

Inside:
New mayor in Ely?... See /9
Fall sports... See /1B
Slow start for opener... See /4B

# The INTERIOR TO THE STATE OF TH

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

# Walz clamps down as COVID cases rise

Bars, restaurants and various social events draw new restrictions

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Gov. Tim Walz "turned back the dials" on coronavirus restrictions on Tuesday, targeting restaurants, bars, social gatherings, and receptions for tighter controls to combat the unchecked spread of

COVID-19 in Minnesota.

The state has hit recent record highs in daily cases, case positivity rates ,and the seven-day rolling average, and hospitals are quickly reaching capacity while experiencing shortages of health care staff.

"I recognize this is painful," Walz said in a televised press conference. MORE COVERAGE

➤ Editorial: COVID's darkest days Page 4

➤ Pandemic on the rise in North Country Page 7

"We are in the midst of a significant surge in coronavirus cases. I wish I could tell you that this was unexpected, but it was not."

There were three

consecutive days last week when new positive COVID-19 cases soared about 5,000 in Minnesota, and Tuesday's number was 4,906. By contrast, in the first two weeks of September only one day exceeded 1,000 new cases. Health officials continue to stress that the rate of new cases is rising faster than the rate of testing, and that positivity rates in many areas of the state indicate that spread of the virus is unchecked.

See...COVID pg. 9



CAN STAY OPEN

SNOW HERE TO STAY?



Record warmth replaced with half-foot of snow

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

REGIONAL — The region's weather roller coaster continued this week as record-setting warmth vanished in a matter of hours, to be replaced by six-to-eight inches of snow and a return to more seasonable temperatures.

The snow system came in fast and hard late on Tuesday, as snow

Above: A snowplow driver in Tower. M. Helmberger

Right: Birch leaves and snow in Ely. K. Vandervort

fell at rates in excess of two inches an hour. "It really came down hard," said Krystal Kossen, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Duluth.

See...SNOW pg. 8



ELECTION 2020

# DFL falls short in state races

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Democrats had high hopes for big electoral gains on Nov. 3 this year, including here in Minnesota, where DFLers hoped to flip the state Senate and expand their control in

the state House. Yet, while Joe Biden easily won the state over Donald Trump, and Tina Smith was re-elected to

Ely waiting on mayor decision Page 9

the U.S. Senate, Democrats largely fell short of their expectations elsewhere.

Republicans picked up a congressional seat in Minnesota with the defeat of longtime Congressman Collin Peterson. And the Democrats failed to flip the First District congressional seat, despite a slew of ethical complaints against incumbent Republican Jim Hagedorn.

This was another year in which the DFL saw the impact of its fading influence in northeastern Minnesota,

See...DFL pg. 9

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

# Voters again to be asked to switch to appointed clerk, treasurer

More responses needed on broadband survey

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- A question that failed by a 194-97 vote in the March 2020 election will again be on the township ballot in 2021. The Greenwood Town Board, at their Tuesday meeting, voted to place the question of whether or not to switch from an elected clerk and treasurer to appointed (hired by

Greenwood Township residents voted against switching to an appointed clerk and treasurer in 2020. They will be asked to vote for the same thing in 2021. Timberjay file

the town board) positions.

Supervisor Carmen DeLuca said he wanted to "put that option out there."

"I don't think people were informed last year," DeLuca said.

Chairman Mike Ralston said Option B would not create a combined clerk/treasurer position but would give the town board the authority to appoint employees to both positions. He noted that the process to hire a combined clerk/treasurer involved voting on a separate measure.

See...VOTERS pg. 8





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**2** November 13, 2020 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

## **Community notices**

#### Early deadline notice

The deadline for the *Timberjay's* Thanksgiving Week paper will be on Saturday, Nov. 21. The paper will be printed early that week and will be mailed on Tuesday for delivery on Wednesday, Nov. 25. Watch for this year's North Country Christmas magazine, featuring stories, recipes, crafts, and plenty of local gift ideas from area businesses. We wish all of our readers a happy Thanksgiving this year, and hope everyone will find ways to celebrate safely, and probably remotely, with friends and family.

#### **Vermilion Dream Quilters holiday** gathering canceled

TOWER- The Dec. 3 holiday gathering scheduled for the Vermilion Dream Quilters is canceled due to the continuing increase in COVID-19 cases. The early 2021 meetings in January, February and March are also unlikely to be held. Public health recommendations will be monitored and in-person meetings will resume as soon as it is reasonably safe to do so. Watch for announcements while continuing to sew/quilt for charity, distraction and for joy.

#### MNsure's open enrollment runs from now until Dec. 22

REGIONAL- Open enrollment through MNsure began Nov. 1, and runs through Dec. 22 at 11:59 p.m. Minnesotans looking for 2021 health or dental coverage should visit MNsure.org to shop and compare plans. Most Minnesotans who purchase private health plans through MNsure qualify for financial help to lower the cost of their insurance.

MNsure's Contact Center hours run Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MNsure's Contact Center can be reached at 651-539-2099 or 855-366-7873.

MNsure-certified brokers and navigators provide free enrollment help through virtual meetings, phone appointments, or in-person meetings that follow the Minnesota Department of Health's COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that having comprehensive health insurance has never been more important," said MNsure CEO Nate Clark. "MNsure is here to help you get health coverage and give you and your family a little more peace of mind during this uncertain time. Enroll through MNsure.org by Dec. 22 so you can be sure you're covered come Jan. 1."

Compare medical and dental plans side by side before applying by using MNsure's Plan Comparison Tool. Get estimates on premium costs, deductibles and more. Minnesotans can also use the tool to see if they qualify for financial help.

MNsure is Minnesota's health insurance marketplace where individuals and families can shop, compare, and choose health insurance coverage that meets their needs. MNsure is the only place you can apply for financial help to lower the cost of your monthly insurance premium and out-of-pocket costs. Most Minnesotans who enroll through MNsure qualify for financial help.

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#### WINTER FUN

# Folk school hosts holiday party, Dec. 12



Ely Folk School's holiday party will feature dogsled rides for kids and adults, a warming bonfire and pool-noodle broomball on Shagawa Lake. sumitted photo

ELY-While many area holiday events are canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Ely Folk School will host a safe outdoor holiday party next month.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Semer's Park on Shagawa Lake.

This free community gathering will feature dogsled rides for kids and adults, a warming bonfire, pool-noodle broomball on the lake ice and a very special guest.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own skis, snowshoes or other recreational activities

to enjoy the large open space of Semer's Park and Shagawa Lake. Thanks to the generosity of Zup's Market and Lakeshore Liquor, refreshments will be provided, including glögg, beer, hot cocoa, and snacks. Social distancing precautions will be in place and mask use will be encouraged.

#### Classes

Ely Folk School is hosting several online classes this month, some with holiday themes: Bananas Foster Flambé, Intro to Photoshop, Scandinavian Heart Ornaments, and Animal Tracks. Check the website, elyfolkschool.org, for dates, times and registration information.

The school is also putting together a class lineup for the Ely Winterfest, Feb. 4 through 14, 2021.

"In these challenging times, 'resilience' has been our catchword," said EFS coordinator Betty Firth. "We're pleased with the generous community response to our fall fundraising campaign and the interest in our classes."

EFS also welcomes a new staff person, Lucy Soderstrom. "Since childhood, Lucy has spent summers at her family's cabin near Ely and with area YMCA programs as a camper and counselor," Firth said. "Now a University of Puget Sound graduate in International Relations, Lucy studied in Morocco, Qatar and the Netherlands. Given her focus on sustainable business development in small communities, she's excited to connect with the Ely community through

#### HONORING OUR VETERANS

## **Veterans Virtual Career Fair on Nov. 19**

Hundreds of employers who recognize the unique value of military service are participating

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) invite participation in this year's 14th annual Veterans Career Fair. The Minnesota Veterans Virtual Career Fair will take place online on Thursday, Nov. 19 from 2 to 6 p.m. Employers participating in the event are encouraged to offer full-time positions with family-sustaining wages and benefits.

"We want to invite all Minnesota military veterans and active service members, including National Guard members and reservists, and their

spouses, to meet employers who recognize and appreciate your military experience," said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove. "If you're looking for work now or are considering a career move, this is a great opportunity to hear from hundreds of employers, meet virtually with those that interest you, and share your skills and experience with them."

"We want to thank all the great Minnesota employers who acknowledge the unique value those who serve or served in the military bring to their organization's team," said MDVA Commissioner Larry Herke. "Military service not only provides high-tech training and real world experience, it also builds character skills like integrity, leadership, teamwork and commitment to getting the job done right. Hiring a veteran is a great decision for an organization's success."

Governor Tim Walz proclaimed November 2020 as Veterans Month and the Veterans Virtual Career Fair is part of the state of Minnesota's efforts to honor veterans during the month. Hundreds of employers are taking part in the Minnesota Veterans Virtual Career Fair including the event's lead sponsors, 3M, Ace Solid Waste, ACR Homes, Andersen Windows and Doors, Grand Casino, and Titan

Machinery. Organizations that provide employment, education and other services for veterans are also participating.

Registration is required to participate in the Minnesota Veterans Virtual Career Fair. U.S. military veterans, active service members, and their spouses can get more information about the event and register for free at CareerForceMN.com/ minnesota-veterans-virtual-career-fair. Employers interested in participating can also find information on that webpage. Participation requires internet access and the ability to stream video

and audio.





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## **COVID-19 Testing Available**

Curbside COVID-19 testing available Mon-Fri at our Cook and Tower Clinics. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 through someone with a known positive test result, please call to schedule a testing appointment.

Testing will not be completed without an appointment. Scenic Rivers will not bill patients for testing. Insurance coverage will be processed when available.

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ISD 696

# Ely school building project designs coming together

by KEITH VANDERVORT

Fly Editor

ELY – Design work is ramping up on the ISD 696 school facility renovation project as the oversight committee considers work needed in the existing school buildings to tie in the new entrance and commons area structure and the rest of the campus

Superintendent Erik Erie updated school board members this week on new schematic designs and project budget considerations with an eye toward releasing project bid documents early next year.

Nearly a dozen designers and construction officials from Kraus Anderson and Architectural Resources Inc. met with Ely school personnel last week to continue the design process.

"We are discussing transition plans and spaces for our current programs that are now in the Industrial Arts building and what that will look like next year," Erie said. Soil borings

Construction bids scheduled for mid-February and hazardous materials invesKraus Anderson officials are member James Pointer inquired St. Louis

he added.
School board chair Ray
Marsnik, school board member
Tony Colarich, facilities manager
Tim Leeson, and Erie comprise
the facility committee for the
project. Marsnik added that
the 32,000-gallon propane tank
located in the school's front yard,
could be relocated to the ice arena
parking lot.

tigation are being completed,

"That will be a big improvement," he said.

Construction bids were scheduled to be ready in January, but now that deadline appears to have moved into February. "We are still in these schematic designs and things appear to be changing quite often," Marsnik said. "I think we are going to have to set a limit on what we are going to be changing and let our (construction manager) go to work and come up with his plan. We've had about three months to look at this."

Erie told the board that

Kraus Anderson officials are looking at the date of Feb. 19 to begin the project bidding period. He added that the design of the new structure is complete, and designers are finalizing priorities in the existing Washington and Memorial buildings.

School board member Tom Omerza questioned who the ultimate authority is for the \$20-million project in terms of final design, construction timelines and budget monitoring.

Erie said the construction manager is Kraus Anderson and they will be managing the entire project. A senior project manager from that firm will be overseeing the day-to-day operations of the project from start to finish. "They are in charge of the project," he said, "and they make sure we are on budget and on schedule."

The school district's facil-

ities committee will participate in regular construction meetings as the project progresses, Erie added.

Outgoing school board

member James Pointer inquired about a final project approval by board members. Two new school board members will take office in January.

"We already voted on the plan," Erie said. "The facilities committee will be reviewing the project going forward."

Marsnik stressed that the board will be involved in reviewing and approving the final design plans prior to the release of bid documents. "We will all definitely see the entire plan and be able to comment on it before we go out for bids," he said.

#### Safe Learning Plan

School board members approved two modifications to the district's Safe Learning Plan, put in place to address public health measures and protocols in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Our 'Restart Blueprint' revisions come as a result of our consultations with the

St. Louis County Department of Health last week when they recommended changes to reflect new guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education," Erie said.

"We are making sure we look at county (positive COVID-19 test) data, and rather than just a greater St. Louis County reporting area, we are now part of a northern county reporting area," he said.

The Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ESLPAC) is now giving added weight to community and school group activities, in addition to senior living center data in recommending learning plan transitions.

"We are looking at more pieces," Erie said. "It was very black and white before, and we found out that in the process there are more grey areas. We are kind of redefining what we look at."

See SCHOOL...pg. 5

#### CITY OF TOWER

# Clerk updates council on budget progress

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

vianaging Luttor

TOWER- Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua updated the city council here, on Monday, on her steps to bring the city's budgeting process up to the standards recommended by most public financial officers. Ranua recently joined the Government Finance Officers Association, which develops best management practices for public-sector financial

management, and she has been studying their guidance in an effort to improve the budgeting process and financial oversight in Tower.

"The budget isn't just numbers," Ranua told the council. "It's also about the narrative, the structure, internal controls, and your reserve policy," she said. "These are the things that the city has been lacking."

Ranua acknowledged that much of the GFOA guidance is geared toward big cities; she said she's looking for recommendations that are relevant to small cities as well.

As part of that initiative, Ranua told the council that she and the new ambulance director have opted to convert the city's ambulance service to an enterprise fund. "It means you're operating in a more business-like structure," she said. That means costs are factored in a different way than was done in the past, including the calculation of business costs, like depreciation, that were not accounted for by the department before. She noted that the department has at least five different wage categories, which didn't fit well with the state auditor's guidance for standard government accounting but would fit within an enterprise

ccount.

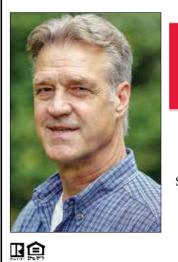
Ranua said she hopes to have final numbers to present to the council by Friday on changes to utility billing that could bring the city's pay structure in line with the city's ordinance, which requires that customer billings cover the city's cost of utility operations. The city did boost

See BUDGET...pg. 5

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

COVID's darkest days
America faces its toughest challenge
with third wave of the pandemic

had been right.

For months, we've heard millions of Americans, including residents right here in the North Country, scoff at the concerns over the impact of this new strain of coronavirus. Many suggested it was just a hoax and predicted that it would disappear from the television and the public discourse right after the election.

Those people were wrong, of course. Far from disappearing, as we've been reporting this month, the coronavirus is spreading explosively across the country, and few places more aggressively than in northern Minnesota.

Remember the spikes experienced in New York and Florida earlier this year, which jammed hospitals and led to thousands of deaths in those states? On a per-capita basis, the situation in Minnesota and elsewhere in the Upper Midwest is even worse. Next door in North Dakota, the situation is nothing short of astonishing. That state has been recording as many as 30 deaths daily, which may not sound like much until you consider its population. If the U.S. as a whole had a similar mortality rate, our national death toll would equal 12,000 per day.

That's about four 9/11 attacks. Every day. We had lived under the illusion that, thanks to the remote nature of our region, we were largely immune from the pandemic. Turns out that was magical thinking.

And we may not be far behind North Dakota. The Cook area, which encompasses the 55723-zip code, has seen cases skyrocket, from seven cases a month ago to 35 cases as of the last weekly report from St. Louis County. Ely has jumped from an alreadyhigh 38 cases, to 57. Embarrass has spiked from 11 cases to 34, while cases in Tower have jumped from 18 to 34. The Orr area has nearly doubled as well, from 16

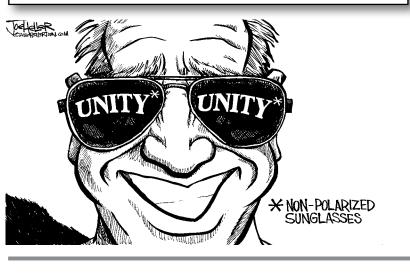
What's worse, 60 percent of these cases are considered by county health officials to be community spread, a rate that's higher than elsewhere in Minnesota. Essentially, the virus is complete-

If only the COVID skeptics ly out of control in our region, putting all of us at risk.

But the implications of this current status go far beyond the public health concerns. As we've been reporting, area schools are increasingly having to shift to distance or hybrid learning as the case count rises. That puts pressure on the ability of parents to find, or afford, childcare on days when their kids are not in school. It puts increased pressure on public health officials to order the kind of business lockdowns that have already been implemented in many European countries with lower rates of infection than here.

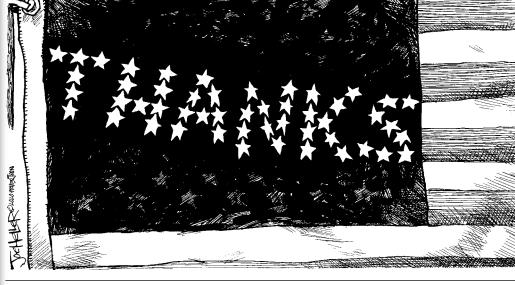
None of us wants to see a return to the stay-home orders we experienced here last March and April. Yet the risk of COVID-19 infection is far higher here today than it was back then. However, if we, and that means all of us, don't get a handle on this disease soon, that's exactly what may happen.

We're all suffering from COVID fatigue to be sure, but we're going to have to keep up our efforts a while longer. That means continuing to follow the COVID-19 guidelines put out by state health officials, and not just when we head to work or to the store. Health officials increasingly point to social gatherings, even small ones, as the biggest source of community spread. Parties, weddings, funerals, even casual get-togethers with friends, are causing much of the community spread in our region. We need to postpone such gatherings whenever possible or, at a minimum, wear masks and observe social distancing. We know it's a sacrifice, but it's the kind that saves lives. Right now, an average of two dozen Minnesotans are dying every day. That's not a North Dakota mortality rate, but our skyrocketing new caseload suggests that our death toll will only increase. If we reach North Dakota levels, that equals 200 dead Minnesotans every day. This is real, despite what your friend or crazy uncle might suggest. The coronavirus isn't going away with the election. It's only going to get worse unless we all get serious.





ON VETERANS DAY, THE STATES ARE UNANIMOUS.



### Letters from Readers

#### Police overreaction has spread to Canada

As I was recently looking over the internet on subjects of sustainable horticulture and agriculture, I almost couldn't believe my eyes as I watched the video of an 18-year old home schooled Alberta (Canada) farm boy being yanked from his tractor, punched in the face, and slammed to the ground by Alberta Provincial Police near the town of Sundre.

His offense? He wouldn't put his lips on a breathalyzer and obey Canada's mandatory blood alcohol check of motorists. As he was home schooled, he perhaps was a bit naive, not having a TV to watch every night and not really knowing what an alcohol breathalyzer was. But he did know about COVID-19, and he wasn't about to put his lips on a device he wasn't sure had been properly sterilized.

Arrested and cuffed, booked for resisting arrest and refusing to comply with the mandatory alcohol check, the cops then added insult to injury by towing the tractor at high speed (ruining the transmission) and impounding it. His brother tried to diplomatically intervene but he was arrested as well.

The charges against the brothers have since been dropped except for the return of their drivers' licenses. The Alberta police will not pay for damages to the tractor or medical expenses to the battered teen. In Canada, one cannot merely get an attorney and sue the government for physical or emotional damages like we can here in the U.S.A.

There's no question: Because of the North Hollywood shootout in the 1990s and the 9-11 tragedy, police forces the world over have become very militarized. Behavior like the Alberta cops displayed only leads to disrespect and hostility on the part of the public and leads to the forming of hardcore anti-government militias.

I was eventually planning on visiting the Banff area someday, but if they beat up innocent hard-working farm boys because of a misunderstanding, I am not sure what law enforcement might do to an ignorant tourist such as myself.

Link: calgary.ctvnews. ca, "he was punched in the neck" Also: Internet search for Leussink Farms, Sundre, to donate and support the family with legal and medical fees as well as tractor repair.

> Mark Roalson **Hoyt Lakes**

#### Controlling climate change is a long-term fight

The next administration will propose a \$2 trillion plan to combat climate change. Melting glaciers, rising sea levels, famine producing droughts, flooding of cities and crop lands, hurricane winds, out of control wildfires, extreme weather gyrations, air pollution, and lost lives are attributable to escalating global temperatures. The consequences of these alterations are causing catastrophic impacts on populations and the natural environment throughout the world.

Despite the devastation caused by climate change, the expensive proposed legislation will encounter opposition by the austerity-minded U.S. Senate

Approximately 85 percent of the world's industrial energy comes from fossil fuels that emit CO2, causing rising temperatures. The incoming administration will seek to convert our energy sources to renewable sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectric and nuclear to eliminate harmful emissions. The cost of transition is massive.

The U.S. Senate will

be reluctant to approve this magnitude of deficit increase. The U.S. current debt already is 105 percent of the nation's economic output (GDP) which erodes the country's preeminent creditworthiness.

If the next administration can convincingly document that the proposed climate change can be ameliorated and concurrently create jobs, lower health costs, benefit agricultural production, reduce transportation costs, decrease energy costs and provide fiscal stimulus, the magnitude of the proposed legislation would be feasible and desirable. It will create a widespread return on investment benefit beyond merely reducing the devastating climate change.

The administration should finance a portion of the necessary increase in national debt with callable 50-year, 100-year and perpetual bonds. This period of historically low interest rates, combined with the long-term trend of inflation, makes these securities a viable means of financing the incremental debt. There are already precedents for these exceedingly long maturities. Moreover, the reduction of climate change destruction will provide an optimal return on investment due to its infinite longevity benefits, especially compared to traditional infrastructure expenditures with their limited life spans.

**Gerry Snyder** 

#### We welcome your letters

The Timberjay encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

# Invasion of noise disrupts a once quiet home

On one of those unseasonably cold late October mornings, I stepped away from the warmth of the wood stove to take Duffy for his first walk of the day. We were confronted by a cacophony of screeching, beeping, and grinding noise, so foreign and so loud that a wave of distress

KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN in particular, "What in the world is that?!"

Over many decades of dwelling on this once-remote forty acres, visitors from faraway places would often remark on how quiet it was here. When a dense forest still buffered our cabin from the state highway a mile

away, rarely would traffic noise peneswept through my entire body. I trate the natural silence of this heard myself call out to no one place.

My nearest neighbor lived two miles away and still farmed his family homestead. The only time his presence would intrude upon my peaceful reverie was when he'd fire up his old John Deere tractor to plow, seed and harvest oats for sale and hay for his livestock. Sometimes, I'd hear his cows moo, not always in harmony, sonically bridging the space between my place and theirs. Other than these routine interruptions, I was mostly surrounded by a chorus of songbirds and woodpeckers, accompanied by woodwinds emanating from the canopy of aspen overhead. This went on for decades with very little change. Oh yes, we had a school bus that raced down the road most mornings, and there was the county snowplow or grader taking turns with their rumbling by. But how could I complain when they were doing a very good job at getting kids to school and keeping the roads passable for our safety and convenience. Every now and then, a passenger jet (way, way up there) would faintly roar overhead. I'd raise my gaze upward to our deep blue sky, searching for its shiny

fuselage, perfectly mimicking a bright star in broad daylight. These distractions have never created a sustained annoyance. In fact, they've rewarded me with beauty, awe, and a love for this place.

As I am well-aware, the human population of our planet hasn't stopped expanding while I've been caught up in my quieter, slower pace of life. No, it's just kept marching toward the eight billion mark, rendering places densely inhabited by

See NOISE...pg. 5

#### Let's honor all veterans in the fight for freedom and justice

As we honor the veterans who have fought on the battlefields of war, let us also honor and remember those veterans who have fought on the battlefields of justice, equality and freedom.

On Dec. 2, 1859, John Brown was led to his execution. Louisa M. Alcott on that day christened him, "Saint John the Just." On that same day, Longfellow wrote: "This will be a great day in history; the date of a new revolution, quite as much needed as the old one. Even now as I write, they are leading Old John Brown to execution in Virginia for attempting to rescue slaves! This is sowing the wind to reap the whirlwind, which will come soon."

On that day that John Brown was hanged in Charlestown, Virginia, Thoreau said; "Some eighteen hundred years ago Christ was crucified. This morning perchance, Captain Brown was hung. These are two ends of a chain which is not without its links. He is not Old John Brown any longer, he is an angel of light.'

With every drop of his honest blood, John Brown hated slavery, and in his early

life he resolved to lay his life on freedom's altar in wiping out the affliction of slavery. He never faltered, so God-like was his unconquerable soul that he dared to face the world alone. His great heart was set upon a higher objective, and a loftier ambition. His grand soul was illuminated by a sublime ideal. A race of human beings, despised and dismissed, were in chains, and this malignant crime was destroying the heart of civilization.

From the beginning of his career to its close, John Brown had but one idea and one ideal, that was to destroy chattel slavery, and in that cause he sealed his devotion with his noble blood.

Who shall be our modern-day John Brown of wage slavery?

The Grand Old Woman of the revolutionary movement was the appropriate title given to Mother Jones. From the time of the Pullman Strike on May 11 to July 20, 1894, she first came into prominence. Four thousand factory workers walked out after their wages were cut, with thirty workers dying. This brave woman fought the battles of the oppressed with a heroism more exalted than ever sustained a soldier upon the field of carnage. For many weary months she lived amid the most desolate regions of West Virginia, organizing the starving miners, sharing her meager staples with their families, nursing the sick. She was a true minister of mercy.

In the Colorado strikes, Mother Jones was feared, as was no other, by the criminal corporations. She was as feared by them as she was loved by the sturdy miners she led again and again in the face of overwhelming odds. When her snow white crown of hair was seen, the despairing slaves took newfound courage and fought again with all their waning strength against their foe. She had won her way into the hearts of the country's labor forces, and her name was revered at the altar of their humble firesides and will be forever lovingly remembered by their children and their children's children.

Who shall be our modern-day Mother Jones of justice? No man has ever written more personal letters, throbbing with the ascending song of life, clearly revealing the inner and spiritual processes of growth than Eugene Debs, whose acknowledged conscious kinship to the manifestations of the universe never ends. Whoever was brushed with his magnetism never forgot the experience. They became quickly conscious of standing in the presence of a

Who shall be our modern-day Eugene Debs, the fearless speakers of telling truth to the tyranny of power?

Following the election of 2020, and the election of our new sought-after hope, let's all progress to become veterans in bringing about the single most important quality needed to resist evil, the establishment of moral autonomy, that the corporate state has set out to destroy.

T.D. Duff **Tonka Bay** 

#### Citizens have lost their voice in Greenwood

Since the Greenwood Township Supervisors have let the residents down by not letting anyone speak at their meetings, the voices of the public need to be put out in the newspaper.

Former treasurer Pam Rodgers has been paid after her date of her resignation.

Is she training? There was no motion to pay anyone to train, much less an amount to be paid. The supervisors did not make a motion to that effect.

The deputy treasurer, as it looks to me by the emails, has been doing clerk duties. This should not happen. The clerk and treasurer jobs should not

be intermingled. Was the deputy treasurer appointed as the deputy clerk also? The Minnesota Association of Townships does not recommend this.

I know there will always be some confusion when new people are appointed to positions. But, as everyone knows, the rules still need to be followed. If there has been clerk's work done by a treasurer or deputy treasurer, I would think an audit should be called for.

The public has no way of talking to the supervisors to give opinions, have questions asked, and be

given answers. I know of several people who have called the supervisors. With the supervisors hanging up. Or no call back.

This is everyone's community. The residents should have input into the workings of the township government. It is also my understanding from a supervisor's wife-alot of things are missing from the office. If a list would be written up, I could help find the missing items (in the office).

> Thank you for listening. **Sue Drobac** Greenwood Twp.

#### **SCHOOL**...Continued from page 4

As per ESLPAC recommendations, the school district will remain in its current learning plan at least through the Thanksgiving break, barring any outbreaks in the school community. The active COVID-19 case count in the school remains at zero.

According to Erie, MDH advised that the school's junior high volleyball team go into quarantine due to a player from North Woods school testing positive for COVID-19. "Parents have been notified," he said.

An Early Dismissal propos-

al, as directed by an executive order from Gov. Tim Walz, calls for more preparation time for teachers as they balance in-person and distance-learning protocols for their classes. Ely students will be dismissed at noon on Wednesdays to accommodate the mandated increased teacher prep time.

Erie also reported that the district's technology upgrades have been delayed. The district's order for 500-plus Chromebooks for every student has been pushed back to at least mid-January because of supply and distribution delays.

fearless teacher for truth.

#### Other business

In other business, the school board took the following action:

- ➤ Accepted the resignation of paraprofessional Evan Omerza.
- ➤ Hired Melissa Hart as cafeteria aide.
- ➤ Hired Thomas Just as a temporary paraprofessional.
- ➤ Approved the following coaches - Nate LaFond,

assistant junior high Nordic skiing coach, Mark Sponholz, Sarah Sponholz, Brenda Olson, Travis Durkin, Heather Durkin, Barb Thompson, Will Helms, Jen Stouffer, Jeff Nelson, Carl Skustad, Molly Johnston, Mary Grayson, Heather Cavalier, Christian Cavalier, and Heidi Favet as volunteer assistant Nordic skiing coaches, and Scott Matthias as volunteer assistant hockey coach.

➤ Approved salary lane changes for the following teachers who recently earned master's

degrees - Autumn Boedeker, Cory Lassi, Kelly Noble and Megan Wognum.

> Rescheduled the December school board study session from Monday, Dec. 21 to Monday, Dec., 28 at 6 p.m.

➤ Virtual parent/teacher conferences will be held Tuesday, Nov. 17 and Thursday, Nov. 19.

#### **BUDGET...**Continued from page 4

its utility rates for next year, but Ranua plans to show the council a comparison between the city's ordinance language and its actual rates during a special meeting set for Friday, Nov. 13.

In other business, the council approved a contract with Nancy Larson, operating as Community Coaching, Inc., for project planning and grant management, up to 100 hours, at a rate of \$75 an hour. Larson took over grant writing and management on an emergency basis for the city last year after the termination of the former clerk-treasurer and has been serving as a grant writer since then. Larson was present at the council's last meeting to talk about the proposal, but wasn't able to attend Monday night's meeting. Ranua noted that the contract includes grant management services and suggested tabling the matter until their Nov. 13 special meeting. But both Mayor Kringstad and outgoing council member Mary Shedd said they were comfortable with the contract as written. The two combined to advance a motion to approve the contract, and the rest of the council concurred.

The council also discussed paying to replace a recording device for the security camera system at the train depot, but the request dredged up a long-unresolved issue over who actually owns the depot and surrounding property. County records show that the property is owned by Wisconsin Central, Ltd., a fact that Ranua recently discovered, but Kringstad said it is pretty clear that the railroad had transferred title to the city almost 20 years ago. It appears, however, that the city never recorded the title change with the county and Ranua said she's been unable to locate the original title transfer documents, which are required to record the change in ownership. If the documents can't be found, the city will need to ask Wisconsin Central to redraft the legal documents so it can

Kringstad said the issue will be researched, but he said he was confident that the city actually owns the property.

After more discussion, the council approved a motion by Shedd to obtain two quotes for the recording unit and select the best buy among the two.

#### Ambulance billing

The council also heard from Ambulance Director Dena Suihkonen and eventually approved her proposal to switch ambulance billing companies as a means of generating more revenue for the service. "We've been using the same ambulance billing service for as long as I can remember," she told the council. She reached out to a different vendor, TransMedic, on the recommendation of Virginia Fire Chief Allen Lewis. Tower's current service, ExpertT, charges \$20 per billed run, while the new company, known as TransMedic, charges \$15 per run. The new service does charge a two-percent commission on net receipts from the prior month, but Suihkonen said that gives the company incentive to maximize revenues to the ambulance service. She said the Tower ambulance service qualifies as "super rural," which means it should be receiving a higher rate for reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid than is the case presently. She said TransMedic has indicated it is willing to work with Tower ambulance staff to better document the services ambulance personnel provide, to ensure maximum reimbursement.

#### Other action

In other action, the council: ➤ Approved resolutions in support of grant applications to both the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and the Community Development Block Grant program for funds to help provide matching money for the Pine St. reconstruction project. The city has received commitments for up to \$472,000, but

the project still has a roughly \$250,000 funding gap.

➤ Accepted the resignation of Eric Norberg from the Gundersen Trust board and tabled appointment of John Burgess to fill an existing vacancy on the board until Nov. 13 so a resolution can be prepared.

➤ Approved a resolution appointing Joe Morin and Randy Johnson as interim members of the city's Board of Adjustment. The board hasn't met in years, which is why the city hasn't worried about the board's membership in recent years. But Shedd, who also serves as the city's zoning administrator, said she expects Dave Rose will be filing for a variance for his planned RV park.

➤ Tabled a discussion on the clerk/treasurer's compensation until Nov. 13.

➤ Tabled discussion of department reports until Nov. 13.

#### **NOISE...**Continued from page 4 -

humans to burst at their seams.

After being the only house on this two-mile stretch of dirt road for a very long time, I am now required to share whatever surrounding land isn't managed by the state or county, with several other people. In my township, stories always circulated among the oldest residents of a time when a person "couldn't give this land away". But now it's highly sought after, mostly for recreational purposes. In recent years, there's been a spike in activity and consequently an increase in noise. Folks are busy clearing brush, building shelters, a lot of pounding and banging, and shooting. Turns out, many

of my new neighbors are hunters and firearm enthusiasts who view our area as a quasi-frontier, the place where they can set up targets and literally, have a blast!

In addition to these "new sounds on the block", our nearby two-lane highways have begun to attract a lot more traffic. Potholes and frost bumps are less tolerated by an ever-expanding number of tourists and new settlers. Seems our previously neglected roads are getting some badly needed attention. And road crews need gravel and tar! And lo, a "patch plant" has arrived, bringing with it an unimagined invasion of noise — all day and all night! Together, the sounds of excavation, extraction, smashing and grinding of boulders, roaring machinery mixing rock and clay into Class Five gravel, and the loud incessant drone of equipment making tar, answers my question, "What in the

world...?" Now, when noises break the sound barrier of thick log walls, waking me at 2:30 a.m. or when they grip my attention while out on my early morning dallies with Duffy, I tell myself that I can tolerate this "for the greater good", and I remind myself that "it's only temporary". Once these workers have completed their job in my neck of the woods, they'll move on to smooth the way for others, elsewhere.

At that time, my peace may be partially restored. Perhaps I'll resume a semi-state of acceptance. But I've now been reawakened to people all across the globe who live in conditions far worse than these, residing next to the clamor of oil refineries, fracking sites, and and a continuous backdrop of cars and trucks speeding along on massive urban super-highways. I'm picturing the folks in western North Dakota where hundreds of drilling rigs suddenly brought mayhem to their communities. I can still remember living near Detroit in 1965, when we sacrificed our fairly quiet

neighborhood to a "military test track" so fleets of tanks could be put through their paces, 24/7, in preparation for shipment to Vietnam. In 1974, I lived with my sister in Arizona, a mile from Tucson's International Airport. Many a conversation would, mid-sentence, come to an abrupt halt as we waited for the ear-splitting roar of jet engines, screaming through take-off mode, to finally subside. Yes, I've been reminded.

Peace and quiet are undoubtedly precious commodities. And, believe me, I'm looking forward to better days ahead!

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#### Week of Nov. 16

#### 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.

#### **Tuesday**

Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Nov. 17. Please note change in

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.



#### St. James Movie Night on Nov. 15 at 6 p.m.

TOWER- "Only God Can" explores the bond of five friends struggling through life's challenges. The film brings to light the relationships the women have with each other and the relationships they lack with God. The movie depicts real-life situations and issues that many of us can identify with: substance abuse, infidelity, and single parenting. Multiaward-winning "Only God Can" is a powerful thought-provoking film highlighting the realization that all things are possible with God, and with faith we can overcome anything. The film is rated PG.

## Tower Food Shelf hours change

TOWER- The Tower Area Food Shelf is open the third Tuesday of the month from 2:30 - 5 p.m. The food shelf is open this Tuesday, Nov. 16. Note the new earlier closing time.

#### Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service

REGIONAL- This year's Ecumencial Community Thanksgiving Service will be recorded by the clergy and put online on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

#### Community Thanksgiving Meal canceled

TOWER- St. James will not be hosting their annual community Thanksgiving Day meal due to the COVID-19 situation.

## the TIMBERJAY

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#### HOLIDAY GIVING

Just a month to go! Time to start

thinking about Operation Santa Donations needed by Dec. 11: toys.

Donations needed by Dec. 11: toys, gift cards, clothing, and cash welcome

TOWER- We know it is early, but the pandemic is bringing new challenges to this year's Operation Santa toy drive. We are expecting to at least match last year's tally of 170 children, but are anticipating our total may higher due to the disruptions to family's income and employment this past year. We are also hoping to be able to do our shopping online if possible, so early donations are especially appreciated.

Operation Santa is a local fundraiser which purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year we served over 170 area children.

Take advantage of the great deals, many of which are being offered right now, to bring some joy into a child's life.

We have started to receive some donations, but much more is needed to make sure every child in our community receives gifts and warm clothing this Christmas season.

The effort is organized by the Timberjay and the Tower Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, churches, organizations, and individuals. If your

group or church is planning to donate this year, please contact Jodi at 218-753-2950. (This helps with planning!)

Lake Country Power's Operation RoundUp® program has once again made a very generous donation to the Tower Soudan Civic Club to help cover the cost of purchasing warm items for the children.

We are looking at donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15). Stocking stuffer type gifts and holiday candy is also appreciated. We are always in need of gifts for infants and babies (must be labeled as safe for children under three). Gift ideas for children include games, action figures, building toys, dolls with accessories, craft sets, art supplies (including crayons and markers), sporting goods (basketballs, footballs, playground balls, sleds), puzzles, cars and trucks, and science kits. Please don't worry about picking out the right gift; I promise there will be a child on our list who will love whatever you pick out!

If you purchase a toy that

uses batteries, please also send a spare set! Donations of batteries (especially AA and AAA) are ap-

preciated.

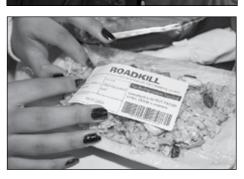
We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf.

Donations can be dropped off at the Timberjay in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 15. Families who use the Tower Food Shelf and have not yet signed up, can sign up at the food shelf on Nov. 17, or can call Jodi at the Timberjay at 218-753-2950, or can email editor@timberjay.com.



More Halloween fun in Tower: (clockwise from top left): Trick-or-Treaters on Main Street. Turnout this year was over 100, but down from past years when it was closer to 150. James Starkovich took in the view from his father Paul's shoulders. "Roadkill" was on the menu at the Halloween lunch at Vermilion Country School. Danny Anderson showed off the "spider bread" at VCS. Emma, James, Adriana, Brayden, and Harper got treats from the Tower Fire Department truck parked on Main Street.







#### AEOA Senior Dining menu

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower.

Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, meals will be available for carry-out only between 12:15 and 12:30 p.m.

carry-out only between 12:15 and 12:30 p.m.

Reservations are required the day before, or morning of, because meals are individually

packaged for take-out.

Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4.50 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$6.25. There are no income guidelines

7323 for the one-time

Week of Nov. 16 Monday- Tater Tot

registration process.

rate of \$6.25. There are no income guidelines.
Call the school at 218-300-1447 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext.

pork gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, vegetable
Friday- Turkey Dinner

Week of Nov. 23

No school all week, Thanksgiving break. Monday- Mini corn dogs, baked beans

dogs, baked beans
Tuesday- Macaroni

and cheese, dinner roll, green beans Wednesday- Beef

Wednesday- Beef fried rice, vegetable, dinner roll

Thursday- Chunky chicken gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, green beans

Friday, Chicken Philly Sandwich, vegetable.

Week of Nov. 30

hotdish, dinner roll

Tuesday-

garlic bread, salad

Alfredo, green beans

Wednesday-

ghetti with meat sauce,

Thursday- Chunky

Chicken

Spa-

#### ibraries

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

Babbitt library

Phone: 365-5140

Noon-6 pm Monday Noon-6 pm Tuesday Wednesday Noon-6 pm Noon-6 pm Thursday Noon-5 pm Friday Phone: 827-3345

#### Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous **OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, 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., Elv.

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., at Woodland Presbyterian.

**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. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

#### ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Homecoming 2020 Royalty candidates at Ely High School, from left, Gabrielle Motes, Emmett Faltesek, Queen McKenna Coughlin, King Will Davies, Madeline Roderick, Jonah Schwamm, Sydney Richards and Brock LaTourell. submitted photo

#### **Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



a time to reflect the weather supplies respite

looking for the light

# **Homecoming 2020: COVID style**

ELY - Memorial High School students celebrated Homecoming this year in subdued fashion due to the continuing public health concerns over the coronavirus and the school's hybrid learning model. There was no dance, no pep rally, or no hallway decorating this year.

Dress up days were allowed

and virtual royalty crowning was held last Wednesday in an empty gymnasium.

The girls' nominees for the 2020 Homecoming Court were McKenna Coughlin, Gabby Motes, Sydney Richards and Madeline Roderick. The boys' nominees included Will Davies, Emmett Faltesek, Brock

LaTourell and Jonah Schwamm. Coughlin and Davies were

crowned the 2020 Ely Homecoming king and queen.

They and the court members were introduced and honored during halftime of the Timberwolves football game on Friday night.

# Update from ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie

ELY - The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our school community in many ways that have been difficult for students, parents, teachers and support staff to contend with.

I want to thank everyone for doing their part in getting us through the first quarter of school with students still able to attend school in person (including Hybrid), rather than fulltime Distance Learning as other districts have moved to, and a situation we all experienced last

We've had three smaller groups and a number of individuals having to quarantine, but through it all have been able to keep the schools

Every week our Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council meets to discuss COVID-19 issues, look at new data, and make recommendations on what Safe Learning Model the schools should be in.

This past week brought a number of changes including new guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), St. Louis County Public Health, and new

Executive Orders from Governor Walz.

Given all these changes we were advised by St. Louis County Public Health to revise our Restart Blueprint with the intention of helping people to better understand how decisions are made on what Safe Learning Model the schools use. Right now, 6-12 grade students in the Memorial are in Hybrid learning while Washington Elementary remains with In-Person learning. These Safe Learning Models were recommended after consultation with St. Louis County Public Health and going through our weekly data review process with the Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council.

Our teachers have been tasked with providing both In-Person and Distance Learning at the same time with our current Safe Learning Plan. Recognizing that more planning time is required to teach in these multiple formats, the Governor issued Executive Orders 20-94 and 20-95 that mandate schools provide additional preparation time for teachers and have those plans in place by Nov. 30. At our School Board meeting on Monday, an

Early Release proposal for Wednesdays was recommended by our Administration Team and approved by the School Board. The Early Release time on Wednesdays will have students dismissed at 12

The following message was sent to families to explain Early Release Wednesday:

Early Release for the Ely Public Schools during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Ely Public Schools acknowledge that using multiple learning models including In-Person Learning and Distance Learning has created extra work for our teaching staff. To recognize the extra work and create time for our teaching staff to fully prepare and plan for the additional learning models, the Ely Public Schools will be transitioning to an Early Release Day on

Wednesdays. An early release day is a shortened school day. Students would be dismissed at 12 p.m. every Wednesday. This early release will only affect Wednesdays. All other school days will remain the same. All students would still have access to a school lunch.

The early release will give teaching staff the extra time to plan and prepare for all learning models that they are required to teach as mandated by the Minnesota Department of Education. Currently, all teachers are teaching both In-Person Learning and Distance Learning. Both learning platforms require different planning and preparation. In order for our teaching staff to provide the best educational experience for our students, they need time to prepare. This will also give teachers common planning time to meet and collaborate with different grade-level teams to find ways to fill educational gaps and expand

instruction. The Ely Public Schools will implement Early Release Days beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 18, and will only utilize Early Release Days while the teaching staff is teaching Distance and Hybrid Models of Learning. Child care is not provided on Early Release Days.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at eerie@ely.k12.mn.us or 218-750-4564.

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### In Brief

#### Ely Library due dates resume

ELY - The Ely Public Library will begin applying due dates to rented materials next month. For those who have items out on loan, the due date is Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Any items checked out from this point forward will have the normal pre-COVID-19 loan period.

Library staff continues to promote safe public health measures and will not pressure any patrons into a separate trip to return items. Overdue fines will not be assessed until early in 2021.

The library remains closed. Call 218-365-5140 for curbside pick-up services.

#### **Tuesday Group Schedule**

ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesdays.

All presentations are administered in a virtual presence until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. Send email to stevieschon@gmail.com for more information.

Nov. 24 - Jessica Hellmann - U of M Institute on the Environment

#### **Stay off the Ely Golf Course**

ELY - The Ely Golf course is closed to all skiing, sliding, walking, etc. until further notice.

According to a Facebook post from Linda Enquist-Vandenbranden, the golf course staff is still hoping to apply chemicals to the fairways, and the packed down areas don't thaw as fast.

Additionally, some people have

been walking onto roped off areas and on the fairways, rather than sticking to the edge.

This is a very crucial time for the health of the course. Once they are able to open safely to winter sports, they will post more information.

# **IRRRB** gives grants to two area groups

REGIONAL- Cook and Orr will both benefit from Culture and Tourism grant awards that were announced last week by the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

Friends of the Parks in Cook got a significant boost to its Veterans Riverfront Park project, receiving \$16,500.

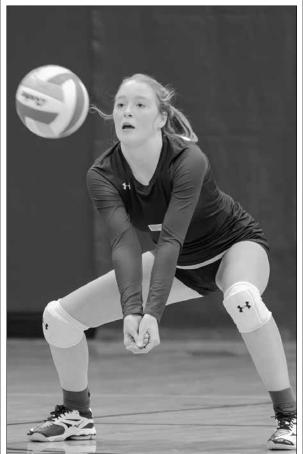
The group has started installing picnic tables and other items at the North Front St. park, utilizing funds from numerous donations from community groups, businesses, and individuals. The award from the IRRRB requires a dollar-for-dollar match from Friends of the Parks, so the group continues to welcome additional dona-

The park will honor all armed services veterans. Receipt of the IRR-RB grant will assist the group in developing its full vision for the park.

Billy the Bluegill is likely smiling in spite of the recent cold and snow because of a \$10,000 grant awarded to Pelican Lake Resort Association. Also a matching grant, the award is intended to help launch an advertising campaign to promote the Orr community and businesses, which will hopefully keep Billy plenty busy welcoming new and return visitors.

In June the IRRRB provided nearly \$200,000 to the city of Orr to be used for reconstruction of the Bog Walk.

#### BACK TO THE COURT



Grizzlies volleyball player Addy Hartway is about to receive a Cook County serve on Tuesday at North Woods, the team's first match in two weeks. The Grizzlies lost the match, 3-2. photo by D. Colburn

#### **NEW FACES**

# **Cook insurer adds** new staff person

COOK- North Star Insurance Agency (NSIA) in Cook welcomes a new agent, Cathy Aune, to its office located in downtown Cook.

Aune, originally from northeastern Wisconsin, is a "midwestern girl at heart." She said she is looking forward to living life in northern Minnesota and becoming a vibrant part of the community.

"I was first introduced to the Iron Range by my husband, Mark," said Aune. "His family has been in this area for generations. It has always been Mark's goal to move to Cook, where he graduated from high school. As fate would have it, we were able to make his goal become a reality and move closer to family, bringing with us our son who is a junior at North Woods High School."

Aune also has three

grown daughters. Aune graduated from Carroll University in Waukesha, Wis., earning a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing. Out of college she was the advertising coordinator for The Company Store in LaCrosse, Wis., then spent several years as a stay-at-home mom. She eventually rejoined the workforce as the finance director at Little Sweden Resort in Fish Creek, Wis. Eventually, she and her family relocated to south central Louisiana where she was an investment adviser representative for a registered investment adviser, Ahrens Investment Partners.

"We are proud to welcome Cathy as a new agent to our growing business," said NSIA President Rich Crettol. "Cathy brings experience and professionalism to our company and



**Cathy Aune** 

will help us continue to grow. Her customer service skills are amazing."

North Star Insurance Agency purchased a 100-year-old insurance business three years ago and has steadily grown over that time.

"By adding Cathy as a new agent to our already successful agent Lisa Towner, we anticipate continued growth and success for another 100 years," said Crettol.

Aune can be contacted at 218-666-4030.

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

#### **Baptist women** to host Dec. 7 **Christmas tea**

COOK- The women of First Baptist Church of Cook will once "Christmas Around the World." their annual women's Christmas Tea, at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance is limited to 50 people and reservations are required. Reservations will be accepted through Nov. 23 on a first-call basis by calling Beryl Vogt at 218-780-4752. If leaving a message, please include your name, phone number, and the number of friends who will be attending with you. In consideration of others, please limit your invitation to friends to four people.

"Christmas Around

the World" will feature delightful presentations on how other countries celebrate Jesus' birth. Music and refreshments will brighten the evening.

Mask use is encouraged inside the building but may be removed as needed.

"It will be a time to welcome the Christmas Season into our joyful and thankful hearts. Come, be encouraged in the midst of the dark times our world has been experiencing and celebrate the peace and hope we have in Him."

If you are unable to attend the tea in person, the program portion will be livestreamed at 7 p.m. on the church's Facebook page, First Baptist Church Cook, MN, or on the church's website at www.firstbaptistcook.

#### **Shopping events** usher in holiday spirit and cheer

COOK-There's nothing like a little shopping to get into the spirit for the holidays and onset of winter and Cook-area shoppers have two special opportunities to drop some coin on handcrafted and other goodies.

This Saturday, Nov. 14, stop by the Cook VFW between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. for the "Up North Shop."

"''Up North Shop' is something Ruth Huismann and I are just creating this year," co-creator Susan Thomas said. "We invited as many northern crafters and direct salespeople as we could fit in the VFW with COVID spacing."

That's a total of 11 vendors, including Huismann's Rag Bag Origi-

nals and Thomas's Gnomology, offering anything from holiday decorations to personal bling and crystal to kissing balls. COVID guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing will be followed.

Since this is the first time for the event, Thomas has no idea how many shoppers will show up. "It would be wonderful if it succeeds and we could make it an annual event," Thomas said.

Another unique opportunity will be coming on Friday, Nov. 27 when Homestead Mills will hose Gramma Josie's Sock Craft Day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everything Gramma Josie sells is "handmade and totally unique," from dish cloths to quilts and yoga socks to mittens. Additional vendors are being sought to provide shoppers with more treasures to buy.

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NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# **Vets offer COVID-weary perspective**

FIELD TWP- This school year has certainly brought its trials and tribulations, but we are staying as positive as we can. Every day brings with it new challenges and changes. From day to day, the student numbers change and we are hearing more about COVID-19 and its presence here up north. People are still very divided about COVID and how serious it is. I know this because I hear from people about it.

When a student is diagnosed, we must immediately do what is called "contact tracing." This means that we go back 48 hours from the time that the symptomatic person was in school and analyze who was in close contact with the individual. Anyone who is indoors within six feet for longer than 15 minutes is considered a close contact. This is the procedure from the Minnesota Dept. of Health,

must follow it. Throughout the school day, as high school students change classes and travel through various parts of the building,

and as a public school, we



JOHN **VUKMANICH** 

they could have been in close contact with many students and teachers in one day. We have stressed the importance of seating charts with teachers so that we can figure out where kids are, and we also lean on the students themselves to help us determine who they have been around. unfortunate The

thing, when we find kids who have been in close contact, is that we're sending home kids who are not showing symptoms, under the premise that they may be contagious before actually hav-

ing COVID symptoms.

Sort of a "darned if we

do, darned if we don't"

situation. Evidence so far

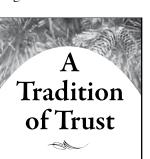
new and uncertain.

As I write this, feeling stressed out about school and worried about what tomorrow bring, the only thing I can do is adjust my perspective. I know that people are not necessarily frustrated with me, they are just frustrated.

Veterans Day is Nov. 11, and although I am not a vet, from the perspective of a soldier at war we don't have it so bad. I am saddened that we are unable to have a ceremony for our veterans like we usually do - it is a highlight of our school year. I will miss the chance to honor our veterans and listen to the thunder of the

**Read It** HERE

has shown that there is lit- Bois Forte Drummers in tle transmission happen- our gym as they pay tribing in school settings, but ute to our fallen. When data on this is still very you can, please thank a vet for their sacrifice, and realize that most of us will get through these challenges that we face.



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#### THE CORONAVIRUS

# Pandemic trends show alarming rise in North Country

REGIONAL- While the raw numbers for the COVID-19 pandemic in the North Country look miniscule in comparison to the 189,681 total positive cases in the state, regional data obtained by the *Timberjay* show the same alarming trends in the growth of cases and types of spread that have set records in the past week and are taxing the capacity of the state's hospital system to deal with them.

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook/Orr Editor

At the request of the Timberjay, county health officials compiled a report of key COVID-19 data specific to the region, including the zip code areas for Orr, Cook, Tower, Soudan, Ely and Embarrass. The data was provided in aggregate for the region, rather than as individual zip data, and covers from the start of the pandemic in March through Nov. 6. The region's total of

216 positive COVID-19 cases represents about one-tenth of one percent of the statewide total, and using population data for the above zip codes, about one-and-a-half percent of people had been infected as of last Friday.

The relatively low number can be attributed to the region's experience during the early months of the pandemic when the state's urban areas felt the brunt of the virus, while rural areas remained relatively untouched. This region didn't see its first case until May 5, less than two weeks before Gov. Tim Walz rescinded his "stay-at-home" order.

Over the next four months, only 43 additional cases were identified by Aug. 30. However, COVID-19 was making its way to rural Minnesota, and case numbers in this

CUMULATIVE CASES BY AGE GROUPS

95-99
90-94
85-89
80-84
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 3

area skyrocketed.

From Sept. 1 to Nov. 6, the area added 172 cases, an astounding 490 percent increase. New cases have been identified every day since Oct. 19 at a rate of 5.58 cases per day, accounting for 106 cases in less than three weeks.

Eleven deaths from COVID-19 have occurred since Sept. 1, representing three percent of total cases. That is double the comparable national rate.

County public health director Amy Westbrook recently said that the greatest growth of positive cases is now in the rural parts of the county, a statement supported by last week's bi-weekly case rates for schools, which were higher for greater St. Louis County than the rate for both Duluth and the county as a whole.

Westbrook spoke Tuesday about conditions in St. Louis County during a teleconference hosted by Gov. Tim Walz.

#### **Likely exposures**

Data for this region closely mirrors that of the state for the settings in

which people are getting infected. The rapid rise in cases here is being fueled by a 40-percent rate of community spread, patients who have either had no known contact with another confirmed case or who have had contact with a case in primarily informal social gatherings. Those with no know contacts may possibly have encountered asymptomatic carriers of the virus.

The rate is likely to be higher than 40 percent, as 30 percent of unknown cases include those that are still having contact tracing done and haven't been assigned a specific category.

Known community outbreaks associated with businesses and other easily identified settings represent just 5.1 percent of exposures, reinforcing comments Gov. Walz made on Tuesday saying that businesses have done a good job of implementing COVID-19 protocols.

Nursing homes and assisted living centers account for 13.4 percent of exposures in the region.

#### Age groups

While people often think of the elderly as more susceptible to the virus, the reality is that older adults, particularly those with underlying conditions, are far more likely to die from the virus. People ages 60 to 64 do account for the single-largest group of cases in the region, but 64 percent of cases are in people younger than that. Only 22.5 percent of cases have involved individuals 65 and older.

The growth of positive COVID-19 cases in recent months has instead been driven by young adults, ages 18 to 34, accounting for 27 cases and 15.2 percent of the total. According to county health officials, most of these cases have come from community spread.

Even the youngest have not been spared. Four cases among children age four and under are two more than the cases of five- to nine-year-olds. Youth ages ten to 14 have had eight positive COVID cases.

The largest number

of cases including school children is found in the 15 to 19 age group – at 18 cases and 8.3 percent, it's the second-largest single age group with COVID

cases in the region. North Woods School added two new cases last week, and three more were identified Tuesday that aren't included in the total. The new cases, and the cancellation of this week's Grizzlies football game, came at the same time the school's volleyball team came back to the court after a two-week forced hiatus due to an unknown number of people associated with the team coming into contact with a positive COVID-19 case.

While the school will now join Mt. Iron-Buhl Secondary on the state's list of schools with more than five COVID-19 cases, Superintendent Reggie Engbritson said that North Woods will continue with its in-person learning model for the time being.

"Contact tracing was done, and not all positive cases had close contacts," Engebritson said. "I do send out a message to parents telling them how many positive cases were reported. Parents always have the choice to pull their child from school and go with distance learning if they don't feel the school is safe. We are able to still function and operate the school."

#### **Dire straits**

Westbrook told those on Tuesday's teleconference that the astronomical rise in COVID cases in the county in September and October are pushing health resources to the edge.

"We saw 70 percent

"We saw 70 percent of our hospitalizations and 70 peecent of deaths in September and October," Westbrook said. "The number of St. Louis County residents hospitalized is at an all-time high."

Westbrook also said that Duluth-area hospitals are experiencing challenges with having enough staff to care for patients, as a large number have had to quarantine because they've been exposed to the virus out in the community.

The spike in hospitalizations comes as flu season is getting underway, and according to comments from Walz, December is typically the peak month for hospitalizations of severe flu cases. Having COVID-19 and flu at high levels together could easily overrun an already over-taxed system,

Westbrook also has expressed concern about the onset of cold weather keeping people inside where the virus more easily spreads. She reinforced the familiar messaging about wearing masks, maintaining social distance, and restricting gathering in small groups, this time

with a sense of urgency.

"Temps are dropping. We need to change the course of this virus's spread," she said.

# Ely schools maintain learning models despite COVID data spikes

y KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY – As the weekly regional COVID-19 case rate continues to increase, ISD 696 officials are maintaining the school district's current learning plan for now.

The Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ESLPAC) met last Thursday and considered the ramifications of a fourth consecutive jump in the bi-weekly COVID-19 case rate in greater St. Louis County, which helps guide schools during the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie updated the advisory council last week, and the school board this week, on the divided county coronavirus reporting data dashboard now in place. Ely is now in the Northern St. Louis County sector, along with Tower-Soudan, Babbitt, Embarrass, Cook, Orr, and Side Lake.

Erie reported last week that the northern county dashboard shows a positive COVID-19 rate of 42.7 per 10,000 people. The St. Louis County

The St. Louis County
Public Health data case

rate continues to trend upward from 37.6, 25.5, and 18.36 from previous

"We continue to look at all this data as we consider what moves we make in the school district," Erie said. "Everybody (in the county) is trending up. Our ZIP code accumulative data went up."

The Ely school community remains at a positive test count of zero. The cumulative number of cases remains at seven.

"We are at much better numbers than other area school districts. Mt-Iron-Buhl had 22 active cases last week and they went to distance learning," Erie said.

He said that any updates to the school district's webpage are typically made on Mondays, however, updates will be communicated as soon as possible if positive cases are reported. "We put the information out there as soon as our principals have a chance to notify families," Erie said. "It will not come before that. We will notify families first in conjunction with notifying our employees."

The Memorial building, grades 6-12, remains in a hybrid learning model

with students divided in two groups, with alternating in-person and distance learning protocols. The Washington building, K-5 students, remains in an in-person learning model. Some fifth- and eighth-graders remained at home recently due to previously-reported positive cases.

The ISD 696 Safe Learning Model "Restart Blueprint" indicates that when the number of positive COVID-19 cases per 10,000 increases to at least 30, all secondary students transition to distance learning and all elementary students transition to hybrid learning models. If the number of cases increases to 50 or more, distance learning for all students is recommended.

Aubrey Hoover, of the St. Louis County Public Health Department, conducted a consultation with ISD 696 administrators last week. A similar-type consultation is scheduled with Minnesota Department of Health officials later this month, Erie said.

"Hoover indicated that because of our transition to the northern county reporting area, our number is higher than it would have been if we remained in the greater county reporting protocol," Erie said. "We did expect the reporting data to come in at around 40."

He said the school district continues to strive to keep students in school "if we can do it safely" within the Ely community.

Erie noted that the language in the district's "Restart Blueprint" will be modified to reflect the data reporting changes.

"Hoover told us that Ely should continue to operate (in the current learning models) through Thanksgiving, barring any outbreaks in the school involving students, staff, or teachers," Erie said, "Even though our number is above 40 (per 10,000 people), they recommend we stay in our current learning model."

He added that school learning model recommendations continue to evolve and that the Minnesota Department of Education just released new guidelines.

Megan Anderson, Ely 6-12 Principal, reiterated that numerous changes in recommendations and guidance have recently occurred.

'There is that frustration out there with all the changes and modifications, but the emphasis is really on looking at all the (community) data and not just the case rates in the schools," she said.

Erie added that the projected positive county case rate could "rub up" against 50 (per 10,000 people) in the near future.

"We want to be very proactive in making the best choices for our students," said K-5 Principal Anne Oelke.

"This consultation is really like an interrogation. They go through a list of questions asking what we are doing, how many students we have in the buildings, and they give guidance from that. They are looking at what the cases look like in our school and if we can stay safe in our (building)."

The county health department consultation summary provided to the ESLPAC members indi-

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cated "praise to the district that their precautions and mitigation strategies are 'above and beyond' what has been asked of us. The Memorial building being in pods-cohorts is amazing and not many schools are doing that."

Oelke added, "Changing the rules all the time is what is frustrating for everybody," she said, and noted, "skyrocketing" COVID-19 numbers in Chisholm, Hibbing and Virginia don't necessarily reflect on reporting data in the Ely, Babbitt, and Tower areas.

The ESLPAC recommendation concluded that Ely students will continue in the current learning model for the foreseeable future with in-person learning in the Washington building and hybrid learning in the Memorial building.

"We are being encouraged to stay the course in what we are doing," Erie said."





**ELECTION 2020** 

# **Pro-pot parties may** have cost DFL seats

## DFL House Majority Leader believes party must make legalization a priority

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL-The continuing push for legalized marijuana in Minnesota may have played a role in a somewhat disappointing night for DFLers on Nov. 3, and state House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler believes that the party needs to address the issue now more than ever.

parties. Two Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis and Legal Marijuana Now (LMN) received surprisingly strong third-party support across the state. While the two parties weren't on the ballot in the presidential race, candidates for the two parties drew nearly eight percent of the vote in the U.S. Senate race, including many votes here in the North Country. Nearly ten percent of voters in Tower, for example, backed one of the two pro-pot parties, while eight percent of voters in Ely did the same.

In fact, the Legal Marijuana Now Party has drawn enough support in recent years, including this year, to gain major party status in Minnesota, which makes it much easier for candidates to file for office under the banner- and some may be using the party's status for nefarious ends.

News reports. from a variety of media ahead of the Nov. 3 election, cited evidence that at least one LMN candidate, Adam Weeks, told friends he'd been encouraged, and possibly funded, by Republican operatives as a means of siphoning off votes from Second District Congresswoman Angie Craig, a Democrat, who was locked in a hard-fought race with Republican challenger Tyler Kistner.

Weeks, who died ahead of the election, managed to draw nearly six percent of the vote in the Second District race. Craig managed to hang on but Weeks's presence in the race almost certainly made it closer than it might otherwise have been.

The Star Tribune reported on Oct. 29, that the paper had received a recording of a voice mail message that Weeks had left for a friend, telling him of the GOP plot.

While Weeks ultimately didn't make the difference, other pro-pot candidates may well have. In the First Congressional District, incumbent Republican Congressman Jim Hagedorn hung on by less than 12,000 votes against a strong challenge from Democrat Dan Feehan. In that contest, GLC candidate Bill Rood drew 21,435 votes, potentially making the difference in that tight contest.

It appears Democrats may have lost some state legislative races with a similar dynamic, including a pivotal Senate race, that likely prevented the DFL from regaining control of that body. In that race, in District 14, DFLer Aric Putnam lost to Republican Jerry Relph by 318 votes. LMN candidate Jaden Partlow received 3,127 votes in that contest, likely helping to flip the seat to the GOP.

Whether the pro-pot candidates are secretly backed and funded by Republicans or not, Winkler said their presence in the race is hurting the DFL's chances in some critical races. "I don't think Democrats did

VETERANS DAY 2020



Tower-Soudan Elementary had to cancel its traditional Veterans Day Program this year. But students still created posters, which are now on display on the doors and windows of Main Street businesses. Pictured are fourth-graders Jade Drift (left) and Ava Redetzke (right), who helped hand out the posters on Nov. 11. photo by J. Summit

enough to embrace this issue and make it central to our candidacies," said Winkler. The DFLer from Golden Valley said he's seen this issue becoming a significant one for a few years and he has actively stumped around the state in the past year for marijuana legalization.

Polls show strong

public support for legalization, support which cuts across party lines. A number of red states, including Montana and South Dakota, approved referenda on Nov. 3 that called for pot legalization.

"I think the DFL has no choice but to make it more central," Winkler said.

While Winkler said

he didn't see evidence of widespread coordination between Republicans and pro-pot parties to undermine DFL candidates, he believes Republicans will field more candidates under those party labels in 2022. "Because of their major party status, it's just \$50 to get on the ballot,"

#### **VOTERS**...Continued from page 1

Interim clerk Deb Spicer said she was in favor of the switch. "It is advised highly that the clerk and treasurer get along with the supervisors," she said.

Former Clerk Sue Drobac often clashed with board members, though she was very popular with the voters, easily winning reelection. Last March she was reelected with a 186-102 margin over challenger Deb Spicer.

Drobac resigned as clerk in September after having her hours and pay cut by the town board in July, stating she could not complete her required duties in the time allotted.

The board then appointed Spicer as interim clerk to serve until the next election. Elected treasurer Pam Rodgers also resigned in late July, and the board appointed Belinda Fazio as interim treasurer. The vote to place

Option B on the ballot was 4-0, with Supervisor Paul Skubic absent. Ralston said Skubic had been in the hospital for over a week with COVID-19 but was starting to get better.

#### **Broadband survey**

Ralston said the participation rate of township residents in the broadband survey by provider CTC has been disappointing, with only 14 percent of

#Ucare

the number of households needed requesting service. CTC will need responses from more than 1,500 additional township property owners before making a decision on whether to provide service to the area, Ralston said.

"That being said, maybe Byron Beihofferr's comments about broadband not being a priority for residents several months ago are ringing true" he said "But I do believe the township is more in support than what the survey results said."

Ralston said he has been in contact with all the local organizations and agencies working on increasing broadband in the area.

The board decided to place ads in the two local newspapers to remind Greenwood property owners they can still respond to the CTC survey. Ralston said people can complete the survey from any location, so snowbirds and summer residents should complete the survey also, not just year-round residents. You can find the survey at https://join.connectctc. com/front\_end/zones.

In other business, the

➤ Heard an update From Tammy Mortaloni on CARES Act funds

➤ Acted on two resolutions that were discussed and signed, but never passed by motion at a previous meeting.

➤ Heard that the township attorney rates will be increasing in 2021 to \$220 per hour for general work and \$240 per hour for development work.

➤ Voted to have St. Louis County oversee the township's Board of Appeal and Equalization, instead of having the town board oversee it. They noted the township can change back in two years, if they desire.

➤ Passed a motion to allow the fire chief to have a township credit card with a credit limit of \$1,000. This will simplify spending on smaller items. At this time, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Tammy Mortaloni told the board, she and Chief Dave Fazio often purchase items with their own funds and then get reimbursed by the township. Having a department credit card would simplify purchasing, she said, noting many vendors are requiring payment up front instead of working with purchase orders.

➤ Fazio told the board that five EMRs had completed their recertification classes, which were offered at the town hall. He thanked the Vermilion Club, which donated the pizza the department ordered for lunch during the training. He also thanked Marilyn Mueller, who made a donation to the department in memory of Pat Trancheff's mother, who recently passed away.

➤ The board thanked Floyd Bailey for donating three bocce ball sets. The town board will not be sending in an insurance claim on the stolen recreation equipment, which included bocce sets. The township also authorized the recreation committee to spend up to \$500 on new

# $\mathbf{SNOW}_{\bullet\bullet\bullet}$ Continued from page 1 -

Snowfall reports

area ranged from six-to-

the Gulf Coast," said

a lot of snow."

Forecasters had originally expected only oneto-three inches across much of northern St. Louis County, but the storm system tracked further west than originally predicted, putting the Iron Range and points north more in the bullseye.

The storm apparently caught plenty of drivers off guard after a week of unseasonably warm weather. The state patrol reported more than 280 crashes, including a dozen jackknifed semis, across the state as a result of the storm, along with 164 spin-outs. About two dozen injuries were reported among the accidents, but none were listed as serious.

The next chance of measurable snow is forecast for Saturday.



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# City of Ely waits on mayor decision

Top vote-getter still mulling poll surprise

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - The city of Ely continues to wait for former mayoral candidate Erik Urbas to decide if he wants the job after gaining the majority of votes for the position in the Nov. 3

Urbas pulled out of the race in August, citing ongoing health concerns, however, his announcement was too late for his name to be removed from the ballot. He challenged incumbent Chuck Novak for the position. Urbas, 31, received 925 votes and Novak received 800 votes.



**Eric Urbas** 

The new Ely mayor has until the end of the year to decide if he will honor the voice of the voters. He would be sworn in at the first city council meeting of the new year. If he declines the position, an interim mayor would be appointed until a special election could be held in February.

Urbas told the Timberjay this week that he is mulling his decision while deer hunting in the Roseau area. "I will let you know when I have some decisions made. I am still undecided one way or the other," he said.

Novak was clearly surprised last Tuesday night as he watched the vote totals come in at the Ely Senior Center. He declined to comment on the outcome.

Both candidates have similar views and would likely draw similar support from many Ely voters.

industry, particularly the proposed Twin Metals sulfide mine near Ely, and the improved jobs outlook it could bring to the region. He joined five other Iron Range mayors this summer in signing a letter endorsing Donald Trump that said

Novak is an ardent

supporter of the mining

the president's pro-mining policies helped the local economy.

Urbas said he also supported mining in Minnesota and President

Novak was called out last spring for encouraging the boycott of businesses owned by the Bois Forte Band that supported a congressional bill that would kill the proposed Twin Metal project. Several local critics of

the proposed mining projects were contacted by the *Timberjay* to comment on Novak's ouster and all of them indicated they were unaware of any "belowthe-radar" effort to rally votes against him.

Steve Piragis, owner of a wilderness outfitting and retail store in town, said, "I kind of thought (Novak) was a shoe-in for the job. He is well-connected in St. Paul with the Republicans in the Senate. It seems like the bonding bill success here was partly thanks to Chuck," he said. Piragis resides outside of the city.

Peta Barrett, owner of Women's Wilderness Discovery in Ely, who has frequently disagreed with Novak on a number of local economic development and environmental issues. said, "By the election results, it looks like folks were signaling they're ready for a new mayor." Barrett lives and votes in Lake County.

Voter turnout in Ely approached 90 percent this year. According to Deputy Clerk Casey Velcheff, there were 2,783 registered voters on Nov. 3. Another 174 voters registered on Election Day.

A total of 1,165 voters opted to vote in-person at the Ely Senior Center and 855 absentee voters were received. She said that six military and/or overseas ballots were received.

"We had an 89-percent voter turnout this year," she said. "That is awesome."

City ballot canvassing by the city council was set to take place on Thursday, Nov.12.

Velcheff said election day in Ely was very quiet this year.

'We had a small number of people who attempted to enter the precinct with political clothing or items," she said. She added that just one local voter argued with poll workers over the state law that prohibits any political materials within 100 feet of a polling place.

#### **DFL**...Continued from page 1

particularly on the Iron Range, where the DFL has dominated the region's politics for generations.

While DFL legislative candidates in the region generally hung on, in some cases, it was by the narrowest of margins. Rep. Julie Sandstede in District 6A, may face a recount after winning re-election by just 41 votes. Rep. Rob Ecklund, of International Falls, had been behind much of election night, until a big vote margin from Cook County put him over the top against Thomas Manninen, of Littlefork, by about 1,200

Even the dean of the Iron Range delegation, Sen. Tom Bakk, who is used to winning by 30-point margins, squeaked to re-election with a ten-point spread against Republican Christopher Hogan. "I'd have to guess we saw more GOP votes than ever in my district," said Bakk, reflecting on his narrower margin.

Even so, these DFL victories reflected a substantial degree of ticket-splitting, notes DFL House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler. Ecklund's district, for example, went narrowly for Trump, so he was clearly able to peel off some Trump voters to hold onto his seat. Sandstede faced a similar challenge. Whether those results reflect a long-term trend, or Trump's unique popularity with many working class voters, remains to be seen. "I don't think a Mitt Romney would do nearly as well in northern Minnesota," said Winkler.

While DFLers were helped by ticket-splitting in northeastern Minnesota, he said the opposite was true in some suburban districts, where significant numbers of voters backed Biden, then voted

Republican on the rest of their ballot, a trend that cost the DFL two suburban House seats. Those suburban voters had more political clout than ever this year. Winkler noted that, for the first time, the suburban vote exceeded the entire outstate Minnesota vote.

Bakk was most disappointed by the DFL's apparent failure to regain the majority in the Minnesota Senate. As of this week, it appears the GOP will hold on to a narrow 34-33 margin in that body, portending two more years of divided and divisive governance in St.

Bakk put the onus for the DFL's struggles in down-ballot races on what he called "self-inflicted wounds." He said a leftward tilt of the party on issues such as public safety and the environment, was hurting candidates in less urban parts of the state.

He said a resolution opposed to copper-nickel mining, which the DFL Central Committee approved in September, likely contributed to the decline in support for the party's candidates in the region. "But it was more than mining," said Bakk. "This whole law and order thing, the talk about defunding police. Republicans played that up and it hurt the DFL in some suburbs."

Oddly, it appeared that concerns about urban rioting may have played a bigger role in far-flung rural districts than they did in the Twin Cities or its suburbs. Rep. Ecklund's rival Manninen, focused heavily on that issue during his stronger-than-expected challenge of the three-term incumbent.

Winkler said it's too early to draw conclusions. "I have more questions

than answers at this point," although he acknowledged that the public safety concerns played a role. He's less certain whether the issue helped or hurt DFLers overall. "There's pretty broad understanding that some changes in policing are necessary," he said.

If public safety was a concern for some voters, those who lived closest to the protests appeared to back Democrats by wider margins. Both Biden and Sen. Tina Smith saw their biggest gains in the Twin Cities, where the killing of George Floyd ignited months of civil unrest, including riots and looting. While Biden improved on Hillary Clinton's margins in most parts of Minnesota, he saw his biggest improvement in Minnesota's Fifth District, home to Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, where Biden padded his winning margin

by an additional 51,461 votes. That was the biggest improvement over 2016 margins of any congressional district in Minnesota. The Third District, which includes southern and western metro suburbs, wasn't far behind, providing a net gain for Biden of 49,710 votes over 2016.

Only the Seventh and the Eighth districts provided a net gain for Trump, albeit narrowly. Trump's net gain of 2,314 votes over his margin four years ago in the Eighth, was actually a narrower win than 2016 on a percentage basis as fewer voters peeled off this year to back third party candidates in the presidential contest.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton won the state by just 44,000 votes. By contrast, Biden won this year with a 234,000-vote margin statewide.

#### **COVID** ... Continued from page 1

However, while the rates are higher than when Walz implemented a 51-day lockdown last spring, he said that much has been learned since that time, and that a data-driven "surgical" approach of using limited restrictions could be effective. Retail businesses have been doing a good job of implementing COVID-19 protocols, Walz said, and based on low numbers of cases associated with them he left those protocols in

The greatest threat to Minnesotans at this time comes from informal group gatherings where people are failing to adhere to the guidelines of mask wearing, social distancing, and limiting group sizes, he said. Targeting those activities gives the state the best chance of reining in the virus.

Citing statistics developed through contact tracing, Walz said that cases associated with bars and restaurants double after 9 p.m. State health officials have linked 177 COVID-19 outbreaks in Minnesota to bars and restaurants.

Walz announced that bars and restaurants must close for all but carry-out between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., and counter areas must be completely closed to standing and seating. All patrons must be seated, and games, such as darts, that require standing are social function. prohibited.

Restaurants and bars are also restricted to 50percent seating capacity indoors and outdoors, with a maximum of 150 patrons.

The moves brought a swift response from Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association Executive Director Tony Chesak, who along with other industry representatives was briefed on the changes Tuesday morning.

"Unfairly singling out every bar and every restaurant in Minnesota is not a scalpel – it's a hatchet targeting one of Minnesota's hardest hit industries this year," Chesak said in a press release issued three hours before Walz's press conference. "Bars and restaurants are only affiliated with two percent of the cases, but these new blanket rules across the state will cause more businesses to close, leaving more people unemployed and unable to support their families. We have yet to see real empirical data from state leaders showing how these regulations could help."

Those with upcoming weddings may have to change their post-ceremony activities given Walz's new restrictions regarding receptions, which apply to any ceremonial gatherings, such as funerals, that may have a post-event

State health officials have been reporting for weeks that wedding receptions, but not the ceremonies themselves, have been linked to significant outbreaks of COVID-19. Last week they reported more than 70 such outbreaks had been identified.

Acknowledging that it would be difficult for those getting married in the immediate future to cancel their plans without suffering financially, Walz said that receptions can remain at 50-percent capacity of the venue or a maximum of 150 people through Nov. 26. On Nov. 27, the gathering size will be cut down to 50, and a 25-person maximum will be enacted on Dec. 11.

Informal social gatherings have been identified as a primary cause of skyrocketing case numbers, and Walz noted that young adults make up the largest group of people contracting COVID-19 in these settings.

Beginning Friday at 10 p.m., both indoor and outdoor social gatherings are limited to ten people. Outdoor gatherings were previously allowed to have 25 attendees. Gatherings also should not include people from more than three households. These restrictions apply to everything from outdoor parties to indoor family events, such as Thanksgiving celebrations.

is "not going into someone's home and arresting them on Thanksgiving,' however. Compliance will rely simply on people following the rules.

"We need to move Medical Association. Walz said the state now," Walz said. "This has moved incredibly quickly."

The new restrictions drew a favorable response from Marilyn Peitso, president of the Minnesota

"We are seeing, firsthand, the rapid spike in COVID-19 cases," Peitso said. "These are not just statistics, but rather these are our patients, health care professionals, our teach-

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**FOOTBALL** 

# **Ely falls in Homecoming game**

ELY - There was a summer-like feel in the air last Friday night as the Timberwolves fell victim to McGregor in Ely's Homecoming contest, 46-6. The Mercuries were a last-minute substitution after Cherry canceled its planned match-up with the Wolves due to an outbreak of the coronavirus.

Speedy Mercuries top Timberwolves 46-6

While November football games are usually played in brutal conditions here in the North Country, the temperature hovered around 60 degrees at kickoff, part of a record-setting warm spell that settled in for a week across the region.

The game looked promising in the early-going, as the Wolves jumped out to a 6-0 lead after short yardage-specialist Lane Anderson bulled into the end zone from the one yardline. An 80-yard screen play pass from Ely junior quarterback Mason Davis to junior halfback Harry Simons, had left the Wolves knocking on the door.

It would be one of very few bright spots for Ely, however, as the Mercuries Right: Ely quarterback Mason Davis looks to receiver Harry Simons during an 80-yard screen play that set up the Timberwolves' sole touchdown.

photo by K. Vandervort

answered with a 37-yard touchdown run. They took to the air in the second

See FOOTBALL...pg. 2B



#### **VOLLEYBALL**



# Heartbreaker

Grizzlies fall 3-2 in delayed home opener against Cook County

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELDTWP-After a forced two-week hiatus, the North Woods volleyball team was eager to take the court Tuesday for a home match against Cook County, and the Grizzlies looked like they might make short work of the contest, racing out to a 2-0 lead.

But the Vikings turned the tables in the next two sets and came from behind in the final set to win the match, 3-2.

In the first set, the Grizzlies flipped a 5-9 deficit into a 12-9 lead on the strength of strong serving by Morgan Burnett and tough play at the net. The Vikings pulled back to within one, but a kill by Addy Hartway gave North Woods a 16-14 lead and the serve. The Grizzlies reeled off six consecutive points to build a comfortable 22-14 lead and won the set 25-15.

A hotly contested second set saw the teams trade the lead multiple times in the early going, and the Grizzlies looked to be in control when they built a 19-13 advantage. But with the Vikings' Paisley Smith serving, Cook County fought back to tie the score at 19-19. The Grizzlies led 23-22 when Abbigail Shuster launched a shot from behind the attack line that the Vikings couldn't handle, and North Woods claimed a 25-22 win when a Vikings kill shot sailed out of bounds.

It was a confident group of Grizzlies that broke the huddle for the third set, but with the score knotted 5-5 the Vikings went on a 9-2 tear to build a seven-point lead. North Woods chipped away at the deficit and got to within two, 18-20, when Zoe

North Woods volleyball players prepare to receive a shot during Tuesday's home match against Cook County. Pictured are, from left, Morgan Burnett, Hannah Kinsey, Addy Hartway and Olivia Udovich.

**Right: North Woods senior Zoe Trip** was honored on Tuesday as the Grizzlies' lone senior.

photos by D. Colburn

Trip scored on consecutive rallies. But the Grizzlies didn't have anything left in the tank as Cook County closed out the set 25-18.

The Grizzlies never led in the fourth set as the Vikings found a rhythm, feeding the ball to their hitters, keeping North Woods scrambling defensively. Cook County led by as many as ten points in coasting to a 25-19 win and sending the match to a decisive fifth set.

Burnett had a couple of scorching cross-court kills as the Grizzlies established a 4-1 lead in the final set, and when Hannah Kinsey stuffed a Vikings kill shot return at the net North Woods looked to be in control at 9-5. When Cook County fought back to a 10-10 tie, Trip again came through with consecutive points on a little push shot and a kill to put the Grizzlies up 12-10. Those were the last points the Grizzlies would score, however, as Katie Peck took control at the net for the Vikings in a 5-0 run that gave Cook County a 15-12 win and the match.

It was a tough way to end the night for the Grizzlies, who had hoped to honor the team's lone senior, Zoe Trip, with a victory



on Senior Night in their belated first home match of the season. Earlier scheduled contests against International Falls and Eveleth-Gilbert had to be postponed due to health concerns.

The Grizzlies were scheduled to be on the road Thursday at Northeast Range, and will return home on Wednesday, Nov. 18 to face off against Cherry. North Woods will host Ely on Friday, Nov. 20.

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#### VOLLEYBALL

# Wolves top Mesabi East in 3-1 win

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

AURORA—The Ely volleyball squad tasted the sting of defeat for the first time this season, but they still came away with a 3-1 match win over the Giants last Thursday. The Timberwolves had been flawless so far this season, winning seven straight games without losing a set.

They looked to be on track for a repeat against Mesabi East, who they were playing in place of their originally scheduled game against North Woods.

"We came out very strong in set one and then struggled in set two to gain any momentum," said Ely Head Coach Andrea Thomas. "We had a hard time with our consistency throughout the match and Mesabi East was able to find the holes on our side of the court." After an easy 25-12 win in the first set, the Wolves lost 16-25 in the second game.

Ely bounced back, however, winning sets three and four, 25-17

See WOLVES...pg. 2B

#### SWIMMING



## Tedrick named to All-Section swim team

BABBITT - Ely sophomore Lily Tedrick, a member of the Northeast Range/Ely Nighthawks swim team, closed out an impressive season with a selection to the All-Section 7A high school girls swim team.

She was named to the 400 Freestyle Relay quartet. Tedrick capped off a consistent season with numerous first-and second-place finishes with a pair of top-ten

See SWIM...pg. 2B

**Senior Lane** 

Anderson

to the ball

into a gap

during last

contest with

has become

McGregor.

Anderson

key to the

Jumbo"

photo by

K. Vandervort

#24608

set.

offensive

success of

Ely's "Heavy

Friday's

as he plows

holds tight

#### FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

quarter, scoring three more times to take a 30-6 lead into the break. They added two more touchdowns and conversions in the second half to reach the lopsided final.

"They weren't huge, but they were athletic and physical," said Ely Head Coach Cory Lassi. "They pulled two guards on almost every play. It's hard to simulate that in practice."

After their first quarter miscue, McGregor's defense shut down the Wolves for the rest of the evening. As a team, Ely managed just 68 yards rushing on 29 carries. Jason Kerntz had 35 tough yards on 15 carries, followed by Simons with 15 yards on four rushes. Davis completed seven of 11 pass attempts for 91 yards and rushed three times for seven yards.

"Mason had a couple of good passes into the end zone but they were dropped," Lassi said. "It wouldn't have changed the outcome, but the guys could have gained a bit more confidence if we completed those.'

The Wolves lost two fumbles, which didn't help the cause.

On defense, Prijatel

#### SWIM...

Continued from page 1B

finishes at the recent 7A competition in Hoyt Lakes, including eighth in the 200 Individual Medley, and ninth in the 100 Butterfly. She was also part of the 400 Freestyle Relay team at the section meet.

The Nighthawks team also earned a prestigious academic award, qualifying for the Academic Gold Standard. Team members held an average cumulative grade point average of 3.75.

#### **WOLVES...**

Continued from page 1B and 25-21, to improve to 8-0 on the season.

Ely's sole senior, McKenna Coughlin, had a huge night, notching 14 kills, eight digs, and six ace serves. Twin sisters Rachel and Kate Coughlin tallied 12 and eight digs respectively, while Rachel added 12 kills and Kate added three ace serves. Sophomore Madeline Kallberg tallied ten digs, three kills, and four aces, while junior Kellen Thomas added eight kills and three blocks. Junior Raven Sainio notched eight kills and junior setter Katrina Seliskar posted 39 assists.

Ely's scheduled matchup with Duluth-Marshall on Tuesday was canceled, as teams have scrambled all season long to adjust to the worsening outbreak of the coronavirus in the region. They are now set to play in Carlton on Friday.



led the Timberwolves with 11 tackles, followed by Anderson with 10. Davis and Jacob Towley had seven each, Jakson Hegman, Jason Kerntz and Simons had five each, and Brock LaTourell and Alex Cook each had four. Anderson and Towley forced two fumbles. Prijatel recovered one.

"Lane had a really good game on our D-line," Lassi said. "This was his best game so far this year. For a (defensive) tackle to be in double digits was good to see. We know he is capable of doing that, and against good competition like we had Friday night, shows that he is playing good football right now."

Lineman Adam Williamson was injured in the first quarter. He was



helped off the field and suffered a sprained ankle. "He's feeling better, but

we're not sure he can play this week," Lassi said. The Timberwolves

were set to close out the regular season on Thursday afternoon at Lake of the Woods in Baudette, after the Timberjay's weekly presstime.



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#### Obituaries and Death Notices



#### **Madeline Udovich**

Madeline "Maddy' Udovich, 92, loving wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and friend, passed away on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 13 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Orr. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. A meal will follow at the Orr American Legion, with burial to follow at St. Bridget's Cemetery in Greaney. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Maddy was born on July 19, 1928, to Frank and Mary Kovach, in Greaney, where she was raised with her siblings. She went to cosmetology school in Minneapolis in her younger years, and worked as a beautician until officially retiring at the age of 85. On Sept. 8, 1951, she married the love of her life, John Udovich. They raised five children, Adrianne, Sharon, Paul, Tony and Marie, together

Maddy had a passion for reading, puzzles, helping others, the church, her family, card- playing, knitting, and watching her birds. She was an avid music enthusiast and you could guarantee that the country music station would be playing in her kitchen, with a pot of coffee on and the door open for anyone to come in and chat with her. She was an amazing cook and her meals were always a highlight of the holidays for her family. She was a kind, resilient, hard-working woman; if ever asked how she was doing, the sweet reply of "I'm Still Kicking" would typically be the answer. She was loved by just about anyone she met, and will be dearly missed.

Maddy is survived by her five children, Adrianne (Dale) Olson, Sharon (Dennis) Shermer, Paul Udovich, Tony (Lori) Udovich and Marie Carter; eight grandchildren, Terry (Angie) Edwards, Keith (Renee) Shermer, Celine Shermer, Natalie (Mathew) Dincau, Andrea and Olivia Udovich, Megan Carterand Morgan (Nate) Wallestad; two great-grandchildren, Josie and Rachel Shermer; and numerous nieces and nephews who have the utmost love for her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Mary; husband, John; sisters, Rose and MaryAnn; and brother, John.

#### **Ann Marie Bye**

Ann Marie Bye, 72, of Ely, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020, at Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. Arrangements are pending with Range Funeral Home in Hibbing.



#### **Lester W. Rablin**

With sadness, his family announces that Lester Warren Rablin, 83, passed away after a brief illness, on Wednesday, Nov.4,2020, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth. Private family services with full military honors will be held for Lester with interment following at Forest Home Cemetery in Buyck. A memorial service will be held next spring or summer for family and his many

The family of Les would like to thank the doctors and nursing staff in the St. Luke's Hospital ICU in Duluth for their constant compassion and superb care during Les's brief stay, and Dr. Elleby and the wonderful nursing staff at the Cook Hospital ER. Donations in honor of Les can be directed to Wounded Warriors, his family, or a charity of your choice. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home

Lester was born on Aug. 13, 1937, in a logging camp near the Rat Root River in Koochiching County. He was the ninth of fourteen children born to LeRoy and Gertrude Rablin. After a tragic logging accident where his brother Jack was killed, the Rablin family moved to Buyck, where Lester

As a young boy he enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping. He loved the outdoors both for its necessity and the enjoyment it brought him. As a young boy he attended Sunday school at the Crane Lake Chapel. Lester also attended Buyck Elementary School where he excelled in reading and math. He was a dock boy and then a fishing guide on Crane Lake and Lac La Croix before the BWCAW was designated as a protected wilderness. As a young teenager, Les worked with his father at Berg's sawmill and at the VRT filling coolers for Al Daniels. He was the first of the Rablin children to graduate from high school, in the Orr class of 1955. Lester married Helen Marsyla on Aug. 3, 1957, and they had four children, Shelly, Mark, Kimberly

and Shana.

In 1955, Lester joined the U.S. Navy. During his 20-year military career, he served on the intelligence staff with the 7th Fleet on the USS Oklahoma City. He was stationed in Alaska; Taipei, Taiwan; the Philippines; Yokosuka, Japan; Hong Kong; Okinawa; NSA in Baltimore, Maryland; and Maine. He was stationed in Guantanamo Bay during the overthrow of the Cuban dictator Batista. He was also an all-Navy Pro-Bowler and while in Taiwan, he taught the Taiwanese how to bowl and dress lanes.

He had top security clearance as Chief Senior Communication Technician, as he spoke fluent Chinese. Lester's assignment was to decode and intercept communications during the Vietnam War. He received numerous honors and medals during his time of service. He retired as Senior Chief Petty Officer from his last duty station at Winter Harbor, Maine, on June 14, 1974. Lester was very proud of his military service.

Upon Lester's retirement from the Navy, he was employed at Chase Lumber in Cook as a sawyer. This was dangerous work and Lester was thankful that he never lost any fingers, or worse, during this employment. He continued his love of bowling and participated on various bowling leagues in Virginia. Lester enjoyed cooking, canning, and was very proud of his well-tended vegetable garden.Les loved to garden and promised each year to cut back, but each year it seemed that garden got just a little bit bigger. He loved picking blueberries, plums and chokeberries, and got proficient at making jam and jelly.

Les was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. It was there that on June 29, 1991, Les married Colleen Kay Nelson, whom he had met a few years earlier. This past year, they celebrated 29 years of marriage. For those of us who mourn the loss of this beautiful human being, his spirit will always live in our hearts

and minds. Lester was an avid Minnesota sports fan; he especially enjoyed the Twins and was a loyal fan of the Vikings. In fact, he and Colleen watched the Vikings beat the Packers on Nov. 1, the last day before his health rapidly declined. He was so happy the Vikings won.

Thankfully, Les became good friends of

Bill W. and Dr. Bob. He then had a mission in life to help as many people as possible to find sobriety. He shared his deep faith in God and strongly believed everyone could have a happy and joyous life. After a massive stroke in 1999, which left him somewhat disabled, he continued to share the message of hope offered by a fellowship that saved his life. On Jan. 2, 2021, Les would have had 39 years of continued sobriety. Blessed be his memory and every person whom he touched during his earthly life. Lester is survived

and will be missed by his wife of 29 years, Colleen; children, Shelly (Brian) Hanson, Mark Rablin, Kimberly (John) Driskell, Shana (Ray) Driskell, Douglas (Nancy) Koski and Jerry (Jessica) Koski; grandchildren, Erik (Sara) Hanson, Ryan (Arely) Hanson, Madena Hanson, RB Stevenson, Mandy (Tim) Kuelker, Alisha (Ray) Clements, Donny (Amanda) Rablin, Deidre (Aaron) Swanson, Stephanie Driskell, Christa Harris, Alicia Koski, Marisa (Derrell) Windom, Zachary and Elsie Koski, Tyler (Julie) Koski, Jake, Siiri and Senja Koski, Megan, Kyle and Riley Schmitz; a younger generation of great-grandchildren, Christian, Alex, Dakota, Brianna and Kaitlyn Kuelker, Lucas and Robine Stevenson, Logan and Wyatt Clements, Eva, Evan and Ethan Hanson, Beck and Atlas Hanson, Peyton and Brady Swanson, Jamison, CoraLee and Jackson Koski; sister, Patt Sokoloski; brother, Wayne Rablin; nieces, nephews, and many good friends. Les is also survived by Helen (Marsyla) Niemi and Roger. He is already missed by his constant companion, Beauty.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Robert, Marjorie, Frances, Fern, Sylvia, Jack, Harvey, James, Richard, Jessie and Vivian; and companions, Huk, Max, Duster, Cooper and beloved Sammy.

#### **Richard Roivanen**

Richard Byron Roivanen, 76, of Britt, passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020, at his home, surrounded by loved ones. There will be a private family interment at Hillside Cemetery in Angora. A celebration of life for friends and family will be held next year from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at the VFW in Cook. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home in



#### **William Lilva**

William "Bill" Lilya, 90, of Virginia and formerly of Soudan, died on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, in Vermilion Senior Living. A Memorial Mass at St. Martin's Church will be planned for the summer of 2021, with inurnment in the Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements are with Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral

Home in Tower. Bill was born on Aug. 27, 1930, in Soudan, the son of William and Julia (Jamnick) Lilya and was a graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. Bill served during the Korean Conflict as a plank owner of the U.S.S. Pickerel and was part of a record-breaking submarine surfacing exercise off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii, where the sub broke surface at a 48-degree up angle. He married Gayle Sjoberg on June 2, 1962, in St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Bill worked at US Steel as an electrician and electrical foreman, and continued doing electrical work after retiring. He enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing and spending time with family. Bill was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia, an active member of The Northern Club and enjoyed making potato sausage and pasties with

fellow club members. Bill is survived by his sister, Rosemary Pecha, sons Scott and Amy (Verbick) Lilya of Chaska and Michael and Stacy (Speed) Lilya of Blaine; grandchildren, Molly, Andrea, Joseph, Lindsay, and Landon; and numerous nieces and nephews, extended family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Julia, spouse,

Gayle; and brothers, John (Burr) Lilya, Richard Lilya, and Paul Lilya.

#### **Mathew J. Baudek**

Mathew J. Baudek, 91, of Babbitt, originally of Ely, completed his earthly life on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020. There will be no Funeral Mass. Matt's interment in the Ely Cemetery will be planned at a later date. Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely is assisting the

He is survived by his son, Mathew Baudek (Marie); daughters, Janice Beyer (Craig) and Judy Husar (Martin); and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

#### Julia C. Palombi

Julia "Julie" Claire Nystrom Palombi, 74, formerly of Ely and Babbitt, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020, surrounded by family in Cloquet, after a years-long battle with dementia. A small celebration of life will be held in the summer of 2021 when it is safe to do so. Instead of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

She is survived by her daughters, Laura Palombi and Robbi (Jason) Mondati; life partner, Carlo Palombi: five grandchildren, Jake, Lucy, Adri, Dominic and James; niece, Lori Palombi Webb; and nephew, Randy Palombi, who brought her a great deal of joy, especially in her final years.

#### Max A. Zoretic

Max A. Zoretic, 88, formerly of Ely, Babbitt, and Zephyrhills, Fla., passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, in Silver Bay. A family gathering is being planned for next summer.

He is survived by his five daughters, Deborah (Joe) Kobe of Ely, Michele (Bryan) Mattila of Omaha, Neb., Nancy Greeney of White Bear Lake, Jane Kerntz and Katie Zoretic, both of Buhl; eight grandchildren, Sarah (Brad) Westerberg, Courtney (Josh) Engquist, Bryan J. (Carrie) Mattila, Jayna (Chris) McDaniel, Vince Greeney, Maddie Greeney, Patrick Kerntz, Steven Kerntz; eight great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Patricia Zoretic.





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## Wednesday, November 18

**Curbside Food Distribution Only** Hours 11 AM to 5 PM. (Come after 1 PM for less waiting.)

Please enter Conan Street from **2nd Avenue West** near Carefree Living. Drive carefully and follow directions from volunteers. Thank You



**4B** November 13, 2020 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

# Utdoors Our lives in the Northwoods

HUNTING

# Deer harvest down sharply over 2019

Lower deer numbers and record warmth create challenging conditions for hunters

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Record warm temperatures and lower deer numbers combined to stymie hunters across the North Country during the opening weekend of the Minnesota firearms deer season.

In fact, hunters in all of Zone 100, which encompasses all of northeastern and east-central Minnesota, registered just 13,660 deer during the first two days of the season. That's down 28 percent from last year and 27 percent from the five-year

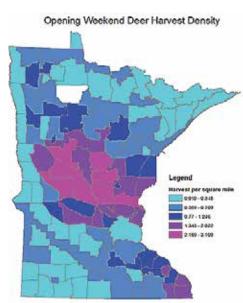
Statewide, hunters regis-

tered just 59,711 deer over the first two days, which typically accounts for about half of the annual firearms deer harvest. At that rate, the statewide deer harvest is expected to finish up around 120,000, or far below the Department of Natural Resources' stated goal of 200,000.

"Unseasonably warm

temperatures reaching into the low 70s negatively impacted daytime deer activity and harvest on both Saturday and Sunday," said Tom Rusch, Tower DNR area wildlife manager. "A low deer population and low numbers of antlerless deer permits

See **OPENER...**pg. 5B





2020 FIREARMS DEER SEASON

# Summer, in November?

# Record warmth posed challenges of its own while out on the deer stand

weekend?

There was something about temperatures in the 60s that just didn't compute and made

preparing for time on the deer stand more complicated than usual. It's not something I usually have to think about. After 40 years of sitting in a deer stand on the first Saturday of November, I have the routine more or less down pat. I pull out my warmest of everything... my mukluks, my heavy

long johns, sweatshirt, a heavy jacket, neck warmer, heavy mittens and stocking cap, along with my blaze orange, insulated overalls. By the time I waddle down to the deer stand, even my skinny frame begins to resemble the Michelin man. Just dress like you're going to the Arctic, and bring a thermos of hot coffee, and you can be relatively comfortable in my open-to-the-elements

deluxe, enclosed and heated deer stands. Since I was a kid, deer hunting was synonymous with being cold, and I guess I'm still

a traditionalist as far as that goes. Besides, it toughens me up for the months of real cold that still lie ahead.

But how do you dress for 60 degrees? In the end, I left all my deer clothes in the closet. I wore typical summer fare, a pair of jeans, cotton socks and tennis shoes, and a blaze orange baseball

cap. Fortunately, I had a blaze orange zip-up sweatshirt to put over my light flannel shirt, or I would have been struggling to meet the legal requirements for visibility. My regular clothes don't include blaze orange.

HELMBERGER

In a normal year, you really can't overdress for still hunting. Even if you're heating up by the time you reach the stand and climb up, you'll cool back down soon enough. Which is

as it really the opening deer stand. Unlike some area of deer season last hunters, I don't go in for those comfortable, I'll fall asleep, as the remains of the garden last comfortable, I'll fall asleep, as

I've learned from experience. At least Saturday was cloudy and a bit cooler, so I was able to stay awake, in part thanks to the birds that filled the woods around my stand with their activity. I watched for more than an hour as a small group of gray jays combed the woods near my stand for food. They survive in the same manner as chickadees, by moving through the woods exploring every nook and cranny out there for edible morsels. Their deep knowledge of their home range and all that it offers is the key to their survival. Their search process appears random, but I suspect there's a method to it, just not one I could readily discern.

I watched for deer, as well, although my hopes for bagging a buck this year aren't all that high.

Ahead of the season, I've seen a fair number of deer elsewhere this year, but they've been few and far between here on the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp. Other than the doe and fawn that had been busy cleaning up

almost nothing. Scouting ahead of opener, with two weeks of snow cover, I found few tracks. I walked more than usual this past weekend and found what looked to be a weak attempt at a scrape and no recent rubs. I had considered scouting some other areas this year, just as backup, but never got around to it. I never even put out trail cams. Life is just too busy at the moment.

Besides, I suspect the deer weren't moving much over the weekend. When bucks are on the move, they can overheat, even in cold weather. I know I didn't hear much shooting.

I actually quit early on Sunday. I couldn't stay awake in the stand, I was so warm, so I went home to nap in a chair in the yard. I figured if I fell out, at least I wouldn't break my neck.

Napping in the warm sun, outside, on the second day of deer season. In northern Minnesota? Like I said... it just doesn't compute.

#### **Outdoors in brief**

#### **Deer hunting** license sales flat this year

REGIONAL - Early license sales had sparked hope that the coronavirus pandemic would generate increased interest in deer hunting. It turns out, hunters bought their licenses early, but there was no increase in sales overall.

As of the first weekend, hunters had purchased 402,629 licenses, about 1,200 fewer than in 2019.

#### **Deer hunters** invited to share wildlife sightings

REGIONAL-Minnesota deer hunters can use an online questionnaire to report wildlife they see during each hunt. Data from the observation survey will provide a helpful comparison to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' population estimates for various species.

Using a mobile device or desktop computer, hunters enter information on the DNR website about wildlife they see each day of hunting, including deer, turkeys, bears, fishers and other species. They'll also be able to report specific information about any deer they harvest, including antler size.

#### **Deer hunting has** major impact

REGIONAL — While more recent, comprehensive data aren't available, according to a 2011 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report:

All hunting-related expenditures in Minnesota totaled \$725 million.

Trip-related expenses such as food, lodging, and transportation were \$235 million.

Hunters spent \$400 million on equipment, and \$90 million on other items such as licenses, permits, land leasing and ownership.

Deer hunting in 2011 contributed 3,760 jobs in Minnesota.

WEATHER

# **Astonishing warmth hits North Country in November**

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL— This fall's temperature rollercoaster hit the high point this past week as much of Minnesota, including the North Country, experienced the warmest six days of November weather in state history.

The extraordinary weather shattered previous daily records, including longstanding records at Duluth and International Falls, which peaked on Nov. 3 at 75 and 74 degrees respectively. Both of those temperatures beat the previous record for the warmest reading ever recorded in those cities in the month of November.

The two cities also set a new all-time monthly record for consecutive days with a high temperature of 70 or above, with three straight days of exceptional

The outbreak of summer-like heat was experienced throughout the state and ran far above normal

temperatures for this time of

year. The average high in the first week of November in Tower, for example, is 40 degrees, with an average low of 22. Some days earlier this month were as much as 30 degrees above normal in International Falls, including a day that averaged 32 degrees above normal on Nov. 8. The last time that the state experienced a greater departure from weather norms was in March of 2012, when the region experienced temperatures in the 70s. International Falls set a monthly high temperature record during that event of 78 degrees and experienced an overnight low of

See WARMTH...pg. 5B

November 13, 2020 **5B** TIMBERJAY Newspapers

#### **Area report**

### **Cook ten-year-old shows** pluck in bagging first deer

EASTLITTLEFORK— Ten-year-old Lochlainn O'Brien was pretty sure of himself, and rightly so, as he took part in the MEA youth deer hunt last month. It was his first deer hunt and his mother accompanied him. "We stayed in the woods all day, moving from one deer stand to another," Lochlainn told the Timberjay.

Lochlainn lives east of Cook and was hunting on his grandparents' nearby property. Finally, after nearly 12 hours on the stand, a doe appeared just a bit ahead of dusk. "She was walking behind some trees so I couldn't get a clear shot," recalls Lochlainn. "Then she moved in front of the trees about 75 yards away, but it wasn't broadside. After she grazed for a few more minutes, she was at an angle where I thought I had a good shot. My mother wasn't sure, but I was, so I took the shot.'

The doe ran into a nearby tag alder swamp.

His mother called his grandpa, not sure that Lochlainn had killed the deer. "But I was," he said, and he was proved right a bit later when his mother spotted some blood. They followed the blood trail for about a hundred yards, where they found the dead doe. "It was a clean shot through the lungs," reports Lochlainn.

When his grandpa arrived, he showed Lochlainn how to gut the deer and later showed him how to skin and butcher the animal. Congratulations to Lochlainn on his success!

#### **OPENER...**Continued from page 4B

resulting in a "bucks only" season for the majority of hunters."

While results by permit area were not available, the DNR did make a map of the

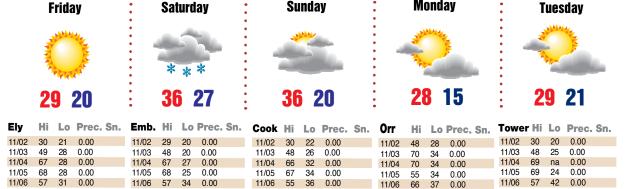
deer harvest density, which shows the lowest harvest levels in the North Country.

Friday

11/07 69 11/08 62

Saturday

#### LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather



66 37

#### WARMTH...Continued from page 4B

11/08 69 36

60 degrees, which was warmer than its previous record high temperature for the date.

While the daytime temperatures were astonishing, State Climatologist Pete Boulay said the overnight warmth this month was even more remarkable, as most stations reported nighttime lows as mild as the mid-50s on two or three occasions, a full 15 degrees above the typical high temperature in the region.

The dramatic warmth melted away what had appeared to be an early start to winter this year after unseasonably cold weather in late October brought frequent snow along with ice cover to most area

Snow returned to the area early Wednesday this week as a fast moving, but intense low pressure system dumped six-to-eight inches of snow across the region. This snow looks more likely to



11/08 70 YTD Total

54

Bright blue skies mixed with cirrus clouds serve as backdrop to the fresh snow that fell overnight on Tuesday. photo by V. Ranua

stick around for the duration as the extended forecast is calling for more seasonable temperatures, with highs in the upper 20s to mid 30s and lows in the teens and 20s.

In Tower, the normal high for Nov. 13 is 37 degrees, and the normal low is 18.

62

#### **Outdoors briefly**

#### **Christmas tree** permits available online from USFS

REGIONAL North Country residents can get a jump on their holiday decorating. The Superior National Forest has an unlimited supply of Christmas trees, and permits are now available to purchase online.

"For many families, venturing into a National Forest to cut their Christmas tree for the holidays is a treasured tradition carried on for generations," said Ann Niesen, Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor.

This year the Forest Service decided to move permit sales to recreation. gov as an added convenience for visitors, as well as provide an alternative to in-person transactions at offices that may remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Details about designated cutting areas, dates, and types of trees that may be cut can be found at www. recreation.gov/tree-permits/superior. To purchase a Christmas tree permit, visit the website and search for Superior National Forest Christmas Tree Permits. "It is important to carefully read the overview and needto-know information prior to purchasing the permit," Niesen said. Visitors will also need to set up or log in to a recreation.gov account to complete the transaction.

Superior National Forest Christmas tree permits can also be obtained through contacting your local District Office.

Cutting a Christmas tree also improves forest health, Niesen added. "The permit system helps to thin densely populated stands of small-diameter trees. Removing these trees in designated areas helps other trees grow larger and can open areas that provide forage for wildlife," she



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**6B** November 13, 2020 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

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## SATURDAY **DECEMBER 5** RANGE RECREATION

AND CIVIC CENTER EVELETH, MN

**CO-SPONSORED BY:** 



## WHAT TO EXPECT

- 7:30 am check-in
- 8 AM first draw, 9:15 AM second draw, with a potential 10:30 AM third draw to allow proper distancing
- · Lunch, dinner, & award ceremony

COVID-19 safety precautions will be followed, including masks & social distancing. **32 TEAM LIMIT** 

ENTRY FEE - \$45/PERSON

**INDIVIDUAL CURLERS WELCOME!** 

TO REGISTER, CALL

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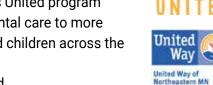
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#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Position Opening ELY AREA FOOD SHELF** Ely, Minnesota

For the past 18 years we've provided nutritious food to people in need, and now we're becoming our own 501c3 nonprofit organization.

We're seeking a part-time Executive Director who will:

> Work together with the Board to implement strategic plan goals/objectives

➤ Oversee all operations ensuring quality food distribution > Recruit and coordinate staff and volunteers

and provide positive leadership

Manage finances and statistics

> Further positive relationships with donors. community members, Food Shelf "shoppers", and other nonprofit organizations.

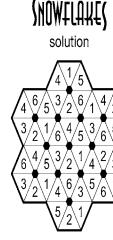
Start Date: January 1, 2021

For more information email resumes by Nov. 30 to: eafsedsearch1@gmail.com, or mail resumes to Attn: ED Search, Ely Area Food Shelf, PO Box 786, Ely MN 55731. 11/13

#### Get Results!







#### PT RINK ATTENDANTS

Breitung Township is now accepting applications for Temporary Part-Time Rink Attendants. Please visit our website at https:// www.breitungtownship.org/employment/ for application. Persons will be responsible for rink flooding, snow removal, repairs as needed, update schedule, clean sidewalks, parking lots, and shovel roofs. Work would be afternoons, evenings, and weekends. Rink hours are 4pm-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-8pm Sat. and Sun.. Interested applicants can also call the Clerk's Office at 218-753-6020 for applications as well. 11/13

#### -**Super** Crossword -

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## King Crossword

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**EMPLOYMENT** 



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# Weekly **SUDOKU**

#### by Linda Thistle

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	3		7			4		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

#### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

Considerations of personal privacy, time and resources prevent the newspaper from investigating ads placed in the classified section. If you respond to an ad, we urge you to use the same care and prudence that you would use when conducting business in any other situation.

#### HAIR CARE

DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 – 6:30. 218-666-

VERMILION SHEAR IMAGE-Open Tues.-Fri., 9-5. Main St., Tower 218-753-2928 tfn

#### **HOSPICE**

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their famiin ways such as: comfort care, massages, last wishes and more. For more information, contact Program Director Becca Bundy at 218-780-5423 vhhpdirector@gmail.com This ad is paid for by Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners.

#### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

OPEN GROUP AΑ MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 915 E Camp St., Ely

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 B p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

**CO-DEPENDENTS** 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.

BABBITT AL-ANON- meets rsdays at 7 p.m. in upstairs of Woodland Thursdays Presbyterian Church.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP-Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and families of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6

VIRGINIA AA WOMEN'S MEETING- Ladies by the Lake Tuesdays at 12 noon. Peace United Methodist Church, 303 S 9th Ave, please use side door and parking.

p.m. 218-984-2037

MEETING-OPEN 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 235-3581.

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.)

HIV/AIDS? For confidential compassionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

# Sell It Here

# 218-753-2950

3

5

4

9

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#### **AUTOMOTIVE**

CAR FOR SALE in Ely; 2004 Chevy TrailBlazer; Approximately 80,000 miles on it; Excellent body, clean interi-or; some rust on frame; spent much of its life under cover; 4 WD; automatic transmission; Maroon in color; if interested, call Harry, phone 303-619-0311. Sold as-is, no guarantees. 11/13

#### **King** Crossword — **Answers**

Solution time: 27 mins.

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S	Ε	N	D	Α	K		Н	0	Р	Р	Ε	R
			Ι	S	S	U	Е		S	Ε	G	Α
S	С	Α	T	S		Ν	Α	В		N	0	W
Ε	R	N	Ε		Ε	Ι	D	Ε	R	S		Т
Р	Ε	N	D	Α	Ν	Τ		L	Е	Ι	G	Η
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L	0	Υ		Α	D	D		Ε	Ρ	Ε	Ε	S

#### Classifieds run in all 3 editions of the Timberjay.

Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum. Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts. Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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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.

6

Difficult

1

3

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ ♦ ♦

Medium

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2

8

7

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rental

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Convenience Store

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**ATROCIOUS** 

TUNES

wicked witch

90 Sheltered

wind

from the

92 Immodesty

93 Saturated

98 Hires out

99 Wire arch

course

monster

moniker

(stagnant)

problem

108 Fleming of

opera

**111** Lambs'

109 Spitting nails

mothers

113 Many a carol

114 See 122-

Down

Prefix

(Lat.)

119 Dad's bro

cologne

116 Within:

100 Hold fast

**101** Tabloid

102 ln —

103 Karaoke

94 Abbr. at LAX

97 Pinball parlor

on a croquet

4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457 www.shamrocklanding.com

or Ullmann

60 Concept, in

sticker fig.

**64** Words in an

datum: Abbr.

couch for a

analogy

65 Food box

**67** Miniature

pooch

college

**69** One foot

forward

70 Two-tone

whale

**73** — Bo

(fitness

option)

fitting

78 Neglects to

80 "How Great

**74** Certain pipe

**71** Part of HRH

72 52-week unit

students,

outdatedly

68 Female

Calais

61 New car

#### **Super** Crossword 59 Actress Tyler 89 Whence one

### 17 Actress

62 Met maven 126 Acting Mena teacher Stella

Rob

Grier

**127** "90210" actor

sharp pain

1 Humorously

indecent

2 Milo of film

patterns

seekers'

4 Alien

63 No. in Essen 66 - bow (upper lip

illuminated at DOWN

15 Lhasa shape) 68 A-list person 128 Quality of (little dogs) 69 Riddle, part 4

dusk

76 Duel weapon

77 Baldwin of

78 Morse E's

in '03

city

91 Munchkin

95 Farm baby

96 Crimson and

carmine

97 End of the

riddle

105 Write the

"Andron"

79 Jet grounded

81 "— Fideles"

86 West Texas

20 Ed of "Gus" **21** Small drying 73 "Neon" fish in 129 Ex-NFLer item on a a tank bathroom bar 75 Naturally

22 Obama's successor 23 Start of a

riddle 25 Have a blast

**ACROSS** 

1 Talk big

6 Generally

speaking

26 "Yummy!" 27 "Exodus" actor Mineo

28 Lyric forgetter's syllables

**29** "Yippee!" 30 "Forbidden"

perfume 33 Common pet lizard

38 Warlike deity 39 Riddle, part 2 44 India's place 104 Actress Tara

46 Brand of contact lens cleaner

47 Place to exit

**57** Former

Michael 58 Uncle, in

Spain

59 Depict by drawing

score to 106 Polo of "The Fosters" 48 Riddle, part 3 107 Time of note **52** Unfurled, e.g. **110** Official seal 112 — Na Na Disney head 115 Lonsided 117 Lopsided

118 Riddle's

answer 124 Plow maker 125 Consensus

program, for short 5 Sad, in Nice 88 Riddle, part 5 6 Many a time 7 Casual turndown

8 Top fighter

pilots 9 Inferior cava

10 And others, in Latin 11 — -com (film

category) 12 Feeling of

amazement 13 Prefix with

magnetic 14 Munchkin

15 Gillette shaver brand

**16** Major for a future D.A.

18 Eggy dish 19 Belly flop result

24 Fake display 28 "The Far Side"

cartoonist Gary **31** Hamilton

dueler Aaron 32 Web surfer,

say 3 Study of data 34 Great joy 35 Brand of

fleecy boots 36 — Lingus

37 Vegas-to-Helena dir. 40 Violin

virtuoso Hilary **41** Having a

shot to win 42 Shaped like a die

43 Purported psychic gift 44 Suffix for an

enzyme 45 Fashion's Anna -

49 Skin dve 50 State north

of Calif.

**51** Like a boor **53** Blissful site

54 Aswan's river 55 Woman in

53-Down 56 Little bit

– Art" 82 To be, in Le 118 In the role of Havre **83** Vile

villainesses

**120** — de **84** Danson of "Mad Money"

121 House pest 85 Gp. activated 122 With 114by a 911 call Down, "Not 87 Snoop (on) true!

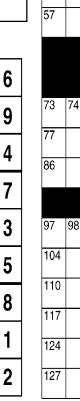
88 Whence one 123 Part of CBS: wicked witch Abbr.

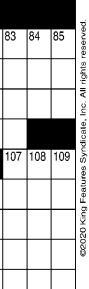
17 18

#### 20 22 21 25 23 24 26 28 29 30 38 32 34 35 36 39 40 41 42 43 45 48 52 55 59 60 62 63 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 76

10 11 12

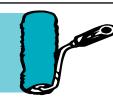
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An aeration system will be activated on or after December 15, 2020, in and around the docking area of Sunset Lodge on the east side of White Iron Lake. The purpose of the aerator is to prevent damage to the permanent docking structures. Thin ice and open water will result from the aeration process. For your safety, keep away from the area marked with thin ice signs.

> If you have questions, please email: gspalding@helplines.com

Published in the Timberjay, Nov. 6 & 13, 2020

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