often as possible," said second-grade teacher Charissa Dahl, who seemed more bothered by wearing a mask than her young students did.

First-grade teacher Jo Holen was figuring out ways to weave her

Left: Brandi **Richards-**Berger is the new special education teacher at the T-S Elementary. photo by J. Summit

tried-and-true teaching techniques into a COVID-19 classroom. Many of her hands-on lessons will need to be adjusted, but she was certain that both she and her students would find fun ways to learn all year long.

Teachers all had ideas about how to make wearing a mask easier for students, and at least on day one, students seemed excited enough to be back at school to not mind all the new rules.

Fifth- and sixth-graders started out their day learning the nuts and bolts of their iPads, emails, and

online learning software. That way, in case the school needs to move to distance learning, students would have as seamless a transition as possible. Teacher Scott Chiabotti was clearly visible sitting at his desk, but was also popping up on their screens, welcoming them to class. Families all have the

option of choosing in-person or distance learning. Some classrooms appeared rather empty, with as many as half the families choosing to school at home, but other classrooms were full of desks spaced at least six feet apart.

Kindergarten teacher Kristine Sogenfrei is new to Tower-Soudan and was busy meeting parents and her new students prior to the first official day of Kindergarten on Sept. 10. Sogenfrei taught in Bemidji the last six years and is excited to have the opportunity to teach in

RIDE...Continued from page 1B

"We were surprised that the furthest ride filled up first," he said. "That just shows we have a lot of people out there who love to put miles on."

All 12 rides will be guided by Prospector ATV Club members who know the trails well, and will include a leader at the front of the pack and a "sweeper" in the back to ensure riders stay together, and to provide assistance should anyone have a flat tire or mechanical issue, Wognum added.

Over 120 riders have already signed up for one of the 12 guided rides.

"That's not surprising," Halsey said. "This summer, after months adhering to the Governor's stay-at-home order, both veteran riders and those new to off-road riding have been heading for the trails in record numbers."

Sales of ATVs – both Class 1 (up to 50 inches wide) and Class 2 (over 50 but not more than 65 inches wide, also called

another small school close to her family members, who live in Cook and Virginia. She is finishing up her master's degree in math education this month and is excited to put all the new teaching techniques she has learned into practice. She is also excited to explore all the new bike trails, mountain bike trails, and cross-country ski trails in the area, spending a lot of her free time outdoors.

Brandi Richards-Berger is a new special education teacher who will be teaching in a self-contained classroom for Kindergarten and first-grade students from throughout the district who need a higher level of support. She started her teaching career as a substitute teacher in Ely, Babbitt, and Tower, then taught for 13 years at the Nay Ah Sing School on the Mille Lacs Reservation. She has also taught in Onamia and

stayed closed to home and

searched for new outdoor

activities. According to

the Motorcycle Industry

Council (MIC), total ATV

sales in the U.S. jumped

43 percent for the first six

months of 2020, compared

to the same period last year.

recently reported that the

second quarter of 2020 was

the strongest in demand for

its products in its 66-year

history, with nearly 75

percent of its customers

being first-time Polaris

events at the "Ride and

Rally" state convention

include a VIP ride on

Friday, Sept. 18, from

Embarrass to Tower, with

a lakeside catered lunch

before the return trip. A

pancake breakfast will

be held in Embarrass on

"The Prospector Loop

Friday morning.

Other scheduled

buyers, Halsey said.

Polaris Industries

St. Cloud. This will be her eighth year teaching in a self-contained elementary special education classroom.

While she is a native of Ely, she is now living in Britt. She has four children, ranging in age from 14 to 28, and one granddaughter.

When not in the classroom Richards-Berger enjoys gardening, performing in plays, going to concerts, and spending time at the lake. She also creates wedding flower arrangements and officiates at weddings.

"I am excited to be working at Tower-Soudan," she said. "It is a great little school, and the staff really seem to work together very well." Another bonus, she said, is the chance to be back living "up north."

Wognum said. "All riders are encouraged to join ATVAM if they are not members already."

The Prospector Club's goal is to create a new ATV trail system that will connect area communities of Ely, Babbitt, Embarrass, and Tower-Soudan, Bear Head Lake State Park and Lake Vermilion State Park, and the Lake County Regional ATV Trail.

ATVAM is the state association representing 70 ATV clubs across Minnesota. Established in 1983, it serves the interests of ATV owners in Minnesota by advocating for ATV recreation, advancing the safe use of ATVs, building trails economically and environmentally sustainably, providing information, and participating in legislative and regulatory activities related to the use of all-terrain vehicles.

More information and online registration for the event and the choice of routes are available on the



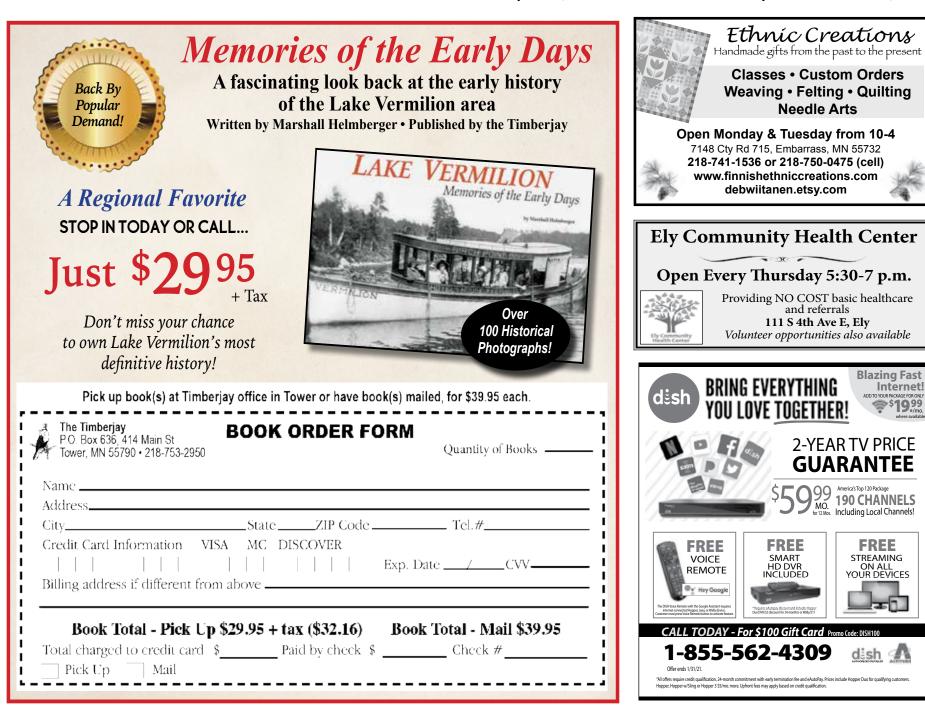


been increasing rapidly, as Minnesota residents

riders and their families side-by-sides) - have to the Ride and Rally," ATVAM website, atvam.

ATV Club welcomes

long-time riders and new



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Vermilion Lake Association holds annual meeting

LAKE VERMILION- In lieu of an in-person annual meeting, the Vermilion Lake Association held their election of board members via mail-in paper ballot. Members received ballots enclosed within the summer newsletter and returned them by mail. A total of 105 votes were cast to approve current board members Terry Grosshauser, Eric Hanson, Jerry Lepper and John Yocum for three-year terms.

In place of a speaker and business meeting, a video of the president's message was posted on the website for members to view. The year-end treasurer's report was also available to view on the website, as well as in the newsletter. A photo contest was held for members to participate in and vote online as well. Members Bob McNamara, Jamie Kitzmann and Terry Jones were voted in the top three places respectively. View these and all the other photos on the website.

The 2,700-member Vermilion Lake Association, one of the largest and most active in Minnesota, welcomes all who care about Lake Vermilion and who wish to protect her for the next generation. If you would like to join or volunteer, please check out the organization's website at www.VermilionLakeAssociation.org, or contact Pat Michaelson at 612-306-7702.

Team Penning results Friday, Aug. 28

Winners listed first, second, third The Movers-Jennie Nelson, Allyson

Rolfson and Pam Peterson with three cows in at 44.321 seconds. The Movers earned \$240 and buckles for each rider and additional earnings of \$300 for best time for both days with three cows; 3 Ladies-Tracy, Morgan and Deb with two cows and a time of 39.647 seconds earned \$210; Zeros-Roy Kennedy, JoDell Ederns and Levi Pearson with two cows and a time of 46.794 earned \$195.

Saturday, Aug. 29

Winners listed first, second, third, fourth

Gary and The Pussy Cats- Gary Koupalla, Pam Peterson and Brook Woitalla with three cows and a time of 59.147 earned \$600 and buckles; Runnin' for the Bunny- Jeff Thurlow, Danny Anderson and Matt Schultz with three cows and a time of 60.952 earned of \$420.; Cassie's Team- Shaun Hainey, Cass Hainey and Jeff Thurlow with three cows and a time of 60.996 earned \$390; Leslies and the Minions- Leslie Webb, Matt Schultz and Paul Knuti with three cows and a time of 63.716 seconds earned \$330.



Pam Peterson's team The Movers came in first place on Friday. photo by D. Colburn

Ranch Sorting results

Sunday Morning Class Winners listed first, second, third Nichelle and Phil Scholemer with six cows in 52.515 seconds earned \$120; Brandi Olsen and Tracy Connelly with six cows in 78.517 seconds earned \$100;

Corbet Hainey and Kristine Miller with five cows in 66.170 seconds earned \$80.

Ranch Sorting Short Go (Final of the Top 10)

Winners listed first, second

Danny and Heather Anderson with 18 cows in a combined two runs and a time of 53.238 seconds and earnings of \$600 and buckles; Second Place - and Bridger Schultz with 18 cows in a combined two runs and a time of 56.52 seconds earned \$500; Nichelle and Phil Schloemer with a combined two runs of 14 cows and a time of 60.873 seconds earned \$440.

Other stats

At Team Penning on Friday, Aug. 28, there were 40 riders and 55 teams.

At Team Penning on Saturday, Aug. 29, there were 50 riders and 100 teams.

At the Ranch Sorting Morning Class on Sunday, Aug. 30, there were 35 riders and 39 teams.

At the Ranch Sorting Afternoon Class there were 55 riders and 87 teams.

There were 77 total riders for the weekend.

Obituaries and Death Notices



JoAnn A. Knutson

JoAnnAgnesKnutson, 63, of Cook, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, at home with loved ones by her side. A private family interment will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

JoAnn was born to Gordon and Lillian (Trygg) Anderson on Oct. 16, 1956, in Cook. She attended school in Cook, graduating from Cook High School in 1975. JoAnn earned an Associates of Arts Degree in Human Services from Mesabi College and a Bachelor of Whiteman Sr.

child; sisters, Janice (Paul) Bernier of Washburn, Wis., and Jeannie (Jim) Taylor of Cook; brothers, Dan (Linda) Anderson of Hibbing and Jeff (Beth) Anderson of Tower; numerous nieces and nephews; and many friends and caregivers.

JoAnn was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Karen Harrison; and brother-in-law, Tom Harrison.



Roger A.

school sweetheart Joni Hanson and they went on to have a beautiful family, raising four children, two very special nephews, and numerous memorable animals: Yeller, Carl the crow whom he nicknamed Rocko, Rocko the crow actually named Rocko, his Parakeet named Rocko, and his special pups, Vegas, Mukwa and Makoon, whom he affectionately called Bugsy.

A trendsetter before his time... he never worried about what others thought because in his mind, he knew cool (no one would argue with that!). Stoic, loyal, meticulous, headstrong, fun-loving, creative, resourceful, knowledgeable (he knew the definition of words that most of us had NEVER heard of!!!), and fiercely protective of his family. His kids will lovingly remember him by his "when I was a kid" stories; impromptu karate moves and wrestling matches; saving his farts in a jar; his one-way quarrels with Alex Trebec over the correct answers on Jeopardy; his many, many conspiracies; and knowing all things birds. He was known by many different names: Zeke, Sidney, Radar, Grasshopper, Ziggy, Side Bank, Sid-Vicious, Master Splinter, Poopsie, Pops, and his most cherished, Papa. In return, he was very good at giving nicknames. Here are just a few: Rocko (obviously), Radar, Arm, Nest, Al, Burford, M, Nails, Venom, NutHouse, Sauirt... Sid was a probation officer in the late 1970s at Bois Forte, a certified auto mechanic, a talented carpenter, worked road construction, and served as an appointed representative on the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council in the 1990s; during his retirement years was most well known as "the Friendly Ambassador of Orr". His family will always remember him for his wonderfully home-cooked meals, most notably his "Papa's Baked Beans". Although stricken with polio in his childhood, which affected his everyday activities from that day forward, Sid was an extraordinary athlete. Just a few months ago, Orr High School basketball Coach William "Bill" King said that Sid was the "most coordinated athlete that he had ever coached." Always the smallest on the team, he was ALWAYS the fastest and could jump the highest. People from far and wide knew Sid for his athletic feats during high school on the basketball court and during adulthood in the softball field. His good buddy Dave hit the nail on the head with these words:

"Sid was a ballplayer. Oh ya, helluva ballplayer. Sid roamed the outfield like Willie Mays. Maybe not as dark, close though... jk... Anyway... Fast? You bet. Sid could lickity split grab a ball hit high off the center-left fence and arm a line drive to home plate in time to nail the guy hustling from third. Who else could do that? I was glad Sid was on my team. How about golf? Oh ya, helluva golfer. Star of the mighty all shinob (one adopted), ragtag, beer drinking, 5th (or was it 6th) hole smoke break ZZ Pop Golf Team. That's right ZZ Pop. Sid gave us that name and zig zags and pop tops was our game. Yessir, we shook it up in Buyck that summer. Took first place in the league, took first place in the tournament. and Sid was unbeaten the entire season. ZZ Pop outplayed, outdrank, and after an accidental stumble through the bar screen door....was nearly outlawed at Vermilion Fairways. How about stubborn? Oh ya, Sid was one stubborn fella. A local bar could tell you. One of their best customers, about every day Sid would drop by to read the paper and have a beer. Management made the grave mistake of disrespecting Sid's sweetheart Joni one day and that was itSid said he'd never have a beer at that bar again. Far as I know, he never did. Oh, you could ask Otis if Sid was stubborn. Sid liked his beer and there's only two beer joints in Orr. That don't matter, when you refuse service to Sid's nephew, an Active Duty Navy Sailor of proper age with a proper ID. Now that ticked Sid off. And you didn't wanna tick Sid off. Sid said he'd never have a beer at that bar again either. Far as I know, he never did. Talk

about ticking Sid off. How

about the time, years ago,

when the newly-elected Chairman at the time came into the bar one evening a couple sheets to the wind. Joni was bartending and there were half a dozen Band members having a beer. The then-Chairman started spouting off about firing this person and that person until Sid had enough. He was ticked. He stood up and poked his finger in the Chairman's chest right out the door. No, you didn't wanna tick Sid off...."

Survived by his sweetheart of 46 years, Joni; children, favorite daughter Sidra Starkovich, golden boy Roger Whiteman Jr. (Stephanie Balich), favorite daughter Angeline King (Troy) and favorite daughter April Anderson (Joe); special nephews, whom he raised as sons, Jason Ballinger and Michael Whiteman; 11 very special grandchildren, Bryan (Trey Tahija), Brady and Brant (nicknamed by Papa as Rocko) Boutto, Zachary and Lauren Whiteman and Cameron Fisher, Dylan and Genesis Day, Brandon, Mason and Mia Anderson, as well as several bonus grandchildren; siblings, Marilyn Geshick, Jerome Whiteman, William "Bill" (Julie) Whiteman, Eugene "Jr" Whiteman, Deb Whiteman, Steven Whiteman, Milton "Beanie" Barto, Rodney Barto, Ernie (Rene) Barto, Frank(Linda)Barto,Donna (Bill) Hoffer, Annette Howe (Patrick), Angela "Mousie" (Scott) Wright, Cecile "No-No's" Shauer (Mike), Johnny (Karen) Barto and Violet "Bitties" (Lars) Gabrielson; and far too many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and even great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews to even try to name, but he loved them all the same! Preceding him in his journey were his parents, Angeline (Wein) and Eugene Whiteman, Ernie and Rosie Barto; in-laws, Roy and Jean Hanson; and sisters, Edna Whiteman, Margaret (Tine) Whiteman, Mary Fairbanks, Linda Spires and Ernestine (Ticker) Stanley.

held in Calvary Cemetery in Virginia with Deacon Dan Schultz officiating. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by a brother,Robert(Margaret); sisters, Joyce, Judith (Richard) and Linda (Tim); and numerous nieces and nephews.

Raymond R. Hotakainen

Raymond Richard Hotakainen, 84, went home to Jesus on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020, at Waterview Pines in Virginia. The family wishes to thank all of the staff at Cornerstone Villa in Buhl, Northern Pines in Aurora, and Waterview Pines in Virginia for all of the TLC given to Ray since he was stricken with West Nile Virus in 2007; it is very much appreciated. A Celebration of Life will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Timber Hall in Embarrass. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Iris Suehla Hotakainen; children, Paul (Ruth) Hotakainen of Embarrass, Jody (Kenny) Blake of Makinen and Wanda (Alex) Pluswick of Virginia; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; brothers, Mel of Sebeka, John (Carolyn) of Sebeka, Mar (Stephanee) of Winter Haven. Fla. Rob of Washington, D.C. and Jerry (Kathy) of Lino Lakes; sister, Barb of Sartell; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Science Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Bemidji State University, graduating in 1991.

JoAnn met Joel Knutson and they were united in marriage in 1992 in Cook. JoAnn taught Head Start and Early Childhood classes for 18 years and was employed with RSI in Cook for four years. She retired in 2012 to enjoy more time with her husband and family.

JoAnn enjoyed playing computer games and loved to play board games with the kids. She also enjoyed baking with them. She loved camping, fishing, and time at the cabin. She always enjoyed her weekend getaways with friends and girls' night out. Her favorite time was spent with her family.

Everyone will remember JoAnn for her generous spirit and especially her love for children of all ages. JoAnn was a very giving person.

JoAnn is survived by her husband, Joel Knutson of Cook; sons, Steve (Andrea) Beal of Hastings, Christopher (Kirsten) Beal of St. Paul and Adam (Jennifer Edge) Beal of Minneapolis; daughters, Breyan (Al Gibson) Knutson of Cook and Brittney (Les) Oberg of Cass Lake; 11 grandchildren; one great-grand-

Roger Allan "Sid" Whiteman Sr., 66, of Indian Point-Orr, passed away surrounded by loved ones on Monday, Aug. 31, 2020, in his home after a very brief battle with cancer. Sid requested no services or memorial, but the family gathered on Thursday, Sept. 3 for his 67th birthday party, which was planned a few weeks ago by him. Instead of celebrating him turning 67, we celebrated his amazing life and shared even more stories about Pops, Poopsie, Papa, Sweetheart, or whatever name for him may have tumbled out of any of our mouths over his lifetime.

The family would like to express their extreme and heartfelt gratitude for those who were able to stop in to visit during Sid's last days and would like to remind everyone of just how short and precious life is. A smile and little bit of friendliness goes a long long way; don't wait until the last minute to visit, and don't be afraid to say, "I love you". Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Sid was born on Sept. 3, 1953, in Littlefork. He grew up in a large family of brothers and sisters, cousins, and extended family in Nett Lake. In 1974, Sid married his high

John J. Ulicsni

John J. Ulicsni, 73, of Lake Vermilion, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020. Private family graveside services will be

Carl W. Salmela

Carl W. Salmela, 68 of Duluth, originally of Tower, died of natural causes at his home on Dec. 30, 2019. There will be a graveside service at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at the Town of Vermilion Lake Cemetery, 6499 Wahlsten Road (CR 26), Tower. Bring a chair if you wish, and please wear a face covering.

He is survived by several Salmela and Gustafson cousins.



HUNTING

Bear harvest up sharply Hunters on pace for biggest harvest in more than a decade

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL – Bear hunters in Minnesota are on a pace to harvest the highest number of bears in more than a decade, helped by dry conditions earlier in the summer that limited wild food production. As of Wednesday, the Department of Natural Resources was reporting 2,236 bear registrations.

The high harvest is falling heavier than usual on female bears, according to registration information compiled by the DNR. "In our area, we're seeing 55 percent females," said Tower Area Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch."That's sky high and from a population growth perspective, that's not what you want to see."

Hunters tend to take more female bears during years of natural food

Right: Sixteen-year-old Troy Ray poses with the 326-pound bear he shot during the first week of the 2020 bear hunt. submitted

shortages. In better food years, they are more reluctant than males to utilize baits, which most hunters use to draw bears to their stands.

See BEAR HUNT...pg. 5B





PERSONALITIES Ricing with the new guy Thoughts on tippy canoes and baby food, too



PUBLIC INPUT **DNR** seeks comment on gray wolf plan update

REGIONAL-Minnesota's iconic gray wolf is the focus of upcoming public input opportunities sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources.

In three virtual meetings and a parallel online input period, the public will be asked to weigh in on various questions about wolves, including specific questions and open comment opportunities about wolf numbers and geographic range, conservation options, and impacts on agriculture and other wildlife species.

The DNR is seeking this input as it updates the state's 20-year-old wolf management plan. "Discussions about wolves bring out opinions from a broad range of interests," said Dan Stark, DNR wolf management specialist. "We want to both provide information about wolves in Minnesota and understand the concerns and issues that people have about the future of wolf management. These public meetings are part of a broader process to update the plan and give people an opportunity to share their views."

took the new guy ricing recently. "The new guy" is our continuing appellation for David Colburn, who has served admirably as our Cook-Orr editor since we hired him back in February.

He was a last-second addition to our list of possible hires after we had received a surprisingly robust response to a job posting. It was his letter of introduction that sold us on him-it was well-researched, well-written, with a nice touch of wry Midwestern humor.

He's a Kansas boy,

although he's been all over the place, including professional stints in Los Angeles, St. Louis, and Chicago. He's been a school superintendent, ran a huge urban Head Start program, and left that to return home to take care of his mother and to be the editor of his local paper in

Marion, Kansas, about six years ago. He also spent several months living in Sri Lanka, of all places, where he just sort of bummed around, meeting interesting people and visiting out-of-the-way places.

David is insatiably curious, has an eye for detail, and likes new experiences. He's jumped into life in the North Country with both feet, so he was quick Above: David takes a selfie in the reflection off his publisher's sunglasses.

Right: Heading down Petrell Creek on the way to Breda Lake.

photos by D. Colburn

to say yes when I asked if he'd like to try ricing.

As he says, he was blown away the first time we arrived at one of the two lakes we visited this ricing season. He grabbed his camera



right away and fired off a shot. Back in Kansas, he said, the shot would pass for a wheatfield or a tallgrass prairie. "In Minnesota, it's a lake shot," he exclaimed later on Facebook."A frickin' lake!"

It was not just David's first time ricing... it seemed like it might be his

first time in a canoe, at least for a number of decades. The unstable tippy feel, which reminded me of having a lumbering puppy in the canoe, is a reliable sign that you have a greenhorn in the boat.

I tried knocking rice my usual way, perched on a low camping chair set just a bit back of the mid-section, with David paddling in the back. That



method has worked well for me in the past, but it requires a stable boat, so after nearly falling over a couple times, I moved to the front seat and sat backward. I've seen others rice that way and it worked passably well, especially under the circumstances.

David eventually got the hang of paddling, although he spent too much time looking at clouds or interesting patterns on lily pads, to keep us consistently in the best rice. David was equally fascinated by the entire ecosystem of organisms that fall into the boat along with the rice. Humans aren't the only ones to recognize the remarkable potential of this wild grain, after all. The rice is literally writhing with rice worms, rice moths, rice spiders, lady bugs, and a whole host of other tiny creatures that fill your boat and crawl up your pants legs, as David discovered with a hint of consternation

more than once.

To him, it was all opportunity for distraction. I'd look around regularly as we were passing through marginal rice, only to see that we'd missed the thick stuff on that pass as David was daydreaming or, in the alternative, telling one of his long-winded stories. One thing we learned quickly about David is that he's a talker, and a good storyteller as well. In that way, and others, he reminds everyone in the office of our former Cook-Orr editor, the late and much-missed Tom Klein.

We tried switching roles in the boat at one point, after persistent complaining from David that he had been stuck with the hard work. So, I paddled from the front (keeping the boat in thick rice, mind you) and he tried

See NEW GUY....pg. 5B

How to take part

The virtual open houses will include informational presentations from the DNR and allow real-time public input and Q&A. The open houses will each focus on a particular geographic area, and all are welcome to join the open house focusing on their area of the state or region of interest. Each takes place from 6-8 p.m.

▶ Northwest region -Tuesday, Sept. 29.

> Central and southern region, including Twin Cities metro area - Tuesday, Oct. 6.

▶ Northeast region -Thursday, Oct. 8.

The open houses will be accessible by computer, smartphone, or phone (audio only for those joining by phone). Registration for the event is required and will be available Monday, Sept. 21, on the wolf plan webpage. Individuals wishing to be notified when registration opens can sign up to receive updates about wolves from the DNR.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing proved to be very challenging for many anglers this last week as several cold fronts and high winds made walleyes sluggish and boat control extremely challenging. Still some anglers were able to locate and catch walleyes. Best reports came in 10 feet of water or less on windblown shorelines. Jig and minnows were the top producing, but there were a few reports of crawlers also being effective, on a jig. Water temps continue to fall into the 50's now, so anglers should expect the minnow bite to only get better and better.

Smallmouth bass anglers struggled, too, but there were a few reports of topwater fishing working during the early morning hours. Whopper ploppers and hulla poppers accounted for the topwater action reported by anglers. Anglers also reported catching numbers of smallies out on top of sunken islands, with a jig and big minnow.

Pike anglers reported good fishing, but most fish were on the small side. Anglers mainly found pike inside weedbeds and around river mouths. Large spoons, spinnerbaits and in-line spinners were very effective on pike.

Stream trout anglers reported good fishing from shore this last week. As water temps drop, stream trout rise back up and start cruising the shoreline. Anglers caught trout by floating a crawler off the bottom. Casting small spoons and small jigs and twisters, fished around downed trees or near large flats, was very effective. Early and late in the day were the best times to be out fishing for them.

Courtesy of Arrowhead Outdoors in Ely.

BEAR HUNT...Continued from page 4B

The season opened on Sept. 1 and the registrations were tallied through Sept. 9. While the season runs through Oct. 18, Rusch said hunters typically register about two-thirds of the harvest in the first week of the season. The harvest through the first nine days nearly surpasses last year's total harvest of 2,340. Rusch said it now looks likely this year's harvest will surpass 3,000 bears, which could well make it the highest take since 2007. Rusch said he expects hunter success to exceed 50 percent.

Those who utilized experienced guides likely did better than that. Indeed, ten of the 12 hunters who signed up for the hunt at Udovich Guide Service, harvested bears, according to longtime guide Dennis Udovich. "It was a pretty good season," said Udovich, who noted that all of his hunters had multiple opportunities to see bears. "We had multiple bears on the baits, so I urged them to take their time," he said. "One guy got to watch a female with three cubs."

Udovich stresses the importance of harvesting only male bears and his hunters followed that guideline this year as well.

The youngesthunterof the season was a 16-yearold from Wisconsin, who attended Udovich's bear camp with his father and two uncles, and they all went home with bears. The 16-year-old, Troy Ray, shot a 326-pound male. "We had three bears over 300 pounds," said Udovich, including the largest, a 346-pounder.

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NEW GUY...Continued from page 4B

knocking rice for about half an hour. I heard rice fall into the boat a couple times, probably by accident, and he was the one who eventually said he wouldn't mind switching back. Besides, he said he preferred the sound the rice made when I knocked, which he compared to "smooth jazz," as opposed to his "punk rock."

In the end, despite it all, after a couple trips to two different lakes, we ended up with plenty of rice for another year, and then some.

I don't know whether David will eat much of his rice. He's lived alone now for many years and as a single guy, he's lost touch with the idea of cooking, much less eating healthy. His idea of lunch at the office is something called a "hot pocket." I had to ask him what it was the first time he sat down with one, since I had never seen a hot pocket before.

For a little variety, David will regularly turn to a gas station burrito, the local variety appropriately branded "The Bomb," which is what I assume it feels like when it reaches your gut.

He brought one back to the office earlier this year, heated it up in the microwave, and took a couple bites before sensing something wasn't quite right. He turned it over only to find the bottom covered with bright green mold. I half expected him to scrape it off and just keep right on eating, but at that point he figured it was best to toss The Bomb. Even the dog wouldn't touch it.

You can tell he mostly eats by



David Colburn, with an impish twinkle in his eye, enjoys a lunch break, which involves sucking a yogurt-like goo from a tube-like package in between handfuls of Fritos corn chips.

photo by M. Helmberger

himself, since he's pretty slovenly about it (sorry, as a reporter I just have to tell it like it is). He has, in keeping with my description, prompted a betting pool in the office about how thick the mold will grow on his stale coffee in the coffeemaker before David decides to rinse the pot. Funny how David and mold keep coming up in the same sentence, isn't it?

For David, mostly it's about convenience when it comes to food. While ricing, I had brought a salmon-salad sandwich, with fresh garden lettuce on multi-grain bread, my favorite tortilla chips, and some exceptionally delicious cookies that my wife Jodi had baked the night before (I shared them, of course).

David had brought Fritos and

something in a tube. It was some kind of creamy, sweetened goo that the manufacturer described as "yogurt," which appeared intended for infants. "Is that baby food?" I asked as he sucked on one end of the tube while squeezing out the goo. Insulted, David corrected me. "No, it's for toddlers."

David seems to appreciate self-deprecating humor, which is why I expect he'll still be working for us after reading about his introduction to ricing. Besides, being the target of occasional ribbing comes with the territory when you're "the new guy," and on that front David's content to go with the flow, even if the canoe might be a little tippy...







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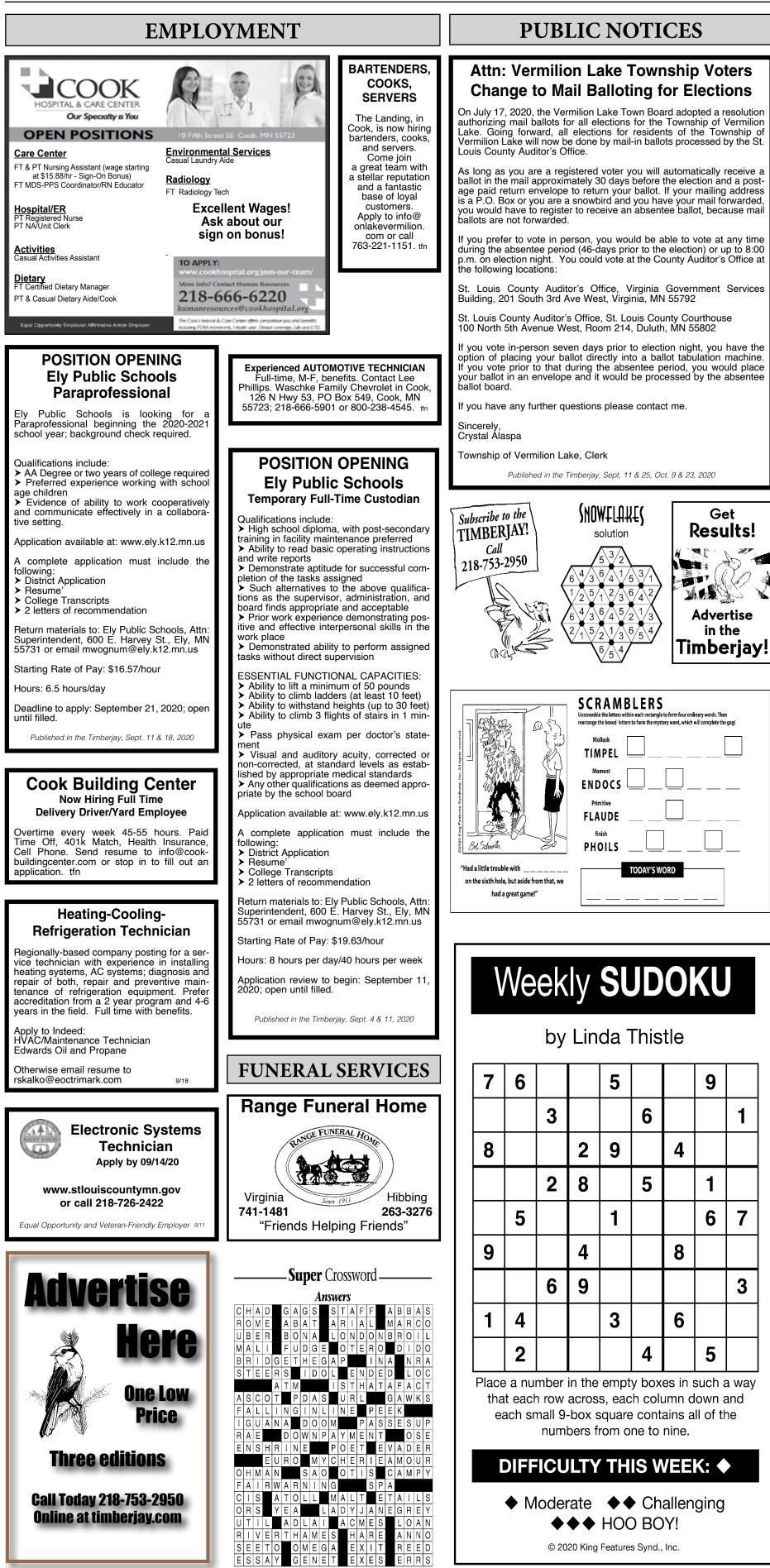
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SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA GROUPS TO MEET BY PHONE- Starting immedi-ately, the Ely Wednesday and Saturday AA Groups will not meet in person. A conference call meeting has been set up. At 7:30 on either night, call 978-990-5000, and enter the access code, 965850#. Once the meeting has started, use *6 to mute and unmute your phone. If any other group would like to set up phone meetings, please call Anna Nimity at 218-290-2681 for assistance.

MS SUPPORT GROUP- meets the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.

ORR AA meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Orr.

CO-DEPENDENTS ELY MEETING- Fridays at noon-St. Anthony's Church Classroom 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org on the web.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS Meetings every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia.

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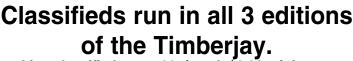
3. Feudal; 4. Polish Today's Word



by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.





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in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037.

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake. Tuesdavs at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

AA OPEN MEETING Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Woodland Presbyterian Church, Acacia Blvd. and Central Drive in Babbitt.

MEETING in Ely! "New Ideas" WOMEN IN RECOVERY: 12 Steps. For women seeking help and hope to recover from any addiction: drugs, alcohol, food, gambling etc. Every Thursday noon at St Anthony's Catholic Church. Come join us! Q: 218-235-3581.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E Camp St., Ely Enter through side door.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There way out with the help of other recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. We have been there. For meeting or other information call 218-728-3199. (Narcotics Anonymous non-profit organization.) is a

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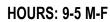
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