

Inside: Tax credits for stoves... See /3 Youth skiing... See /1B **Counting birds...**See /4B

Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 BER VOL. 32, ISSUE 2 January 15, 2021

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Feds change course on vaccine plans

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While Minnesota continues ramping up efforts to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to a restricted group of high-risk healthcare providers and residents of long-term care facilities, an announcement on Tuesday by the Trump administration almost certainly will cause state health officials to rethink their plans.

Supplies remain limited as state officials await guidance

Having achieved only two million of the 20 million vaccinations promised by the end of December, federal officials change course on Tuesday, adopting a plan proposed last week by President-elect Joe Biden to distribute all available vaccine doses immediately, rather than holding second doses for later distribution. The rever-



sal is a stunning development given the criticism of Biden's proposal leveled last Friday by Operation Warp Speed spokesman Michael Pratt.

"If President-elect Biden

is calling for the distribution of vaccines knowing that there would not be a second dose available, that decision is without science or data and is contrary to the FDA's approved label,

Minnesota Department of Health officials had little to offer in response to questions about the change at a Tuesday afternoon press conference, taking a wait-and-see posture as they look for forthcoming guidance.

"We are ready to see more vaccines if the feds are ready to follow through on their promise," MDH Epidemiology Director Kris Ehresman said. "More vaccine becoming available to more people more quickly would be a welcome development. But we'll follow

See...COVID pg. 10

FAST FUN

Some kids have the need



by KEITH VANDERVORT

Ely Editor

WINTON - Snowmobile oval ice racing returned to the Ely area last Saturday with the season opener of the Kids Championship Power Racing Organization. Events were held on Fall Lake at the Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club's Longbranch for kids ages four to 14 and competing in 11 different classes.

The event for youth racers and their families was limited by public health protocols due to the coronavirus pandemic so few spectators were allowed.

The Kids Championship Power Racing Organization. or KCPRO, originated in 1987 in Thief River Falls. At that time, the club consisted of about 20 race families traveling from the Iron Range to Thief River Falls.

Because travel was so widespread, in 1991 the club opted to divide into East and West divisions. This prompted the official creation of KCPRO-East, a non-profit youth ice racing organization.

For more information, go to www.kcproeast.com.





The East Division of the Kids Championship Power Racing Organization opened their season last week on Fall Lake at the Longbranch in Winton. Logan Larsen, top, was one of many local racers at the popular event. photos by K. Vandervort

CITY OF ORR

Bog Walk renovation project going out for bids

Could be finished by July

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- A late addition to Monday's Orr City Council agenda brought welcome news – the plans for replacing the badly deteriorating Mickey Elverum Bog Walk are complete and the nearly \$400,000 project will be put out for bids for a contractor within the next week.

Alan Johnson, president of Benchmark Engineering, came to the meeting with schematic drawings and a bid packet for the council to review and provide feedback, the results of the city's \$10,000 initial investment in the project. A \$196,000 grant from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and a \$186,000 Outdoor Recreation grant from the Department of Natural Resources will cover the costs of construction.

After drilling core samples in the bog last fall without reaching a solid bottom, Benchmark determined the new walk will be constructed in similar fashion to the one it's replacing by using sleeper timbers on the ground to serve as the base for 10-foot sections of the wooden walk.

The new walk will follow the current footprint, starting with a five-foot wide section leading to the main loop trail, which will be four feet wide and incorporate seven passing zones to meet

See...ORR pg. 11

CITY OF ELY

Novak appointed interim mayor for Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - Chuck Novak returned to the Ely mayor's seat Jan. 5 after accepting the city council's 5-1 vote to appoint him as the interim mayor.

Novak was defeated in the general election last fall by Eric Urbas, although Urbas had pulled out of the race last summer due to health concerns. His name remained on the Nov. 3 ballot, and Urbas was elected mayor by a

declined to accept the will of Ely voters, setting up a potential temporary vacuum of leadership.

In their first meeting of the new year on Jan. 5, under the leadership of Acting Mayor Jerome See...ELY pg. 10

925-800 margin. Urbas Debeltz, council members approved resolutions declaring a vacancy in the office of mayor, ordering a special election for the office, and appointing an interim mayor.



Chuck Novak took the oath of office last week for interim mayor for the city of Ely from Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski. photo by K. Vandervort



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January 15, 2021 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

Community notices

MDHA Sturgeon River Chapter update

STURGEON RIVER- There will be no meeting of the MDHA Sturgeon River Chapter in January. Chapter members who want to order apple trees are to call Dale Irish at 218-735-8418.

Ruby's Pantry food distribution

COOK- The next Ruby's Pantry will be a drive through food distribution at the old Cook School parking lot on Thursday, Jan. 14 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Please give a \$20 cash donation at the door. For safety, no one over 60 years of age will be asked to volunteer. Ruby's Pantry is sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango.

Ely ArtWalk begins Feb. 4

ELY- Please join us for the annual Ely ArtWalk, running from Feb. 4-28, when the city of Ely is transformed into an art gallery, a window-shopping exhibition of more than 400 pieces of art by artists with direct ties to the Ely area in the shops and windows of downtown businesses.

Nationwide tribute to lives lost from **COVID-19 planned for Jan. 19**

REGIONAL-The Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) announced that it will host a memorial to remember and honor the lives lost to COVID-19 in cities and towns across the country onTuesday, Jan. 19 at 4:30 p.m. A Washington, D.C. ceremony will feature a lighting around the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. It will be the first-ever lighting around the Reflecting Pool to memorialize American lives lost.

The PIC is inviting cities and towns around the country to join Washington, D.C. in illuminating buildings and ringing church bells at 4:30 p.m. in a national moment of unity and remembrance.

St. Louis County SWCD annual tree sale

REGIONAL- Trees are available for your spring planting needs. We are offering a variety of shrubs, deciduous trees and conifers that are sure to improve your wildlife habitat and soils. Reasonably priced between \$30 and \$45 per bundle. We also offer native plant kits to improve pollinator habitat or shoreline vegetation, or add color to your landscape. New this year is a native seed mix designed for septic mounds. Plantskydd and Repellex brands of organic animal repellent products are available to help keep the critters away. All proceeds are used for conservation efforts in the northern part of St. Louis

Quantities are limited, so be sure to order early. Order forms and information are available at www.nslswcd.org, via email to info@nslswcd. org or by call/text to 218-749-2000. Plant kit order forms are due by Friday, April 30 and tree orders are due Monday, May 10. Pickup will be in Eveleth on Thursday and Friday, May 13 and 14. Visit our website for more details and online ordering at

Girl Scouts in your community

REGIONAL- At Girl Scouts, your girl will prepare for a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure in a safe, no-limits place designed for and

How? Through the Girl Scout Leadership perience—a collection of engaging, challenging, and fun activities like earning badges, going on trips, selling cookies, exploring science, getting outdoors, and doing community service projects.

At Girl Scouts, the safety of our members is a number one concern. Currently we are advising Girl Scouts to participate virtually with their troop or on their own as a "Juliette" (individual) Girl Scout. The good news is that girls can engage through our Girl Scouts at Home activity pages. You can bring the exploration and learning of Girl Scouts to your family even when circumstances are keeping Girl Scouts from meeting in person. Get a taste of what Girl Scouts has to offer through these home-based activities.

Check us out at https://www.girlscoutslp.org/ or contact Customer Care at 320-252-2952.

Northeast Partnership now accepting proposals for community projects

DULUTH- Northeast Minnesota residents with an idea to strengthen their community can now apply for partnership support from the University of Minnesota Extension Northeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (Northeast RSDP).

Northeast RSDP seeks ideas from diverse populations and those who have not previously partnered with the university. In 2021, Northeast RSDP will prioritize projects that support local food systems that are economically viable and ecologically resilient, promote just and equitable transitions to clean energy, advance soil health, biochar research, climate resilience and forest biodiversity, and work through the impacts of the pandemic, recession and changing climate with communities by addressing housing, justice and equity issues.

Project ideas are being accepted through Sunday, Feb. 14 and can be submitted online at z.umn.edu/RSDPIdeaBrief. Community members are encouraged to contact Executive Director David Abazs at dwabazs@umn.edu or 218-940-2196 to discuss their ideas and ask any questions. Successful projects are selected by the Northeast RSDP community-university governing board through a competitive process.

DONATIONS

Ely Winter Festival modified for 2021 by Keith Vandervort COVID-19 restrictions, protocols will be in place

ELY - The Ely Winter Festival set for Feb. 4-14 will have a very different look and feel.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and mandated public health protocols, the Snow Sculpting Symposium will be scaled back. Organizers also said there will be no Whiteside Park skating rink. The Kubb tournament and Great Nordic Beard Fest are called off this year. In addition, there will be no literary gatherings, or hikes to Sigurd Olson's cabin or Hegman Lake. The sled dog meet and greet was also put in the kennel this year. The Ely ArtWalk, however, will resemble past years.

"To enhance everyone's ability to experience and enjoy the festival we are adding a virtual piece to the Snow Sculpting Symposium and the Ely ArtWalk over the ten days of the festival to provide for our artists' and community's safety," said EWF Board Chair Chris Kloppenberg. "This will allow our in-town and out-of-town friends an opportunity to enjoy the festival from home."

She added, "This was a very tough decision, but we know it's important to keep Ely safe. We'll be back with a traditional festival in 2022.'

The virtual experiences will include daily Snow



festival reminded women of their hard-won right to vote and the importance of their vote in the 2020 election. file photo

Sculpting Symposium progress videos and a virtual walk through Whiteside Park after the sculptures are completed. People will also be able to watch daily Ely ArtWalk videos featuring different artists each day.

The 2021 Ely Winter Festival pin is available for \$6 at the EWF headwaters, located at Northern Grounds. Pins are also available at Zup's Market, Ely Northland Market, Front Porch Coffee and Tea Co., and Piragis Northwoods Company.

"As in the past, one

dollar from each festival pin sale will go to an arts program at the Ely public schools," Kloppenberg said. "You can also purchase them online at our website."

Also during the EWF, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, nature photography, observing the night sky, and numerous art classes will be offered by the Ely Folk School, either by Zoom or outdoors. These are listed at www.elywinterfestival.com with more detailed descriptions at www.elyfolkschool.org.

Some traditionevents will also be offered this year, including the Vermilion Community College's Law Enforcement program's ice fishing contest and a virtual fundraiser for the Dorothy Molter Museum. Check out the calendar of events at www.elywinterfestival.com.

Videos will be posted daily on Facebook at www. facebook.com/elywinterfestival, and on the Ely Winter Festival's website. "Like" and "Follow" EWF to get daily notifications. "The Ely Winter Festival is committed to celebrating winter, community and art while keeping the community safe and healthy. We will comply with whatever state mandates exist at the time, and we believe we can still celebrate while staying safe," Kloppenberg said.

The Ely Winter Festival receives major support from Ely Family Dental and Twin Metals Minnesota. This annual Ely activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, through a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. EWF is also made possible in part by the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust.

Blood donations urgently needed

Memorial Blood Centers is testing all donations for COVID-19 antibodies

REGIONAL- Amid the ongoing challenges of recruiting blood donors during the COVID-19 pandemic, local nonprofit Memorial Blood Centers (MBC) is facing a shortage of blood and platelet donations.

The need for blood is constant, but due to the pandemic, many drives have been canceled or postponed. To replenish supplies for Minneasota hospitals, trauma centers, and air ambulance bases, more healthy donors are needed at blood drives and donor centers in the coming weeks. Appointments can be made online at

MBC.ORG or by calling 1-888-GIVE-BLD (888-448-3253).

Through Jan. 31, MBC will test all donations for COVID-19 antibodies. In addition, Memorial Blood Centers is collecting convalescent plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 in efforts to help treat the virus (MBC.ORG/CPdonor).

As a thank you, all presenting donors with receive a limited edition long-sleeved T-shirt along with a voucher for free coffee at local area Dunkin locations through Jan. 31, 2021. Additional Dunkin drawings for Free Coffee

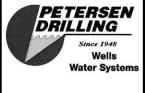
for a Year and \$25 gift cards will occur throughout the month.

More than 50 percent of the blood supply was lost when community blood drives were canceled due to COVID-19 this year, and the supply remains low (less than a three-day supply of all blood types). Blood drives are resuming with additional precautions at all donation sites; appointments are preferred to help maintain social distancing and donors are required to wear a face mask or face covering.

Blood donation is safe and essential and MBC has a COVID-19 self-screening policy in addition to general eligibility guidelines. In general, you may be eligible to donate if you are in good health, 17 years or older— or 16 with written parental consent (PDF available on mbc. org), at least 110 pounds, free of antibiotics for 24 hours and symptom-free for at least 72 hours following a cold or flu

Visit MBC.ORG to find your nearest drive or donor center or to make an appointment at one of the public blood drives.





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BUSINESS

Dentist Ioan forgiveness program strengthens Ely

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

REGIONAL - Two dentists recently relocated to northeastern Minnesota to practice dentistry and help alleviate a dental care shortage. Both were recipients of the Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program, which was supported with a grant from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

Gretchen Kreklow is practicing dentistry in Ely with Scott Anderson. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from The College of St. Scholastica in 2015 and graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2020. Dr. Kreklow grew up in Brainerd and resides in Ely with her husband.

Chisholm native Dr. Jennifer Enich earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2016 and graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2020. She is practicing general

IRRR initiative named in honor of Tom Rukavina's mother

dentistry at Chisholm Dental Service.

"The average educational debt last year of a graduating dental student was \$292,169," said Dr. Michael Zakula of the Minnesota Dental Foundation (MDF) Board. "A sample loan payment over ten years on that debt would be about \$3,910 per month as new dentists begin their professional career."

The Rukavina program is administered by MDF and provides funds to help repay qualified dental education loans if the recipient dentist commits to practicing dentistry full-time in the Taconite Assistance Area for at least five years.

Recipients are compensated for outstanding educational debt up to \$120,000 over a period of four years. Since the program was established in 2009, eight new dental graduates, including Ely's own Crystal Chopp, have utilized it to establish their prac-

Dental practices can generate annually up to \$5 million in economic impact in a rural community. The recipients are also expected to participate in at least one MDF program that cares for underserved populations such as Give Kids a Smile, Mission of Mercy or Donated Dental Services.

"Our agency's grant to support the dental loan forgiveness program is an effective economic development investment," said Commissioner Mark Phillips, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. "It grows quality health care, supports small businesses and attracts young professionals to our region,"

According to The National Center for Rural Health Works, dental clinics have a tremendous economic impact in the community in which they are located. They employ people who impact local spending. The dental prac-



Dr. Michael Zakula of MDF presents Ely dentist Dr. Gretchen Kreklow with the first installment of the IRRR loan forgiveness grant. submitted photo

tice itself generates tax revenues and purchases from other local businesses.

The loan forgiveness program was initiated by the late Tom Rukavina, a former Minnesota state representative and St. Louis County commissioner. It is named in honor of Rukavina's late mother and began in 2009 to attract new dentists to practice and provide quality dental care in northeastern Minnesota.

Lamppa stoves now more affordable

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

TOWER- Business has

been booming at Lamppa Manufacturing here, but it could soon get even better. Tucked within the thousands of pages in the most recent federal stimulus package, approved in Washington last month, is a lucrative tax credit that will effectively knock 26 percent off the price of a new Lamppabuilt wood furnace beginning this year.

The tax credit is intended to encourage those who burn wood

to heat their homes to upgrade to cleaner and more efficient wood furnaces. And that has Lamppa Manufacturing sitting in a sweet spot as the producer of the cleanest-burning and most efficient wood furnace built anywhere in the world. With very few of their competitors able to qualify for the tax credit, the latest federal incentive could be enough to launch Lamppa's newly patented Vapor-Fire line of furnaces into a much more prominent position in the wood furnace market.

"It's a very big deal," said Garrett Lamppa, the son of company owner Daryl Lamppa.

Federal stimulus package includes a 26-percent tax credit for the efficient wood furnaces

Good timing

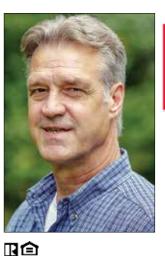
The tax incentive comes at the perfect time for Lamppa Manufacturing. While the company's wood furnaces are the only ones in the U.S. to have fully met strict new federal standards for emissions, sales of the furnaces have been slower than anticipated. The company's growth has, to date, been fueled primarily by demand for its top-quality sauna stoves, which has boomed during the recent coronavirus pandemic. Sauna is well known for its healthful properties, after all.

But the price of its wood furnaces, which are designed to connect to a forced air system and are capable of heating an entire home, can be a bit steep for some at a list price of \$5,695, according to their website. Plant manager Dale Horihan notes that folks who consider heating their homes with wood are usually a bit more price-sensitive than others, and that may have contributed to the relatively slack demand for the company's wood furnaces, despite the widespread recognition that the devices are the best wood furnaces built in the world today.

The new tax incentives, which are set at 26 percent of the installed cost of a wood furnace for 2021 and 2022, are likely to

See LAMPPA...pg. 6

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OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Trump and his minions

Americans who don't understand government show they are easily manipulated

With just days remaining before the inauguration of Joseph Biden as the 46th President of the United States, we had hoped to be able to turn the page on the disastrous four years that thankfully end at noon next Wednesday. But January 6, 2021, a day that will, itself, live on in infamy, has many Americans reflecting on what has happened to this country and one of its major political parties.

Let's not harbor any illusions about what took place in our nation's capital last week. President Donald Trump incited a mob to overrun the Capitol building in order to halt a process required by the U.S. Constitution that would confirm Mr. Biden's election as president. While we'll never know the motivations of every participant in this attack on America, there is evidence to suggest that at least some within the mob intended to take hostages. Videos of the event recorded participants urging the hanging of Vice President Mike Pence. Windows and doors were smashed in. Offices were trashed and looted. Blood was shed. People died. America was embarrassed before the world because a mentally unstable man could not admit that the American people had rejected him.

Had the perpetrators of this insurrection been more competent, we could have lost it all. Congressional leaders and the vice president could have easily been taken hostage or killed. President Trump could have declared martial law and suspended the Constitution and we'd be just another banana republic under the thumb of a dictator. We were a lot closer to such an outcome than many of us may want to accept. The edifices of government mean nothing without people of honor and decency operating within

We didn't reach this point as a nation easily, and it will take time to emerge from this dark age of American democracy. But we believe that the events of Jan. 6 speak to a fundamental failure of the U.S. educational system. A mob descended on Washington because they lacked a basic understanding of how government works.

A citizenry that understands the workings of our electoral process, and the many checks that are in place in each and every state to guard against fraud, would be less gullible in the face of the false claims by a dishonest president and his supporters regarding the outcome of the Nov. 3 election.

Informed and educated Americans would recognize that claims that were rejected more than 60 times in courtrooms across the country, many presided over by judges appointed by Mr. Trump himself, have no legiti-

macy because they would understand the process by which courts examine evidence and weigh its credibility or lack thereof.

It is the same with the response to the coronavirus and resulting pandemic. Too many Americans lack a basic understanding of science. In too many schools, science is taught as history, rather than as a rigorous method for better understanding the world around us.

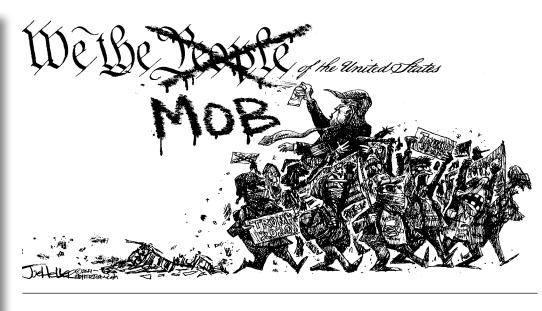
People who don't understand how science operates, how elections function, or how the laws and norms that President Trump so proudly flouts exist to protect us all against abuses of power, are ill-equipped to recognize the dangers of a demagogue like Trump.

Fueled by social media and abetted by cowardly Republican members of Congress, who refused to hold Trump accountable for his lies and abuses of power, millions of Americans found themselves sucked into a rabbit hole of mass delusion from which they could easily be manipulated. It led directly to the mayhem of Jan. 6.

President Trump, without question, incited that mob and deserves ever-lasting ignominy as a result. But members of Congress, including every Republican member of Congress from Minnesota, abetted the mob through their own actions. While Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber ultimately voted to accept the electoral vote count on Jan. 6, he willingly poured fuel on the fire that led to last week's assault on democracy by signing on to the frivolous Texas lawsuit that sought to invalidate the votes of tens of millions of Americans. By continuing to claim, without a shred of credible evidence, that the election was fraudulent, GOP members of Congress and their mouthpieces in right-wing media lied to the American people in the belief it would boost their political fortunes. It led, instead, to one of the most shameful events in American history.

Clearly, there must be a reckoning. For President Trump, a second impeachment and a conviction by the U.S. Senate, which would bar him from ever again seeking federal office is fully justified. For GOP leaders who looked the other way through four years of Trump's abuses, real soul-searching is in order. Can the party recover from the Trump cult of personality and begin to stand for something other than his own self-aggrandizement?

Until that happens, even many longstanding Republicans believe their party is no longer fit to govern. The events of Jan. 6 strongly suggest they are right.



Letters from Readers

What happened to the America we knew?

Uncle Sam has been looking more like a 90-year-old granny who's gotten the crap beat out of her, lying on a gurney.

What happened to the spirit of The Statue of Liberty holding that flaming torch out to the world over the inscription, "Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"?

We may yet survive as a republic made up of citizens governing themselves in a democracy.

Meanwhile, someone please feed our idiot some sedatives in cannabis candy alongside the pile of Big Macs he likes so much. We just might get through this without getting any more people killed.

Dave Porter Minneapolis

Trump makes the case for the 25th Amendment

Donald Trump's latest outrage, badgering and threatening the Georgia secretary-of-state (a fellow Republican, no less) to try to coerce him into helping to overturn a valid election, an hour-long diatribe caught on tape for all to hear, has gone well beyond delusion, and now belongs with the lunatic fringe in the 'twilight zone'. Has there ever been a stronger case for invoking the 25th Amendment?

Lynn Scott
Soudan

Trump must pay the price

For many of us, the horrifying images of an attempted coup play over and over in our minds as we reel from the shock of what occurred on Jan. 6. Insurrectionists, wearing MAGA hats, carrying Trump flags intermingled with confederate flags and yellow "Don't tread on me!" flags, crashing through windows, climbing up walls, overpowering the limited Capitol police force, then spilling into the capitol to destroy and vandalize these honored chambers with the primary goal of aborting the acceptance of the certified votes of the Electoral College, the final step in the declaration of Joe Biden as the next president of the United States of America.

Many feared this would happen as we listened to Donald Trump continue to spin his false narrative, the big lie, that he had won the election and that the election was rigged. We heard him invite his minions to Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6, promising that it would be "wild." On the morning of the attack, we heard him again, speaking to his followers to be strong, not weak, to fight and not back down.

The terrifying attack on our nation's capitol was triggered by Donald Trump. His words were the match that ignited the fire, the words that fanned the flame. This was his revenge, his temper tantrum, his Fifth Avenue moment.

Only this time, there must be consequences. He must be held accountable. He must pay the price.

Ellie Larmouth Tower

Stauber should put country before party

Last week Rep. Pete Stauber was interviewed on Minnesota Public Radio. Asked about the attack on the U.S. Capitol, he said it was "uncalled for," as if it were a breach of etiquette, like farting in a crowded elevator. Such was his tepid response to a violent, shocking, criminal act intended to subvert American democracy. The irony is that the assault actually was called for by Donald Trump. About the latter personage, Rep.

Stauber professed to be "disappointed." We are correct to fear for our country and our political freedom when our member of Congress is either unable or unwilling to express more concern than that.

Rep. Stauber might respond that he's representing the views of a majority of his constituents, but in a democratic republic that is not his primary job. Rather, he should take to heart what the late Sen. Barry Goldwater – a conservative Republican—said when called to account for a decision he made that was unpopular but correct:

"And if I should later be attacked for neglecting my constituents' interests,' I shall reply that I was informed that their main interest is liberty, and in that cause, I am doing the very best I can."

In other words, country before party, and certainly before a lame duck Trump.

efore a lame duck Trump Peter M. Leschak Side Lake

Climate study hampered by lack of ice

Last summer, while we were all paying attention to the COVID pandemic, something dramatic happened in the Arctic Ocean. On the nineteenth of August the icebreaker Polarstern sailed through open water straight to the North Pole. It was all part of something called the MOSAiC Expedition. A team of climate scientists was supposed to spend a year frozen into the ice, studying the effects of Global Warming, but the ice suddenly melted underneath

> Jim Ganahl Cook

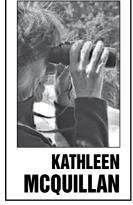
Where the North Country Sounds Off!

The long and the short of it, putting life into writing

"Breaking News!" Another mother wails in horror as she kneels beside the body of her dead son. On Dec. 4, 2020, 23-year-old Casey Goodson was shot in the doorway of his grandmother's home by a Franklin County, Ohio, deputy sheriff, during what author-

ities called a "fugitive search".

We've now been told Casey



Goodson was not a fugitive. But he is dead. On Dec. 5, local

television news reported the killing of a 19-year-old by St. Louis County sheriffs deputies in the woods of Mt. Iron. The sheriffs were reported to be in pursuit of a "suspected shop-lifter". At this time,

we don't know if Estavon Elliof was shoplifting. His is still an

"open case" with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension so no details are being released. The mother waits, grieving her loss with little information on the incident that took her son's life. These are not just breaking

These are not just breaking stories. These are heartbreaking stories! Casey Goodson's mother stated days later in an interview that she had watched other grief-stricken mothers but never imagined that she would someday be one of them. Her voice snapped me to attention. I was instantly gripped by sympathy for her, knelt down and wept.

In both cases, we're told there were no witnesses nor body cam footage to help explain what happened. Police and coroner reports are still incomplete, confusing, or "unavailable". Outside investigators have been called in as is customary but, in the meantime, everyone following these cases is just told to be "patient". There has been so little coverage on Estavon Elliof's case that most people I talk to don't seem to know who or what I am talking about. And in my seeking more details, there's nothing out there beyond the earliest sound bites.

It's been a month now since that December afternoon when I was overwhelmed by shock and sorrow. I, like so many of us, after months of isolation know that longing for comfort through our moments of grief, that gnawing desire for someone to sit with us, listen, or just offer a hug. When I learned that a demonstration for Estavon Elliof was planned for last Saturday at the Hwy. 169 overpass in Virginia, I knew I had to be there.

Having attended gather-

Having attended gather

See ESTAVON...pg. 5

TIMBERJAY Newspapers January 15, 2021

Letters from Readers

Cowards flee their sinking fascist ship

The events of Jan. 6 clearly indicate a leader hungry for strong autocratic or dictatorial control. For many of us this has been on display before he was elected president.

Now, he and his worshippers have committed a grievous assault on this nation. Whipped into a frenzy by speeches given by himself and his namesake, as well as the great litigator Giuliani and the great patriot Mo Brooks, the insurrection mob surged toward the Capitol building. Trump's remarks encouraged them to stay strong, that he was going to accompany them. I can only posit the theory that our long-suffering president was prevented by his bone-spur ailment from gracing them with his physical presence. However, he remained with them in spirit.

Trump's political enablers are now imploring us to move on, that it's time for healing. I would have been much more receptive to this entreaty, if given shortly after the election. Before moving on, I need some acceptance of responsibility by his enablers in Congress. Mick Mulvaney's recent resignation is an empty and somewhat silly gesture at this point. But there he was on Meet the Press on Sunday morning. He stated that he never witnessed any of this type of behavior by his boss while he worked for him as his acting chief of staff, only after leaving and being appointed U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland. Perhaps he is nearsighted and the distance allowed a clearer view. Cabinet members have expressed similar thoughts after resigning.

I am expecting no speeches or press releases by politicians expressing remorse for their support of this man. They would see this, I'm sure, as a showing of weakness and possibly damaging to their careers. They need not fret, as their weakness, culpability and cowardice are already on

full display. I also am troubled by the thought that some of them are afraid of the worshippers' revenge. If that is the case, perhaps this is not the line of work for you.

The wound from this assault remains deep and raw. The stitches have yet to be sewn. I am anticipating some amount of pain before the healing can begin.

Tom Soger Orr

Those who incited insurrection must face repercussions

Social media, conspiracies, the Big Lie (the election was stolen), bad actors, tribal politics, and a president supported by a legion of complicit political opportunists have brought us to a presidential attempt of a non-violent-turning-violent coup de etat and an insurrection at the Capitol.

The first tribe believes the conspiracy theories, the Big Lie, and unquestioningly follows the lead of a norm-busting personality.

The second tribe does not understand how the first tribe can believe in the conspiracies and the Big Lie and believes by appeasement they can somehow convince the first tribe of the error of their ways. Now the second tribe is beginning to understand from history that appeasement does not work and is not the solution.

Now what? My approach to dealing with this is to remember the basics my parents taught me.

First: "tell the truth". Maybe you remember the incident at John McCain's October 2008 rally in Lakeville, Minn., when a woman said Barack Obama was an Arab. Senator McCain, who could have stoked that lie, said, "No Ma'am, he is not. He is a decent family man." Rep. Stauber persists in supporting the Big Lie that the election was fraudulent or stolen that is proven false.

Second: "fess up." When caught in a lie, admit it. We have ample proof that the Big Lie is a lie. But when asked, Rep. Stauber persists in saying there are "questions," and that many people have concerns.

Third: "accountability and repercussions". If I were told to stay out of the cookie jar, and later ignored that rule and broke into the cookie jar, there were repercussions. If there was not the follow up of repercussions, why would I ever abide by the rules? And, my brother was watching, and he sure would not follow the rules either if he didn't see what happens when you break the rules. Other than a lot of angry phone calls and emails, Mr. Stauber really has not been subjected to serious repercussions. Mr. Stauber steadfastly repeats lies and halftruths continuing to feed the first tribe's belief the election was stolen, and that government cannot be trusted. It is likely the first insurrection act at the Capitol will be followed by other, increasingly violent actions.

What can we do? When we hear untruths, we can say, "That is not true." We must not

try to find some middle ground but need to express what we believe is true.

Insist that individuals

be prosecuted for illegal behavior, whether it is a violent demonstrator at the Capitol or the individuals who stoke the anger by lying, whether it is the President or our Representative.

Keith Steva Cook

Minnesota Republicans discredited themselves

The baseless lawsuits have been overturned. We have gotten beyond the first domestic invasion of our nation's Capitol, which, it should be noted, was incited by a sitting president. Congress has certified the 2020 presidential election.

Many of my fellow citizens around Minnesota are writing letters to their

of ineffective efforts or

editors making eloquent statements about the tragic events of last week. One thing has not been mentioned enough. The same lawful rules and regulations that allowed voting to proceed in the safest possible manner in a global pandemic benefitted Republican and Democratic candidates and voters equally. Given their repudiation of the presidential election results, our congressional representative Pete Stauber, along with Michelle Fischbach, Jim Hagedorn, and Tom Emmer, should have questioned the validity of their own victories. They did

Instead, for weeks the Minnesota Republican congressional delegation chose to fan Trump's flames. Even after the storming of the Capitol, as the Electoral College certification process continued. Fischbach and Hagedorn still voted with 145 other Republicans to support the objection to certification. Emmer and Stauber - all of a sudden – backed away from the conspiracy theories and voted against the objection.

In the aftermath of the insurrection, the Republican delegation was silent on who bears responsibility for it. On the afternoon of Jan. 8, Stauber agreed to be interviewed by MPR's Steven John. He did not deviate from the Republican script. He repeatedly equated what happened on Jan. 6, the actions of a mob of mainly white males, to largely peaceful, multiracial, multigenerational protests after the killing of George Floyd, whose name Stauber did not say.

Stauber alluded to the fact that he was "disappointed" in Trump and at the end of the interview he said he was ready to "heal" the nation. Quite the turnaround. Less than five weeks before the election, Stauber, along with Emmer and Hagedorn, attended the maskless Trump rally in Duluth where Trump was coming down with COVID-19. Trump introduced the three Minnesota politicians

as "warriors" and his "friends."

Of all the people who stormed the Capitol, here are two names for Stauber and his cohorts to contemplate: Richard "Bigo" Barnett, self-proclaimed white nationalist with a smirk on his maskless face and his feet on a desk in the office of House Speaker Pelosi, and Jake "QAnon Shaman" Angeli, selfie-taking, shirtless, face-painted conspiracy theorist invading the Capitol in a ludicrous Viking outfit brandishing a spear.

Perhaps those names will haunt Stauber, Emmer, Fischbach, and Hagedorn. Just not in the same way the name of George Floyd haunts so many people around the world.

Suzanne Winckler Pike Twp.

Biden administration will address transportation

Two major goals of the Biden administration are rebuilding the country's infrastructure and taking steps to mitigate climate change. The prime mover will be the Department of Transportation (DOT). It was formed in 1967 under the Lyndon Johnson Administration to garner the synergetic benefits of cost savings and coordinating the nation's vast interconnecting transportation system. I worked in the Office of the Secretary under the first DOT Secretary, Alan Boyd. He did an excellent job of integrating multiple independent-minded government agencies: highways, aviation, railroads, urban transit, maritime administration, and the U.S. Coast

Guard, the latter of which was subsequently spun off as an independent entity. In addition to managing the components of the department, the DOT Secretary has to coordinate with 50 state departments of transportation.

Joe Biden wants to spend two trillion dollars on roads, railroads, airports and other infrastructure necessities. Many economists believe that the payback from these endeavors is attractive for people and products due to greater efficiencies, plus human health benefits, although it is difficult to calculate the monetary return on investment.

A second key goal of the new administration is the curbing of climate change. Nearly 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. comes from cars, trucks, planes, boats, trains, and buses, all forms of transportation which are regulated by DOT's policies.

DOT impacts our daily lives probably more so than any other federal department. The Secretary of Transportation under the previous Administration was Elaine Chao, a.k.a. Mrs. Mitch McConnell. President Biden has nominated Pete Buttigieg as the new secretary. He is 39 years old and, if confirmed, will have approximately 60,000 employees in his department.

Buttigieg is smart, energetic and articulate. He will have huge responsibilities and will be instrumental in shaping the degree of success of the new administration.

Gerry Snyder Ely



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ESTAVON...Continued from page 4

ings like this before, I also wanted to carry a sign. Demonstrations are designed to create connection with people driving by through the messages we share. For me, this is often a difficult task. When I'm filled with emotion, I worry about choosing the right thing to say. Suddenly, a message surfaced from my past. Once, while present at an unexpectedly raucous wake, a man beside me uttered under his breath, "The dead are too soon forgotten." His whispered message left an impression that day. It was clear now. My sign would read, "Estavon's Life Matters!" His name should not be forgotten.

Kiara Yakita, a community activist from Ohio, sadly stated in an interview that Casey Goodson's killing was "nothing new." After joining in national actions throughout the summer following the killing of George Floyd, she expressed her anger and despair, marching for justice once again, this time in her own community. "We're feeling helplessness, hopelessness

and hurt." She added, "It's like we're doing all this for nothing."

A study conducted by Yale, Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine examined fatal police shootings from 2015 through the first quarter of 2020. It stated that annually, over 1,000 families share this experience with few signs of decrease despite increased use of body cameras and other mitigating strategies. Fatalities among black, indigenous, and other people of color were shown to be three times higher than that of whites. The numbers of fatalities are now so high that the words of that stranger are sadly true. Except for their families whose grief will never end, the names of the victims will, indeed, be "too soon forgotten". My next question then is, "What do we do from here?" Last June, the killing

Last June, the killing of George Floyd sparked rallies all across the country. Protesters chanted "Defund the Police" as one solution born out of frustration after years empty promises for police reforms. Some argue that the choice of those words was merely intended to garner long-overdue attention. If that was its goal, it certainly succeeded! That short phrase triggered a firestorm of controversy and became a tool for some Republicans to attack Democratic candidates in the November election for their historical support for police reform. Their misuse of this chant is a good example of what's known as "co-opting", the act of taking something out of its original context, changing its meaning and focus, and using it to undermine its intended purpose. What was meant to be a clarion call for immediate action was manipulated for a counterproductive purpose. It's important to understand that "Defund the Police" was always more than just a slogan. It was and remains a desperate plea from our communities of

abuses of power within

remains a desperate plea from our communities of color for these killings to stop!

Unwillingness to look squarely at concerns of who are calling on law enforcement officials for more information and accountability for Estavon Elliof's death.

challenges in the northland. Because of our history and demographics, many believe these problems only exist in urban areas where racial and ethnic differences are more apparent and therefore are not an issue here where the population still looks predominantly white. This is a false assumption. Whenever police use excessive or lethal force against citizens they are charged to protect, we should be concerned, whether here or in a large urban area. On this issue, we

policing poses special

On this issue, we cannot stand divided. If we are to survive as a nation, we must reject the false notion that a mother's grief for Casey Goodson or Estavon Elliof is any different from what you or I would experience. With this in mind, I will be standing with the victim's family and others who are calling on law enforcement officials for more information

TIMBERJAY Newspapers January 15, 2021

Stauber should be expelled from Congress

The U.S. Constitution saysthat"no Person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress" who "shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against" the Constitution, "or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof." Mr. Stauber's recent actions have demonstrated that he is constitutionally unqualified for office. His untruthfulness and contempt for the intelligence of the people he purports to serve show that he is morally unfit for office. He should be expelled from the House of Representatives.

After the fact statements to the contrary, Mr. Stauber aided the Trump riot, insurrection and failed coup attempt by lending official credence to the conspiratorial lies that formed the basis of the siege of our Capitol. He supported efforts to use these lies to overturn the will of the people and install a person who lost a free and fair election to the seat of power. He did so at the behest of a person who directly urged a mob to storm the Capitol. While laughed out of court after court, words have consequences. Elected officials placing their stamp of approval on the wild falsehoods that circulated in the sewers of right-wing media provided gasoline for the conflagration that erupted on Jan. 6. The riot that was based on Mr. Stauber's lies resulted in the death of a brave police officer and the desecration of the people's house, including vandalism and animalistic acts such as smearing feces on the walls.

Let there be no mistake: The goal of the Capitol siege was to prevent the certification of an election in the greatest democracy on earth. It was a treasonous insurrection. There is no doubt that Mr. Stauber was prepared to object to the perfunctory act of counting the votes for president in the House until the riot started. Self-serving, last minute reversals of intended acts to save one's skin do not alter the dark and sinister character of Mr. Stauber's role in this tragedy.

His self-aggrandizing statements to the media that he used his police skills during the riot smelled of pure putrefaction. Having given the rioters official support for their conspiratorial beliefs, he had the audacity to claim he is a hero? I have stepped in things here on the farm that are disgusting and yet smell much sweeter than this claim.

After his efforts to give life to lies that motivated these egregious acts, he now pretends that he was never part of the effort to overturn the election. His denials show a lack of truthfulness and contempt for his constituents. Even now he opposes the removal of a madman who orchestrated an attack on the seat of government

claiming it would divide us. That is so patently false as to be offensive to all. The slick untruths that flow from his smiling mouth puts even the most notorious salesman of used car lot lemons to shame.

In 1861, members of Congress were expelled for refusing to recognize Abraham Lincoln as president. Isn't it ironic that Mr. Stauber, who purports to represent the party of Lincoln has committed the same act that resulted in the expulsion of the traitors who followed Jefferson Davis. Resign and show some modicum of character, or be expelled for the sake of the country. In either event, I would rather go unrepresented, than be embarrassed by having a seditious coward, who acts exclusively out of love or fear of Trump, pretending

> Kelly Dahl Linden Grove

Why don't Twin Metals' real owners give us their names

As the creators and founders of a company called "Twin Metals Minnesota," (TMM), Antofagasta's officers and directors, listed below, would appear to be the primary potential beneficiaries of the TMM mining venture in northeastern Minnesota. But these people are not Minnesotans. In fact, they are not Americans. They are Chilean. As of March 1,2020, I haven't seen their names as signatories to any Twin Metals' mining plan or permit application. If so, it would then seem that in the event of contamination, they will escape legal and financial responsibility for the cleanup

So. What IS Antofagasta's motive for remaining anonymous? Well, it MAY be that "Twin Metals Minnesota" is only a shell company. Perhaps TMM will manage the mine on behalf of – and divert the profits to - their founding company, Antofagasta. Perhaps TMM's assets will be limited to the ore reserves still in the ground. And when those reserves are depleted, perhaps TMM will declare 'bankruptcy," leaving you and me - the taxpayers— with the significant cleanup costs not covered by TMM's bonding.

And then, perhaps, Antofagasta would skate.

That seems to be the way these things go: Under the guise of an alias, mining companies put up and advertise a "financial bond" to guarantee that their mines will be reclaimed; that all will be put back as it was before. It's an important step in the permitting process. But, in reality, the bond amount is usually a small fraction of the final cleanup cost, which makes it just a line-item cost of doing business. When the contamination occurs, and when the mine and the bond are both abandoned, the mine site itself will

Letters from Readers

typically languish without funding or remediation until the state decides how it will transfer responsibility to the taxpayers.

ANTOFAGASTA MINING, PLC: Ivan Arriagada, Antofagasta CEO, Alfredo Atucha, CFO, Rene Aguilar, VP Corporate. Herman Menares, VP Operations, Patricio Enei, VP Legal, Andronico Luksic, VP Development.

Duane Behrens Ely

What is normal, anyway?

What is normal, ordinary or average? A human bodily temperature of 98.6 degrees is normal, but human behavior is rarely defined so precisely. "Normal" in economics is a vague proposition at best. Critical thinking calls into question ill-defined assertions. Hyper-capitalism crashed the economy and failed to protect public health. Only denialism seeks to "Make America Normal Again!"

Corporate capture of government crushed unions to exploit workers at will with low wages, few benefits and no protection. Republican scapegoating wooed the working class with false promise for their vote. Talk about a hoax! Jobs disappeared and wages stagnated while profits soared for the already rich. Workers became pawns in capitalism's standard game of divide and conquer.

In a two-party system, one blames the other or their favorite foreign enemy to deflect from the failure of global capitalism. Laissez-faire capitalism is deeply dependent on government, but uses it as a scapegoat to take the blame for its inherent flaws. From deforestation to industrial agriculture, extractive capitalism has over-stressed ecosystems to break down ancient barriers against a killer virus.

riers against a killer virus. By default or design, Trump's political success began as a reality snow celebrity. Media ratings shot up with gratuitous attention given to the national clown show. No need to buy ads, as free media time made him a contender. Mainstream media manipulated the masses with myth-making propaganda to serve corporate interests, rather than social good. Trump became capitalism personified, as dealmaker trading

amusement for votes. Corporate capitalism resembles feudalism's lord-serf relationship. Lords for life held power to control wealth, while serfs bound to the land, produced the wealth, but had no rights. Capitalism's employer-employee replaced the lord-serf relationship. Without economic democracy, obscene inequality reigns while CEOs rule as Kings. Business as usual cannot be the normal!

Harold Honkola Roseville

The greatest gift of all time

Lots of talk about how Trump is currently grifting his voting block by hogging up the larger share of money donated to his election stolen lie. But there exists a greater grift on us all which occurred in the late 1980s. It is called the 401k.

It is generally recognized by economists that the stock market is just a form of Las Vegas. In the late 1980s, the Democratic Party argued for a 'lock box' on Social Security funds. They did not prevail and what was implemented in lieu of that was the 401k. A program from the late 1970s intended to help high rollers preserve wealth.

Prior to the advent of the 401k, roughly 20 percent of the population participated in the markets. Today it is well in excess of 50 percent. If one was participating prior to the 401k they experienced a tidal wave of money coming into said markets, driving the value of their portfolios to new heights as the influx created the false illusion of higher values. Ergo the heightened divide in wealth and income disparities we live with today.

Pull up a chart of the Dow Jones since 1980 and here is what you'll discover. In the years 1982, 1987, 1991, 2003 and 2008 the markets suffered severe drops. In each of these years it was a Republican administration, the financially conservative proclaimers, who apparently cannot keep the wheels on the economy for more than five years for the life of themselves. We can even look at the late 1990s burp and see the hand of Gingrich behind it when pseudo-Democrat Clinton was in office.

It is a cold hard fact that the economy heading into 2021 is cored out. This will play out in the market which seems to be soaring as unemployment and wage suppression expands among the working women and men of this country.

We were grifted a long time ago; Trump et al are actually late comers, second string players.

Jeff Wilfahrt Ely

The mob wasn't the only attack on the Capitol

The recent attack on our nation's Capitol building has consumed the news. But the physical attack on the halls of Congress was not the only attack. The senators and representatives who spoke and voted for objecting to the certification of the electoral votes of Arizona and Pennsylvania were also attacking our entire judicial system including the U.S. Supreme Court. They participated in a ploy by the President of the United States to cast doubt in the minds of voters about the fairness of the election. They refused to congratulate Joe Biden

on his victory and refused to assure their supporters that the election was free and fair.

These elected officials were calling into doubt the honesty of the thousands of men and women, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, who served as election judges and ballot counters all around our country. They called into doubt the honesty of elected secretaries of state and governors who oversaw the certification processes in their states. They belittled the election laws and procedures in states that most of them did not represent. They tried every argument to advance the false narrative that there was widespread election

But just as reprehensible was their contempt for our judicial system. Judges in courts at the state and federal levels dismissed over sixty cases brought to change the election results. Time and again, judges dismissed these cases as baseless. Challenges were brought to the Supreme Court and the cases were dismissed out of hand. Some judges even rebuked the lawyers who brought the cases on behalf of the President for wasting the court's time. These judges were either elected by voters or appointed. The appointed judges were chosen by both Democratic and Republican Presidents. These judges represent the judicial branch of the government.

The representatives and senators who attempted to block the duly certified results of the election were acting on behalf of the President. They were attacking our legislative and judicial branches of government in order to satisfy the wishes of the President to serve a second term even though he lost the election. Their actions were disgusting and dangerous. They attempted to give legitimacy to a false narrative about the election. They have helped to set a tone in the country that will take a long time to change.

I am glad that our Representative, Pete Stauber, will be attending the inauguration of Joseph Biden. I am glad he recognizes that our election was free and fair. I hope to soon be able to read a letter from him to the House Minority Leader urging all representatives to publicly acknowledge that the 2020 election was free and fair.

Andrew Urban Eagles Nest Twp.

Anti-mask sentiments prominent

Representative Jamila Prayapal is furious. She and 75 year-old cancer survivor Rep. Bonnie Watson appeared to have gotten infected with COVID-19 while hunkered down in close quarters with unmasked Republicans in the Capitol bunkers during the insurrectionist riot. "... several Republicans not

only cruelly refused to wear a mask but recklessly mocked colleagues and staff who offered them one.... (they) should be fully held accountable for endangering our lives because of their selfish idiocy," tweeted Prayapal.

Meanwhile, in Minnesota, Republican Senate Leader Paul Gazelka opposed a motion to require that masks be worn in the state Capitol complex, introducing an amendment to instead "strongly encourage" mask wearing. Our erstwhile DFL Senators Tom Bakk and David Tomassoni appeared to have had their fingers put into a vise by Gazelka and went along with Republicans too, even though their votes weren't needed to kill a mask requirement.

What a wonderful concept, "strongly encourage." We could save a lot of money by sending our legislators home and, instead of passing laws and regulations, just "strongly encourage," as in:

➤ We strongly encourage you not to drive 90 mph through town

➤ We strongly encourage you to pay your taxes
➤ We strongly encour-

age you not to empty your raw sewage into the city water supply

• We strongly encour-

➤ We strongly encourage... well, you get the drift.

We're rapidly heading forhalf a million Americans dead from COVID-19 and Gazelka wants no mask mandate? He got COVID; his mother-in-law and a member of his caucus died of it. He said he wanted to be sensitive to people in Greater Minnesota, who have a "different attitude." Meanwhile, over in Outer Minnesota, also known as The Dakotas, no mask mandates resulted in the highest infection rate in the nation.

Gazelka has been wrong over and over and over on this and many issues, and it disturbs me that Bakk and Tomassoni are toeing his line. We didn't elect them to be Gazelka's lap dogs.

Fred Schumacher Gheen

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.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

LAMPPA...Continued from page 3

change that calculation for many who had, to date, shied away from a new wood furnace. That knocks about \$1,500 off the price tag for the furnace itself and offers even more savings once the cost of installation is included.

At the same time,

At the same time, Lamppa Manufacturing has introduced a financing program that makes the purchase of a wood furnace an easier lift for many potential buyers. Combined with the tax credit, Lamppa is optimistic that the company is poised for even more

growth than it's already

seen in the past couple years.

The company which

The company, which operated with just five employees as recently as a year and a half ago, is now up to 14 workers,

including 12 in the shop. That includes five new workers brought on just since September. "It made us nervous bringing all those new people on board, but the orders just keep

coming in," said Horihan.

Week of Jan. 18

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 Jan. 19.

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.

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SOUDAN



Chimpy Tuominen grilled up hot dogs and burgers at the first skating party of the season at the Soudan Rink last Saturday. Right: Shelby Semo slides down a snowpile with daughter Eva. Bottom right: Isaac Tuchel enjoys his burger after skating. Below: Tara Snyder gives a skating lesson to daughter Seija. The next skating party is Jan. 16 from noon - 2 p.m. photos by J. Summit



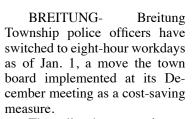




BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Police shift to 8-hour days, instead of 12

by Stephanie <u>Ukkola</u>



The police department's past 12-hour shifts put a strain on the township's sick-day reserve account. The board changed the leave structure after realizing the Move will save township money on paid leave contract stated that leave time is been earned on 12-hour days.

defined as and earned as a scheduled day. By changing the schedule to eight-hour days the township will pay for four hours less. This change applies to holidays, personal days, funeral leave, and sick leave.

The town board doubled the sick-day reserve account's funds, now at \$26,108, to honor the sick time that had already

The board voted to keep the Breitung offices and buildings closed until the end of January, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The warming shack at the ice rink is the only exception but will still follow strict safety guidelines including limited capacity.

Greg Dostert, board supervisor in charge of township recreation, said that Chimpy's parties could be held every other weekend so long as food is served outside and the rink's COVID-19 safety precautions are followed.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 26 at noon.

Tower-Soudan area township filings for March 9 elections

REGIONAL- Filings for township offices for the upcoming March 9 township elections closed on Tuesday, Jan. 12

Breitung Township

Terry Anderson filed for the open three-year supervisor term, currently held by Chuck Tekautz. Incumbent treasurer

Jorgine Gornick filed for the

two-year treasurer term.

Greenwood Township

Supervisor 3 seat: Barb Lofquist and incumbent Larry Tahija. Lofquist ran for supervisor in 2020 against Mike Ralston and lost by a slim margin of 12 votes.

Supervisor 5 seat: Sue Drobac and incumbent Byron Beihoffer. Drobac was elected clerk in 2020, outpolling Debby Spicer, 186-102, and garnering the largest number of votes

of any candidate on the ballot. Clerk: (remainder of term that expires in March 2022) JoAnn Bassing and Debby Spicer. Spicer is currently serving as the interim clerk, after the resignation of Sue Drobac.

Treasurer: Belinda Fazio. Fazio is currently serving as the interim treasurer, after the resignation of Pam Rodgers.

Township residents will also have the chance to vote for a second time on Option B, which gives the town board the authority to appoint a clerk and treasurer. In 2020, voters rejected Option B by a margin of 194 to 97.

Vermilion Lake

Township Supervisor(three-year term): Frank Zobitz, currently serving as an appointed supervisor (filling seat of Bruce

Sweiringa) Supervisor(one-year term): Sarah Schmidt, incumbent but opted to file for one-year seat

Treasurer: Steve Lotz, incumbent.

Matthew Seeforth commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant



GIONAL-Matthew J. Seeforth, Taylorsville, Ky., a 2020 graduate of the University of Louisville, Ky., where he earned a Bachelor of Science de-

gree in Mechanical Engineering. Matthew is the son of Tom and Lisa Seeforth of Taylorsville, and the grandson of Bill and Ann Jack of Tower.

Matthew will report to Ft. Sill in Oklahoma for basic Field Artillery officer training in February.

Skating parties set

SOUDAN- Chimpy's skating parties are now underway, with the next party set for Saturday, Jan. 16 from 12 noon - 2 p.m. There will be free food, including hot dogs, burgers, pizza, drinks, and snacks. The skating rink is being kept in good condition, and children also have fun playing on the huge snow piles adjacent to the rink and playing on the swings and playground. Chimpy is also hoping to offer

food at the rink for skaters on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school, watch for details. The rink warming shack is open

daily, weather-permitting, weekdays from 4 – 8 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. with safety provisions in place and reduced capacity. St. James movie night on

Sunday TOWER- St. James Presbyteri-

an Church in Tower is hosting a free

movie night on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 6 "A Man Called Peter" is the true

story of how one man's faith uplifted

a nation. Considered one of the finest films to deal with religion, "A Man Called Peter" is the compelling story of a Scottish minister Peter Marshall, who as a young man, traveled to Washington, D.C. and became the pastor of the Church of the Presidents. By the time of his death, he was the chaplain to the Senate and a greatly respected man. Although he was a Presbyterian, the wisdom and sincerity of his sermons appealed to people of all faiths. Featuring outstanding performances by Richard Todd and Jean Peters, "A Man Called Peter" is also a touching love story, and received an Oscar nomination for Best Cinematography.

Travis Vogh named to Central Lakes College Dean's List

REGIONAL- Travis Vogh, of Soudan, has been named to the Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples,

Dean's list. The Dean's List includes 264 students who earned a grade-point average of 3.25 to 3.74. Central Lakes College is a com-

prehensive community and technical

college in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. The college serves about 5,500 students annually in liberal arts and career education programs.

Zachary Hrvol named to Northern State University Dean's List

REGIONAL- Zachary Hvrol, of Tower, has been named to the Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. Students who have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester are eligible. Northern State University is a stu-

dent-centered institution that provides an outstanding educational experience, preparing students through the liberal arts and professional education for their future endeavors. A regional university, Northern offers rigorous academics; diverse civic, social and cultural opportunities; and a commitment to building an inclusive environment for all points of view.

ELY LOCAL NEWS 8 January 15, 2021 TIMBERJAY Newspapers

Use Ely Golf Course responsibly

ELY - In an effort to keep people safe and the Ely Golf Course protected, there is a designated ski trail on the Ely Golf Course, according to Linda Enquist-Vandenbranden in a recent Facebook post.

"This is the only place skiing is allowed on the course," she said.

- 1) Sliding/downhill skiing is only allowed on the little hill on the left as you come in and the big hill by the satellite dishes.
- 2) The are no dogs allowed on the course.
- 3) Please stay off the roped-off areas and tee boxes and any other hills on the course.

"We love to support local recreation but for some reason this year people are doing whatever they want, wherever they want," she said. "There's ski, dog (and poop!), sled and foot tracks on crucial areas of the course and this is, simply put, not okay."

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



wave of avians flying over easily

seemingly careless

braries

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

Babbitt library

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

Support aroups

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 St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely. **BABBITT AA -** 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church **AL-ANON** - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.

BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., 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.

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WINTER SNOW REMOVAL CHORES



City of Ely Public Works Department crews continue working this week to remove snow from city curbs. Drivers are asked to give the equipment and workers a wide berth and to drive safely in those areas, photo by K. Vandervort

LIFELONG LEARNING

Ely Public Library honored with five-star rating

ELY - The Ely Public Library has once again been listed as one of America's star libraries by Library Journal's Index of Public Library Service. In the 2020 listing, the local library was awarded five stars, the highest designation, based on selected per capita output measures.

These measures are derived from the FY 2018 annual reports which each public library is required to submit to their state which, in turn, gives them to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, according to Ely Library Director Rachel Heinrich.

The following data is used on a per capita basis to rank libraries: E-Circulation, Visits, Program Attendance, **Public Internet Computer** Users, Wi-Fi Sessions, E-Retrievals. Less than two percent of the nation's public libraries earn a fivestar rating each year.

"Although the library is not currently open to the public for browsing due to COVID-19, you may still get items through curbside pick-up or via the e-book/e-magazine/e-recorded book online service," she said. Call the library at 218-365-5140 to arrange curb-

side pick-up. 'Curbside pick-up is extremely easy for patrons," Heinrich said. "All you need to do is call the library with your library card number and choose a time slot to pick up; your items will be waiting for you outside the library during your chosen time.'

Use the Libby app on mobile devices or go to overdrive.com online for





the electronic materials; you will need to have your library card number when you log in.

"If you aren't sure what you might like to read or view, the library staff is happy to pull a selection of materials for you to try," she added. "You can go through the bag right when you pick it up and immediately return anything that doesn't look interesting to you through the library's book drop. Who knows? You might find a new author that you love but never would have picked up yourself this way!"

The Ely library also has been providing programming through the curbside delivery service. Monthly themed packets for kids are available by calling the library. The theme for January is Ice!

For the first time, the library is having a winter reading program for adults this year. You can get a small prize for reading your choice of 12 out of 16 challenges. "We still have a few NASA kits left to give out, available one per household, both a citizen science kit involving tracking mosquito populations geared toward families, and an astronomy packet geared towards adults. If any of these free items sound interesting, please give the library a call to set up a curbside pick-up."

Ely library employees Tricia Flake and Jessica Dunn have also

the library's feed.

Looking back at 2020, the Ely library received two large memorial donations. "These will enhance library services going forward," Heinrich said. "The first, in memory of Mark Fisher, has already brought an update to the library's book title on photography how-to's and a video camera which is improving the quality of the Facebook videos.'

In the late spring or early summer, a permanent story walk will be installed along the Trezona Trail with these funds. "Other parts of this memorial will be spent on enhanced professional development for all three employees and some great programming opportunities once COVID has passed," she said.

The second memorial, from the estate of Bonnie Christensen, is designated for children's circulating materials and will be spent over the course of several years.

Looking ahead, the library is moving the popular annual Harry Potter events to March. "This year, we plan to do things a little differently. Participants will still 'enroll' in the Hogwarts house of their choice, however, all ages will be together and there will be a full week with a variety of activities to do (some online, some around town, some at your own home)," she said. More details on this event (including how to sign up) will be available in late February and early March.

Library staff, above, from left, Tricia Flake, Jessica Dunn and Rachel Heinrich, along with Amelia the turtle, left, are celebrating the library's five-star rating. photos by K. Vandervort been releasing videos on

Facebook daily. There's

a daily morning story time,

a daily evening continuing

chapter read aloud, and

weekly mid-day events

(snack ideas, craft ideas,

and reading ideas) on

different days.

The Ely Public

If you are on Facebook, follow the Ely Public Library to have these pop up on your feed. You can still see the videos even without a Facebook account due to our settings (search for Ely Public Library Facebook on your web browser. Be sure to choose the Ely, MN account since there are several towns across the United States named

Ely who have Facebook accounts); it may ask you to log in or create an account, but you can click on "not now" to resume scrolling through

FROST AND FOG



Have you been wondering why it has been so foggy lately? The Ely area, and many regions in the Midwest, have had dry weather with calm winds for an extended period of time this month. Trapped low-level moisture near the surface at night cools much faster than higher up in the atmosphere, causing a "stable layer" to form, which traps cold and moist air near the surface and forms fog. According to accuweather.com, this atmospheric condition sometimes causes "riming" on many surfaces, like trees, leading to ice crystal growth. In addition, the development of hoarfrost typically occurs on relatively clear nights when air with a dew point below 32 degrees is brought to saturation by cooling. Hoarfrost also needs calm air that allows those complex lacy deposits of crystals to form. Thanks to this combination of freezing fog and excess moisture in the atmosphere recently, the North Country has been treated to successive days of a picturesque winter wonderland. photos by K. Vandervort



Cook shop gets Lake Country Power award

Decades of service and donations by hospital auxiliary thrift shop stand apart in competition

COOK- After a challenging year marked by intermittent closures and reduced revenues, volunteers at the Cook Area Health Care Auxiliary Thrift Shop started 2021 with good news on Monday when they received a Touchstone Energy Community Award and a \$500

check to go with it. Lake Country Power Public Relations Coordinator Tami Zaun delivered the check and a plaque on behalf of the cooperative and spoke highly of the thrift shop's contributions that led to the award.

"They've around for 65 years and they've really touched the community, the area, and the region," Zaun said. "It's all volunteer-run, nobody is on the payroll here. And it's all from people who are giving donations. They're giving back to the community. Lake Country Power serves the Cook community, so I'm really happy to come up here and see our fellow members."

The thrift shop has donated nearly \$1 million to Cook Hospital, and volunteers have performed countless hours of service across more than six decades.

Zaun thought so much of the shop's contributions that she brought along her own.

"I had some old clothes to get rid of, so I brought them in, and my husband did, too, with his suits," Zaun said. "So those will eventually go on the floor and we're just really happy to give a donation, seeing how it gets used for the hospi-

Auxiliary President Kirsten Reichel credited volunteer Shawna Kishel with tipping her off about the award and the application process. With the assistance of treasurer Mary Mollard, Reichel wrote the narrative for the application and sent it in.

"Three or four weeks later I got an email from Tami saying they selected the thrift shop as their recipient," Reichel said.

The award is the result of a competitive process in which applications are screened and scored by a review committee, Zaun said, and one winner is chosen. The thrift shop will now compete with winners from other Minnesota electric cooperatives for statewide recognition and a \$1,000 award.

"It's a double-good thing, I guess is a good way to say it," Reichel said. "We get a little bit



Volunteers of Cook Area Health Care Auxiliary Thrift Shop celebrate receiving a Touchstone Energy Community Award on Monday from Lake Country Power Public Relations Coordinator Tami Zahn, seated right. The service award came with a plaque, held by auxiliary president Kirsten Reichel, seated center, and a \$500 check. photo by D. Colburn

of compensation, but we also get some credit for everything that we do. As you can see, it's always a bustling place when all our volunteers are here."

Health concerns about the coronavirus kept some of those volunteers away in the early months of the pandemic,

"And then, after a while, people started feeling more comfortable about coming in on workdays and that type of thing, so for the most part, I think we stayed open the majority of the time that we usually do. Now we're back more on an even keel. The business is good – we've had

a lot of people coming in. We've got things flowing through, places to put everything and the donation situation has been great. So, I think we're kind of we're back to normal."

While the shop is run by volunteers, they still have operating expenses to cover, and Mollard said that the monetary

award was enough to cover two to three months

of heating expenses. "This will really help us," she said.

The thrift store is open Thursday and Friday each week and can be found at 320 SE 3rd Avenue, just off Highway 53 in Cook.

ORR CITY COUNCIL

Orr welcomes newest city council member

by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Before stepping into an agenda long on items but short on substance, continuing Orr City Council members looked on Monday as Melissa Wright took her oath of office as the council's newest member.

Wright was the top vote-getter in November in a three-way race for two open council positions. Lloyd Scott was re-elected for the second slot, ending former member Ericka Cote's term on the council.

Members largely stayed the course as they worked through the organization meeting agenda, including choosing Tom Kennebeck as acting mayor when Mayor Joel

Astelford is unable to attend meetings or functions.

After expressing some confusion about bids submitted by the Timberjay, last year's official city newspaper, and the Cook News Herald, the council voted unanimously to rotate the award to the Cook News Herald for 2021.

Council members expressed appreciation to Stuart and Mary McKie of Crane Lake for making a \$500 contribution to the Orr Ambulance Service.

Ambulance Director Donna Hoffer reported that the service went on ten runs in December, making 162 runs for

"We have not missed a call," Hoffer said, noting that the service also responded to Cook and Nett Lake several times for mutual aid.

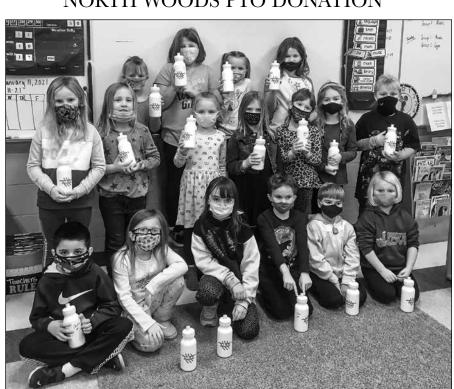
Hoffer said that she wants to look at creating a commitment agreement for people who sign up for EMT or EMR courses and drop out or don't complete the course. Non-finishers would be required to reimburse the the course costs.

"Right now we're just out that money," Hoffer said.

Council members agreed to the proposal.

The council also heard from Benchmark Engineering about progress on the bog walk replacement project. A summary of that discussion appears on the front page of this edition of the Timberjay.

NORTH WOODS PTO DONATION



A happy group of masked North Woods School students show off new personal water bottles that were donated to every student by the North Woods PTO group. Generous donations to the PTO from community members and the Cook P.E.O. chapter also allowed the group to provide a large container of disinfecting wipes per classroom. Donations for additional wipes and also for new playground equipment and resurfacing continue to be accepted. Contact Emily Koch via email at ekoch@isd2142.k12.mn.us for information on how to donate and/or join North Woods PTO.

It's a new year and new beginning for school

FIELD TWP- Greetings from North Woods School. To me, it almost feels like the first day of school all over again. With winter break and two weeks of distance learning, it has been nearly a month since we have seen our kids in person. The level of excitement for us, as educators, is high. We want our students here where we can interact with them and take part in the human experience again. I would like to give a

big shout-out to the North Woods Student Council and Ruby's Pantry, hosted at the Old Cook School back in Decem-Student Council members and community members were like a "well-oiled machine" as



VUKMANICH

they distributed hundreds of loads of food to local families. Thanks to the student council kids for giving back to the community. By the way, I have never seen so much

eggnog in one location. As you may know, Governor Walz nounced that high school

athletics will

dent-athletes must now be masked (this is a change from the fall), I feel like players are just happy to be back doing what they do. The basketball teams at North Woods have been working hard and will be ready to compete. Limitations will be in place for games, though, with only two family spectators allowed for each player. The host team will determine if they will allow guests from the visiting school. Masks and social distancing are required, and households may sit together. Players will be informed by their coaches regarding procedures for game attendance. Players and families will also be allowed

to self-transport to avoid

any concerns about travelling on a bus together, although bus transportation will still be provided.

Please support your kids and the schools in enforcing the mask protocols. We want to stay open, and in order to stay open we need to have teachers and support staff at the school, which means we need to stay healthy and symptom-free. I have glasses, and wearing a mask leads to foggy glasses. Oh well. If the greatest of my worries is foggy glasses and a mask on my face, but we get to stay open as a school, I can live with that. For the most part, kids have been good about it. We

are trying to make school

feel as normal as possible

The free lunch program has also been extended to June 1, which is good news for families helping to make ends meet with meals.

Second semester begins Feb. 1. Current distance learners may opt to come back to school in-person for second semester, so please let us know if your current distance learner would like to return. Distance learning will be provided as an option for those who prefer it. Wednesdays will remain as a distance learning day for all 7-12 students. If your student is struggling, please reach out to the teacher or myself so we can discuss and make a plan. We are here

for your support.



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THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

COVID-19 case data improves but risk remains

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The trend of COVID infection in St. Louis County is finally heading in the right

COVID-19 case numbers and numerous key indicators associated with them have plummeted since record-setting numbers in November and December. Even so, they have yet to decline beyond the elevated levels of October as signs remain that a coronavirus outbreak could flare up again.

The seven-day average of cases in St. Louis County peaked on Nov. 16 at 235.6, but as of Jan. 6, the latest data available, that number had plummeted to 57.1, a level not seen since Oct. 20.

In the northern region of the county the seven-day average has dropped from a high of 76.1 to just 13.2 on Jan. 6. While significant, that number still remains within the range of escalating community spread, indicating an ongoing elevated risk of contracting the virus from both known and unknown community sources.

Biweekly case rates used for schools in determining their learning models also improved significantly in the northern part of the county, tumbling more than 80 percent across three weeks from 92.3 to 17.3.

As of Jan. 7, case increases over the prior week in selected North Country zip code areas were all in single digits, with Ely showing just six additional positive tests. Five new cases were identified in Soudan and also in Cook, three in Orr, two in Tower, and one in Embarrass. The Bois Forte Band, which had not reported a new case on its reservation since Dec. 10, reported one new case that was identified on Monday.

County data is consistent with statewide trends that led Gov. Tim Walz to relax a number of the restrictions put in place in November when the pandemic was raging, including allowing restaurants and bars to reopen on Monday for indoor service at 50-percent capacity. When Walz extended the prohibition on indoor dining in December, hospitality industry officials warned that all restaurants would not be able to reopen at the same time due to staffing and food procurement issued. That warning has been playing out this week in the North Country, as only a small number of establishments opened on Monday, with others announcing staggered dates for reopening extending into next week.

But while the trends are encouraging, the numbers are still at the elevated levels of October that had state and county officials sounding alarms of a potential huge spike that came to pass in November and December. County Public Health Director Amy Westbrook said Tuesday that although "the numbers are looking a lot better" it's still essential that people follow the guidelines for masking, social distancing, and informal gatherings to maintain the trends.

"We're seeing a lot of community transmission that happens in social gatherings," she said. "We know how easily COVID-19 spreads. Our numbers went up so quickly in the fall that they're not as low as they were in the summer. We're really paying attention to our numbers and hoping that people are heeding the recommendations of the governor because we could get back to where we were in November pretty quickly, unfortunately."

Westbrook noted that it's still possible that the county will see an uptick is cases resulting from holiday celebrations and travel, and progressive daily increases last week in the county and statewide seven-day averages reported on Tuesday reinforce that possibility. She also noted that the increases have occurred at the same time testing volume has decreased.

Also of concern to Westbrook were the county's current hospitalization and death rates.

'We still are seeing our deaths increase from COVID-19," she said. "Our hospitalizations are starting to level out a bit, but we are still seeing people hospitalized and in the ICU. We really want to see the death rate falling before saying that the hospitals are in a good situation."

Confirmation came this past weekend that the more highly conta-

discovered in the United Kingdom has found its way to Minnesota. Five cases caused by the variant were identified in Another issue of concern arose this past weekend when five people in the Twin Cities region were diagnosed with COVID-19 cases caused by the variant virus strain from the United Kingdom that is more highly contagious than the strain encountered up until now. At a Tuesday press conference, Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said she had little doubt that the variant is more widespread and capable of igniting a surge in cases if precautions aren't followed.

gious coronavirus variant

It's a concern Westbrook shares.

"There's definitely a risk we would see transmission increase in our community based on the new variant," she said.

COVID...Continued from page 1

the adage 'trust but verify.' A promise to deliver isn't delivering, and we've learned to be patient when it comes to federal government promises."

A second change announced by the feds is a recommendation to start providing the vaccine to anyone over the age of 65, scrapping the original directive being followed in Minnesota to prioritize healthcare workers and long-term care residents first. Changing the plan is possible, Ehresmann said, but expanding the eligible pool of vaccine recipients could be a daunting chal-

"If we are looking at 65 (and older) that's 530,000 in Minnesota; 65 to 74 is 388,000 people," she said. "If you add in individuals from 16 to 64 with underlying health conditions, that's probably 30 to 40 percent of the population. So that is a huge swath of the population without a potentially huge influx of new doses, and that does potentially create some challenges."

But without any guidance yet from the federal government, Minnesota will continue for now with its priority distribution and vaccination system, Ehresmann said.

Officials also unveiled a new dashboard on the MDH website dedicated to information about vaccine supplies and distribution. The dashboard can be viewed by clicking on the "Vaccine Data" link at mn.gov/vaccine.

St. Louis County

County Public Health Director Amy Westbrook briefed county commissioners Tuesday morning about vaccination efforts and other COVID-19 information and spoke with the Timberjay that afternoon to elaborate on her presentation.

While Westbrook reported to commissioners that the local health department has administered 800 of the 1,000 doses of vaccine it has received, the county COVID-19 dashboard showed that as of Tuesday just over 8,000 people had gotten their first dose of vaccine. The numbers aren't contradictory, Westbrook explained, because the health department is just one of three entities receiving and administering vaccines, the other two being hospitals and pharmacies, and each has its own target population. Vaccines administered by

all three are combined for the countywide total. "The federal gov-

ernment has contracted with Walgreens and CVS and Thrifty White to administer vaccines to skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, and some assisted living facilities," Westbrook said. "The hospital systems are responsible for vaccinating their own health care workers."

The county department is tasked for now with administering vaccines to emergency first responders who aren't associated with a hospital or healthcare system.

"They're mostly from volunteer systems," Westbrook said. "For us it's primarily paramedics, EMTs, advanced EMTs and emergency medical responders."

Toward that end, area vaccination clinics to administer first doses to eligible personnel were held last week in both Cook and Ely, with an ongoing site being set up in Ely.

The federally directed Pharmacy Partnership Program isn't only for facilities located in communities with a Walgreens, CVS, or Thrifty White pharmacy, Westbrook said. Her department has been working to identify facilities that are not already associated with those facilities and get them hooked up with the program. "They are doing outreach, and we're trying to get as many long-term care and assisted living facilities enrolled into the pharmacy program as possible, regardless of where they're located in St. Louis County," she said.

Some facilities in the North Country have already received initial vaccinations, while others have been scheduled for vaccination visits by pharmacists and certified tech-

The proposed changes in vaccine distribution and target groups would present some short-term challenges in the county, Westbrook said.

"There would still have to be an orderly process of getting vaccine out," she said. "We wouldn't be able to immediately administer that many doses, we wouldn't even be able to store that many doses. Right now, we've been doing it in pretty small locations, such as our government buildings and some community centers. We would have to do it as it as we receive vaccine, and

we are securing larger sites for vaccination. We realize that if we go beyond that older population earlier than we initially thought, we need larger venues to do that. We wouldn't be ready to ramp up tomorrow, but we're hoping to get there in the next couple of weeks."

Additional capacity will also be available beginning in about a week with two new trailers that are currently being modified to provide mobile testing and vaccination

"We're getting people trained. We're getting the right technology in there and the operations figured out," Westbrook said.

While concerns remain about the possibility of COVID-19 infection rates rising again, Westbrook said there's a renewed sense of hope now that vaccinations are

"This is a really important time right now because we know the vaccine is getting out. We're not able to mass distribute it yet, but we are seeing a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel."

Bois Forte

Federally recognized tribal organizations are yet another distinct group for

vaccinations, and efforts for the Bois Forte Band have been ongoing since mid-December, according to information provided on the tribe's website.

High-risk and language-fluent elders were among the first priority group to receive the Pfizer vaccine doses that also included health and emergency workers, tribal police, Head Start teachers, and selected other employees. That phase was completed on Jan. 7.

On the same day, the Moderna vaccine became available by appointment at the Nett Lake and Vermilion clinics for people between 45 and 55 years old who live on the reservation. The announcement of this phase also noted that the availability of the vaccine varies depending on how many doses the

At this point, no additional vaccine doses have been made available for Minnesota to order. No additional doses have been shipped to Minnesota, and no additional doses have arrived.

tribe receives each week.

ELY Continued from page 1

In what appeared to be a pre-arranged scenario, Novak sat in the audience of the council meeting and watched events unfold as the meeting got underway. Debeltz said he could not find the mayor's gavel as he brought the room to order. He thanked those attending the meeting that was initiated with the three re-elected council members, Ryan Callen, Debeltz, and Paul Kess taking the oath of office.

Council member Albert Forsman nominated Novak to fill the interim mayor position until a

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special election is held. His motion was supported by council member Ryan Callen.

Council member Heidi Omerza voiced her opposition to naming Novak as interim mayor.

"I do believe there is value in having Chuck be our mayor," she said. "He has done a lot of great things and will continue to do a lot of great things for Ely, however, I believe the people of Ely gave us clear direction in the last election. I can't, in good conscience continue forward with this (vote)."

Forsman, who made the motion to appoint Novak, defended his posi-

tion. "I feel it is important that in this interim we have an experienced leader who can get us through to the next chance that the people have to vote on this issue. It is in the best interest of our community to stay with Chuck."

Angela Campbell agreed with Forsman. "I vote for Chuck," she said.

City Attorney Kelly Klun explained that the if a primary election is needed to fill the position, a general election would be held in August. "An interim mayor would fill the seat until such time as a new mayor-elect takes the oath of office," she said.

A filing period for

mayoral candidates opens on Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 8 a.m. and closes on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. If more than two candidates file, a primary election will be held on April 13 and a general election will be held on Aug. 10. If no primary election is needed, the general election will be held on April 13.

Following Novak taking the oath of office, the council took a short recess. Novak returned to the council chambers wearing a necktie, with gavel in hand, and took his seat at the head of the table.

his intentions on running

Novak first won the Ely mayoral position in 2006, following a stint as council member. He lost re-election bids to Roger Skraba in 2008 and 2010, who then lost to Ross Petersen in 2012. Novak returned to the city's top elected position following elections in 2014, 2016 and 2018. He did not indicate for re-election.

Skraba jumped the gun last month on running for mayor. He published a campaign ad in a local newspaper the day after Christmas seeking support and votes from the Ely community.

Omerza's vote against Novak's appointment as interim mayor prompted speculation that she will also seek the job. When asked about her vote after the Jan. 5 meeting, she denied that her position on the issue was a signal she was going to run. When asked if she will file candidacy papers for the position, she said, "I'm thinking about it. but honestly, I think about it every two years. We'll

happens." Other business

have to wait and see what

In other business, the council:

➤ Approved the hiring of Thomas Deyak and

Kyle Lakner as probationary firefighters, pending pre-employment physical, drug test and background checks, to bring the Ely Fire Department to 35 members.

➤ Heard from Fire Chief Tom Erchull that the EFD responded to 51 fire calls in 2020, including four structure fires, and 190 Emergency Medical Service dispatches.

➤ Heard from Ely Library Director Rachel Heinrich that the library received a first-time five-star rating from the American Library Journal. Just two other Minnesota libraries were rated with four-stars in 2020.

➤ Heard from Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski that the continuing vandalism in the portable bathrooms in the city parks, with garbage stuffed in them and lighted on fire, has forced the removal of the service from Whiteside Park

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Council agenda focuses on ambulance needs

<u>by Marsha</u>ll Helmberger Managing Editor

TOWER-Ambulance issues dominated an otherwise routine city council meeting here on Monday, the council's first meeting of 2021. The ambulance director informed the council that the department's aging fleet of ambulances is likely to need another replacement, perhaps as early as this year.

In a memo to the council, director Dena Suikhonen sought input on the disposition of a 2011 GMC ambulance, which the service may donate to Eagles Nest Township for an emergency response vehicle. The department took delivery of a new ambulance late last year and took the 2011 rig out of service at that time.

In her memo, Suikhonen also noted that the department's two remaining rigs, a 2013 GMC diesel and a 2005 Ford E450, are dealing with a host of mechanical issues, along with rust in the case of the 2005 rig. "I am working with Nancy Larson to investigate grant options available to replace our aging fleet," Suikhonen said. She noted that federal CARES funding might help pay for at least a portion of a new ambulance this year.

The council agreed to a possible donation of the 2011 unit to Eagles Nest Township, which is considering the vehicle for use transporting First Responders and their gear to incidents.

"It would not be used to transport patients," said Suikhonen.

Eagles Nest officials had indicated they wanted time to inspect the rig and determine the cost of addressing some of the mechanical issues with the unit. The council agreed to give the township 30 days for that inspection before pursuing other options.

In related action, the council directed council members Joe Morin and Dave Setterberg to work with Suikhonen to find a way to reward ambulance personnel for the extra hazards they have faced in recent months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "It's been rough," said Suikhonen, who suggested some form of bonus pay would be in order. "We're looking for a motion to work with Dena to come up with a way to show our appreciation," said Setterberg. The council expressed their support for the concept unanimously.

The council also approved a request by Suikhonen to purchase a warranty program for the department's three Zoll heart monitors, at a total cost of \$3,384 for a program extending through February 2025. Suikhonen noted that the monitors, which cost in excess of \$30,000 each, all have maintenance issues that need addressing. "All three have cracks in the screens. In one, it is so bad it did not pass its annual maintenance test and is sitting unused right now," she said. "We need to maintain them and take care of them," said Suikhonen. "This will make us worry free until 2025."

The council also approved the purchase of two new iPad tablets and two iPhone 11s for the ambulance department. Suikhonen said she preferred to switch from the Samsung tablets that the department has used in the past because the Apple products update their software automatically. That means if ambulance staff forget to update software, the various devices and monitors they use to assess patients won't necessarily talk to one another.

Other business

Thecouncilcanexpect to see more action in 2021 after approving, with Setterberg as a lone dissenter, a meeting schedule that returns to two regular meetings per month, set for the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Orlyn Kringstad had pushed for the change, over the concerns of Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua, who argued that the extra meeting increased the already significant workload at city hall.

Council member Kevin Norby had questioned whether the second meeting would have a more limited agenda that might be focused on one or two issues. "It depends," responded Kringstad.

The council also approved a new process and timeline for the development of council agendas and packets. The new process will require anyone seeking to add items to a council agenda to do so a week ahead of a council meeting. The clerk-treasurer will send out a preliminary agenda and packet six days ahead of meetings, followed by a draft agenda four days prior. The final agenda and packet will need to be available for the council on the Thursday prior to

a council meeting. Council members noted that the new schedule would require everyone to develop agenda items well in advance in order to make it on a council agenda. They agreed that no additions or changes to the agenda would be allowed after the Thursday prior to the meeting unless it's a critical and time-sensitive matter.

At the same time, the council unanimously approved a holiday schedule for city hall for 2021. City hall will be closed on Memorial Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Herb Lamppa Day (Nov. 14), Thanksgiving, the Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve (after noon), and New Year's Eve (after noon).

In other action, Kringstad ran the council through a preliminary listing of planned appointments to city committees, commissions, and other appointed positions.

The business included some discussion of terminology as Kringstad said he'd prefer to use the term "deputy mayor" rather than "acting mayor" to describe the member of the council who fills in during any absence of the mayor. Setterberg, who has served as acting mayor for the past several months, noted that the term "acting" mayor is in the city's charter and that the term "deputy" mayor might infer some ongoing authority even in the presence of the mayor.

Kringstad suggested that the term "acting" may be confusing some residents, but the issue was left without resolution.

Kringstad went through other appointments, which he indicated were preliminary, so the council took no action. The council will come to approve the appointments at their Jan. 25 meeting. Among the new

appointments suggested by Kringstad was the addition of Greg Buckley, president of the Tower branch of Frandsen Bank and Trust, to the Tower Economic Development Authority.

Kringstad is also proposing appointing Cliff Koski as the city's new zoning administrator. Koski is a retired instructor in Civil Engineering, who has taught courses in land use and zoning. He is a new resident of the area, with a home on Armstrong Lake. If appointed, Koski would fill the shoes of outgoing administrator Mary

Kringstad did seek council approval to solicit new proposals for city engineering, but council members balked and Kringstad withdrew his motion. Council members indicated they first wanted to review the city's existing contract with SEH before considering whether to retain the services of a new firm.

In other business, the

➤ Approved up to an additional \$5,000 contract for 2021 with Tony Jeffries, who has been assisting with planning and zoning issues related to the Rose RV park, which is under construc-

> Greenlighted a plan by public works director Ben Velcheff for inspection and replacement and repair of city sewer lines as part of an effort to reduce inflow and infiltration that is using up limited wastewater treatment capacity. The council gave its blessing to a 2021 budget that includes \$13,000 for inspections and \$14,000 for repairs and maintenance. Velcheff is hopeful that the city can address the entire city within a five-year plan.

➤ Expressed continuing support for the Tower Harbor Shores project at the harbor, mostly in consideration of the considerable resources the city has expended to advance the project. With the harbor plat expected to be registered sometime this month, TEDA has been meeting with Tower Harbor Shores representatives in recent months in hopes of advancing at least a portion of the

> Approved an amendment to compensate SEH an additional \$13,100 for work it incurred to advance the city's water main project. The funds may later be rolled into the anticipated bond for the project.

➤ Voiced support for a preliminary request by St. Louis County to utilize the Tower Civic Center as a COVID-19 vaccination location. No date on when vaccines might be available there was available.

➤ Heard a report from Setterberg about the planned installation of 25 new water meters in the city that can be read remotely. He said public works is planning to prioritize homes where meters are difficult to access or where residents are elderly, making traditional meter reading challenging. The city obtained the new meters through COVID relief funds and Setterberg said public works will continue to seek grant funds to complete the installation of new meters across the city over the next 3-5

ORR...Continued from page 1

accessibility standards, Johnson said. The dock section of the walk along the river "will be more like a commercial dock section," Johnson said, four feet wide with railings

and two passing areas. Mayor Joel Astleford proposed the only change after Johnson said the dock would be supported by foam floats.

"Foam will get eaten

up in a year," Astleford more durable. Johnson agreed to the proposal and said he would modify the documents accordingly.

A concern expressed by both Johnson and council members focused on huge price increases in pressure-treated lumber due to shortages related to COVID-19. Prices rose by

50 percent in the first few said, suggesting that months of the pandemic plastic floats would be far and contractors bought up as much as they could to hedge against projected future losses, and that created a shortage that drove prices even higher. Prices leveled off going into the winter months and have recently declined.

"Do you see us staying on budget?" Astleford asked Johnson.

Johnson said that the price increases create the possibility that some or all bids received will be higher than the amount the city has to spend. Unacceptable bids can be rejected or tabled, Johnson said, and if need be they could look at modifying the design.

Rather than wait for

the next council meeting in February to approve putting the project out for bids, members authorized Benchmark to begin the process now, contingent on a final review and approval of the plans by public works supervisor Paul Koch. After bids are advertised in the official newspaper, contractors

must have three weeks to submit their proposals, Johnson said.

If a successful bidder is identified, work could start in February, with the project being substantially complete by June and finished in July, allowing people several months to enjoy the new bog walk before next winter sets in.





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24 Hour Emergency Care Cook Hospital

Ely hospital struggled through the year of COVID-19

Ely Editor

ELY - Shareholders of the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital's foundation organization were recently presented with a year-end financial statement in the red, showing a net income loss of \$250,844, for 2020.

While operating revenue for the fiscal year, ended Sept. 30,2020, was at \$21,223,376, total operating expenses were at \$21,598,374.

The Ely Health and Hospital Foundation, the hospital's umbrella organization, was not able to gather with shareholders for their annual meeting last month because of restrictions associated with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and instead were sent a written report highlighting the organization's financial health and a look ahead to future developments at the hospital.

The 2020 EBCH annual report showed a decrease in net worth of \$541,904, from \$22,805,892 in 2019 to \$22,263,988 in 2020.

Patti Banks took over leadership at EBCH as interim chief executive officer early in 2020, replacing Michael Coyle. The hospital's board of directors voted in August to extend Banks' position as CEO for another year. Banks previously held the role of Chief Operations Officer at EBCH.

In a recent interview, she said, "Ely hospital, like many other medical facilities, was hit with a major shutdown at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic last spring, and also dealt with additional expenses to keep staff and patients safe while responding to COVID-19."

While EBCH did finish the year at a loss,

Financial report shows net income loss in 2020

their financials are still in draft from because they are still working through interpretation of the CARES Act money, she added. On the balance sheet of the 2020 annual report financial statement, deferred revenue of \$3,602,306 from the federal CARES Act is listed.

"In March, April and May, during the initial COVID-19 shutdown, we did lose revenue based on volume, and those losses are reflected in our financial statement," Banks said. "If we could have continued with our current operations we would have been fine."

She added, "We were also a hospital that did not lay off or furlough any of our employees. We had no job losses, like so many other health care facilities." Banks noted that

EBCH did change their operations in response to the coronavirus pandemic. "I believe we adjusted very well. We have kept our patients safe. We have kept our community safe. Our medical staff has complimented us on how we adapted and adjusted, especially how we could segregate our COVID patients from the rest of our population." Inpatient days in the

hospital declined from 692 in 2019 to 507 in 2020. The hospital's occupancy rate showed a decline from 9.03 percent in 2019 to 6.61 percent in 2020. Nearly 100 fewer patients, 258 in 2019 and 157 in 2020, were also listed. Other EBCH statistics from 2019 to 2020 show declines in emergency room visits, 2,926 to 2,675, surgical procedures, 382 to 290, and outpatients, 10,443

"The reason for the hit (from 2019 to 2020) was

EBCH guided by federal and state mandates in providing vaccines

ELY - Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) is administering COVID-19 vaccinations based on the rollout plan created by the Minnesota Department of Health in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

EBCH and the state are still in the beginning stages of vaccinating healthcare workers and longterm care residents under the "Phase 1a" protocol, according to EBCH communications director Jodi

EBCH receives weekly allocations of the COVID-19 vaccine from the Northeast Healthcare Preparedness Coalition. "To date, the healthcare system administered the first dose to its staff members who wanted the vaccine, as well as to emergency medical services (EMS) from Ely, Babbitt, and Tower, and to other community healthcare workers eligible under the plan," Martin said in a press release on Tuesday. "Beginning this week, EBCH has been providing this group the second dose of the two-shot vaccination."

The Minnesota Department of Health has formed an advisory group to create plans to vaccinate the next group, "Phase 1b," for essential frontline workers and adults age 75 and older. "Although no dates have been set, EBCH is in constant communication with MDH and ready to move into this next phase when advised by the state," she said.

"While the amount of available vaccines is increasing, initial supplies are limited as production continues to catch up with and meet demands. EBCH is working closely with federal and state departments, who determine distribution, and will provide updates as soon as new information is available. EBCH officials reassure the public that they are working diligently to ensure the vaccine can be administered, as soon it is available, to everyone who wants to receive the COVID-19 vaccination," Martin added.

because of the forced shutdown," she said. "We were still able to treat patients, they just stopped seeking treatment."

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, EBCH continues to provide information and support to the local community and surrounding service area. Highlights

➤ EBCH provided protective equipment donning and doffing training for several area groups including the Ely Police and Fire departments, Morse/Fall Lake First Responders, U.S. Border Patrol and Babbitt EMTs.

➤ EBCH provided training to the Ely Chamber of Commerce business members regarding the proper use of protective face masks and gloves, and serves as the local health liaison for the chamber's upcoming WolfTrack Classic sled dog race event

➤ Members of EBCH meet weekly with the ISD 696 Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council to help develop and maintain their COVID-19 plan, and provided instant-read thermometers for screening school staff and students. ➤ EBCH reformatted

their annual Free Flu Shot clinic into several "drivethrough" events to allow for social distancing and COVID-19 guidelines while providing nearly 1,300 flu vaccinations.

COVID-19 continues

Banks said the coronavirus testing program at EBCH remains in place. "The systems we have established will be with us for a while as our community continues to take precautions."

She said the testing-turnaround time relies heavily on volume, here in Elv and around the region. "We do testing results here in Ely, but once we reach a certain threshold, we do have to end them off to Mayo Clinic," she said. "We still look at a two-day turnaround right now. We do use the rapid testing and can get results in a matter of hours." Certain criteria must be met to administer rapid testing, she added.

By the end of the first week of January, all EBCH staff who wanted it have received COVID-19 vaccinations. "We are working with (Ely Essentia) clinic staff to get their healthcare employees vaccinated, and are working with area EMS, first responders, and dentist offices to get their workers vaccinated too."

Minnesota is still in the beginning stages of vaccinations for Phase 1a for all healthcare workers and long-term care residents. "We anticipate moving into Phase 1b, adults age 75-plus and frontline essential workers, sometime in February," she said. "The

Minnesota) Department of Health has formed an advisory group that is formulating the upcoming 1b vaccine allocation plan. Please be patient; we are doing our best to work through this process and keep our community up to date. As information becomes available to us, we will share it."

Banks added that the general population of the Ely area can expect to have COVID-19 vaccines available in "two or three" months.

Expansion project A year ago, EBCH

was considering embarking on a \$20 million expansion project, but with the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic, that dream was put on the back burner. "At this point, we are looking to re-strategize and re-focus that project," Banks said. "We really need to start from scratch. I hope to start that process in mid-January.'

She added, "We do need more space here in order to expand our service offerings and to be able to have those services available to our community. In order to do it safely, because of the pandemic, as well as because we want to do quality patient care, we need the space to work in."

She called for "re-thinking" and re-prioritizing" the type and use of space EBCH requires. She looked at solidifying a plan by mid-summer. "I can't let this go too long. Every time we start taking steps in that direction, another phase of the pandemic hits and takes over our resources. We have a resilient and flexible staff. but we can't over use them at this point. Maybe we can look at a first phase plan in July."

OPEN GOVERNMENT

Greenwood reluctant to release payroll data

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- After a few residents raised questions about a big increase in pay to a newly-appointed town clerk, supervisors here found an apparent solution: they've instructed the town clerk to redact payroll information that's part of the monthly meeting packet.

Governmental employee payroll data is considered public information under state law, but township officials here have decided they don't have to make it easy for their residents to obtain.

At Tuesday's town board meeting, the town board affirmed their convoluted public data policy passed last year, which put in place a seven-step process when a member of the public requests township information. The process includes filling out a request form, which is standard practice in most cities or townships. But while most governmental units give the clerk, or appointed person, the

authority to then release the information, requests in Greenwood then go to the chairman within three days. The chair may then choose to send the request to the township attorney. The chair will then either reject the request in its entirety or approve it in whole or part. If approved, the clerk will collect payment based on estimated hours at \$20 per hour, plus 25 cents per page requested. The clerk would then make the approved documents available to the requester. The town board is expected to pass the policy once again at the February meeting.

The concern about payroll stems from information included in public packets late last year, after the town board all but forced the resignation of township clerk Sue Drobac through actions that Drobac found abusive and disrespectful. Among those steps, the board voted to slash Drobac's pay, from her established salary of \$2,316.61 per month to an hourly pay rate of \$27 per hour with a maximum of 12 hours a week, equaling a monthly equivalent of \$1,404. The clerk had been keeping the town hall office open for 20 hours a week, did other work from home as needed, and attended township meetings. Board members claimed the pay cut was enacted for budgetary reasons, but board members left their own salaries intact.

The board appointed a replacement for Drobac, Debby Spicer, in early September, and payroll reports since then had indicated that Spicer was being paid far more than the board had allowed for Drobac. In fact, the October report indicated that Spicer received gross pay for the month of \$2,792.66. That prompted both Drobac and resident John Bassing to request payroll data for September, October and November last month. As of this writing, neither of those requests had been fulfilled, according to Drobac and Bassing, despite their willingness to follow the township's unusual access policy.

When questioned in

an email by this reporter, Town Board Chair Mike Ralston said "the actual month-to-month time spent providing the necessary clerk duties has been in alignment with our goals set previously." He noted the clerk needed to be trained in, and also needed extra time to prepare for the Nov. 3 election.

Whetherthehigherpay continued post-election is not clear. In the packet for the town board's January meeting, the names associated with all the township employee payroll were redacted. When asked about this, Spicer said she was acting "as instructed

by the township attorney." That's inconsistent with previous statements by Spicer. In an email on Dec. 1, 2020, Spicer noted that the "part of the treasury report that was omitted contained the net pay information for all township employees. The township attorney has advised that net pay information should not be released to the public, but the gross pay information can be."

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Minnesota Power outlines bold plans for shift to green power

Plans to phase out coal by 2035, reach 100-percent carbon-free power by 2050

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

REGIONAL -Northeastern Minnesota's largest private utility has announced its plan to deliver 100-percent, carbon-free electricity within just 30 years, as part of its EnergyForward strategy. Minnesota Power, an

ALLETE company, outlined its commitment to clean energy in a statement issued on Tuesday.

The company announced last month that it had reached the 50-percent renewable mark, the first major Minnesota utility to reach that milestone. The company now plans to submit a new Integrated

Resource Plan (IRP) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on Feb. 1, and that plan will lay out the next steps in the company's transition to a carbon-free future. That plan includes reaching 70-percent renewable power by 2030, and completely phasing out coal as a means of energy production by 2035.

By 2050, just 29 years from now, the company plans to be generating its electric power from entirely carbon-free methods. 'We are proud to be

the first Minnesota utility to provide 50-percent renewable energy, but as we said when we reached this

See ENERGY...pg. 2B



Wind turbines spin at Taconite Ridge, near Virginia, one of a number of major investments in wind by Minnesota Power. file photo



Ellerbroek family, of Ely, was among dozens of local residents to turn out for the youth ski event held Jan. 3. **Pictured** are father Chris, mother Jill. daughter Elsa and son Avery.

Left: The

Below: A group of young skiers head out on the trails at Hidden Valley.

photos by K. Vandervort

NORDIC SKIING

Ely skiers hit the trail

Youth Ski League grooms for another learning season

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY - The Ely Youth Ski League (EYSL) started the 2021 ski season last week with the coronavirus pandemic in mind. But that didn't stop the fun and fitness elements of this annual family activity at the Hidden Valley Recreation Area.

The EYSL is a volunteer organization that offers children between the ages of 4 and 11 the opportunity to learn and enjoy cross country skiing. A typical season-opening ceremony and celebration is held

See YOUTH..pg. 2B

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Grizzlies primed for "masketball" season

Mandatory face coverings will place a premium on depth this year

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- High school basketball uniforms are sporting a new accessory this season masks intended to decrease the possibility of transmitting COVID-19. Players have to wear masks at practices, which started Jan. 4, and at all games in the

pandemic-shortened season that gets underway this week.

For North Woods Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe, that

and game rotations as he looks to involve more players in contests. While the Grizzlies are

bumper crops of varsity players

they've had the past five or six

means adjustments in practices down in numbers from the years, Kleppe said he's discovered a welcome trade-off. He has more players he can insert into the lineup without seeing a drop-off in overall performance.

"We're deeper this year," Kleppe said. "Last year we maybe got seven or eight guys in; this year, I'm pretty confident

that varsity core of ten guys can

all contribute. It is going to be

different, and I think that it'll take a little getting used to for a couple of guys that have been used to playing 30 minutes on the floor. My tendency as a coach is to run my horses into the ground, but the reality this year is that a guy that played 30 minutes a game last year might be playing 26 or

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

VOLLEYBALL

Ely players named All-Conference

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - The Memorial High School volleyball team celebrated an unbeaten season that resulted in a conference championship. All-conference recognition for three Timberwolves added icing to the cake.

Senior McKenna Coughlin, junior Kellen Thomas and sophomore Rachel Coughlin all won spots on the All-Arrowhead Conference Team, as selected by league coaches.

All-conference teams are named every year in numerous sports (football, boys and girls basketball, volleyball, baseball) and some other sports (swimming) have all-section teams. "These are picked by coaches in the various sports and it's always a nice recognition for our athletes when they are selected," said ISD 696 Athletic Director Tom Coombe.

The Timberwolves? first-ever unbeaten season was cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and was the program's first Arrowhead Conference title.

McKenna Coughlin led the team with 144 kills, 85 digs, and 35 ace serves.

"She plays the game with a lot of passion and has high expectations for herself on the court," said Head Coach Andrea Thomas. "She's always worked hard, and she is very dedicated to the sport. She led the team on and off the floor as team captain. McKenna is able to read the defense and place balls in open positions. She was a dynamic force on the front line."

McKenna was the T-Wolves' only returning starter from teams that reached the Section 7A final four the previous two years, according to Coombe. Kellen Thomas moved

into Ely's starting lineup this fall, racking up 56 kills, 64 digs and 22 blocks. "Kellen has great ball

control. She was one of our most consistent passers and has a solid serve-receive," Thomas said. "She is a quiet player who leads more by actions than words. She is a tough defender as well

See PLAYERS...pg. 2B

YOUTH...Continued from page 1B -

the first Sunday in January, followed by sessions organized by age groups to introduce and emphasize safety and proper techniques for Nordic skiing.

Due to COVID regulations and restrictions, the group is not hosting the structured monthly sessions as a large group this year.

Once skiers are registered they have an assigned coach for their level and receive weekly check-ins, skills to work on, suggestions on trails to ski, and other fun communications.

"We will still plan some dress-up days and encourage skiers to post them on our League Facebook page," said club member Stepanie Kosinski. "We will track kilometers and have prizes."

Hidden Valley has both groomed and classic tracks in place on all major trails.

"We will groom for maintenance as needed between snow falls," she said. "Trezona Trail also will get periodic grooming as needed, but it is also a multi-use trail so walkers and dogs may be encoun-

Ely skier Chris Ellerbroek and his family hit the trails on opening

"It was a quiet day with very few kids, but we made the best of it and logged some kilometers with a few other kids and worked on turning and slowing down on hills," he said. "I'm

"Rachel is a solid all-

thankful for all the work that the volunteers have put in over the years and greatly miss the weekly community. We will be out every Sunday for the next two months if anyone would like to join us."

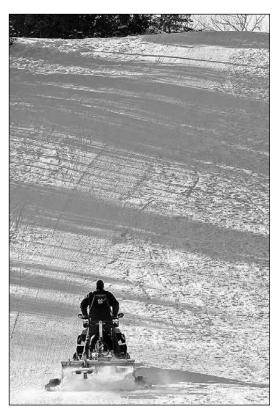
Families wishing to register may purchase a family membership to the Ely Nordic Ski Club via www.elynordic.org for \$75. This covers the cost of trail grooming and maintenance at Hidden Valley and the Trezona Trail, plus rentals for any youth up to age 11 in the family who need skis, poles, and boots.

"Volunteers make EYSL and the Ely Nordic Ski Club happen and are always appreciated," Kosinski added. "If you are able to help on the leader board, coaching, with trail maintenance, or anything else, please let us know."

For more information, email MYSL@ElyNordic. org or call Kosinski at 218-343-8652.

A groomer makes his way up a long hill at Hidden Valley Recreation Area near Ely. Despite limited snowfall in recent weeks, conditions remain good at the popular location, which features both classic and skate skiing

photo by K. Vandervort



PLAYERS...Continued from page 1B -

as an offensive threat. Kellen became a more integral part of the offense as the season progressed. She also helped us put up a solid block."

The Timberwolves took to the floor this season with three Coughlin sisters on the floor, senior McKenna and twin sophomores Rachel and Kate. Rachel won all-conference honors with 113 kills, 81 digs and 23 blocks.

around player who has quick hops and hits a heavy ball," Thomas said. "We could count on Rachel to put the ball on the floor no matter where the set was placed. Her anticipation in the back row made her a great defender as well. Rachel also has a very effective jump serve and ended the season with 24 ace serves."

The Timber wolves fin-

ished atop the Arrowhead Conference with a 12-0 record but did not get a chance at a postseason run, with the pandemic forcing the season to a halt on Nov. 20, a week prior to the end of the regular season.

"Ely was ranked second among 7A teams behind only unbeaten Greenway," Coombe added. "I want to also note that Ely's Megan Wognum was named assistant coach of the year for Section 7A volleyball. This also is a coaches' association award."

The All-Arrowhead team also included two players from Northeast Range High School in Babbitt, Hannah Reichensperger and Maizy Sunblad. Reichensperger, a junior, recently signed a letter of intent to attend NCAA Division I Illinois State, according to

Coombe.

Here is the list of the entire Arrowhead Conference Volleyball All-Conference Award recipients:

➤ Ely: McKenna Coughlin, Rachel Coughlin, Kellen Thomas

➤ Mesabi East: Aaliyah Sahr, Stephanie Zimmer, Lindsey Baribeau ➤ Cherry: Courteney Sadjak, Lauren Staples

➤ NER: Hannah

Reichensperger, Maizy Sunblad

➤ Eveleth-Gilbert: Afton Roberts

➤MIB: Paris Pontinen ➤ North Woods:

Morgan Burnett ➤ Littlefork-Big Falls:

Destiny Piekarski ➤International Falls:

Gracie Swenson.

ENERGY...Continued from page 1B -

exciting milestone, our transformation to a sustainable energy future is not yet complete," said ALLETE President and CEO Bethany Owen in a statement. "As a clean energy leader, we are meeting the challenge of climate change with a reliable energy supply while keeping costs affordable for customers in this region."

The company plans to meet its lofty goals by taking a number of steps, including:

➤ Adding an estimated 400 additional megawatts of wind and solar

> Retiring Boswell Energy Center's Unit 3

by 2030. >

Transforming Boswell's Unit 4 to be coal-free by 2035.

➤ Investing in a modern, flexible transmission and distribution grid.

Minnesota Power's plan, if approved and implemented as envisioned, will continue to place the company far out in front of the state of Minnesota's mandates for carbon emission reductions. Company officials acknowledge that their plan assumes technological advances over the next three decades that will assist in their efforts to generate more power from renewable sources and make more efficient

use of the power it does generate.

When the IRP is submitted, the Public Utilities Commission will begin a regulatory process that provides for input from customers, organizations and communities. Minnesota Power spent the past 12 months in discussions with stakeholders

that helped inform the details of its IRP, including the goal of delivering 100 percent carbon-free energy by 2050.

A final decision on the IRP is expected later this year.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

22 in order to get that rotation where we can get him off the floor a few times each half just to recover a little bit, catch their breath, get hydrated, and then be ready to go again. I'm hoping our depth will allow us to keep that pace up where we can push the ball and go and still rotate and have guys fresh at the end of the game."

Kleppe has 16 players on the varsity roster and might have had more if not for COVID-19 and choices about learning.

"I think for some kids that chose to be distance learning, they're in their own routine and basketball probably doesn't fit that real well," Kleppe said. "They've got their schedule and to have to drive into the school for a couple hours of basketball maybe just wasn't appealing to them."

Most of his players were out for football in the fall and experienced

the disappointment of canceled games and a shortened season due to COVID-19 exposures and/ or cases, and Kleppe said he's seen that translate into the team taking individual and collective responsibility for wearing their masks and staying socially distant as activities allow.

"We explained it pretty clearly to our kids that this is what's required to play, and the alternative is we don't play," he said. "We've got kids who want to play, so they're certainly doing their best. The kids are super resilient and they're kind of taking it in stride."

Kleppe said he and assistants are being more attentive to players by asking how they are feeling and watching to see if they appear winded, things they'll continue to do during games. It's not only essential for their health, but for how Kleppe wants to play the games.

"The formula hasn't changed -- we're going to push the ball," he said.

Kleppe has the backcourt players to accomplish that, starting with a trio of Chiabottis – T.J., Brenden, and Jared.

"T.J. has state tournament experience, he's a leader, he's a hard worker and a lead-by-example kind of guy," Kleppe said. "His teammates recognize his skill and the time he's put in and they really rally around him. He's joined by his brother and his cousin who also have valuable experience. The big thing about those two guys is that they matured a lot from last year. They're bigger, they're stronger, and they're a little more comfortable with the system."

Alex Hartway didn't get as much playing time last year, but his defensive prowess is going to earn him a lot of playing time.

"I'm comfortable

putting him out there guarding anybody,' Kleppe said.

Those guards will be complemented by Darius Goggleye down in the post.

"I think that's a pretty up and down the floor combination because Darius can certainly get down the floor," Kleppe said. "His back-to-the-basket moves have improved tremendously in the off-season due to playing AAU ball, so I feel really good entering the ball to him and letting him just go to

Kleppe's son, Davis, returns to the team after recovering from a serious injury last year.

"He's got some catching up to do," Kleppe said.

Unfortunately, Kleppe has encountered another injury problem in practice with guard Bryce Chosa, but he hopes to have him back in the lineup toward the end of the season. In the interim, Kleppe can turn to freshman Jonah Burnett, a good defender and ball handler.

Sean Morrison, at 6'2", is expected to be a strong backup to Goggleye down low, as is Jake Panichi.

'We're three deep at the post," Kleppe said.

In fact, Kleppe's depth is so good that he momentarily overlooked a new-

"Oh, geez, there's Erik Aune, the new guy from Louisiana - now that we have him comfortable driving on the snow he's good to go," Kleppe said. "He's a hard worker who takes coaching extremely well, showing some real good defense as well as the ability to shoot threes. He was an unexpected bonus."

Kleppe said the group is coming together well as a team, driven in part by an awareness of the previous success of Grizzlies teams.

"They've answered a lot of question for us

already, which makes our jobs easier," Kleppe said.

Another big change this season is that attendance will be limited to only two fans per player, but Grizzlies fans who can't go to home games will be able to watch them either live or delayed on a new streaming video system utilizing the free

National Federation of

High Schools website. **Season openers**

Both the boys and girls teams had season openers scheduled for Thursday. with the boys traveling to Carlton and the girls at home against Nashwauk-Keewatin. The boys have a quick turnaround with a 6 p.m. home game against Northland, then hit the road again on Tuesday, Jan. 19 for a game at Cherry. The girls will play at home again on Monday against International Falls.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Dwight D. Light

Dwight D. Light, of Embarrass, left this world on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, at his home, peacefully in the compassionate care of his loving wife after a short battle with brain cancer. Dwight loved Montana and wanted his cremains spread on Skalkaho Pass in Montana. To keep everyone safe from COVID-19, there will be no funeral. A celebration of life will be planned for a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Cathy; sons, Troy (Stacy) Davidson of Babbitt

and Dennis Davidson of Embarrass; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; mother, Donna Light of Fort Dodge, Iowa; sister, Duana Light of West Des Moines, Iowa; brothers, Bruce (Sue) Light, of Gowrie, Iowa, and Mark (Sandy) Light of Adel, Iowa; sisters-in-law, Cindy (Steve) Vesel of Hibbing, Sherry (Bob) Riddel of St. Michael and Lori (Fred) DuFalt of Hibbing; very special friends, Leslie Aubin and Kaitlen Flannigan of Virginia; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Nancy G. Stanaway Nancy G. Columbus

Stanaway, 79, originally of Tower, a respected elder of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020. Due to the current coronavirus restrictions on gathering, an outdoor family celebration of life will be held in the warm days of spring. She is survived by

her loving and almost perfect children, Marlin "Poncho" (Cheyenne D.) Stanaway, Michele (Mark R.) Maki, Joseph (Laura B.) Stanaway, Sheila "Sissy" (John) Cashman, Gay Stanaway and Charlene (Bill) Evans; her beloved and definitely perfect grandchildren, Derek (Sonya),

Jared, Jason, Josef (Mesa)

Christian, Christopher, Amanda, Chloe, Jenna, Zachary, Jeremy, Christina and Vince; and her wonderful great-grandchildren, Riley, Addison, Derek Jr. and Thomas.

Marianne K. Dean Marianne Kay Buvarp

Dean, 82, went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, at the Cook Care Center. Due to COVID restrictions, a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

She is survived by four children, Douglas Dean, David Dean, Daniel Dean and Dawn (Scott)

Frazee; grandchildren, Abigail (Ripley), Avery, Zoe, Aubie (Jason), Mandy and Ariana; great-grandchild, Flora; sister, Marcia Norlander; special aunt, Maxine Buvarp; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Irene M. Johnson

Irene May Peterson Johnson, 90, of Ely, died on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020. She was a resident of assisted living for a year when she contracted coronavirus and died after a short illness. Ely friends and neighbors generously offered their help to Irene: Toni Mitchell, Paul and Marisa Haraldson, and Mary Louise Icenhour.

Aurora Carefree Living gave her excellent care. A private memorial will be planned when that can safely be arranged. She is survived by

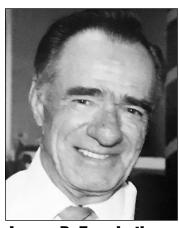
The nursing care staff at

her daughters, Susan Johnson (Daniel Arnold), Becky Johnson and Jody Johnson (David Paluch); seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and other close family members, Darrel and Rosemary Johnson, Lowell Johnson, Kimberly Haug and Cathy Bogolub.

More obituaries on pages 3B & 5B

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Obituaries and Death Notices



James B. Trembath

James Benjamin "Jim" Trembath, 95, formerly of Tower, peacefully passed away on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, at Autumn Lane Assisted-Living in Cohasset. The family extends a special thank you and appreciation to all of Jim's caregivers at Autumn Lane. Jim always looked at the glass as being half full, songs were forever in his heart, and a smile was always on his face. He was genuinely thankful for friends, family, and the little things in life. Jim and Edith Trembath exemplified who Tom Brokaw wrote about in The Greatest Generation.

A Military Service of Interment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. A family remembrance will be held at the time of interment. Memorials in the form of gifts, or your service, may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Cremation arrangements are with Rowe Funeral Home and Crematory in Grand Rapids.

Jim was born on Oct. 1, 1925, in Eveleth, the son of William and Ethel Trembath. He grew up in Eveleth, graduating in 1943. At age 17 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving as a Pharmacist's Mate (corpsman) during WWII. Assigned to the 3rd Marine Division for the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945, he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was within a half-mile of Mount Suribachi during the famous Marine American flag raising. Jim brought home his helmet with a bullet hole and was known in his unit as "Hole in the Helmet Trembath."

Jim married Edith Sundstrom, a Cadet Nurse Corps graduate, in Soudan, on June 14, 1947. He attended Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis for mechanics. He was employed by Burgess Chevrolet and later as a maintenance mechanic in the underground mines in Soudan and Ely. He transferred to the Minntac Mine in Mountain Iron, retiring in 1983.

Jim and Edith raised seven children in Tower, where he was

very active in the community. He was a volunteer fireman, EMT, member of the Lions Club, American Legion, Fourth of July committee, Tower-Soudan Historical Society, Vermilion Housing, and Tower-Soudan School Board. Active in the Soudan Baptist Church, he served as treasurer, deacon and soloist. As a Boy Scout leader he received the Silver Beaver Award, scouting's highest leadership honor. Jim was a community volunteer extraordinaire, but family always came first.

He is survived by five sons, Rick (Nancy) of Bigfork, Mont., Tom(Marcy) of Bella Vista, Ark., Tim (Mona) of Thornton, Colo., Terry (Merrie) of Hoyt Lakes and Chuck of Virginia; two daughters, JoAnn (Bruce) Wahlsten of Duluth and Patti (Bob) Lynch of Grand Rapids; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edith in 2013; brother, Tom (MIA WWII Corsair Carrier Fighter Pilot); twin sister, Grace Langen of Minneapolis; sister, Myrtle Summers O'Shaughnessy of St. Paul; and two grandsons, Jason and Michael Trembath of Thornton, Colo.



Agnes C. Mattson

Agnes Caroline "Aggie" Dragavon Mattson, 96, longtime resident of Soudan, entered into eternal life on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, at Benedictine Health Center in Duluth. The family would like to thank Olajean Hayworth for her special friendship, support and love, and the staff of Westwood and BHC for taking "good care" of Mom over the last ten years. They became extended family to Mom and will never see a Dum-Dum sucker without remembering her.

Mom's life will be celebrated at a later date when we can gather safely to share memories of her. The family prefers memorials to St. Scholastica Monastery, Second Harvest or a charity of your choice. Arrangements are with Dougherty Funeral Home of Duluth.

Stand up for what you

believe in. Be kind. Wear a mask.

Aggie was born in Soudan on March 24, 1924, to Joseph F. and Mary (Breznik) Erchul. She was married to Edward J. Dragavon at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower on Aug. 10, 1946. They were the parents of four children: Edward J. Dragavon Jr. of Los Angeles, Calif., Mary (Rod) Eidelbes of Grand Rapids, Dolly (Bob) Ladner of Lake Elmo and Jane Dragavon, who passed away in 1965. Edward passed away in 1968. Aggie was blessed to marry Carl M. Mattson on Sept. 22, 1973. They enjoyed many years of travel, dancing, dining out, and card games until Carl's passing in 2006.

Aggie was a long-time employee of the State Bank of Tower and especially loved her work at the Soudan Underground Mine State Park, retiring at age 70. She was a devoted member of St. Martin's Catholic Church (St. Elizabeth's Circle), KSKJ Lodge 4, and the Slovenian Women's Union, Branch 34.

Aggie loved her faith and her family. In her faith she found much comfort and strength. She was a proud Mom, Grandma, and Great-Grandma, always sharing accomplishments with whomever would listen. Nothing put a bigger smile on her face than to see her grands and great-grands. Aggie was always perfectly dressed and accessorized to a "T". Mom was an accomplished baker (potica!) and cook. We all remember her joy in serving her family a delicious meal at her dining room table. She also excelled as a seamstress and

In addition to her three children, Aggie is survived by four grandchildren, Mike (Becky) Eidelbes, Kelly (Joe) Broking, Jason (Bev) Dragavon Dahl and Ashley (Jeff Mulligan) Dragavon Dahl; eight great-grandchildren, Brady and Kayden Broking, Sydney Eidelbes, Fintan, Macrae and Lula Mulligan, Jane, Charlie and baby girl Dahl (arriving this month); and many nieces and nephews. She is also survived by dearly loved members of Carl's family, son-in-law, Chuck (Jiggs) Rathbone; daughter, Chris (Alan) Schnoor; grandchildren, Chucky (Deb) Rathbone, Brian (Deana) Schnoor, Lynn Schnoor and Brenda (Josh) Miller; and six great-grandchildren, Sarah and Becky Rathbone, Abby and Natalie Schnoor, and Brandon and Liam Miller.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edward Dragavon in 1968; husband, Carl Mattson in 2006; and all ten of her siblings.



Dennis Erchul

Dennis "Denny" Erchul, 83, of Duluth, passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at his home on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021. Due to COVID, the funeral will be held in the spring at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower.

Denny was born in Tower in 1937 and was raised in Soudan. He enjoyed hunting and fishing in the area with his four brothers, especially while living on Fourmile Lake just outside of Soudan. He graduated from Tower High School in 1955, then enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1959 during which time he was stationed in Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1962.

Upon returning to the Iron Range, Denny married the love of his life, Helen Mesojedec, in 1963. This union produced five children who survive him: Ed (Kathleen Vertin), Joe (Lynette Dalbec), RoJean Flaherty, Kim (Steve) Olson and Jennifer (Steve) Delich, along with eight grandchildren.

After marriage, Denny and Helen relocated to Duluth, where he was employed at Northern City National Bank and then Fond du Luth casino until retiring in 1996. Much of Denny's time was spent enjoying their cabin on Eagles Nest Lake, surrounded by friends and family. He also shared his musical talents by acting as a church organist at several churches and as an active member of the Singing Slovenes, whose members became close friends of the family.

Denny leaves behind a long list of friends and family who will sorely miss his presence. The family has been touched by the outpouring of love shown by those who were informed of his untimely passing. We sincerely appreciate the words and stories which have been shared in this difficult time. Denny is survived by his

dren; and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Joseph and Mary Erchul.



Thomas E. Mayo

Thomas E. Mayo, 76, of Kugler Township-Tower, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, in Tower, doing what he loved, cross country skiing. There will be no formal funeral service. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of

He was born on March 8, 1944, in Deer River, the son of Thomas and Elmire "Bertha" (Nollette) Mayo. Tom served in the United States Navy on the USS Waddell from 1963 to 1969. He was united in marriage to Katy Larsen at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower on June 22, 1979. They had lived in Kugler for the past 40 years, where they raised their four sons. He worked for the United States Steel Minntac mine in Mountain Iron as a blaster, retiring in 2003. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower and the United Steelworkers of America Local 1938 of Virginia.

Tom loved his family. Loved the time spent with his grandchildren. Loved the time spent at the cabin on Lake Vermilion. Loved wild ricing, fishing and eating fish. Loved visiting with friends. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Katy Mayo of Kugler Township-Tower; sons, Thomas Mayo of Grand Rapids and Aaron (Rebecca) Mayo of Mountain Iron; daughter-in-law, Bethany Mayo of Cloquet; nine grandchildren; sisters, Carol (Howard) Thompson of Deer River, Cathy Parks of Deer River and Viola Cook of Bigfork; brothers, Donald (Peggy) Mayo of Grand Rapids and Dick (Sandi) Mayo of Grand Rapids; numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sons, Richard and Neil; brothers, James, Vern and Bill; and sister, Evie Lee.



Leona M. Janezich

Leona Marie Janezich, 91, of Ely, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021, at the Boundary Waters Care Center. She had finished living her live. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely in June, with inurnment to follow at the Ely Cemetery.

Leona was born in Ely, to Louis and Ana (Matelic) Janezich, on May 27, 1929. She graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 1947 and from Ely Junior College in 1949. Her work experience for a short time included being a nurse's aide at the old Shipman Hospital, a clerk at the Sears Catalogue Office, a third-grade teacher at Fort Yates on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota,

a worker in a dental office, and

finally, for 47 years she worked various jobs at the American Fraternal Union.

Leona belonged to Ely Branch 23 of the Slovenian (Women's) Union, was a member of the Duluth Scleroderma Support Group, a survivor of melanoma cancer, and a member of Women's Life Insurance. She also served on the Board of Directors for the Ely-Winton Historical Society.

Some of the activities she enjoyed were learning to pilot a plane, line dancing, Tai Chi/ Qigong, planning mahjong with friends, getting together with the birthday club, attending concerts and plays, listening to music of many kinds, traveling, and learning.

Her survivors are many cousins and friends here and in Slovenia.

Leona was preceded in death by her parents; three-yearold sister, Annie; and brothers, Louis and Fred.

William R. Lamppa

William R. "Bill" Lamppa, 92, of Embarrass, died on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, in Essentia-St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Private inurnment will take place in the Embarrass Cemetery at a later date. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Tower Area Food Shelf or the ACLU. Family services provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.

He is survived by his sons, Jason (Kirsten) Lamppa of St. Paul and Clayton Lamppa of Embarrass; grandson, Joshua Lamppa; extended family and friends.



Rudolph M. Grahek

Rudolph Michael "Rudy" Grahek, 94, of Ely, Soudan, and Lake Havasu City, Ariz., passed away on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020, at the Chisholm Heritage Manor. A huge thank you goes out to the Chisholm Heritage Manor staff who cared so deeply and genuinely for our

Dad during his stay there. A

private family Memorial Mass was held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia with Rev. Brandon Moravitz officiating. Burial was in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Duluth. Arrangements were with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

He was born on May 22, 1926, to Steve and Ann (Strukel) in Ely. Rudy graduated from Ely High School and attended the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. He was a World War II and Korean War veteran and a member of American Legion Post 45. Rudy married Agnes Mesojedec in June 1953 and later married Angeline Pertz in 1973.

Rudy worked at the Soudan Underground Mine and the Ely Pioneer Mine; he also owned and operated several businesses, including the Friendly Tavern Bar, Rudy's Amusement Machine business, Snow Shield, Ruann's Teen Center and his first wife's Town & Country Beauty Salon. He was also the Tax Assessor for the Township of Breitung.

Rudy enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping, especially with his brothers, Ted and Albert. During his retirement years he traveled several times

to visit relatives in Yugoslavia and enjoyed residing in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., which he often called Paradise. He was extremely proud of his family and cherished his children, grandchildren and especially his great-grandchildren. He loved playing cards, home-cooked meals, and attending Saturday

He is survived by his son, Michael (Beth) Grahek; daughter, Marjorie (Randall) Johnson; grandchildren, Ashley (Justin) Morken, Adam (Christina) Grahek, Courtney (Casey) Aluni and Whitney (Ryan) Cobby; great-grandchildren, Aubri, Emmi and Halli Aluni, Harper and Hudson Cobby; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Masses with family members.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 34 years, Angeline Pertz; parents; brothers, Ted and Albert; sisters, Ann (Inky) Stefanich, Mary (Mitzy) Grahek, Marcella Gardiepy and Dorothy in infancy; and first wife and mother of his children, Aggie (Mesojedec) Taylor.

> **More obituaries on** page 2B and 5B

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MEMORY LANE

Count brings back memories of my start in birding

or me, taking part in this year's Christmas Bird Count in the Cook area was like a walk down memory lane. I took part in my first CBC, as they're known, back in the mid-1970s when I was still in junior high. I had begun to develop an interest in birds a few years earlier, but when I walked one evening into a meeting of the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club at Oak Grove Junior



HELMBERGER

I went to school, a whole world began to unfold. It was a club dominated

by middle-aged or older members, so the arrival of a gangly kid at their monthly soiree definitely caught their attention. By the time I left that evening I had open invitations from a half dozen of the members to go birding and had my official introduction to the sweet little old lady, whose name I have sadly

Highin Bloomington, where forgotten, who sold the really good bird seed you couldn't find in stores out of the back of her garage.

And, of course, I was recruited for the Minnesota River Valley CBC, which included Nine Mile Creek and the Minnesota River bottoms in Bloomington, my usual stomping grounds as a kid. I usually went with another member, who was probably in his 30s, definitely making him one of the younger members of the club.

It was, for me, the first real intro-

See BIRD COUNTS...pg. 5B



Wally Refsdal, of Cook eyes a bird with binoculars. Wally was out with his grandson Jake Panichi during the Cook area bird count. photo by M. Helmberger



PICTURE POSTCARD

Forests flocked





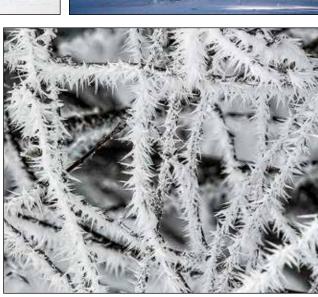




Days of freezing fog across the North Country left dazzling frost on nearly every tree and branch.

Clockwise from the top: A view across the Lost Lake Swamp; pine needles hang heavy with frost near Tower and drape a young white pine in Bear Head State Park; shards of frost stand out amid bare branches of a thicket; the remains of a lone aster appear frost-covered above the snow; a view of the shoreline at Bear Head Lake.

photos by Timberjay staff



Outdoors briefly

DNR seeks black spruce cones for reforestation

REGIONAL—Want to help Minnesota's forests grow healthy and strong while making some extra money at the same time? The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has an opportunity for you.

Each year, the DNR purchases tree seeds and cones from people who collect them on their property or on state forest land.

Seeds are extracted from the cones at the State Forest Nursery and used for reforestation. The DNR currently needs hundreds of bushels of black spruce cones within the next few weeks to meet state and county spruce seed orders for spring 2021 reforestation efforts. Seeds from the nursery are used to reforest about 6,000 acres of black spruce in Minnesota each year.

DNR forestry silviculture

"A low supply of black spruce cones in previous years has left our seed 'cupboard' bare," said Mike Reinikainen,

hearing that there's a good black spruce cone crop this year – it's critical we take advantage of this to store up seed for this season and for seasons to come." Minnesotans have always

program coordinator. "We are

played an important role in seed and cone collection for the nursery. The DNR will direct people to where they can find black spruce cones and will purchase what people collect. The

price this year is \$85 per bushel. Before collecting cones, people should contact one of the DNR seed buying sta-

tions for more information and instructions for collecting, handling and labeling the cones. The stations are located in: Warroad, Baudette, Orr, Littlefork, Tower, Two Harbors, Hibbing, Cloquet, the Minnesota State Forest Nursery (south of Akeley), Bemidji, Deer River, and Northome. To be eligible for purchase,

cones must be high quality, ripe, and free of stems and debris. Black spruce cones are needed now through February.

PERSPECTIVE

There's no such thing as bad weather

A newcomer's guide to the Northwoods

"Is everything okay over here?" the policeman genuinely asked after following me home on a smoking snowmobile."All is good. No worries!" I said. To be honest, at the time, I really wasn't sure if everything was okay. I have never owned a snowmobile in my life, but recently I acquired one. It was gifted to me after moving to the Northwoods five months ago, so naturally, it was my duty to get it up and running. "A

smoking snowmobile c a n never be a good thing can it?" I asked myself. Well, c o m e to find out, the



intense smoking was merely just old gas- a diagnosis made by my fiancé, Tyler, who is also a new snowmobile user. It's important to mention our good friend, Google, was also of great assistance. The smoking did stop eventually after driving it for a while, which taught me a very important lesson: Next time you have an issue with a motorized vehicle, don't stop, just keep going (insert sarcasm here).

My name is Jordan and I am new to Northern Minnesota. I am originally from the southeastern part of the state, which quite frankly is a different world. To many people, Minnesota is considered a winter paradise; however, where I'm from, snow is not nearly as prevalent. Growing up, winter usually consisted of reading by the fire, playing board games, and occasionally attempting to ski on old snow frozen over by ice. When my fiancé and I moved to Ely, we made a pact to embrace the outdoors no matter the season (easy to say when it's 80 degrees and sunny). Well, here we are in the middle of winter and fortunately I still want to embrace everything this area has to offer.

COVID-19 has undoubtedly impacted all of our lives. I'm sure, by now, most of us have mastered the art of quar-

See GUIDE...pg. 5B

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Fishing report

Elv area

Walleye fishing has remained slow overall this last week. Seems fish are there one night then gone the next. Anglers continue to find them in 18-25 feet of water, off points, sunken islands and transition areas. Deadsticking a lively minnow was the top producer last week, but loud buckshot spoons and rippin raps are calling them in.

Lake trout fishing was a little slow overall.

but there were stories of some excellent fishing happening out there. Anglers caught trout along weedlines to 40 feet of water, but the 40 foot range was the most productive. Tube jigs were the most popular way to catch trout, but laying dead baits on the bottom was also very productive. Deep water close to shallow flats seemed to be the most productive areas to find active lakers. Courtesy Arrowhead

Outdoors, Ely.

GUIDE...Continued from page 4B _

antining in our homes, but have we taken advantage of everything our backyard has to offer? The options are endless: cross-country skiing, ice skating, dogsledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice fishing, hiking, etc. Believe me, the thought of venturing out into the cold weather makes me want to curl up in bed with a heaping mound of blankets piled on top of me, but is staying inside truly the answer?

Before COVID-19, going to the movies, grabbing a bite to eat with friends, and going to the gym were normal ways for us to get out the house, but now, it's not as easy. When November rolled around, I found myself following the same routine. I went to work from 7 a.m.-4 p.m., cooked dinner, and played cribbage for an hour or two before retiring to the couch to watch my favorite TV show. I knew that wasn't a lifestyle that I could sustain for the entirety of six months before things began to thaw once again. Even if you're someone who doesn't necessarily love spending all of your time outdoors, getting out once a day may help boost your health and well-being, like it did for me. If you're feeling stuck in a routine that seems never-ending, take this as

a sign to utilize what the outdoors has to offer up here in the Northwoods.

I am someone who values phrases. "Everything happens for a reason" is a prime example of one of that I abide by. Last year at this time, I was living in Las Vegas. It was 60 degrees on any given January day and I could usually be found on the golf course. Fast forward a year to a completely different lifestyle. Never would I have thought I'd end up in Northern Minnesota, but as I ponder my own take on "everything happens for reason," I couldn't be more thankful that I'm here. As I have gotten a glimpse of a Northwoods winter, it reinforced that other phrase, "There's no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing." If you're someone who wants to get outside a little bit more, but don't know where to begin, follow along with me on my regular adventures as I try new winter activities. Next up: cross-country

Jordan Price is a new Communications Instructor at Vermilion Community College. Both she and her fiancé are avid golfers. They were engaged last October on the 9th hole of the Ely Golf Course.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

Saturday Friday

Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Ely 32 17 0.00 01/04 01/04 33 22 0.00 01/05 0.00 01/05 8 01/06 27 11 0.00 01/06 01/07 32 11 0.00 01/07 2 01/08 01/09 0.00 01/09

Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn.

0.00

0.00

0.00

35

30

28

01/04

01/05 34

01/06 27

01/07 32 11 0.00

01/09 30

YTD Total

Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn.

32 17 0.00

0.00

0.00

Orr

01/04

01/05

01/07

01/08

01/09 21 25

01/10

36

30 32

34 19

10

19

Monday

Tuesday

from NOAA weather

0.00

Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn. 01/04 33 14 0.00 19 0.00 01/05 0.00 01/06 28 01/07 0.00 36 0.00 01/08 01/09 25 0.00 01/10 27 YTD Total 0.00

BIRD COUNTS...Continued from page 4B

6 0.00

duction to how science actually worked. In schools, unfortunately, science is mostly taught as history, rather than as a rigorous process for understanding our world. As participants in the CBC, we not only recorded the birds we saw, but the routes we covered, hours in the field, and the miles traveled, all of which help the ornithologists who study the CBC results reduce the noise in the data that comes from the variability in counting efforts from year-to-year.

The counting itself was always interesting, but the best part of the event, for me, was the get-together at the home of the count coordinator, when the counters would typically gather to share their results. It was the slightly competitive side of the CBC, when the counters could compare their efforts with others. Being able to report something rare or uncommon would prompt an occasional ooh or aah from the other counters, which was always satisfying.

Unfortunately, such get-togethers, at least this year, were yet another victim of our COVID-era. The Cook area counters have regularly held a potluck get-together to tally results, but that event was canceled, just like everything else these days.

My counting partner and I did run into other counters, running their usual routes, and we had the chance to chat with at least a couple of them, outside and socially distanced. It seemed like we were doing pretty well by comparison, having run into a modest flock of red crossbills on Sassas Road and a three-pack of boreal chickadees on the Wakely Road. We even caught a glimpse of a possible spruce grouse on the Johnson Road, but it was too fleeting to make a positive ID

so it went unrecorded. Maybe next time. We were hoping to spot one of the great gray owls that had been hanging out in the East Littlefork area but missed that one as well. In the end, we counted over a

hundred birds, about half of them chickadees. We found ten different species, which was a reminder that most birds hightail it from the North Country this time of year. Other than the indefatigable chickadees, ravens and jays, a few woodpeckers, and northern finches, it's pretty slim pickings.

It was good to explore some of the backroads a bit east of Cook, which were just inside the 15-mile diameter count circle centered on Cook itself. I spend a lot of time in the Lost Lake Swamp, but mostly on the heavily-forested east end. The swamp extends nearly to Cook, and this was a chance to familiarize myself again with the west side of that interesting complex of wetland types. The intermingling of a little agricultural land into the picture certainly creates the opportunity to run into birds I rarely see on the east side of the swamp. Magpies, bluebirds, and bobolinks are some of the birds that regularly show up on the swamp's west end, that I'd never see here where the forest stretches nearly unbroken for miles. It goes to show how much of a difference habitat makes when it comes to birds.

Meanwhile, the CBC and other counts that have been established more recently, continue to engage large numbers of people in meaningful science on the population trends of so many birds. A total of 52 people took part in the Cook count this year, for example, covering virtually every passable road in the count circle and dozens of feeders. Multiply that times the

many hundreds of counts across the country and you have an idea of the numbers of people who take part in this annual effort. In many places, they're helping to document how the losses of critical habitat in many parts of the country are seriously affecting bird species. In our area, the CBC counts are mostly documenting the arrival of new bird species, like wild turkeys, cardinals, and red-bellied woodpeckers, that were virtually unheard of in the North Country until recent years. A combination of warmer winters and recreational bird and deer feeding are likely contributing to the ability of these species to maintain a foothold in our region.

The CBC counts this year also confirmed what most birders already suspected, and that's that pine grosbeak numbers rebounded sharply after last year's disappointing numbers. And evening grosbeaks have appeared in the region in larger numbers than in more than a decade on many counts, including Cook's, where they recorded 63. That's an encouraging sign for a species that has been in noticeable decline for the past two decades.

While the scientific aspects of the count are invaluable, Julie Grahn, who has been the count compiler for the past nine years, said it seems that birds and nature in general have provided a comfort to many people during the uncertainty and stress of the pandemic. At a time when we've been focused on rising case numbers and death counts, we can still rely on the chickadees, nuthatches, blue jays, and pine growbeaks to show up at the feeders at the crack of dawn to brighten our day. For me, that's been a constant now for nearly half a century.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Paula Freyholtz

"Nana" Paula Freyholtz, 60, of Gheen, passed into the heavenlies to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, after a long bout with COPD and lung cancer. Paula requested no service. Her wish was for friends and family to go fishing for a day in her memory. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Paula was born and raised in Forest Lake and eventually settled in Gheen, where she met and married her husband of 33 years, Gene Freyholtz. The Lord blessed them with a lucrative logging business and they were able to retire early and just slow down and enjoy life.

Paula enjoyed her pets, fishing, and especially ice fishing on Lake of the Woods. She enjoyed puttering in the garden, gadgets, birdwatching, reading, and just sitting and watching nature.

Paula is survived by her husband, Gene Freyholtz; sister, Irene (Dennis) Udovich of Greaney; brothers, John (Kay) Fischer of Forest Lake, Bob (Diane) Fischer of Zimmerman and Mark (Wendy) Fischer of Forest Lake; stepdaughters, Darla (Roy) Ballard and Shawna (Justin) Rosenlund; seven grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, Daniel Nygren; grandson, Tyler Nygren; parents, Emil and Mary Fischer; and brothers, Jim Fischer and Gary Fischer.

Priscilla J. Mickle Priscilla J. Mickle, 81,

of Soudan, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, at Edgewood Vista Memory Care in Virginia. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Mike Mickle; children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; sister; brothers; and many nieces and nephews.



Graham W. Grilley Graham William

Grilley, 84, of Orr, has died. The family would like to thank the Orr **Ambulance for their speedy** response and the Cook Care Center for taking such good care of Graham while he was there. There will be a celebration of life in the spring or summer of 2021. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Graham was born on April 11, 1936, in New Ulm, to William and Ellen (Zick) Grilley. He grew up in Barnes, Wis., graduating from Drummond High School. After graduation, he moved to Orr, to work at Wally's Auto Service. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1959, serving two-plus years. Also in 1959, he married Marilyn Poppy in St. Paul. He was a great mechanic, loved plowing

snow and grading roads.

He also installed septic

systems and some of the

first outside wood-burning stoves in the area. He had a love of trains all his life and had a model train lay-out that was never finished. He was a lifelong member of the Twin Cities Model Railroad Club and enjoyed getting down there to "play" as often as possible. Graham was a proud member of the American Legion Post 480 Honor Guard of Orr.

Graham is survived by his wife, Marilyn; two daughters, Cheri (Bill) Carter of Orr and Michelle (Brad) Kropp of Logan, Utah; four favorite grandchildren, Laura (Jeff) Julkowski of Orr, Christina (Nick) Reichter of St. Paul, Amy Kropp and Christopher Kropp, both of Logan, Utah; great-granddaughters, "his two little girls", Chesney and Harley Julkowski of Orr; brother, Ronald (Delores) Grilley; sisters, Anita (Richard) Rauwolf of Barnes, Wis., and Sandra Hanzlik of Poway, Calif.

Graham was preceded in death by his parents; brother and sister-in-law, Leonard and Ruth Grilley; Hanzlik.

and brother-in-law, Bill **Lorraine Phelps** Lorraine "Toni"

Preblich Phelps, 86, a life-

long resident of Ely, passed

away at the Boundary

on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 15 at Holy Spirit Church in Virginia for family and close friends. Capacity limit, face masks and social distancing will be in effect. Burial will be at the Ely Cemetery. Funeral services have been entrusted to Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, LeAnne (Tom) Feehan of Woodbury, Lynette (Orion) Hanson of Atwater and Dr. Lavern "Bucky" (Jodi) Phelps of Virginia; grandchildren, Jodi (Kris) Nyman, Craig (Jen) and Travis (Chris) Hanson, McKenzie and Marija Phelps; great-grandchildren, Andrew, Ty, Atlanta, Henrik, Anders, Freya, Astrid, Autumn and Chloe; sisters, Marjorie Nelson, Flori (Donald) Maroney and Rosie (Gale) Maroney; and many special nieces and nephews.

William R. Jones

William Richard "Bill" Jones, 74, of held at a later time.

Tower, died suddenly on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020. A memorial service will be He is survived by his sons, Ryan (Stacy) Jones

and Richard (Mylene)

Jones; grandchildren,

Waters Care Center in Ely Mason, Emma and Gavin; and special friend, Beverly (Babs) Allis.

Beryl E. Sersha

Beryl Eileen Johansen Sersha, 92, of Virginia, formerly of Cook, passed away on Monday, Dec. 28, 2020, with her loving husband Bill by her side. The family would like to thank the staff of Edgewood Vista and Caring Edge Hospice for their caring kindness during this difficult time. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Jan. 9. 2021, at Mlaker Funeral Home in Cook. Memorials are preferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook in Beryl's name. She is survived by

her loving husband, William "Bill" Sersha of Virginia; son, Roger (Juanita) Sersha of Angora; granddaughter, Rochelle Bristol of Duluth; grandson, Rodney (Shanda) Anderson of Duluth; five great-grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother, Roger (Jean) Johansen of Virginia; many nieces and nephews; and lifelong friends.

> **More obituaries** on pages 2B-3B

EMPLOYMENT



Employment Opportunity

Paralegal/Legal **Assistant**

KLUN LAW FIRM

- 2+ years office experience required
 Knowledge of Microsoft Office products
- Detail-oriented and a team player
- Ability to work in a fast-paced office
- Prefer full-time, part-time considered Competitive wage with benefits

Please email your resume with a cover letter to: marylee.erickson@klumlaw.com or mail to: Klun Law Firm, PO Box 240, Ely, MN 55731. 1/22

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for the 2021 winter season. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- ➤ Bachelor's Degree preferred;
- Previous coaching experience preferred;
- Must be available for several practices/games per week from January through March, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Application and full job description available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

- complete application must include the following:
- District Application
- > Resume

Mail materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Stipend: \$3,920

Deadline to apply: January 20, 2021; open

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 15, 2021

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is looking Paraprofessional for the 2020-2021 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- AA Degree or two years of college required
- Preferred experience working with school
- First Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collabora-

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

complete application must include the following:

- District Application
- Resume
- ➤ College Transcripts 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: January 25, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 15 & 22, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE



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, Jan. 15 & 22, 2021

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Paraprofessional for the 2020-2021 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- ➤ AA Degree or two years of college required Preferred experience working with school age children
- ➤ Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collabora-

Application available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

- complete application must include the following:

 District Application
- Resume
- College Transcripts
- ➤ 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: January 18, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 15, 2021

POSITION OPENINGS Ely Public Schools Head Girls Track Coach Head Softball Coach Head Volleyball Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Head Girls Track Coach and Head Softball Coach for the 2021 spring season and Head Volleyball Coach for the 2021 fall season. Background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Bachelor's Degree;
- Coaching licensure or ability to obtain (certification required to be an MSHSL head coach prior to the start of the 2020-2021 season);
- Previous coaching experience preferred.
- Must be available for several practices/ games per week from mid-March through early June for track and softball and mid-August through early November for volleyball, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Application and full job description is available at: www.ely.k12.mn.us

- A complete application must include the
- following:

 District Application

License (per M.S. 122A.22)

Resume Copy of credentials declaring appropriate

Mail materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us

Stipend: \$4,280 - Track and Softball; \$5,600 - Volleyball

Deadline to apply: January 20, 2021; open

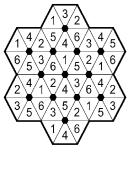
Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 15, 2021

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The City of Cook seeks applicants for its next Airport Operator. The Cook Municipal Airport has seen growth, improvements, expansion and has made great strides in customer service within the aviation industry. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent. Some relevant experience in building and grounds maintenance. Valid Minnesota Class D driver's license.

The position requires approximately 60 hours/month and the typical

work schedule is every other week unless snow removal is required or

other inclement weather occurs. The position typically works a rotating

work schedule with Airport Coordinator position. Hours/day depends on time of year and the airport operations and activities. Essential functions include: snow removal, mowing and ground maintenance, equipment and building maintenance and repairs, safety

and security of airport buildings and grounds. Fuel sales and pilot assistance. Position is required to follow FAA and MN DOT requirements and other federal and state regulatory agencies and work with pilots and

Starting wage will be up to \$15.46/hour based on qualifications.

For an application packet, please contact the Cook City Hall by phone at 218-666-2200, or by email at frontdesk@cookmn.us.

All city hiring policies are followed including a physical-medical examination; criminal and credit history background and reference checks.

The position will remain open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 15, 2021



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		8		6			5	
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9				5		4		
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		4			9			2

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: ◆



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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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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.

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

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

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.

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

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. Anonymous is a non-profit organization.)

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3

4

6

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40 Smile widely

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41 Club game

43 Assuage

44 Bygone

46 Smileys'

48 Inherent

pest

51 Rams'

55 Sharp,

piece

blooms

60 Mail status

65 Nutrition stat

66 Ventilates

68 "Sands of

Jima"

72 Tinkertov

73 PDQ cousin

"The Talk"

74 Gilbert of

bits

71 Big African

beast, briefly

Klink's camp

59 Colonel

64 — carte

57 Purple

50 Dried up.

old-style

partners

53 Some babes

broken-off

in the woods

natures

49 Slimy garden

opposites

Super Crossword **MULTITUDINOUS**

ACROSS 1 Little rascal

- 6 Mosque
- officiants 11 Go for a
- 15 Spill the secret
- 19 Shinbone
- 20 Local
- theaters, in slang
- 21 Had on
- 22 Go very fast 23 City in which
- quadrennial
- games take place
- 25 Gumbo
- vegetable 26 R&B singer
- James
- 27 Japanese soup paste
- 28 Fit queen
- 29 Sea cargo weight unit
- **31** Statistic associated
- with plane
- riders 35 Threatens to
- topple
- 36 Brouhaha
- 37 Ken is one 38 Viking 1
- landing site
- 39 Fleecy boot

40 41

52

58

63

85

91

113

117

122

126

103 | 104 | 105 | 106

19

- LGA
- brand

- 42 Guesses at

36

42

64

86

97

118

123

127

69

- wizard **94** "Encore!"

- **96** "Science

24

28

59

Guy" of TV

20

43 44

54

82 81

- 127 Gin flavorer

- 129 Winona of

- pronoun
- **30** Two-gender

- "Fame" fame
- 29 Artificial
- noggin
- 18 Hits on the

- 24 Alternatively

- 91 Muscle twitch 126 Canadian fuel 32 Utopian site

 - **38** Sacred song 39 Wrinkled
- 77 Zest
- **76** Join (with)
- 75 Fire remains 119 Provisos
 - 120 Refrain bit 121 Title for Ringo Starr
 - 22 26 49 50

7

1

6

2

8

1

6

7

4

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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

4

1

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

5

9

8

3

9

101 Add- author (annexes) Hermann 52 Gotten larger 103 Reviewer of

tax returns

roller coaster

1970s sitcom

118-Across,

bite-size

Nabisco

70-Across,

Taj Mahal

116-Across

of each of

locale

119 Statement

122 Meyers of

123 Ball field

124 Candid

125 Cara of

coverer

cookie

113 Moniker for a

family

115 Go up

116 With

117 With

118 See

54 UNLV part 56 1977 Triple Crown horse **58** "— & Stitch"

45 Instructive

example

47 "Siddhartha"

61 TV's Arnaz 62 Not iffy 63 Whitewater

transport

59 Stinging hits

67 Vassals 69 Tongue-lash **70** See 117-Across

71 Goldie of

- "Laugh-In" 72 Unit of pressure **75** It surrounds
- the South Orkney Islands 80 Twin of
- Jacob 81 Secy., e.g. 83 Oozes
- 84 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- **85** Pile of trash 89 Enervate
- 90 Sacred song 92 Arthurian
 - brand
 - **128** Burrito topper "Beetlejuice"

33

45

60

65

88

119 120

124

128

99

107

37

- 29
 - 46 56
 - 61
 - 83 93
 - 100 108 109 115
 - 101 116 121 125 129

24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

Convenience Store



82 Between

urban and

relationship

87 Letter before

country

86 Friendly

beth

88 — colada

90 "21 Grams"

actor Sean

93 Cage, to his

95 City WNW of

pals

Paris

98 R2-D2 and

100 Skin-related

102 "Our Lady" of

churches

103 Humiliate

104 Beseeches

105 Pub missiles

106 Boise setting

mouthwash

expressions

109 Port of Japan

110 Felt sickly

111 Words after

two or

gunpowder

114 Successor of

Claudius I

17

hole

112 Stuff in

107 Brand of

108 Outward

others

97 Pupil setting DOWN

- 99 Arthurian 1 Walk heavily wife 2 Paramecium hairs 3 Huge gulf
- 4 Cocktail at brunch 107 Disney World 5 Dad, in dialect

6 Disguised, in

brief 7 Gold-medal skier Phil 8 On a plane or

train

- 9 Month, in Spain
- 10 Retired jet since '03
- 11 Cutlass, e.g. 12 Rousted 13 Thorns in one's side
- 14 Scant 15 Favre of about the end football
- 16 Starbucks nine answers offering 17 Many a Tony
- in this puzzle winner "Late Night"

 - - 33 Email giggle 34 Bullring calls

citrus fruit

21

25

- **78** Join (with) 79 Identify
 - as of 2018
- 35 38 57 62

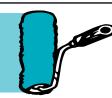
67 78 | 79 90 96 95

110 111 112

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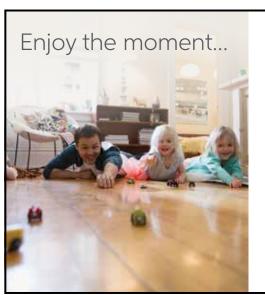
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