



We wish all of our readers a safe and happy New Year
The Timberjay office will be closed through Jan. 8

Please note: There will be no Timberjay published on Jan. 8

TIMBERJAY

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989



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\$1⁰⁰

LAKE VERMILION

New camper cabins are latest state park update

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
 Managing Editor

New camper cabins are ready for visitors, starting this week, at Vermilion State Park. photo by M. HelMBERGER

LAKE VERMILION STATE PARK — Visitors here will have more comfortable overnight accommodations, particularly for winter, beginning Dec. 31. That's when new camper cabins open for use.

A total of eight new cabins will soon be open year-round, according to Park Manager Jim

Essig, although only four cabins will be open the first week so park managers can make sure their water treatment system and other infrastructure is working properly. The other four cabins will be tested the week after, with all eight cabins expected to be open by mid-January.

Visitors wanting to take

advantage of the new accommodations can begin making reservations on Dec. 28 for stays beginning on Dec. 31. Reservations can be made by calling 866-857-2757.

The cabins reflect the latest in green building practices,

See...**CABINS** pg. 6



OUTDOOR RECREATION

A boy and his dog(s)

After five decades, Ely-area musher still admits to having puppy love

by KEITH VANDERVORT
 Ely Editor

ELY — For Scott Edgett, a local dog sled racer in the midst of training for next month's WolfTrack Classic, life has always been about the dogs.

He grew up in Centerville, a town of less than 100 people north of the Twin Cities, and from a young age he was exposed to the dog life when he visited his uncle, who raised Huskies. "We got one of his pups, I named her Tasha, and she pulled me around on my Big Wheel when I was eight years old," Scott said.

He got another dog, named Nikki, when he was 10. The Alaskan Malamute pulled him around in a homemade wagon.

"We would just take off down the gravel road and have a great time," he said. "One trip we about made it to Hugo, some four miles away. Mom and Dad were a little upset

See...**MUSHER** pg. 7



Scott Edgett, who has raced in nearly every Ely WolfTrack Classic, really loves his sled dogs. His first Husky pulled him around in his Big Wheel when he was just eight years old. top photo is submitted. photos at left and right by K. Vandervort



CORONAVIRUS

Walz: Months before vaccine available to general public

by DAVID COLBURN
 Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Coronavirus vaccinations are underway across Minnesota, and more vaccines are on the way, but Gov. Tim Walz and health officials said during a Dec. 22 press call that it will be weeks before the first round for critical healthcare workers and long-term care facilities is complete, and months before vaccinations are widely available to the public.

"The days ahead are brighter," Walz said. "The vaccines are here, they're being distributed as quickly, as efficiently as we can. A lot of thoughtful planning went into this, but with an understanding that this is going to take time. Demand outstrips supply at this point in time, but we'll get there."

The first limited shipment of 46,800 doses of the Pfizer vaccine was distributed to regional centers with the capability of storing it at the ultra-cold temperatures required. Critical healthcare workers were to receive the first shots, but within a few days healthcare providers from the Mayo Clinic to community health clinics were bemoaning the lack of enough vaccine to treat all of their staff.

See...**COVID** pg. 6



COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

Timberjay now published as a single, regional edition

TOWER- Readers of the *Timberjay* may notice that this edition includes more content from neighboring communities within the *Timberjay* coverage area. That's because, effective with this issue, the three editions of the *Timberjay* will now be combined into a single edition, known simply as The *Timberjay*. This is similar to

the digital e-edition, which has always included the pages from all three editions.

"Changes at our printing plant meant that producing the three runs of the paper would be much more expensive than printing a single edition with more pages each week," said *Timberjay* General Manager Jodi Summit.

"We have been talking about combining the three editions for several years now," said Summit. "Readers are often interested in local events in neighboring communities." While most of the pages in the *Timberjay* have been shared among the three editions since their inception, each edition did maintain some

zoned local-only content. That content will now be included within the combined edition.

"The end result is that readers will be receiving more local news, not less," said *Timberjay* Publisher Marshall HelMBERGER.

The change should also bring improvements to the reliability of out-of-coun-

ty mailing, which has been increasingly delayed in recent years. The paper will still be printed on Wednesday afternoon, and delivered to the post offices in Tower, Soudan, Embarrass, Babbitt, Ely, Cook and Orr on Thursday. Newspaper deadlines will remain the same.



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Community notices

State Farm's Quotes for Good sponsors Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail

REGIONAL- Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail is excited to be selected as State Farm Agent Tim Johnson's Quotes for Good program sponsored organization during January and February 2021. For every quote provided on a potential auto, fire, life, or health policy, Tim's State Farm Agency will make a \$10 donation to Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail.

Quotes from a new customer or a current State Farm customer qualify for this program. When calling in or stopping by for a quote, simply mention Quotes for Good and the Lake Vermilion Trail.

Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail, a 501c3 organization, is promoting a paved trail between Cook and Tower. The trail route will meander through the beautiful natural landscape south of Lake Vermilion, providing an opportunity for safe, non-motorized, year-round transportation and healthy recreation for residents and tourists.

The Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail is currently raising funds for environmental analysis and pre-engineering work on a 4.5-mile section of trail between Tower and the Y-Store. The Northern St. Louis County Trails Task Force will provide half of the funds for the analysis, with matching funds from the State Farm Quotes for Good program, Lake Country Power's Community Trust Operation Round Up® program, the Cook Lions Club, a Bonfire T-shirt project, Minnesota's Give to the Max program, and other individual donations.

For more information about the trail, go to lakevermiliontrail.org.

For more information about State Farm's Quotes for Good program, contact Tim Johnson at 218-665-5504 or www.clickontim.com.

Embarrass Sisu 2020 Report

EMBARRASS- In spite of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Embarrass Sisu had a good year with many volunteers helping out from home to further positive impact on the community of Embarrass for another year.

Sisu had to cancel the summer concert series but has rescheduled for the summer of 2021 at the Apostolic Lutheran Church on Hwy. 21. Sisu has been working on establishing this historic church on the National Register of Historic Places. The application has been completed with a support grant from the Minnesota State Historical Society and the response is pending. The September Community Night Out concert was held outdoors at the Seitaniemi Housebarn on Comet Rd. with good attendance from the community.

The Nelimark Museum was open in July and hosted many visitors from July through September. The artisans who staff the site had successful sales of their creations and hosted visitors for the November opening as well. December's Christmas at the Nelimark had to be canceled but folks are already looking forward to next year.

Many of our monthly meetings were also canceled but it was great to see many volunteers carrying on anyway.

2020 was a challenging year but folks in Embarrass with sisu have survived and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021.

DONATIONS

Happy Days receives \$4,925 donation

100+ Ely Women Who Care assembled combined gift to preschool

ELY- The 100+ Ely Women Who Care group is proud to announce that the Happy Days Preschool was selected as the nonprofit recipient from our virtual Dec. 6 event. Happy Days received \$4,925 in combined donations.

The purpose of 100+ Ely Women Who Care is to foster philanthropy and community by donating as a group to a local charity. By contributing a significant amount at one time, we make it possible to provide programs and services that otherwise may not be funded. We are honored to support such a fine organization as Happy Days.

This was the eighth



(Left to right) Zoe Lampman, Diane Thomson, Wende Nelson, Virginia Pointer. Thomson and Nelson represent 100+ Ely Women. submitted photo

100+ Ely Women Who Care event; the first seven have raised over \$52,000. We hold two events each

year and welcome participation, even for those who cannot attend. To donate, make your check payable

to Happy Days Preschool and mail it to 100+ Ely Women Who Care, PO Box 216, Ely, MN 55731.

Operation Round Up® gives more than \$53,000

REGIONAL - Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved \$53,497 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

Volunteers in Education (ViNE) of Virginia, which serves students at North Woods, Northeast Range and Tower-Soudan Elementary among other area schools, received \$1,000 toward its distance tutoring program - a newly-created program since the coronavirus pandemic. More than 85 students are currently being tutored via private Zoom

accounts.

"We're thankful for the funding because it gives students the additional support they need to keep on track with their school curriculums," said Cassandra Hainey, executive director of ViNE. "Likewise, the program provides teachers with an outside resource where they can turn to point students if someone in the class falls behind from the challenges associated with distance learning."

Recent local recipients include: St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail, Project Care Free

Clinic, Northeast Range School Iron Mosquitos Robotics Team, Volunteers in Education, City of Tower - Howard Wagoner Trails Club, City of Tower Area Ambulance Service, Story Portage, and Ely's Historic State Theater.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" members' electric bills to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.

Among Lake Country

Power's 43,000 members, nearly 64 percent of all active electric accounts participate in the program through voluntary contributions. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up® program by calling the cooperative at 800-421-9959 or using an online form at lakecountrypower.coop.

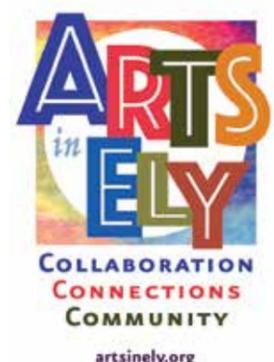
Grant applications are available online at www.lakecountrypower.coop (My Cooperative >Community >Operation Round Up®). The next application deadline is Monday, Feb. 15.

ARTS IN ELY

Ely-area artists to meet virtually, Jan. 14

ELY - ARTS in Ely will host a virtual community meet-up event on Thursday, Jan. 14 as part of a conversation series to help connect and inspire artists during the pandemic, brainstorm possibilities for community collaboration, and dream about long-term ideas and efforts in the arts community.

Arts in Ely was awarded a grant last year by the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council to aid in building bridges and improving communication among artists, art organizations and art supporters.



The hope is that better communication and connections will help to better serve artists, individually and together, in the Ely-area arts community.

Registration for the meeting can be found on a link through Facebook on the ARTS in Ely group or the Gardner Humanities Trust website. Any questions can be emailed to Keiko Williams at info@gardnertrust.org.

This free community virtual event will be held via Zoom. A computer with a camera is recommended for the best experience, but joining by phone is also an option.

For those who don't have good internet at home, ARTS in Ely will provide a location in town

with good internet access and space for people to maintain social distance during the event. People should make note of this option when registering for the event so an appropriate size venue can be acquired. Most people will be joining the event from their home computers.

This activity is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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DEVELOPMENT

Taconite relief grants benefit Ely businesses

Six employers will add as many as 10 new full-time jobs

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor



The Pebble Spa (pictured) is one of several local businesses to receive funds from IRRR's Taconite Area Community Relief Grant. photo by K. Vandervort

ELY - The city of Ely was one of 12 northeastern Minnesota communities that received grants from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to address economic hardships created by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Taconite Area Community Relief Grant was established in July by the IRRR, and all 12 applicants were funded.

Ely matched a \$125,000 grant with \$30,000 of its own, and six businesses that have been hurt by the COVID-19 business shutdowns have received \$77,000 in forgivable loans thus far.

Additional forgivable loans could be provided to other Ely businesses in the coming weeks, according to Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

"Like all communities in northeastern Minnesota, Ely's businesses experienced detrimental effects from the global pandemic," he said. "The businesses' largest struggles were the lack of operating capital, difficulty finding and retaining employees, and profitably operating at reduced capacities mandated by state restrictions."

When considering how to structure the loans for the COVID relief, Ely officials conferred with local lenders and business

owners. All parties agreed that businesses did not want to take on debt in a time of economic uncertainty, Langowski noted.

"Many of them were poised for expansion due to the different ways they needed to operate in a new economic climate amidst a global pandemic," he said.

"We structured the loan program with a forgivable element that still encouraged investment and expansion through hiring new employees," said John Fedo of the Ely Economic Development Authority. "Based on feedback from our partners we were encouraged that we had the right balance. Supporting new jobs in Ely is a very good thing."

Pebble Spa Company, Land O'Lakes Insurance Co., Voltz Technologies, and Dirty Dog Manufacturing LLC (Hand Done T-Shirts) received forgivable loans last month of up to \$22,000 each at one-percent interest. They are required to hire up to two new full-time employees at a minimum of \$15 per hour and maintain those employees for two years in order for the loans to be forgiven. The funds can

be used for a variety of purposes, from equipment to operating capital as long as there is a net increase in employees.

"Since that approval, there have been additional applications for loans that will be awarded to Treehouse Broadband and Wintergreen Northern Wear," Langowski said. "These six forgivable loans represent ten new jobs and \$110,000 in forgivable loans."

There was \$45,000 remaining in the program as of Dec. 23, he added.

Wendy Lindsay founded Pebble Spa 18 years ago and they now have three locations including Ely, Virginia and Duluth. She used the loan to hire an employee to launch a new website and online store: www.

camppebble.com. Website guests can purchase spa boxes, learn about massage techniques and take wellness challenges.

"It is designed to increase sales revenue as we continue our recovery from the two-month closure last spring at the onset of the pandemic," she said. "The financial impact was great, and the COVID Relief loan from the city of Ely allowed me to hire an employee who is solely dedicated to that new sales initiative."

Pebble Spa also hired a second employee dedicated to training staff at the three locations in new techniques such as reflexology and safety protocols.

Land of Lakes Insurance Co. founder and CEO Shauna Vega has been in business for nine years

as an independent agent and insurance broker. Prior to the pandemic, she was considering an expansion of her offerings to include MNsure and UCare, which are both health insurance marketplaces for Minnesota where individuals and families can shop, compare and choose health insurance coverage.

"I received many customer requests over the past couple of years for Land of Lakes to be a broker for health insurance, in addition to the insurance types I was already brokering such as auto, home, life, commercial and recreation," said Vega. "The pandemic hit, and it did not seem like the appropriate time to expand my services. However, the loan from Ely enabled me to hire the

two additional employees I needed to accomplish the expansion."

"The COVID Relief program enabled Ely to develop a community lending program tailored specifically to its local businesses," said Commissioner Mark Phillips, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. "Ely can retain the loan repayments for future economic development purposes, and new jobs were created. The program embodies our agency's ongoing mission of investing into northeastern Minnesota communities and businesses."

The Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation contributed to this report.

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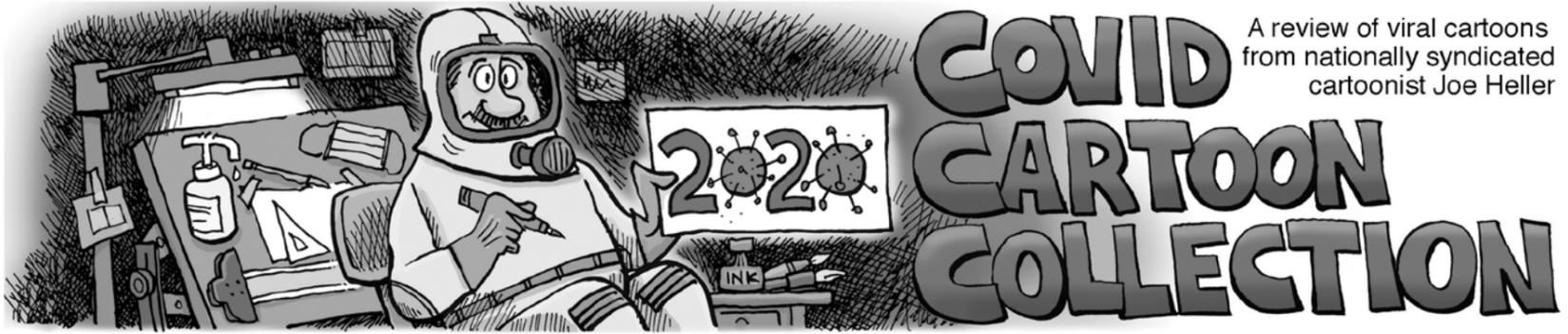
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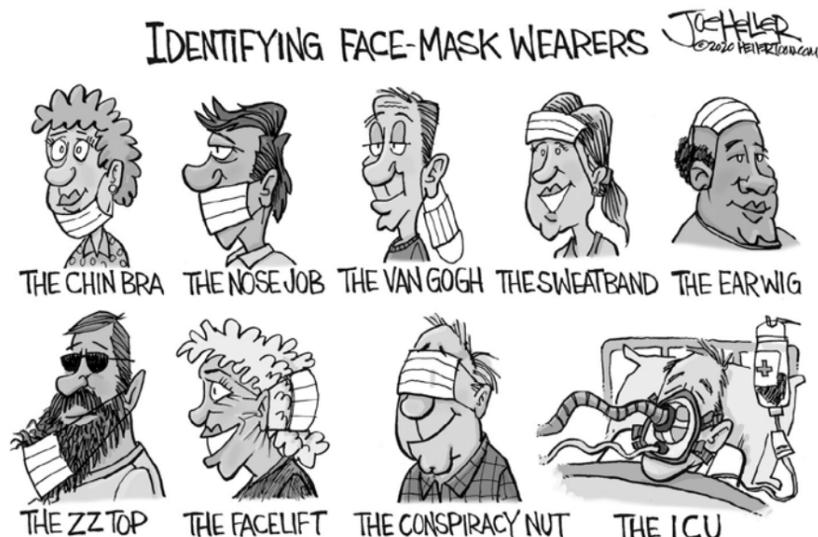
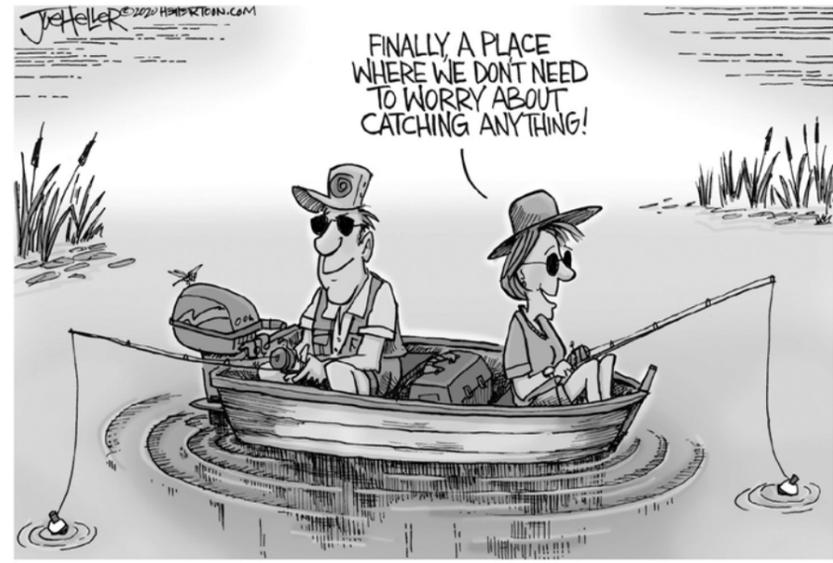
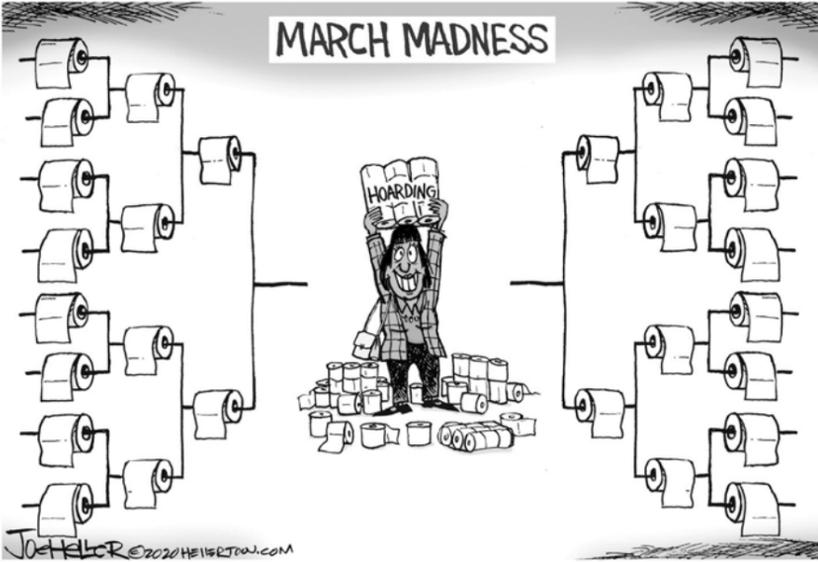
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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

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A review of viral cartoons from nationally syndicated cartoonist Joe Heller



COMMENTARY

After all these years, a burro is still an ass

As it's been for the past 62 years, this is the week I mark the anniversary of my birth, and as the total continues to mount, it's become a time of reminiscing.

When my 18th birthday rolled around in 1975, I was well into my first foray into the world of community journalism. As a high



DAVID COLBURN

school senior, the local newspaper editor, Bill Meyer, later an inductee into the Kansas Journalism Hall of Fame, had taken me on as an intern. "The Squire," as he was known, was a tough but fair tutor who schooled me in the arts of journalism and photography, and as I approached graduation, I realized I'd discovered a possible career direction. I worked for the paper full-time that summer before heading off to the University of Kansas as one of its newest journalism majors.

I came back home the following two summers to work at that newspaper, and at the end of the second I decided to stay on as sports editor for the fall, a title of little real meaning as I continued to write about anything and everything.

It was this week in

1978 that was my last, for then, at the *Marion County Record*. I was going back to KU, back to my formal journalism studies, and the Squire surprisingly marked the occasion with a short goodbye column. My favorite line was this:

"He's also learned that burrow is a hole in the ground and burro is an ass – every good reporter is expected to know the difference. Dave does."

Knowing Bill, I knew that this was more than a simple play on words. It was a compliment of the highest order. It was his way of saying that I'd learned to be discerning in my reporting, learned how to look at situations to figure out where the story was, and where it wasn't. And to this day I've never had higher praise about my work than having Bill Meyer call me a "good reporter."

He was a good teacher, too good, in fact, because when I went back to

college, I found my journalism classes to be utterly boring. Journalism had also gone terribly negative in the wake of the Watergate scandals, a direction generally at odds with my community journalism background. I abandoned journalism as a major and eventually ended up in education, spending over a quarter-century in that field before returning to that very same Kansas newspaper to embark on a new adventure in the field I first came to love as a teen.

While Bill used burrow as a noun, it's meaning as a verb is essential to being a good journalist, particularly when trying to get at underlying truths to complex situations. It sometimes takes a lot of digging to get to the essential elements of a story, and that's never been truer than in the weeks following our most recent election.

There's never been a bigger adversary for journalists to battle than the public's increasing reliance on social media as a source for information. People readily lap up the 100-character tweets they're fed without doing any burrowing of their own. And before you counter that tweets can be 280 characters,

I've done a little burrowing – tweets have been getting shorter even though Twitter doubled their maximum length. 100 characters is actually generous, as the majority of tweets are around 33 characters or less.

Our soon-to-be former President and his minions have manipulated this platform to press their case that the election was rigged, that voter fraud was rampant, and that Donald J. Trump was the rightful winner of an election he lost by more than seven million votes. They've cranked out tweet after tweet asserting their claims as fact without any information readers can burrow into to determine if those claims are true. But many have been eager to believe and have swallowed it gladly as "truth," growing fat in their delusions.

It makes it harder for folks doing honest burrowing to get through, because burrowing creates great mounds of information right at a time when people have been conditioned away from digging into them with critical eyes.

Let's take one small item from the deluge of disinformation, the claim that the Dominion voting machines were somehow manipulated to favor Joe

Biden. With years of news about computer hackers, years of warnings about how you shouldn't click on that link in an email from an unknown sender, and years of having to scan your own personal computers for malicious spyware, the public has embraced the truth that computers in general are susceptible to manipulation, and rightfully so, because they are. In that context, claims that voting machines can be hacked and manipulated aren't far-fetched at all if you haven't done any burrowing into how they work, and Trump's team has taken full advantage of that.

But really, it doesn't take much burrowing at all to learn that the Dominion voting machines produce a paper printout for each and every vote registered. Every vote from those machines can be directly checked against voter registration rolls and verified. Numerous investigations have done just that. Digging a little more, it turns out those machines aren't linked to each other or to the internet during voting, so hackers don't have access to them. Claims that the votes from this system were fraudulently manipulated

on a massive scale fall flat with just a little bit of burrowing.

When Trump's attorneys have taken their Twitter-level claims to court, they've been soundly rejected because they've not been able to provide any substantive proof to support them. Tweets present fraud as fact, but even judges appointed by Trump have declared that the real fraud is in the claims themselves.

Trump's desperate attempts to avoid the label of "loser" that he's long used as a supreme insult against his adversaries are unprecedented and dangerous. But while entire editorials have been devoted to Trump's tirades, let's boil it all down to a Tweet-level message anyone can understand. For this, I'll take my lead from the Squire:

"A burrow is a hole in the ground and a burro is Donald Trump."

A tiny bit longer than average, but please, feel free to re-tweet it. There's already a mountain of evidence out there of its truth without any additional burrowing.

Letters from Readers

Pay it forward this holiday season

In this season of giving, I have noticed a lot of "paying it forward" going on. Recently, I was blessed with someone buying my lunch and the cashier stated that the anonymous person asked me to pay it forward. I thought for a long time and decided to pay it forward to a funeral home. Having served 40 years in the funeral business I know there are those who, for whatever reason, are unable to cover the costs of a family funeral. I am no longer in the business so my gift does not affect me other than the thought of giving. I took a check to the funeral home and asked them to apply it to a bill that was outstanding and left it at that. In this time of COVID, deaths seem to be hitting more and more families unexpectedly as well. Consider this option as a way to "pay it forward" anonymously.

God Bless,
Brian Carlson
Grand Rapids

Stauber's "way of life" is far from our roots

I am appalled by Representative Stauber's recent shameful, anti-American, anti-Iron Range's proud history, act of signing onto the amicus brief of the Texas lawsuit which sought to overturn, even with his hollow statements proclaiming otherwise, the votes of the American people and have the Supreme Court choose the next President of the United States. History books have been written, and local school children have been taught, that our northern Minnesota region supplied the majority of iron ore for America's successful World War II effort. Miners, ore dock, railroad and workers from support businesses all contributed to the popular effort. No longer was the average employee working for a paycheck, they were proudly working for the United States. Working became an act of patriotism and supporting our democracy, a way of life in our area of Minnesota, not a single unpatriotic

act or item could be found in the area. An attempt to capture our area's rich patriotic history has been boiled down into a campaign slogan of "our way of life". Congressman Stauber frequently uses this slogan in his speeches and campaign literature. But as Mr. Stauber has so aptly failed to demonstrate, the hard thing to do, the courageous thing to do, is to fulfill your patriotic constitutional oath, especially when you know it's going to make your political supporters unhappy. Republicans have recently struggled to articulate what their party stands for other than fealty to Mr. Trump, the "fear factor" remains strong. It has become abundantly clear that "our way of life" that our congressman proclaims is actually his own current way of life. Rides on Air Force One, sharing the campaign stage, and having your picture taken and riding in a limousine with the President of the United States, and now deducting three martini lunches from his taxes, all intoxicants that proved too powerful for Representative Stauber. This way of life that Mr. Stauber demon-

strates is a far cry from the World War II effort that Northern Minnesota put forth, certainly not a lesson to be penned in history books and taught to our children as an act of courage, patriotism, and protection of our democracy.

George Pliml
Cook

Timberjay serves as a vehicle of peace

I became aware of the power of your paper, the *Timberjay*, when reading about Making Peace. Your editorial policy of including all points of view in your letters to the editor is a powerful statement that every person's beliefs and opinions count in a community. When we are so polarized, making peace is vital. It begins with gaining respect for beliefs and opinions of others and listening to the person. Thank you for that gift. It begins the peace making process. The next step is conversation with diverse opinions when we do not agree. You

are creating conversation on conflicted issues. Thank you so much.

Warm regards,
Art Dale
Soudan



the
TIMBERJAY

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Tower-Soudan Elementary third graders made gnomes as take-home gifts for their families. It was also pajama day! photo by J. Summit

CABINS...Continued from page 1

including all LED lighting and motion detecting fixtures to minimize lighting needs. The units are built from structural insulated panels, which will provide maximum heating efficiency. The units feature rustic tamarack interiors and are equipped with heat, electricity and Wi-Fi, and an outdoor food prep counter, fire ring, and table. Outfitted with either three full-size bunks, or two full-size and two twin-size bunks, each cabin can accommodate up to six people. A new shower and restroom building, as well as an adjacent vault toilet, serve the cabins.

Essig said park staff had originally hoped to have the cabins open by last fall, but that delays in the delivery of some materials, due mostly to the COVID-19 pandemic, delayed completion of the units.

Essig said he expects plenty of interest in the new

cabins, which would be consistent with demand at other area parks. "They're very popular," said Jen Westlund, manager at Bear Head Lake State Park in an interview earlier in 2020. Bear Head has had four of the small cabins for several years and getting a reservation can be like winning the lottery. The cabins, which run between 300-400 square feet, may be rustic, but they're a huge step up from tent camping, which makes them popular with a wide range of park users, according to Westlund. "People just wish we had more of them," she said. The Bear Head units currently rent for \$75 a night and the Lake Vermilion units will cost the same, although Essig said a rate increase is likely in the coming months.

The camper cabin development was primarily funded by capital bonding funds provided

by the Legislature in 2014 and 2017.

Additional camping planned

With work completed on the eight camper cabins, park staff are turning their attention to additional accommodations in a second campground designed around off-highway vehicles. Since OHV use is prohibited in state parks, the portion of the state park located southeast of Hwy. 169 was recently reclassified as a state recreation area, making it possible to utilize ATVs and other off-road vehicles there. Initial surveying is already underway for the new campground, which is expected to house 20-25 campsites. Design work is expected to begin within a couple months, said Essig. He'd like to see the new camping facility open for visitors in 2022, but said given past experience, he's figuring it won't happen



A total of eight new cabins at Lake Vermilion State Park are open for year-round use. photo by M. Helmberger

before 2023. "Opening in 2022 would be best-case scenario," he said.

The new campground would be located along the new Prospector Loop ATV trail, which connects

several communities in the region, including Ely, Tower-Soudan, Babbitt, and Embarrass.

Combined with the eight new camper cabins, the new campground would

effectively double the overnight capacity of the park. The park's Vermilion Ridge Campground, which offers 32 campsites along with two group camps, opened in 2017.

COVID...Continued from page 1

Walz said that the projected number of doses the state was to receive had dropped due to miscommunication between Pfizer and the federal government that left millions of doses unshipped, but that efforts were back on track after the issue was resolved.

"They have the vaccines, they're ready to go, they're in our system, and the public will be able to continue to track this

almost in real time," Walz said. "But I think the good news is that it looks like this week that it's fairly significantly up."

The state was to receive 94,800 doses of the newly approved Moderna vaccine on Dec. 23. Since the Moderna vaccine doesn't have to be super-cooled, it can be distributed broadly and will be used to vaccinate residents and staff in long-term care facilities, with

nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities coming first, followed by assisted living centers and other congregate care facilities.

"We wish that the vaccine rollout would be a faster process," state Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said. "It's enormously complex, as you've heard, and the supply is going to take a while to build."

Infectious Disease Director Kris Ehresmann

said that pharmacists have been recruited to help speed the vaccination process in long-term care facilities.

Still, Ehresmann said it would likely take until the end of January to administer the first doses of vaccine to everyone in highest priority group, but that most will have received both required doses by that time.

The rollout of the vaccine comes at a time

when the latest trends in COVID-19 are encouraging.

"Case growth does continue to trend downward, while the weekly testing volumes are pretty stable," Malcolm said. "The seven-day average testing positivity rate as of Dec. 13 is 8.4 percent, almost a two-percentage-point drop from a week ago, which is below the high-risk threshold and has been for five days now."

However, all three sounded similar notes of caution about the potential for those trends to head higher if Minnesotans don't continue to follow the recommended guidelines and restrictions.

"We know how much fatigue there is, we know how difficult it is to forego some of our very favorite things and traditions at this time of year, especially after such a very, very difficult year," Malcolm said. "But it's making a difference. When you wear masks and practice social distancing and pay attention to whom you're gathering with, you're doing what you can to protect yourself, your family and our whole community as we get closer to those brighter days that the government talked about."

The reductions also weren't enough data for Walz to announce any easing of the revised restrictions he implemented the week before, but if the trends continue, changes could be forthcoming.

"We're looking to

make sure that a few days does constitute a pattern in the direction that we're going and trying to tie it in concert with the reopening of schools and guidance around sports and of course in-person dining," he said. "So, I think you can expect over the coming weeks or so we will start to do that."

Walz also defended the restrictions he has imposed during the pandemic, suggesting that the rates and patterns in Minnesota have been influenced by its neighbors.

"In late September, early October, as Minnesota's infection rates were 21st and we had as many economic activities going on as anyone else, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin were one, two, three, and four," Walz said. "I think it was on Oct. 10. I said it's coming to us, rest assured it's coming to us. I still have to believe we have kept infection rates at a lower rate. Everybody has to make their own, I guess, peace with themselves about the decisions that they made. I certainly understand how difficult these were but they were informed by science data, and results."

However, Walz announced the next day that beginning on Monday, Jan. 4, pools may reopen for lap swim and organized sports activities as long as facilities follow social distancing requirements specific to pools. Jan. 4 also is the day that youth sports can begin holding practices.

OPERATION SANTA • THANK YOU!

A Big Wow

This year's pandemic created some new challenges for the Operation Santa Toy Drive, but getting in enough donations was not one of them! Toys, gift cards, and cash (to purchase more toys) started coming in early and didn't stop until right before Christmas. We knew that we had more families in need this year, and the community stepped up with a bang. We had enough for every one of the children on our list, last-minute families who signed up the week before Christmas, and enough extra to put together gift bags for the senior citizens who use the food shelf.



We put together large gift bags with toys, warm clothing, and hats and mittens for 60 area families (a total of at least 195 children). Teenagers also received gift cards. But the most amazing part of this story is we still had enough donations on our shelves to reach out to other children in our community who are in need (referred through area schools), and to other families having a tough time this year because they work in places like bars and restaurants, which have been closed due to Covid-19.

All told, your donations meant we could deliver gifts of toys and warm clothing to over 225 children in our community.

Special thanks to Lake Country Power's Operation Roundup Program for their \$3,000 donation to the Tower Soudan Civic Club that was used to purchase warm winter items such as coats, hats and mittens, socks, pajamas, and sweatshirts. Special thanks this year to the Lake Vermilion Guides League which made very generous donations to the toy drive and the food shelf because they had to cancel their Take a Kid Fishing and Take a Vet Fishing events, and instead donated the money they would have spent for our area families. New donations like this meant we were able to meet our fundraising goals.

Thanks to the individuals and organizations who made larger contributions to the drive this year: Tower-Soudan Civic Club, Wendy and Jim Tuominen, Aronson Boat Works, Nordic Home North/Marit and Orlyn Kringstad, Joanne Connell, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ron and Laura Alarcon, Val Leciejewski, Annette Herring, Bear Creek Acres, Elaine and Peter McGillivray, Dennis Passi, St. James Presbyterian Church, Tom Mesojedec, Paul and Carol Knuti, St. James Presbyterian Church, Little Church of Lake Vermilion, Good Ol' Days, Adrienne DeVries, Wayne Suoja, Cathy and Jim Wright, St. Martin's Catholic Church, Vermilion Club, BayView Bar and Grill, Bergetta Indihar, Pam Rengo/Thrivent donation, Laura and Dennis Rosendahl, Steve and DeEtta Clemenson, Kevin Norby, Juris and Jacqueline Terauds, Jill and Terry Wagoner, Wilbert and Bertha Hill, Andy and Elizabeth Urban, Kathy and Frank Siskar, Mark and Miley Mayne, Tower-Soudan Insurance Agency, Julia and Lynn Rasmusson, Terry and Dianna Sunsdahl, Suzanne Winckler and David Smith, Steven and Lori Vukelich, Barb and Roger Rinne, Joanne Bergin, Donna and Terry Mosher, Joan and Jeffrey Jauss, Tim and Nancy Kotzian, Patricia Helmberger, Jacqueline and Jerome Vandervort, Dorothy Aronen, Faye Tekautz, Lake Vermilion Guides League, Mary Oman, Dick and Ellie Larmouth, Joan Zobitz, Mary Batinich, Jennifer Anderson, Daniel and Rebecca Peterson, Jet Galonski, Pauline Housenga, Dale and Julie Horihan, Emanuel and Judy Sunsdahl, Peter and Colette Johnson, Nancy Wagner, Thomas and Denise Forconi, Stephen Abrahamson, Rod and Judy Politano, Rolf and Laura Anderson, Renee Pollack, Ron and Sue Norha, Ellen Hintz, Carol Maus, Catherine and David Farley, Diane Frerichs, Pam Rengo, Corrine Hill (Block of the Month), Corrine Hill, Marcia Bergquist, Nancy Lindbeck, Mary Ann Rot (Saint Martin Parish), Vickie Lang, Michele Sherwood, Bonnie Harma, Judith Ulseth, Colleen Lepper, Shawna Kishel, Diane Yapel, Maggie Manion, Judy Politano, Walmart, Teresa Dolinar, Kathy Sacchetti, Susan Covey, Margaret Jarka, Target-Virginia and the Timberjay. Many other anonymous individuals made donations of gift cards and cash. If we inadvertently missed your name, we apologize, sometimes donations are left at the Timberjay office when I am not there, and names are not recorded.

And thanks to all those who volunteered their time: Kathy Lovgren and her crew from the Tower Soudan Civic Club, Mary Shedd, Corky Eloranta, Victoria Ranua, Pam Rengo, Clair Helmberger, Catherine Farley, Susan Ellis, Pam Rengo and the crew at the Timberjay for all their help.

Jodi Summit-Operation Santa Coordinator
Kathy Lovgren-Tower Soudan Civic Club

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CITY OF ELY

Ely voters will continue to cast ballots at Senior Center

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – With the prospect of at least one and possibly two special election events to fill the soon-to-be vacant mayor’s seat in 2021, city council members last month decided that the city’s lone voting location will remain at the Ely Senior Center for now.

Since the renovation of City Hall, council members have considered moving the voting location to council chambers, citing improved accessibility with the new elevator, and convenience for city staff.

A small but vocal constituency and supporters of the status quo continue to voice their opposition to moving voting day out of

the Senior Center. “I know a couple of handfuls were very vocal about it,” Mayor Chuck Novak said. “We pay attention to those who speak their voice. If there are those who are disappointed, they had the chance to speak out.”

The council voted 5-2 on the resolution to designate the 2021 polling place at the Senior Center at their last meeting of the year on Dec. 15.

Council member Heidi Omerza has voiced her support for moving the city’s polling place to City Hall, and voted against the resolution.

“I know I will lose yet again,” she said, and added that she received many emails supporting voting remain at the Senior

Center. “One of the main reasons we told the citizens of Ely that we were going to be spending some of their tax dollars in City Hall was to make it ADA compliant and to turn this into a polling place so they could vote here.”

Omerza reminded council members that with the growing popularity of early voting and absentee voting, “a lot of voting happened here this year.” She asserted, “I’m going to continue that mission because we promised the taxpayers they would vote here.”

Novak noted that much money was spent to install the elevator in the city landmark.

“That was on the table and discussed at great length (during the reno-

vation),” he said.

Council member Ryan Callen, who also voted against the resolution, suggested that 2021 could be a trial run for voting in City Hall.

“We’ve had a lot of discussion about this in the past and recently, and I think this coming year would be a good chance to just try it and see how it would work,” he said. “If it doesn’t work, we can continue to use the Senior Center.”

Novak agreed. “The best time to try it would be in an off-year election and not in a presidential year,” he said.

Council member Angela Campbell pointed out that the City Hall elevator is used on a daily basis, indicating that the

money was not wasted on the federal mandate to make public buildings accessible to everyone.

“I just prefer that (voting) stay at the Senior Center,” she said.

Council member Al Forsman suggested earlier last month that he was open to moving the city’s polling place, but decided to support the status quo. He noted the easier access and easier parking at the Senior Center compared to City Hall.

“The reason I was open (to the move) was that we had seen so much absentee voting,” he said. “I do still think the Senior Center works better for voters. We are still dealing with COVID and the layout (for social distancing) works better at the

Senior Center.”

Council member Paul Kess agreed that voter access at the Senior Center is better than at City Hall, while noting that running the election in City Hall would be more efficient for city staff. “I’m in it for the voter,” he said.

Before the vote, Novak asked council members to “seriously consider” moving the vote to City Hall.

City of Ely voters will be voting for a new mayor in a special election on April 13. If more than two candidates vie for the city’s top job, that date would be a primary election and a general election would then be held on Aug. 10.

MUSHER...Continued from page 1

when they found me so far away. We were just having a great old time. I’ve always loved dogs and I couldn’t think of my life without them.”

Scott and his wife, Cindy, raised two daughters, Jessica and Jennifer. He worked as an automotive service manager. And the whole dog thing was put on the shelf until he was into his 40s.

“When we bought a place in Chisago, I told my wife I was getting another Husky. She then picked up a rescue Husky a short time later. We then got another rescue Husky and our kennel grew to three dogs,” he said. “They pulled me around on a three-wheeler without an engine.”

Three more dogs came into Scott’s family from a dog sledding friend.

“These were actually trained sled dogs,” he said. “I met other dog sled friends and kept buying dogs. I really love dogs.”

By this time, Scott and Cindy had purchased a home near the Babbitt/Embarrass area.

“We trucked those dogs back and forth from Chisago to Ely every other weekend and trained up here,” he said.

The couple made the Ely area their permanent home about 15 years ago.

“Cindy never thought we would ever move here, but the day I retired from the Ford dealership, we were on our way,” he said.

Scott ran his first competitive sled dog race in the inaugural WolfTrack Classic in 2008. He purchased his first dog sled from a guy who participated in the All-American Championship Sled Dog Race in Ely that started in 1970 and continued into the 1990s.

“My first race ever was 30 miles long, and me and my six dogs finished in five hours and 20 minutes. I was dead last so I was awarded the red lantern,” Scott said.

“I was very sick. I drank a whole bottle of Dayquil (flu remedy) from start to finish. I think I was a little drunk by the end,” he chuckled. “It was so bad. When I crossed the finish line it was pitch dark. I stayed in bed for the next four days.”

Scott ran the same race the next year and swore the racetrack was changed to different trails.

“I didn’t remember anything from that first race,” he said.

Scott has played a



Scott Edgett, who lives west of Babbitt, trains his sled dogs year-round. Before the recent snowfall, he used a four-wheeler ATV as he ran nine of his dogs near Bear Head Lake. photos by K. Vandervort

big part in the success of the WolfTrack Classic in Ely. In addition to racing all but one of the races (in 2014 he was in the midst of re-locating the dog kennel in anticipation of moving here full-time), Scott has been very active as a volunteer and has held many seats on the event’s board of directors.

Scott has participated in other regional events including the Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race in Bayfield, Wis., Mid-Minnesota 150 and Northern Pines Sled Dog Race in Iron River, Wis. He had planned to race this year in the Copper Dog 150 in Upper Michigan, but that dog sled event, and many others, were shelved because of COVID-19.

He will always have a soft spot in his heart for the WolfTrack Classic.

“We have one of the most beautiful courses that I’ve run and I hear that from many of my musher friends that have raced all over,” he said. “The hills, the trees, all the red pines and white pines, and the lakes and the beauty are one of a kind. It is a very

challenging course. You finish just wore out, in a good way.”

Scott noted that he experiences more camaraderie at the WolfTrack.

“The mushers all stick together out there and help each other out. You see that in other races, too, but we have the challenge of rare head-on passes with other mushers,” he said. “That can be unique experience. Last year I ended up running head-first into Jen Freking. I bunched up her team and I felt just horrible. My dogs just got screwed up and didn’t move over to the outside like they normally would. She probably would have won if not for me!”

He went on to describe the WolfTrack Classic as challenging even for experienced mushers. “We really watch the first-timers and the younger mushers along the course,” Scott said. “It is so great to see many more young mushers carrying on this tradition. We had a 13-year-old race last year and she did very well.”

The flood of spectators and volunteers at

the WolfTrack Classic are very humbling to Scott. “I’m out on the trail with nobody around and all of a sudden there are all these fans cheering me on. The volunteers work their tails off to keep us safe, like at road crossings and such. I get a bit emotional.”

He related an experience from just last week when he was running a training leg with his dogs near his home.

“I met a car along the route, and the dogs did what they were trained to do and swerved wide, and when we got back to the truck, the family was stopped and waiting for us,” he said. “The father told me they were so excited to see us. Two girls stuck their head out the car window and told me my



dogs were so beautiful. It is support like that that keeps me doing this.”

When Scott is not mushing and petting his dogs, he also works for the North American Bear Center as senior operations director. Cindy works at Steger Mukluk.

They have 14 dogs now and are anticipating adding a litter of pups next spring.

“We could have 20 or more dogs real soon,” Scott said. “I’m enlarging and re-locating the kennel and dog-yard area and getting ready. I think maybe I have several more years where I can do this.

I hope to be mushing yet in my 70s.”

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Ely school building project will soon be going out for bids

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Following a final study session review of the schematic designs for the Ely school facility renovation project on Monday, Dec. 21, the school board held a special meeting to take a major step in moving the \$20 million project forward.

By unanimous approval, the building project moved to the design development phase where the architect and project general contractor will develop working plans and cost estimates. That will allow the district to solicit bids from construction firms and sign contracts to finally put shovels in the ground this spring.

“For the last few months we held multiple meetings with staff and faculty as far as putting everybody in their spots and tweaking areas to meet the needs of the district,” said Scott Sosalla, president and project manager of Architectural

Resources Inc.

“Next we go to project design development and produce construction documents to go out for bids,” he said.

Some of the final details of the new construction area that will link the Washington and Memorial buildings involved designing and locating the elementary, high school, and district office areas.

The school’s media center will be located in the new building near the Washington building side. The new gymnasium will include storage areas on each side of the bleachers.

“We will now have some viewing areas into the new gymnasium from out in the commons area,” Sosalla said.

The seating area in the commons area has been established and new restrooms will be located on the Memorial side of the commons just north of the new kitchen area.

“And now we have the kitchen all on one level, which is much

easier, and we don’t need to pay for a lift,” he said.

The architect also described the design of a ramp to access the Industrial Arts shop areas and classrooms.

“We were able to drop the level of this area down about two feet which will save us some substantial money in the budget,” Sosalla said.

In addition, the school’s heating plant boilers and equipment can be reused because of the lowering of the Industrial Arts areas. Overhead doors and a loading dock will be installed for the wood and metal shops.

“The boiler plant will be relocated to a former locker room area on the south end of the Memorial buildings with easier access to the loading areas,” he said.

“Our goal is to meet the February deadline to complete our drawings so we can get it out on the street (for bids) and to meet the deadline needs of the Safe Schools grant you have, and to create the

elementary learning space so they are not coming across (campus) in the cold,” Sosalla said.

“We are looking at phasing the project with everything starting to happen this summer. We want to get a big chunk of the addition (out for bids) on the street as soon as possible so we can get the best (budget) numbers,” he said. “Then we will get into the remodeling of the existing buildings.”

The school district administration and facilities committee has been working with the architect in setting the priorities for the construction process.

“The Washington building is basically full. We are using every space that is there,” Sosalla said.

The Early Childhood Learning Center will be relocated to the existing Washington media center area.

The Memorial building will have some future “flex” spaces because of the new spaces in the addition.

As part of the ren-

ovations of the existing buildings, each classroom will have new doors, new windows, new ceilings, new lights. They will all be freshly painted.

“There isn’t a lot of reconfiguration in the Washington building, save for the early childhood area,” he added. “Two new bathrooms will be exclusive use for the early childhood area, so they will have their own contained area.”

All the existing bathrooms will be updated.

In the Memorial building, several areas will be available for future growth. The current cafeteria could be used as a community makers’ space. A dedicated special education area also will be housed in that building.

In the science classrooms, new cases will be installed, and workspaces will be added, according to Sosalla.

The former swimming pool area will be available for flexible growth.

“We are waiting on

where we are (in the budget) to see how much we can put into that space,” he said. “We don’t know if we will take all the bleachers out and make that space bigger. We have to see how the dollars come out.”

Two public-accessible restrooms will be installed near the main entrance to the existing gymnasium.

“Two new state-of-the-art locker rooms will be located on the same floor as the gymnasium in the former choir room area,” Sosalla said.

The concession area for indoor sport events will be relocated to the commons/kitchen area. All classrooms in the Memorial building will be renovated.

School board members will have an opportunity to review and approve the working plans and construction documents in January or February, prior to bid solicitation. Ground breaking for the project is scheduled for the spring.

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Discovery World set to reopen on Jan. 12

REGIONAL - The Minnesota Discovery Center (MDC) will remain closed until Tuesday, Jan. 12.

The closure includes the Miner’s Daughter Gift Shop, museum, and the Iron Range Research Center.

The announcement comes after a press conference Gov. Tim Walz held extending mandated closures of certain facilities, events, and gathering places.

The Minnesota Discovery Center has been and continues to follow the recommendations and guidance of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the office of Gov. Walz in an effort to help lessen the impact of COVID-19 on the organization, staff, visitors and community.

All scheduled events, venue rentals, and site visits that do not meet the new requirements for mandates have been canceled.

MDC is encouraging those impacted by cancellations to reach out with any questions as it pertaining to future events and venue rentals. MDC can be reached by phone 1-800-372-6437, email at info@mndiscoverycenter.com, or a message on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

“The health and well-being of our staff and visitors will always be our top priority here at MDC,” said Donna Johnson, Executive Director. “That’s why we are taking the necessary proactive steps to keep them as safe as possible. Furthermore, our dedicated MDC team will continue working remotely to arrange future events, meetings, venue rentals, and site visits. For all those quarantining at home, we want you to know that MDC will continue to accept and work on genealogy/archival requests made via our website or over the phone.”

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RECREATION

Howard Wagoner ski trails ready for use

New snowmobile and groomer should aid trail maintenance

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- In the wake of recent snowfalls, the Howard Wagoner Ski Trails were set to be groomed on Dec. 24, and this year that task will be much easier

Terry Wagoner is decked out as he gets ready to groom the Howard Wagoner ski trails, near Tower, with the trail club's new utility-grade snowmobile.

submitted photo

than in the past.

With support from grants and other donations, the Wagoner Trails Club recently purchased a new utility grade snowmobile, capable of pulling the equipment needed to pack and groom the 12km of ski trails, located just south of Tower off Hwy. 135.

"The club had been paying a private individual to groom the trails with his snowmobile," said Trails Club President Mary Shedd. "But his snowmobile was

old and didn't have enough power to pull the snow drag or our new larger track-setter."

The new sled, a Polaris Titan SP 155, was purchased with funding from the Federal Recreational Trail Program, which is administered by the Minnesota DNR. The program provides a three-to-one matching grant, which meant the club still needed to raise \$3,000 of

See **TRAILS...pg. 2B**



IMAGES OF THE SEASON



Top: A great gray owl eyeballs a photographer in Linden Grove recently. While this owl, the largest in North America, is a year-round resident of our area, they seem to be more abundant than usual this year, with many sightings reported around the area.

photo by D. Colburn

Right: Jupiter and its four largest moons, along with Saturn, appeared in close alignment as viewed from Earth last week. The unusual conjunction was noticeable in the evening sky here in the North Country, and was widely dubbed the Christmas Star. This image was captured from the ice on Lost Lake.

photo by M. Helmsberger



ON THIN ICE

Being prepared paid off

Earlier in December, I wrote about being prepared for whatever winter weather conditions Mother Nature throws our way. Our lack of snow earlier in the month, meant I had pulled my Nordic skates out of the closet and was putting on the miles skating.

While I started on Lost Lake, near Tower, word got out about Burntside, which had beautiful dark ice above its clear waters, so friends and I did a few long skates there, winding among the islands on the western half of the big lake.

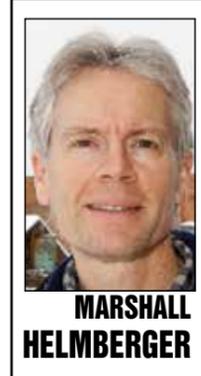
It was amazing. It was also a good reminder of the importance of being prepared. I had written about the fact that Burntside is one of the later lakes to freeze in the area, both because it's large but also because it's deep and has plenty of springs. I had been most concerned about the ice out in the deep water. Turns out, it was the ice along shore I should have been worried about.

The first day out on Burntside, a friend and I skated effortlessly for miles on a mild overcast and windless day. We started at the small public landing at Outlet Bay and followed the south shoreline west and then north and finally northeast along the lake's north shore. Eventually, we decided the Crab Lake portage would be a good goal for a turnaround point.

We didn't get that far. As we rounded the last major point before the portage, I noticed a toe of open water extending out from the point. I jumped up as I skated by the open water to test the ice and it made noticeable ripples in the water. Not good, I thought. Moments later the ice underneath me started cracking so I turned out away from shore, hoping for thicker ice and managed to avoid falling through. My friend, who was wearing his old hockey skates, felt cracking under him as well so we decided we'd had enough for the afternoon. Cracking ice seemed like a good sign it was time to turn around.

Two days later, after a brief cold snap that I was sure would have stiffened the ice, I was back, with another friend, with the idea of making it to the Crab Lake portage, walking the portage, and then attempting to skate on Crab Lake. It had the makings of a great adventure. Given the conditions from two days earlier, I insisted that we be a bit more prepared. Besides packing a lunch, I brought life preservers and the ice picks I usually bring when venturing on early season ice. We also packed some dry clothes in waterproof bags.

See **THIN ICE...pg. 2B**



MARSHALL HELMSBERGER

NATURE'S MAGIC

Hoarfrost brightens many a winter morning

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - Hoarfrost can create dramatic and stunning scenes as ice needles form on objects in the wintertime, but what exactly is it and how does it form?

The term "hoarfrost" is derived from the Old English, meaning frost resembling an old man's beard.

From a more scientific standpoint, frost or hoarfrost forms when moisture in the air skips the water droplet stage and appears directly as ice crystals on an object.

However, hoarfrost is



Hoarfrost, backlit by the morning sun, created a dramatic effect across the North Country on a recent morning. This image was taken in Ely. photo by K. Vandervort

See **FROST...pg. 2B**

THIN ICE...Continued from page 1B



The trip started out well. The temperature was colder and the ice was harder than before, so it all seemed like my precautions wouldn't be neces-

Left: Getting dry clothes on after falling through the ice on Burntside.

sary in the end. We made it most of the way without incident. Then, as we were skating past another small point where there had been a small patch of open water two days earlier, I called out to my friend. "It was open water right there the other day." At that exact moment, the ice collapsed under me in an instant. No warning, just gone.

I was too shocked to feel the icy water as I realized what had just happened. I have traveled on ice my entire life and this was the first time I had ever gone through. Fortunately, the water was only about three feet deep right there, so I wasn't at risk of drowning. But my forward momentum had ensured that I was soaked

through from the chest down. My life preserver provided a bit of buoyancy and I was able to gain enough purchase on the boulder-strewn lake bottom to flop forward onto stiffer ice, which fortunately held. I clambered out of the water and walked quickly back in the direction we had come. No sense falling through again, after all.

At this point, we were several miles from the car. Although we certainly could have abandoned our effort and made it back, I wasn't ready to call an end to our adventure. So, we went back to shore, started a fire and I stripped off my wet clothes, put on the dry long underwear and shirt I had brought and worked to dry my outer clothes with the heat from the fire. I had hoped to get back on track and make it to Crab

Lake after all. We ate lunch while the fire did its job. I ruined an old pair of gloves that got too close to the fire and scorched an old set of wind pants, but by the time we were done, my stuff was mostly dry, except for my ski boots, which were soaked through beyond hope.

It was a cooler day than we'd had recently, with a temperature around 20 degrees and a persistent north wind, so despite the fire, we were both a bit chilled after an hour of drying. And, as we had gotten a later start than we had wanted, the prospect of making it back before dark began to diminish. Finding our way through the maze of Burntside islands in the dark didn't really appeal to us, not to mention the prospect of running into more thin ice. So, we packed up our stuff (my flannel-lined

jeans must have weighed about ten pounds!) and made the long skate back to the car without further incident.

We were back the next day to try again, but it had snowed overnight, which meant we couldn't see the ice. After the incident the day before, the snow cover was unsettling. We made it as far as the spot where I fell through and decided that was enough for the day.

We had hoped to come back the following weekend, but the snow tap, which had been closed tight for weeks, was finally reopened, ending an unusually long and spectacular skating season. Crab Lake will have to wait. Maybe next year. And if the right conditions come, I'll be prepared...

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Wednesday					Thursday					Friday					Saturday					Sunday				
18 3					18 3					18 2					17 4					17 8				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
12/14	20	3	0.03	1.2"	12/14	20	0	0.05	0.5"	12/14	20	2	0.08	1.5"	12/14	9	-6	0.02	12/14	20	-1	0.06	1.0"	
12/15	6	-4	0.02	1.3"	12/15	4	-4	0.00	12/15	2	-3	0.00	12/15	16	0	0.00	12/15	3	-5	0.03	0.9"			
12/16	18	3	0.01	0.2"	12/16	17	2	0.04	1.0"	12/16	18	1	0.01	1.0"	12/16	25	16	0.03	1.0"	12/16	17	2	0.00	
12/17	24	9	0.00	12/17	24	9	0.00	12/17	24	12	0.00	12/17	30	16	0.00	12/17	24	10	0.00					
12/18	30	13	0.00	12/18	29	16	0.00	12/18	28	13	0.00	12/18	28	13	0.00	12/18	30	15	0.00					
12/19	30	9	0.04	1.6"	12/19	30	6	0.08	0.8"	12/19	29	6	0.16	3.2"	12/19	18	9	0.00	12/19	29	5	0.10	1.4"	
12/20	21	10	0.00	12/20	25	8	0.00	12/20	22	5	0.00	12/20	27	10	0.00	12/20	23	6	0.00					
Total			19.70	28.3"	YTD Total			20.29	20.0"	YTD Total			26.20	25.0"	YTD Total			NA	NA	YTD Total			23.29	18.9"

TRAILS...Continued from page 1B

the \$12,000 cost for the machine.

"Polaris was willing to sell the snowmobile to us at a 20-percent discount," said Shedd, noting the usual retail price for the sled was \$15,000. The club also received funding from Tower's Gundersen Trust and the Tower Area Fireman's Relief Association, plus some funds from the DNR grant-in-aid program to help pay their 25-percent match.

Last year, the club bought a used tracker, that produces two sets of classical tracks. The club's next goal is to raise funds to purchase a more sophisticated tracker that be lifted, so tracks can be customized on the hillier portions of the trail.

Terry Wagoner, whose father Howard developed the trail system for the city, is in charge of grooming the trails, with help from Shane Johnson. Both have taken the new sled out for a test drive, using it to pack down the snow prior to using the track-setter.

"It ran really nicely and is going to work out great," said Wagoner. Both men said they are looking forward to having a reliable sled for use out on the trails, and not having to worry about getting stranded in the woods.

The snowmobile will be stored at the DNR Regional Office in Tower in the winter, and then will be stored indoors in city storage the rest of the year.

The club's next project is replacing the lighting along the beginner's trail that is lit for night use. Some of the lights are no longer working and are in need of repair or replacements. All will eventually be replaced with more energy-efficient LED bulbs. So far, the club has raised \$2,000 of the approximately \$4,000 cost for the project. Shedd said they may decide to do the project in phases, replacing some of the bulbs this year.

The trails club has also printed new brochures that feature a map of the trails. The brochures are available at the trailhead.

Last year the club received about \$2,500 in DNR funding. Sixty-percent of that revenue is dedicated to grooming costs, and the rest can be used for other trail-related expenses.

The trails are normally groomed after each significant snow. The club's budget is not large enough



New trail brochures

to set a weekly grooming schedule, said Shedd.

The trails have been getting more use over the past few years, and the trails club is hoping the interest in cross country skiing will continue to grow.

Shedd said the club is a little concerned over damage from motorized use (ATV) from the new Prospectors Trail, which runs adjacent to the trail that starts at the north parking area.

The DNR has posted signs that the trail is closed to motorized use. The Prospectors Trail officially closes for the season on Nov. 1, and then reopens to traffic in the spring.

"We want to make sure people understand the trail is closed to ATVs after Nov. 1," Shedd said. "It can cost hundreds of dollars to regroom the trail for cross-country skiing if the trail is damaged by ATV traffic."

Tower's ski trails

The City of Tower/Howard Wagoner Ski Trails provide 12km of beginner to intermediate trails that wind through quiet and beautiful pine, mixed woods, and bog forests. The system, groomed for classical skiing, includes a lighted loop for night skiing. The trails are groomed and maintained by volunteers and with funding from the MNDNR Cross-Country Ski Grant-in-Aid Program. The Great Minnesota Ski Pass is required to ski and can be purchased online or locally at Vermilion Fuel and Food or the Y Store. You can also support the trails by joining the Wagoner Trails Club. Annual dues are \$5/individual or \$10/family. The trails are just south of Tower and can be accessed from two separate parking areas. The north parking lot is located by the new Lamppa Manufacturing building. The South (main) parking is 1.5 mile south on Hwy 135 on the west side of the road (trails are on both sides of the highway).

FROST...Continued from page 1B

much more rare and photogenic than standard ice formations. For one, the needles of ice in hoarfrost can form on the sides of and beneath objects, as well as on top, and in extreme cases become several inches long. Frost and hoarfrost can only form when the air and objects are at or below freezing.

While frost may form when the air is relatively dry, for hoarfrost to form there must be an influx of moisture into the region while the air remains sufficiently cold, according to AccuWeather meteorologist Dan Kottlowski. That moisture can be in the form of more humid air gently flowing into the area or the release of moisture from an unfrozen stream or lake.

"The moisture released by a warm stream is deposited in the form of long ice needles on below-freezing objects," said



Kottlowski. "Sometimes the frost needles will grow into the direction from which the moisture is arriving, such as one side of a metal fence or tree versus the other," said

Above: Hoarfrost brightens spruce branches. photo by M. Helmberger AccuWeather meteorologist Bob Smerbeck.

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Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

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County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
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Milestone: Minnesota Power now generates half its power from renewables

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor



REGIONAL— Minnesota Power has become the first utility in the state to deliver 50 percent of its electrical energy to customers from renewable sources, primarily wind and hydro.

According to a statement from Allete, Minnesota Power's parent company, the achievement highlights the success of MP's EnergyForward strategy to transition to cleaner energy sources while meeting customer expectations for reliable and affordable electricity. The company reached the 50-percent milestone when the Nobles 2 wind project in southwestern Minnesota came online in December.

"We are committed to advancing a sustainable future of reliable, affordable and increasingly lower-carbon energy for our customers and our communities," said Bethany Owen, President and CEO of Allete. "This was accomplished while keeping our residential rates the lowest in the state of Minnesota and improving the reliability of our system."

The Nobles 2 wind project will supply renewable energy to Minnesota Power through a 20-year power purchase agreement. An Allete subsidiary is also an investor in the project.

With Nobles 2 operational, Minnesota Power's wind portfolio has grown to approximately 870 megawatts of owned and contracted wind capacity. The Nobles 2 wind addition also adds geographic diversity to Minnesota Power's wind portfolio, complementing its North

Dakota wind sites and contracts.

Nobles 2 is the second 2020 project to help Minnesota Power reach its 50-percent target. The first was the Great Northern Transmission line, energized this past June. This 500 kilovolt line delivers 250 megawatts of carbon-free hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to Minnesota Power customers. Innovative power purchase agreements with Manitoba Hydro include a unique wind provision that allows Minnesota Power the flexibility to balance its intermittent wind energy in North Dakota with hydroelectric power that is available on demand.

"We are proud of how far we have come in this transformation, but we know we have more work to do," said Owen.

Indeed, Minnesota Power is making additional plans to further transform its energy supply.

"Minnesota Power's next biennial Integrated Resource Plan is scheduled to be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in February," said Julie Pierce, Minnesota Power Vice President of Strategy and Planning. "That plan will outline scenarios for the thoughtful transition of our coal units at Boswell 3 and 4, the next steps for the transition to even more renewable energy, and more investments in the grid to enhance reliability,

all while working to ensure affordability, the health of our communities, and opportunities for our employees."

Under Minnesota Power's EnergyForward strategy, the company has:

- Reduced carbon emissions by 50 percent from 2005 to present.

- Retired or idled seven of nine coal-fired generators.

- Added nearly 900 megawatts of wind energy to its energy mix.

- Added 11 megawatts of solar energy, with plans to add about 20 more megawatts in 2021.

- Improved the reliability and resiliency of transmission and distribution systems.

- Refurbished the state of Minnesota's largest hydropower system to keep it operating for decades into the future.

- Added smart meters and other technologies to help customers gain more control over their energy use and their bills.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, including the Tower-Soudan and Lake Vermilion area. It also supplies electricity to the Ely Public Utilities through a power supply contract.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Staff members at Cook Building Center show exuberant Christmas cheer as they show off the "Staff of Christmas" award they received from Cook Friends of the Parks for having the best commercial holiday display. photo by S. Thomas

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Obituaries and Death Notices

Roger E. Marjamaa

Roger Edward Marjamaa, 65, of Angora, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020. A funeral service was held on Monday, Dec. 28 at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook.

He is survived by his brother, Jim Rinne of Sparks, Nev.; ex-wife and friend, Laurel Marjamaa; sister-in-law, Joy McKenzie; nephews, Eddie Rinne and Jason Rinne; niece, Elaine Donovan; and numerous cousins and friends.

Ruby D. Adams

Ruby Delores Adams, 92, of Cook, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020. Per her wishes, there will be no memorial service. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Barbara L. Lassila

Barbara Lois Nelson Lassila, 84, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020, at Carefree Living in Babbitt. Per her wishes there will be no funeral services. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Family arrangements are with Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

Survivors include her daughters, Cynthia (Frank) Dilegame of Clermont, Fla., and Kathy (Lonnie) Salo of Babbitt; sons, Russ Salo of Embarrass and Billy (Julie) Smith of Babbitt; sister, Patricia B. Olson; brother-in-law, Bob Olson; grandchildren, Brian (Betsy) Johnson, Dave Salo, Stacy Johnson, Angie (Tobias) Dilegame, Laurel Salo, Katie Dilegame, Erin (Corey) Burch, Colton Salo and Jenna Smith; great-grandchildren, Aliah, Faith, Ayden, Logan, Keegan, Thomas, Jude and Saani; nephews, Bob (Kathleen) Olson, Mark (Margie) Olson and Bruce Olson; and nieces, Patty (Gerald) Niskala and Chris (Larry) Urbus.

Devon M. Richter

Devon Marie Richter, 48, originally of Ely, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. Due to COVID, a celebration of life will be held at a later date in 2021.

Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her mother, Sue Mauser; father, Art (Patty) Richter; brother, Brand (Shannon); fur babies, Rusty, Kimba and Theo; many uncles, aunts and cousins.

Dorothy J. Tomonovich

Dorothy Jean Omarzu Tomonovich, 90, of Virginia, died on

Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020, at Edgewood Vista in Hermantown. A private family Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia with Rev. Brandon Moravitz as celebrant. Burial was held in Calvary Cemetery in Virginia. A memorial service will be held later in 2021. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Survivors include one son, Mark Tomonovich

of Orr; four daughters, Kim (Robert) Farden of Duluth, Kathy (Karl) Sisson of Zion, Ill., Mary (Dr. Hal) of Bath, Maine,

and Sally (Paul) Lombard of Anoka; 14 grandchildren; and brother, Allan "Jr." Omarzu of Virginia.

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Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd. Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm	St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle
Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm	3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm	

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

PUBLIC NOTICES

MORCOM TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

Morcom Township's Town Board meeting will be virtually held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021. If you would like to attend, please contact Sasha Lehto, Clerk at 218-969-5812 or at morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com.

Sasha Lehto, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 1, 2021

LEIDING TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILINGS

Filings for the following offices open on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, through Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

- 1 Supervisor: 3-year term
- 1 Treasurer: 2-year term

Filing fee is \$2. File the Affidavit of Candidacy at Clerk's Office. Please call 218-355-0163 (cell) for the clerk's office hours.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 18, 2020 & Jan. 1, 2021

FIELD TOWNSHIP FILING NOTICE

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Field Town Clerk at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora from Tuesday, December 29, 2020, through Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

- 1 Supervisor - 3-year term
- 1 Treasurer- 2-year term

Filing Fee \$2.00.

Please call the clerk to make an appointment to file your application, 218-780-7012. The clerk's office will be also be open Jan. 12 from 1-5 p.m. for filing.

Pat Chapman, Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 18, 2020 & Jan. 1, 2021



CITY OF TOWER OPENINGS

- Forestry Board
- Gundersen Trust
- Planning/Zoning Commission
- Airport Commission
- Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA)
- Zoning Administrator

Apply at:
<https://cityoftower.com/positions-available>

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 25, 2020 & Jan. 1, 2021

Legal notices online at timberjay.com

EMPLOYMENT

Planning Manager On-Site Wastewater
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- 1 Cracker spread
- 5 Easter entree
- 8 "The Thin Man" dog
- 12 Verve
- 13 Past
- 14 Use scissors
- 15 Sudden temperature drop
- 17 — Christian Andersen
- 18 Dueler's ally
- 19 Pass by
- 21 Watch chain
- 22 Foolish
- 23 Andrews or Edwards, for ex.
- 26 Path
- 28 Gaggle members
- 31 Conks out
- 33 Joke
- 35 Paint crudely
- 36 "Yes we can" man
- 38 Off-tattooed word
- 40 Kan. neighbor
- 41 Mr. Gingrich
- 43 Tear
- 45 Curvy-horned antelope
- 47 Time of the mammoths
- 51 Churlish one
- 52 Guiding principle
- 54 Not working

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57						58			59	

- 55 Under the weather
- 56 Takeout phrase
- 57 Start a garden
- 58 Nutritional qty.
- 59 Health centers
- 5 Purse
- 6 Khan title
- 7 Motorized bike
- 8 Embarrassed
- 9 Crisp-pod legume
- 10 Supermarket stack
- 11 Church section
- 16 Winter forecast
- 20 Drag along
- 23 Commotion
- 24 Little white lie
- 25 Tall thin person
- 27 Thanksgiving
- 29 Seek damages
- 30 "Chicago" lyricist
- 32 Slandered
- 34 Ape
- 37 Piercing tool
- 39 Cinderella's horses, really
- 42 Long-snouted critter
- 44 Nuisances
- 45 Wading bird
- 46 Fashion
- 48 On
- 49 Infatuated
- 50 Cupid's alias
- 53 Antiquated

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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

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ENTRY FEE - \$45/PERSON
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		6			7	2		
4				6				
	5							
					8	7	5	
		8			1			
		1					4	9
	7			9	2	4		
		2	7				8	
			8		6	3		

Level: Advanced

6					2	5		
2	7	9				6	8	
	4				3		1	2
9					1	8	3	
5		1			2			9
4						9		
					9			6
	8	6	3		4			
3			2	6	7		5	

Level: Beginner



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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.

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DREAMWEAVER SALON & DAY SPA- Open Monday-Friday 8:30 - 6:30. 218-666-5594. tfn

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 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 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Orr.

ELY 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 Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of Woodland 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 p.m. 218-984-2037.

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.

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

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E Camp St., Ely

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There is a 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 is a non-profit organization.)

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

page 4B puzzle

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	A	T	E	H	A	M	A	S	T	A
E	L	A	N	A	G	O	S	N	I	P
C	O	L	D	S	N	A	P	H	A	N
S	E	C	O	N	D	E	L	A	P	S
F	O	B	D	U	M	B				
A	F	B	W	A	Y	G	E	E	S	E
D	I	E	S	G	A	G	D	A	U	B
O	B	A	M	A	M	O	M	N	E	B
N	E	W	T	R	I	P				
I	M	P	A	L	A	I	C	E	A	G
B	O	O	R	P	O	L	E	S	T	A
I	D	L	E	I	L	L	T	O	G	O
S	E	E	D	R	D	A	S	P	A	S

6	1	3	9	8	2	5	4	7
2	7	9	1	4	5	6	8	3
8	4	5	7	3	6	1	2	9
9	2	7	5	1	8	3	6	4
5	6	1	4	2	3	7	9	8
4	3	8	6	7	9	2	1	5
7	5	2	8	9	1	4	3	6
1	8	6	3	5	4	9	7	2
3	9	4	2	6	7	8	5	1

3	8	6	1	5	7	2	9	4
4	1	7	6	2	9	5	3	8
2	5	9	3	8	4	1	6	7
6	2	4	9	3	8	7	5	1
5	9	8	4	7	1	6	2	3
7	3	1	2	6	5	8	4	9
8	7	3	5	9	2	4	1	6
1	6	2	7	4	3	9	8	5
9	4	5	8	1	6	3	7	2

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to puzzles.

SRWDO

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Words

FUNERAL SERVICES

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Puzzle Fans

Please note: Because we had an early deadline for this paper, we couldn't access updated puzzles from our regular source. So we hope you enjoy two King crosswords, two suduku, word scrambles and the holiday word search!

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Coagulate
- 5 Chooses
- 9 Evil
- 12 Staffer
- 13 Father of Japheth
- 14 Time of your life?
- 15 Battle zone, often
- 17 Member of a pride
- 18 Unsophisticated
- 19 Creates
- 21 Yon bloke
- 22 Use
- 24 Cage components
- 27 Cattle call
- 28 Glasgow gal
- 31 Retirement plan acronym
- 32 Museum fill
- 33 Agt.
- 34 Quarter-bushel
- 36 Where — at
- 37 Crucial time
- 38 Fate
- 40 Circle ratio
- 41 Alamo combatant
- 43 More considerate
- 47 — -Locka, Fla.
- 48 Half a golf course
- 51 Prohibit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
18							19	20			
			21		22	23					
24	25	26		27				28	29	30	
31				32					33		
34			35	36				37			
			38		39			40			
41	42						43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50					
51				52					53		
54				55					56		

- 52 Green land
- 53 Sportscaster Andrews
- 54 On in years
- 55 Judicial garment
- 56 Start over
- 7 Author Amy
- 8 Sometime Stooze
- 9 BBQ site, often
- 10 Chills and fever
- 11 Society newcomers
- 16 Definite article
- 20 Completely
- 22 Heart line?
- 23 Cookware
- 24 Rend
- 25 Anger
- 26 Contrarily
- 27 Cripple
- 29 Vast expanse
- 30 Bond, for one
- 35 Chiang — -shek
- 37 Main meal
- 39 Allude (to)
- 40 Orchestra's location
- 41 Newsom of baseball lore
- 42 October birthstone
- 43 Dandling site
- 44 Tragic
- 45 Oklahoma city
- 46 Former attorney general
- 49 Carnival city
- 50 Sphere

DOWN

- 1 Eatery
- 2 Old Italian money
- 3 Smell
- 4 Cents to dimes, or dimes to dollars
- 5 Sans siblings
- 6 Luau bowlful

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to gifts.

BNIRSB O

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Ribbons

GIFT GIVING WORD SEARCH

Y	U	C	X	Z	G	E	R	E	P	A	P	G	N	I	P	P	A	R	W
O	R	D	Y	L	I	M	A	F	S	Y	G	S	C	E	K	Z	E	B	X
T	G	E	K	F	U	E	P	W	O	S	P	R	B	L	H	P	A	O	Z
C	P	Z	C	S	Z	P	P	T	R	T	U	I	F	I	S	I	B	D	E
R	O	I	U	L	F	R	A	G	F	O	X	N	W	A	O	A	L	H	F
H	M	O	E	O	G	I	S	R	X	R	W	L	D	T	G	G	A	H	W
R	M	A	I	C	N	Z	I	L	M	E	W	S	G	E	E	N	C	B	M
K	S	K	Y	O	E	E	T	A	R	O	C	E	D	R	Y	I	I	U	W
Y	N	R	K	F	N	R	E	R	B	O	X	O	D	C	C	P	P	D	O
G	O	K	H	D	H	T	S	I	L	P	S	F	N	I	G	P	Z	G	C
G	B	X	S	H	T	N	E	I	P	I	C	E	R	G	C	O	B	E	H
R	B	H	Z	U	R	U	L	O	T	I	R	N	P	W	H	Z	T	L	
E	I	P	F	D	H	W	X	L	A	E	D	I	R	L	G	S	E	K	Y
E	R	G	K	Y	L	X	D	U	Y	B	L	X	E	C	M	I	G	D	A
T	Y	Z	Z	T	F	E	T	A	R	E	D	I	S	N	O	C	F	U	H
I	C	U	G	S	D	O	E	U	S	S	I	T	W	K	B	D	P	T	L
N	R	W	Z	T	S	U	N	W	R	A	P	C	O	W	O	R	K	E	R
G	S	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	O	H	H	S	L	I	A	K	B	F	W
P	B	K	U	U	C	H	D	L	A	M	M	K	G	K	P	K	U	O	H
X	W	C	Z	I	O	F	P	U	R	C	H	A	S	E	A	H	F	U	H

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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GIFT GIVING WORD SEARCH

- BAG
- BOX
- BUDGET
- CONSIDERATE

COWORKER DECORATE FAMILY FRIENDS GIFT GREETING HOLIDAYS

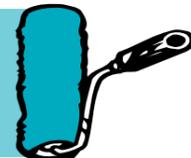
- IDEA
- LIST
- PRICE
- PURCHASE
- RECEIPT
- RECIPIENT
- RETAIL

RIBBONS SHOPPING STORE TISSUE UNWRAP WRAPPING PAPER

- IDEA
- LIST
- PRICE
- PURCHASE
- RECEIPT
- RECIPIENT
- RETAIL



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HAPPY New Year



CLOSED DECEMBER 31 & JANUARY 1

page 5B puzzle
— **King Crossword** —
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

C	L	O	T		O	P	T	S		B	A	D	
A	I	D	E		N	O	A	H		A	G	E	
F	R	O	N	T	L	I	N	E		C	U	B	
E	A	R	T	H		M	A	K	E	S			
H	E		A	P	P	L							
R	I	B	S		M	O	O		L	A	S	S	
I	R	A			A	R	T		R	E	P		
P	E	C	K		I	T	S		D	D	A	Y	
					K	A	R	M	A	P	I		
B	O	W	I	E		K	I	N	D	E	R		
O	P	A			F	R	O	N	T	I	N	E	
B	A	R			E	I	R	E		E	R	I	N
O	L	D			R	O	B	E		R	E	D	O

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