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The **TIMBERJAY**



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PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID explodes in Ely school community

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

All students sent home for at least two weeks

ELY – The hallways and classrooms of the Ely school buildings were quiet this week as the district implemented a return to distance learning for K-12 students due to an exploding case rate of the coronavirus in

the school community.

The Washington Elementary school began a two-week safe learning reset on Monday and transitioned to stay-at-home learning for all students in grades K-5. Administrators hope

EDITORIAL
COVID relapse. Page 4

to bring elementary students back to in-person learning on Monday, April 12.

All grades 6-12 students in the Memorial School building transitioned to distance learning beginning on March 19 with a targeted end date of Tuesday, April 6.

With two positive cases

of COVID-19 reported last Wednesday and three additional cases reported last Friday, ISD 696 confirmed that 27 positive COVID-19 cases in the school community from Monday, March 15 to Tuesday, March 30, 23 in the Memorial building

See...COVID pg. 9

COVID-19 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



WELCOME RELIEF

St. Louis County distributes \$3.84 million in small business grants

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Business owners across the region had similar reactions this past week to COVID-relief grants issued by St. Louis County. "It's been wonderful," said Tracey Watt, owner of the Dream Weaver Spa in Cook. "This really helped keep my business going." Dream Weaver has received grant funding twice from St. Louis County, although the first round was limited to PPE-related expenses. This second round

See...RELIEF pg. 10

Amanda Budreau, above, of Dream Weaver Spa in Cook, styles Sharon Patterson's hair. Lexi Guenther, right, bariste and bartender at Northern Grounds in Ely, with bags of unroasted coffee beans. Timberjay staff photos



INFRASTRUCTURE

Manganese levels high in Cook water

\$52,000 filter upgrade will address the issue

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

COOK—An upgrade to the city of Cook's drinking water plant should help to eliminate concerns over high levels of manganese in the water. The upgrade comes in the wake of a health advisory letter that the Minnesota Department of Health issued to the city last October, indicating that levels of manganese were well in excess of recommended safe levels.

Measured in micrograms per liter (ug/L), testing at the city's water plant showed an average of 948.5 ug/l, or more than nine times the recommended "health-based value" of 100 ug/l for formula-fed infants and infants that drink tap water, and three times the advisory level for children and adults (300 ug/l). Samples taken from the two wells that feed the city's water system showed even higher levels of manganese.

While the Minnesota Department of Health has been warning of the health risks of prolonged exposure to elevated levels of manganese in drinking water from wells and municipal water supplies since at least 2005, they've never mandated that cities test for it. Yet, when an MDH technician came to Cook last fall to collect routine quarterly water samples, he suggested to city Maintenance Supervisor Don Flack that the city also test for manganese.

Given that the 12-year-old water plant would soon be coming due for regular

See...COOK pg. 11

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Ralston re-elected as chair at reorganizational meeting

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOODTWP - In what may be a portent of meetings to come,

Greenwood Township's annual reorganizational meeting on March 25 proceeded with mostly 3-2 votes, with newly-elected supervisors Barb Lofquist

and Sue Drobac often dissenting from the previously-seated board members Mike Ralston, Carmen DeLuca, and Paul Skubic. Electing this year's

chair was the first order of business, and DeLuca nominated Ralston, who has served as chair the past several years. Drobac nominated DeLuca.

A motion to elect Ralston passed 3-2, with Drobac and Lofquist voting against. Ralston was permitted to vote for

himself, which apparently he had not done the last two years. Clerk Debby Spicer said she had a letter

See...TOWN pg. 9



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Community notices

Blood donations urgently needed

REGIONAL-

Although the demand for blood is constant, local and national



events significantly affect the ability of donors to give. Memorial Blood Centers (MBC) is facing a critical challenge meeting the needs of its hospital partners.

Before COVID-19, donors could stop by community blood drives at convenient locations like high schools, colleges, offices, and places of worship. It has been nearly one year since these groups had to cancel their blood drives due to COVID-19 and fewer than 50 percent have been able to resume these life-saving events. Despite this tremendous decrease in blood drives and blood donations, patients in community hospitals continue to need transfusions.

Memorial Blood Centers has a significant need for donors of all blood types.

“We are encouraged by the number of people who are getting vaccinated each day and look forward to the return of more donors and more blood drives,” said Kathy Geist, Senior Executive Director. “Memorial Blood Centers relies on the community to help us support patients in need through blood donation.”

A small number of community blood drives have resumed with enhanced precautions, and MBC is strongly encouraging donors to make appointments to visit a blood drive or donor center.

“It’s been a year since we began implementing significant safety protocols at our donor centers. We have extended those safety measures at the community blood drives that have been able to restart,” said Kathy Geist.

Visit MBC.ORG to find your nearest blood drive or donor center, or to make an appointment. Blood donations can be made at Essentia Health in Virginia with appointments available on Thursdays and Fridays.

Scholarships for young musicians in the Arrowhead region

REGIONAL- The Friends of Brad Memorial Foundation (FOBMF) announces its annual music scholarship opportunity. Two \$1,000 scholarships are available for students in rural Northeastern Minnesota who plan to pursue music in college.

“Artists, creatives and music-makers occupy a unique and critical space in our lives. They enrich our world. They make life more interesting,” says Troy Rogers, FOBMF president. “We want to encourage young people to pursue their passions for music.”

The FOBMF was created in 2010 to honor the memory of Bradley Edward Rozman, a percussionist and native of Virginia who passed away in 2009. The foundation honors Rozman through its programs that seek to cultivate and celebrate young Minnesota musicians.

The foundation started the BradFest summer music festival in Two Harbors in 2010 and has since hosted fall and winter music events in Virginia and Duluth. Over the past decade, FOBMF has provided more than \$18,000 toward scholarships and other programming for young musicians, including scholarships for 21 students from rural Northeastern Minnesota.

The Friends of Brad scholarships are open to graduating high school students who will pursue music in college and reside in Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Lake, or St. Louis (excluding the City of Duluth) counties.

Applications are due on Monday, May 10 at 5 p.m. More information and an application are available online at www.friendsofbrad.org/scholarships.

Learn more about past scholarship recipients on the website at <http://friendsofbrad.org/initiatives/scholarship-recipients>.

See Pilgrim’s Progress on May 1, 2 and 7

THEATRE

COOK- The Bleak Midwinter Players present Pilgrim’s Progress, an original adaptation of John Bunyan’s classic. The play follows Christian, played by Steven Sopoci, as he travels through ups and downs on his journey from the city of destruction to Zion.

There will be three showings of this thoughtful adaptation. In Cook, there will be a dinner theatre on Saturday, May 1 at 6 p.m. A dessert theatre will follow on Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m. For ticket information, contact the First Baptist Church in Cook at 218-666-5979.

This year there will also be a showing at the North Star Church in Virginia on Friday, May 7 at 6 p.m. For ticket information, contact the North Star Church at 218-741-2400. These tickets sell



Actors practicing during a rehearsal. submitted photo

out quickly, so get yours today!

The Bleak Midwinter Players is a group of local community members organized by the First Baptist Church of Cook. 2021 represents their third year of

bringing live, local theatre with a thoughtful message to our communities. Past productions have included The Art Collector’s Daughter and Piercing the Snow. The cast and crew of more than 50 are ready

to entertain and enlighten you. Come join us and experience the beautiful set and acting talents of your friends and neighbors.

UNITED WAY

New Veterans Wellness Passport program

UWNEMN partners with UFV to build free program that supports the veteran community and their physical and mental health

REGIONAL- Like all of United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN)’s direct service programs, its United for Veterans (UFV) program was started because community members approached UWNEMN staff to discuss a need in the community.

“After a campaign meeting at one of the mines, a group of miners pulled us aside to say, ‘There are a lot of gaps in services for veterans up here,’” said UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay. “They asked us how we could help, and we’ve been working together to help ever since.”

Their newest effort to help? A Veterans Wellness Passport program to bring free monthly wellness activities to veterans across the region.

Through the program, UWNEMN and UFV will partner with local volunteers and venues across the region to host a different wellness activity each month. Activities will be announced quarterly, and



veterans living or working in UWNEMN’s service territory can sign up for one, a few, or all of them, at no cost.

Veterans who sign up to receive a Veterans Wellness Passport ID will receive quarterly updates on upcoming activities before they’re released to the public as well as other local veterans’ services. They can also use their Passport ID Number to simplify their sign-up for future Veterans Wellness Passport Activities.

“We want to make this easy and fun,” said UWNEMN Community Impact Coordinator Michelle Lampton. “We want the program to be welcoming – whether you’re new to the area or new to a particular activi-

ty, or if you’ve lived here your whole life and are an expert at the month’s activity, there’s a place for you here!”

According to the Mayo Clinic, regular exercise builds confidence, increases social interaction, and helps people cope in a healthy way – and it doesn’t take a strenuous workout routine, either.

“Any physical activity that gets you off the couch and moving can help improve your mood,” the clinic’s website reads.

Veterans Wellness Passport activities will range from traditional exercise to physical activity unique to our region. The first three activities of the year are: a six-week yoga course (in-person for a limited number or

via Zoom) from April to May, a May bike ride on the Mesabi Trail, and a June day fishing trip and fish fry. Equipment will be provided for activities if needed.

“This is all about removing barriers for local veterans to get together and explore wellness activities across our region,” Shay said. “That means making sure all the activities are accessible to veterans of any age, background, and experience level – and providing the necessary equipment.”

All Veterans Wellness Passport activities will be led by local volunteers.

To learn more about UWNEMN/UFV’s Veterans Wellness Passport program, visit www.unitedwaynemn.org/ufv-wellness. To support United for Veterans, donations can be mailed to 608 East Drive, Chisholm, MN 55719 or made online at www.unitedwaynemn.org/give.



Ely Community Health Center Position Opening

The Ely Community Health Center is a non-profit free health clinic serving Ely and the surrounding communities. The Center provides basic health care at no cost to those who are uninsured or underinsured. The clinic is located at 111 South 4th Avenue East in Ely and is open every Thursday evening from 5:30-7:00.

Executive Director

This part time position (20-25 hours/week) is responsible for the operations, staffing, and administration of the Ely Community Health Center. The Executive Director works closely with the clinic Medical Directors. Responsibilities include:

- Supervise volunteer staff
- Create and maintain data and reporting systems, including budget and grants
- Maintain relationships with other service providers, donors, and funding resources
- Oversee all operations and functions of the center
- Collaborate with local and state entities to increase and expand programs

Note: There is the potential for additional hours to include Insurance Navigation. Training will be provided.

We are seeking an individual with the following qualifications:

- Administrative, managerial and organizational skills
- Communication skills (both written and verbal)
- Computer skills
- Ability to be self-directed and demonstrate sound leadership and judgment
- Grant writing experience desired
- Background in healthcare is not necessary

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to Dr. Mary Bianco at mcbianco520@gmail.com. Please also contact Dr. Bianco for more information and a full position description. Application review will begin immediately until the position is filled.

For more information about ECHC, visit our website at <http://www.elycommunityhealth.org>.

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COPPER-NICKEL MINING

Sen. Smith calls for restart of mineral withdrawal study on the Superior National Forest

Would initiate completion of two-year analysis of the impact of sulfide-based mining

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Minnesota's junior U.S. Sen. Tina Smith is calling on top Biden administration officials to resume a two-year study "to determine whether the copper-nickel-sulfide ore in the Rainy River watershed in northeastern Minnesota can be safely mined and whether watershed protections are warranted."

Smith made her request in a March 26 letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

The study is required as part of initiating a 20-year withdrawal of mineral rights on portions of the Superior National

Forest. The Obama administration, in late 2016, had initiated a withdrawal process affecting 234,000 acres of the Superior National Forest located within the Rainy River watershed, just upstream of the 1.1-million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. But the Trump administration canceled the study before its release and has fought to keep the study's findings under wraps ever since.

If federal officials reinstate the study and withdrawal effort, it would enable completion of the federal environmental assessment to evaluate both the environmental and economic impacts of a withdrawal. While a withdrawal would likely not

affect two existing federal mineral leases issued by the Trump administration to Twin Metals (a subsidiary of Chilean mining giant Antofagasta) it would presumably prevent the company from obtaining additional leases it is seeking as part of its proposal to build a copper-nickel mine southeast of Ely. The two leases issued by the Trump administration are currently in doubt as a result of litigation. In addition, the Biden administration announced last month that it was reviewing the reinstatement and renewal of the Twin Metals leases.

In her letter to the secretaries, Smith stressed the conflicting values and interests at play in

the region. "Mining is an essential part of who we are in northeastern Minnesota, and we are extremely proud that Minnesota's Iron Range produces the ore to make American-made primary steel. Our region is also home to rich non-ferrous copper-nickel-sulfide ore deposits," Smith wrote.

At the same time, she noted, the region that contains those sulfide deposits is within the watershed of both the BWCAW and Voyageurs National Park. "Minnesota's north county is also blessed with rich and precious water resources and a wild country tourist industry that is also an essential part of the regional economy and identity. Minnesotans care

deeply about the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs, and the tourism these amazing places generate is an important regional economic engine," she wrote.

Smith's concern is focused on the impact to water quality that sulfide mining could cause, which would directly affect the wilderness located just downstream. "When brought to the surface, sulfide ores create substantial and ongoing environmental risk, and the ecology of the watershed is known to be quite sensitive. We must weigh clear-headed science and comprehensive economic analysis as we decide how to proceed," she wrote.

Smith's letter has

pleased environmental groups which have opposed copper-nickel mining within the watershed of the Boundary Waters.

"We believe this science-based environmental assessment will show decision-makers the Boundary Waters should be protected," said Tom Landwehr, executive director of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "This is a critical step on the path to permanent protection."

A spokesperson for Twin Metals sees it differently. Kathy Gaul, Twin Metals' manager of public relations, said in a statement that northeastern Minnesota minerals are

See SMITH...pg. 5

TOWER PLANNING AND ZONING

Progress slows for Renner's proposed RV park

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Commission asks for more information from developer

TOWER — Plans for a second RV park, located on Pike Bay just west of the Standing Bear Marina, hit a temporary speed bump last week at the Tower Planning and Zoning Commission.

The commission is asking the developer, Justin Renner, to provide a

bit more information about his plans for a seasonal RV campground before moving forward with his request for a conditional use permit, or CUP. The city's new land use permit application is still a work in progress and the form demonstrated its limitations for a more complex

request, such as a large RV park, since the completed application provided little information about what Renner was actually proposing.

The commission agreed that it would need more details before bringing his proposal to a public hearing, which is required

for a CUP. Renner is in the process of acquiring approximately 58 acres that front Pike Bay but is seeking to have his proposed use approved before completing the transaction.

State law requires the completion of an environmental assessment for

an RV park of the size that Renner is proposing. The city ordinance also requires an EAW for any planned unit development, which is how Renner's proposal is being defined by the planning commission.

The environmental review is expected to begin

after the commission acts on Renner's revised CUP application. The commission will have 60 days to approve or deny Renner's CUP application once he submits a complete application.

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

COVID relapse

Letting our guard down too soon could yield the worst outbreak yet

Ely's latest relapse on the COVID-19 front is a classic example of how a relative handful of irresponsible people can create real problems for everyone. We recognize that there are still some people who refuse to accept the reality of the ongoing pandemic. We also recognize that some people don't view it as a threat to themselves and are, therefore, not willing to take basic precautions, such as maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask when in public, and not attending large indoor gatherings.

Such people should recognize that none of that is really about them or what they choose to believe. The implications of their actions on others are undeniably real.

Their actions led to hundreds of students in Ely having to make the transition to distance learning yet again. That impacts the quality of their education and it's a massive inconvenience to everyone involved, from parents to school staff to the students themselves. It meant the cancelation of the season for Ely's basketball and hockey teams, denying those kids the opportunity to take part in the playoffs. It has inconvenienced employers who now have workers forced to stay home to watch children. It's an inconvenience and financial blow to businesses, particularly restaurants, in Ely, many of which had just finally reopened to indoor dining, only to have to close their doors yet again due to the latest outbreak in the community. All of this is very real.

We understand. We have people here in the North Country for whom dismissing basic public health guidelines is about making a political statement. We have two words for those folks: Grow Up.

If you want to make a political statement, slap a bumper sticker on your car. Heck, put one on your forehead for all we care. Hang a QAnon flag from your front porch, wear a tinfoil hat, or put up a lawn sign. You might contribute to the spread of crazy ideas, but at least you won't be making others sick or forcing schools or businesses to shut their doors.

The latest spike of cases in the area is so frustrating because we had made real

progress in tamping down the virus here in the North Country. Schools had just returned to in-person learning, and restaurants were reopening. We were all looking forward to a summer that was, almost, maybe, an approximation of life before the coronavirus. Now, the latest spike throws all of that into doubt.

While we don't know for certain, because of limited genetic testing, it seems likely that the latest surge in cases in our region is due to the spread of b.1.1.7, commonly known as the UK variant. This mutation of the original coronavirus is known to be more easily spread than the original version. Left unchecked, it could yield the worst surge in COVID cases yet to strike the North Country.

That's why we all need to redouble our efforts to observe COVID-related restrictions. And why we all need to be making an appointment, if you haven't already, to get your COVID vaccination. No, there aren't microchips in the vaccines meant to track your whereabouts. People aren't dying from their shots, as some of the social media loons like to claim.

We can get past the current pandemic, and get our schools and economy back to normal, but it will take all of us working together. We need everyone to follow the public health guidelines and get their vaccinations. In doing so, we'll be denying the coronavirus the safe harbor it needs to survive and spread.

And we can't be shy about defending our community. When you see people violating health guidelines, say something. If you're aware of a big indoor party in the community, call out the hosts. A little public shaming would be just what the doctor ordered.

We can get past this and get back to a new normal, but it's going to take a little longer to get there. And it's going to take all of us recognizing that, regardless of our views of the coronavirus, the implications of reckless action will hurt everyone in the community. Let's stand up for each other and get the job done.



Letters from Readers

Thinking about \$28 million of debt

One of the traditional ways of explaining our national debt is dividing it by our population. It's the personal responsibility argument. If we divide \$28 trillion by 330 million people, we get \$85,000 of debt for each and every one of us. That's \$85,000 for me and \$85,000 for you and \$170,000 for our grandparents and \$340,000 for a family of four. It doesn't sound quite so bad after all, does it? If we just sell the car and the house and the summer cabin, we could wipe away all of that debt in no time. What do you say?

**Jim Ganahl
Cook**

Hopefully Greenwood can get back on track

Kudos to Lee Peterson on his March 23 letter to the editor. He's spot on. But first, I'd like to congratulate Sue Drobac and Barb Lofquist on their wins in the supervisors' race and look forward to supporting them. It's clear they are at a political disadvantage as board members but I'm comfortable with the knowledge that they will be doing their best to try to make the changes that need to be made to put some common sense back into the way the township operates. I know they both recognize and will most certainly support ALL of the property owners in Greenwood to the best of their abilities. Lee's right in his assessment; we once again have a board in Greenwood that is being run more by the opinions of an attorney and less and less by the board. My impression is it seems the mission of the previous board was to be more inclined to serve themselves and their special interests, and not a community that's made up of year-round residents and seasonal property owners as well. Keep in mind,

seasonal owners actually provide the lion's share of the taxes that are paid in Greenwood and other than fire protection receives little for it. I'm also delighted that we now have a chance to correct the damage done and can get back on track in Greenwood with acquisition of broadband that has been stumbled and fumbled with by the board and the representatives previously assigned to the project. The lack of understanding and misinformation or no information at all has delayed the project for what could be years. If the previous board had been truly in favor of broadband it would have been far more aggressive in reaching out directly to the community, a point that was brought out during one of the many broadband meetings available to the reps. Instead, they've relied solely on the surveys generated by potential providers. It has been suggested that because of a lack of participation in the surveys the residents were showing a lack of support. One wonders how many of our seasonal folks would have shown more support with direct contact by members of the community as suggested. One only needs to read the article on the front page of the same issue of the *Timberjay* about the city of Cook and Morcom Township's successful acquisition of broadband to realize the reality of where Greenwood could and should be when it comes to providing this major piece of infrastructure for Greenwood's future.

**Rick Stoehr
Greenwood Twp.**

Slow down on the road so other creatures may live

The click of the hooves was a sound no one should ever hear. Not this way and not that close. As her legs outstretched in her attempt to leap as high and far as she could, the face and head appeared in that split second, the side window of the car exploding, the burst of the

chest caved a crater through the windshield spraying thousands of shards of glass to my face and eyes. Then it all went into slow motion as the van gradually coasted in neutral, for what seemed like minutes, until all motion ceased. It was perfectly still. As quiet as the deepest windless winter night. The penetrating stillness. Finally, it hit me, what just happened on this most beautiful early morning. Another white-tail shouldn't die like this. Not like this and not by my hands.

The doe was pregnant, her twin fawns were dispatched from their mother and likely never felt the horror. My emotions drew tears as I dragged that beautiful creature downhill off of Co. 16, our Kawishiwi Trail, telling her I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm so very, very sorry, into her eyes and face. I had to caress her head and rub her ears gently, as one does with a dying pet. And I wept like a saddened schoolboy.

After a few deepest of breaths, I ended my short time with her, promising her this rather loudly, I will never forget you and your magnificent twins. And what you are providing with your death will not be wasted. No single part of your body and being will go wasted. And I closed her eyes and felt at peace as I wept away into life's sometimes brutal reality, a raven or crow sounded the feast to come. The engine starting shifted my focus to the ER, relieved I'm alive and humbled to have experienced the creatures. Driving slowly is more relaxing, you feel, see and hear more and truly feel how lucky we are, to still be alive, to live another day. Hopefully, with even more newfound purpose.

**Mark Haarman
Kawishiwi Trail, Ely**

Where the
North Country
Sounds Off

I'm not as pioneering as I first believed

When, in the course of conversation, I mention my Kansas roots to a new acquaintance, the response is more predictable than a Democrat wanting to raise taxes: "How did you wind up in Minnesota?"

The simple answer is that I answered a help wanted ad and



**DAVID
COLBURN**

got the job. End of story.

The real answer is of course much more complex and nuanced, but perhaps can be boiled down to one word: novelty.

I've long had an interest in new experiences, something that quite well explains the fact that in all my adult life the longest I've stayed in any one job is five years, when I was a professor of early childhood

education at Florissant Valley campus of St. Louis Community College. It's been quite a run over the years, starting in 1985 with my first post-college job in Shawnee, Okla., taking me from (hold onto your hats) Dallas to Kansas City, Dodge City, Chicago, St. Louis, back to Kansas City, Los Angeles, Parsons, Kansas, Spokane, back to my Kansas hometown of Marion to jump into journalism, Missoula, Mont., and finally to Tower and the *Timberjay*. Point Barrow, Alaska could've been on

that list if I hadn't been married to someone adamantly opposed to the idea. The idea of moving to Chicago, though, didn't seem quite so bad to her compared to that one.

I recall reading a number of years ago about how members of the "millennial" generation would, on average, have 14 jobs in their lives. I chuckled—adding in the jobs I'd had in junior high, high school and college, I was already there. I was a pioneer, a trailblazer for a whole new generation.

When I moved to the North Country last year, I assumed that yet again it was a pioneering choice. I was relatively certain none of my relatives had ever lived in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

I found out this past weekend that I was about a century wrong. And how, pray tell, did I do that?

Well, I read it in the newspaper, of course!

Rummaging through a box of memorabilia looking for a

See **PIONEER...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Thanks for the puzzle book!

I have been a *Timberjay* subscriber for several years. I just wanted to thank you for including the cabin fever puzzle book in last week's issue. We enjoy it and it comes at a good time. I also enjoy the weekly Snowflakes and Sudokus. First thing I do when the paper arrives is solve the puzzles. May be a sign of too much free time?

**Jim Esser
Ely and
South St. Paul**

I thought I'd respond Copeland is off the wall

with a quick note, answering Marilyn Mueller's letter last week. Simply put, anything remotely connected to Ken Copeland is as "off the wall" as things can get. But if you really want to have "the rest of the story" you were seeking, keep in mind the cancer created by your dear Donald Trump, is your much needed answer.

**Berry W. Tungseth
Ely**

Libraries enrich and empower our lives

National Library Workers Day is April 6, 2021. Let's honor our libraries, our meccas of pure empowerment.

Libraries have succumbed to the same pressures that have overwhelmed the basic cultural purposes of museums and universities. Their functions should remain what they were designed for, the sustaining of standards, the preservation of quality, the conservation of the history of literacy, and the sublime education of the heart, the eye, and the mind.

Libraries do important work for their communities; they are spokesmen for our communities; and we should pay homage and resolutely salute our librarians as we would a noble Roman scholar.

Like libraries, the walls of our homes should be made of books, where one could see their spines, standing at attention, the skeletal support of the knowledge contained within, vessels of the imagination, so often rescuing us from daily disappointments, giving us pages

of insight, which never settled, to sift our unconsciousness still. Every real book is a mind, a consciousness, an imagination. Together they comprise all of civilization.

Books can teach us true dominion, and what right rule is. Man should never cease from studying, from returning to those springs which so intoxicated in our youth. Every path a book provides is a pristine one; it has never been touched by any foot before. Every portal opens on a new vista, never gazed on before by another man, bringing to him a unique mind and a novel soul.

In our local libraries we are in a mine made of minds, all that man has managed to think, to contrive, to suppose, to scheme, to dream, to insinuate, to surmise, to lie about, to connect upon, all within the reach of our hand. The library gives us "information" from a book rather than a mere compendium. Libraries preserve the prize of enduring wisdom and knowledge that we adore.

Libraries bring us the fading spines of the great writers and ancient thinkers like Aeschylus, Sophocles, Herodotus, Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, Virgil,

Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Aquinas, Goethe, Wordsworth, Augustine, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and deTocqueville. In your library reside the two epic poems of Homer, the Iliad and the Odyssey, the seedlings from which the great oak of western literature has grown, and continues to grow, extending branches to each new generation. Though written nearly three thousand years ago, each poem remains as fresh and relevant as a story today. Each grapples with the timeless theme of the longing for home, and the tinfoil armor of manhood.

We do not go to our library once, look around and leave as if having seen it. Libraries harbor the neglected classics, until their time to set forth again is designated. Libraries are for life, our local centers of intelligence, to which we are recycled and wonderfully restored, as recursive as reading itself.

The books in the public library are books that may take temporary residence in our homes, while we share their wealth, the way we share the space of a public park. The benefits include the education of the body politic, an education upon which

the success of democracy depends.

Libraries act as our respite, our edifying oasis away from the thrill-seeking, gossip mongering, and mindless masses who have been content to put their governing, as well as their values, faiths, and future hopes in the hands of the crudest commercial interests.

Libraries need to be our commonplace occurrence, our needed escape from the vanities and vapidities of the internet and the corporate media. It is in our libraries that epiphanies and enrichments of the mind and changes of the heart, are the happenings of everyday pure empowerment.

**T.D. Duff
Tonka Bay**

An open letter to Ely voters

I will be voting for Paul Kess for mayor of Ely on April 13.

Paul has been a councilor for approximately twenty years. In that time he has become one of our premier councilors. Paul is articulate and comes to the meetings prepared.

He contributes wisely to discussions and asks important questions.

I sat on the budget committee for ten years. Every year at the start of the budget process Paul would lobby to keep the city levy at zero or give something back to the taxpayers. When projects or large purchases would come up for discussion, Paul would ask the questions, "Why do we need this," and "How are we going to pay for it?"

Paul is very approachable and truly cares about the city of Ely. Paul will always return phone calls. If Paul doesn't know the answer, he will find out and call you back.

Paul was a leader in a recent attempt to lower commercial garbage rates. Though unsuccessful at the time, Paul continues to look for avenues to reduce costs to the taxpayers so we can all continue to afford to live in this great community we call home.

Please join me in voting for Paul Kess for your next mayor.

**John Lahtonen
Ely**

SMITH...Continued from page 3

needed for "our transition to a low-carbon future and will play an important role in bolstering our domestic supply chains." Graul stated that the region contains 95 percent of known U.S. nickel reserves, 88

percent of the cobalt, 75 percent of the platinum group metals and 34 percent of the copper, and suggests that a mineral withdrawal would be contrary to President Biden's recent executive order to

bolster the nation's supply chains of key materials.

Graul notes that Twin Metals is currently undergoing two separate environmental reviews, at both the state and federal level. "The only way to accu-

rately assess the potential impacts of a mining project and its surroundings is through this rigorous, law-and-science-based regulatory review process," she added.

Critics of the proposal

note that environmental reviews are narrowly tailored to largely technical issues and are not designed to answer larger questions, such as whether it is sound public policy to allow a sulfide-based copper-nickel

mine just upstream of the nation's only water-based wilderness. Sulfide mines are known to create acid drainage that can significantly impact water quality.

PIONEER...Continued from page 4

picture, I ran across a familiar brown, folded copy of the May 12, 1919, Emporia, Kansas High School *Echo* newspaper. It has a letter in it from an American soldier in France describing his discovery of a temporary hillside grave where my great-uncle David Potter was buried along with about 30 of his comrades who died in the Meuse-Argonne offensive of World War I just months before.

Unearthing that, right there alongside the slide rule he used in high school math that's the only physical connection I have to the man for whom I was named, I felt like doing a little more research. I'd done some but knew there was likely a bit more I could do.

I pulled up a newspaper archive site online where I knew they had searchable copies of the *Emporia Gazette*, the *Echo*, and a few other smaller papers that had news of Emporia, pop. 9,000 in the early 1900s. It was the kind of news unique to small-town community journalism, the sort where my great-uncle and his friends throwing a subscription dance or flipping over their canoes in the river was there alongside important state and national news. I found

out that David Potter broke his arm when he was three, was quarantined along with his family for scarlet fever, and fractured a shoulder blade and an elbow while diving for a loose basketball during an impromptu scrimmage one Christmas break.

But as it so happened, his father, who died in 1916, also was named David Potter, so my name search pulled up references not only to him but to his wife Nancy, as it was customary in those days of journalism to refer to her as Mrs. David Potter.

And it was in one of those little community news items related to her that I discovered a Minnesota family connection. It was reported, more than once as it turned out, that she was visited by Mrs. John Potter and son of Minneapolis, Minn.

I'd never paid any attention to John in my prior research. David's sisters, including my grandmother Frances and great-aunt Elizabeth, were the siblings I knew as a youngster. John had died back in the 1940s, and he really wasn't relevant to anything I wanted to know in my first foray into David's history.

Now, however, I had reason to be curious about John, who I discovered

was a salesman of those still relatively newfangled things called automobiles. His interest ran counter to that of his father, who ran a livery stable and had once written a letter to the paper decrying new street accommodations for cars, claiming that promoting their use would make the streets impassable for the horse-drawn fire units of the day.

I was intrigued to discover through other little such newspaper items that John also apparently had a bit of wanderlust. He went to Oklahoma City to sell cars, just 20 miles from where I had my first post-graduate job. Another reference put him in Mitchell, S.D., a few years later doing the same.

So, it was little surprise to find out that what brought him to Minneapolis in the 1920s was a job selling Buicks for the Pence Automobile Company. He would've worked in what was touted as the country's largest automobile showroom of the day, the bottom floor of an eight-story building that today is on the National Register of Historic Places

for its significance to the expansion of the auto industry in the 1920s.

Like me, John evidently didn't mind moving a bit, either, as eventually he ended up selling cars in Long Beach, Calif., the same place I lived when I directed a South Los Angeles Head Start program.

Anyway, by combing newspapers, I've discovered I'm no family pioneer in my move to Minnesota. I'm just re-creating family history from a century ago. I must admit, I rather like that notion. While obscure, it's a welcome connection to my new home I hadn't had.

One of these days a trip to Minneapolis is in order to take a look at what used to be the Pence Automobile Company building. It's not a trip that would ever have been on my radar if not for a great-uncle whom I know only from mentions in his hometown newspapers. That's one of the reasons I love small-town community journalism - we chronicle the life of our communities in ways the big media outlets never

will, occupying a niche that will stand the test of time as long as there are

people curious enough to explore us.

the
TIMBERJAY



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Happy 96th Birthday
ANNE WIERIMAA



We love you so much!

Your family



Week of April 5

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 April 20.

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 vermillioncountry.org.

Holy Week schedule at St. Martin's, St. Mary's, and Holy Cross

Good Friday - 3 p.m. at Holy Cross in Orr and 6 p.m. at St. Martin's in Tower.

Holy Saturday - 8 p.m. at St. Mary's in Cook

Easter Sunday - 8 a.m. at Holy Cross in Orr and 11 a.m. at St. Martin's in Tower.

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CELEBRATIONS

Tower-Soudan Fourth of July planning underway

Parade float registrations required by May 8 to gauge if there is enough interest



Plan on creating a float for this year's parade, and please register by May 8, or the parade may be canceled.

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is hoping that there will be a parade on the Fourth of July this year. With the COVID-19 restrictions being loosened, and more citizens getting vaccinated, things are getting closer to "back to normal."

pen, the TSLVEB needs to get the public involved now!

The board needs to hear from all businesses, families, organizations, and individuals who plan on having an entry in the parade. The level of interest shown by all of you will be the deciding factor on whether or not a parade will happen.

Sadly, due to many issues caused by the pandemic, the high school marching bands have not had the opportunity to practice. It is most likely that these bands will not be marching in the parade this year.

Everyone who wants to participate in the parade this year should contact Julie

Johnson at tseventsboard@gmail.com, or by phone/text at 218-750-7242 by May 8. This is the deadline the board has set to allow time to get all the aspects of the parade in place for Sunday, July 4.

Fireworks are being planned for Saturday, July 3.

YOUTH SPORTS

Coaches needed for T-Ball and Coach Pitch

SOUDAN- Adult volunteer coaches are needed to lead this year's T-Ball and Coach Pitch Little League teams for local youth ages five to eight.

Longtime coach Nate Dostert, who has been working with these teams since he was a teenager, will be coaching the older Little League teams this year.

"We need some coaches to step up," he said, "and also need an adult willing to help organize the program." Dostert said he will work with any volunteers who step forward and guide them through the season.

The teams practice in Soudan, but play games throughout the area as part of the East Range Little League Association. Each team plays between eight and ten games during the season, which starts mid-May and runs through the end of June.

Coach responsibilities include bringing equipment to the games, running practices (most-

ly just for the coach-pitch level), canceling games and notifying families in case of inclement weather (thunderstorms), filling out rosters on game day, and coaching during the games.

"Practices are mostly just held in May prior to the games starting," said Dostert. "And for the T-Ball team, no real practices are needed."

"I am looking for a parent of a player or any other willing adult to step up," said Dostert.

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from games and practices. Joan Dostert, Nate's mother, will be organizing the concession stand and will also be recruiting volunteers to help run the stand on game days.

Anyone interested in learning more about this fun and memorable volunteer opportunity should call Nate Dostert at 218-780-2242.



Become a volunteer coach and help the youngest ball players (like these T-Ball players from two summers ago) learn new skills, have fun, and learn teamwork.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ecumenical Good Friday Service is online this year

TOWER- An Ecumenical Good Friday Service will be hosted

online by St. James Presbyterian Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church, both of Tower. You can find the service online on facebook (search for Im-

manuel Lutheran Church Tower MN) or on YouTube (search for st james presbyterian tower mn and then click on Douglas Workman).

ry, and yet timeless in its impact.

your order is ready.

conciliation. The movie is rated PG-13.

St. Martin's Annual Pasties Sale

TOWER- It's that time of year again. St. Martin's is getting ready for their Annual Pasties Fundraiser. Orders are now being taken; the last day to order is April 5. To order, call the rectory office at 753-4310, stop by the rectory to see Maryann, or stop in at Jeanne's Card Shop. Orders and money may also be mailed to St. Martin's, P.O. Box 757, Tower, MN 55790.

When you order be sure to indicate if you want rutabaga, or not, in your pasties. The cost is still \$6 a piece, and must be paid at the time of the order. Pasties will be available for delivery/pick up the week of April 19; we will call when

St. James Movie Night on April 18

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower will host a free movie night on Sunday, April 18 at 6 p.m. The movie this month is "Beautifully Broken: Three Families. Two Worlds. One Incredible True Story." Beautifully Broken is the true story of three families, from different countries, each struggling to find hope and safety amid the devastation of war. A refugee's escape, a prisoner's promise, and a daughter's painful secret converge in this inspiring real-life story of hope. As three fathers fight to save their families, their lives become intertwined in an unlikely journey across the globe, where they learn the healing power of forgiveness and rec-

Info session for parents of upcoming Kindergarten and preschool students set for April 21

TOWER- Parents of children who will be four years old or entering Kindergarten are invited to a special information session on Wednesday, April 21 at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School. Parents of children who will be four years old and eligible for pre-Kindergarten should come at 4 p.m., and parents of children who will be five years old and eligible for Kindergarten at 4:30 p.m. Both programs are in the school gym. Children are also encouraged to attend to tour the school and meet their teachers.

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm

Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm

Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm

Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thur: 10am-5pm

Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon

Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

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St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle



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END OF THE SKIING SEASON



Members of the Ely Youth Ski League recently enjoyed one of the last skiing opportunities of the season at Hidden Valley Recreation. A couple of extra snowfalls extended the season, but with the calendar turning to April, the end is in sight. photo by K. Vandervort

ISD 696

Update from Ely Public Schools Superintendent Erik Erie

In my last update for the newspaper I was touting, "We are on our eighth week in a row without a positive case in the schools." We actually went more than nine weeks without a COVID-19 positive case reported. That all changed in a relatively short time.

On March 15, we recorded our first COVID-19 positive case in more than two months. Two days later we had three cases. Then a day later, on March 18, the number spiked to eight.

This quick turnaround and the number of people required to quarantine due to contact with the positive cases was worrisome so we consulted with the St. Louis County Public Health Department for guidance. Following that meeting with Public Health, a decision was made to have the Memorial students move to Distance Learning to try and limit the spread of COVID-19 in our school community.

Even with that action, the numbers continued to climb. Ten cases on March 19 and over the weekend that number more than doubled to 21 by Monday, March 22. By that time 87 percent of the students in the

Memorial had been notified they needed to quarantine, based on Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines.

We still held out hope that we could remain with In-Person Learning for Washington Elementary since most of the COVID-19 positive cases were in the Memorial school building.

When the number jumped up to 23 on March 24, this rapid spread and high attack rate (MDH terminology) gave us concern that a rapid spread in Washington Elementary was a likely possibility. We consulted with St. Louis County Public Health Department again and they endorsed having the Washington Elementary K-5 students move to Distance Learning for a period of two weeks.

These decisions to change learning models and move to Distance Learning are not easy as we all prefer to be in person. The hardship placed on families with this change is an element we struggle with. Our teachers and administrators also have children in school and they have some understanding of how difficult this transition can be.

What we hope to realize by moving to Distance Learning for a short time, is being able to preserve as much In-Person Learning as we can for the remainder of the school year.

During this period where we started to see increases in positive cases, we met with representatives from our local healthcare providers, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) and Ely Essentialia Clinic, along with representatives from St. Louis County Public Health. The most recent meeting was focused on COVID-19 testing and the overwhelming pressure this has put on our local healthcare providers.

Given that 87 percent of our Memorial Students were in quarantine and those students received messages from the school encouraging them to get tested as recommended by MDH, the demand for testing also spiked. So, please be patient and understanding with the demand for testing locally.

Our local healthcare providers have been doing a fabulous job taking care of our school community and the entire Ely area community in getting people vaccinated and tested. St. Louis

County Public Health is also working on how we might be able to do some COVID-19 saliva tests for students at school as we have been doing for staff.

Our other recent meeting with EBCH, Essentialia, and St. Louis County Public Health was centered on quarantine guidance and the options provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and MDH. The safest option recommended by MDH is a 14-day quarantine period, which is the protocol Ely Public Schools has been following. We discussed the 10-day quarantine option and the seven-day quarantine option with a negative test. Both alternatives to the 14-day quarantine option have some merit and we will continue to have discussions at our Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ESLPAC) on quarantine options.

At our latest ESLPAC meeting the administration recommended staying with the 14-day quarantine option. The latest spike in cases certainly influenced that recommendation and affirmation by the ESLPAC, to stay with the 14-day quarantine.

Even with the intended two week pauses for Distance Learning, Ely Public Schools has been able to maintain In-Person Learning more than most of the schools in our region and certainly the state. As an example, the Minneapolis and St. Paul schools still do not have students attending in person and don't expect to until mid-April.

Our expected return dates to In-Person Learning are Tuesday, April 6 for the Memorial students and Monday, April 12 for Washington Elementary students. These dates are dependent on evidence of the spread of COVID-19 subsiding in our school community, which we expect will happen by limiting the close contacts that occur daily on our Ely School campus where nearly 700 people gather every day.

We encourage everyone to keep families and our whole community safe by continuing to observe safety protocols so that we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and get our students back in their school buildings.

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

Higher Education

Kellogg graduates Magna Cum Laude

WICHITA, Kan. - More than 1,100 students completed degrees at Wichita State University in fall 2020, including Ely's Courtney S. Kellogg, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Kellogg graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors. Undergraduate students who have attained a grade point average of 3.9 out of a possible 4.0 received the summa cum laude award; those with an average of 3.55 received the magna cum laude award; and those with an average of 3.25 received the cum laude.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



unsure it's yet time
the heavy snows come and go

making the trees smile

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30
p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at 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.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS:
Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living
Ely: 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

Artists wanted for Children's Summer Art Camp

ELY - The annual Ely Children's Summer Art Camp, hosted by the Ely Arts & Heritage Center, is scheduled June 7-9 at Ely's Miner's Dry building. A community Art Show showcasing student art work is featured at the end of camp at noon on Wednesday, June 9.

As many as 50 children in grades 1-6 are welcomed to participate in the three-day event that runs from 9 a.m. to noon each day. The fee is \$50.

Organizers are looking for new teachers and projects in any medium. Teachers are paid and all supply costs are covered. There are four 40-minute class

sessions each day with students rotating in groups to each teacher. Projects can be completed in one day or might require two or three days. Teachers may bring a helper or the Art Camp can supply adult assistants.

Past summer camp projects have included kites, jewelry, stepping stones, stationery, placemats, walking sticks, stained glass, pottery and birdfeeders and painted, stencil art, carved stone, stamping to name but a few. New versions of past projects are welcome as well.

Please share your ideas by contacting muffinely@gmail.com.

Women Who Care to meet virtually

ELY - The 100-Plus Ely Women Who Care philanthropic group will meet virtually on Sunday April 18 at 4 p.m.

This gathering of women looks to make an immediate, direct and

positive impact on Ely by supporting local nonprofits in a fast, simple and effective way.

They will gather virtually to enjoy a little social time, learn about the Ely community and philanthropy, and decide together where to give the money.

Bring a friend. Most likely you know a woman, perhaps a seasonal or part-time resident, or a family member, who cares about Ely and would support the community.

Register at <https://100elywomenwhocare.org/>. Nominations are due by April 12.

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Tue: 9:30am-3pm
Wed: 11am-5pm

Embarrass Canister Site
7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass
Hours
Sat: 12:30-4:30pm
Thu: 10am-5pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility
5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Area Solid Waste Facility site hours

Aurora Transfer Station
5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora
Hours
Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm
Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm
Sat: 8am-noon

Soudan Canister Site
5160 Hwy 169, Soudan
Hours
Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun:
8am-5pm

Regional Landfill
5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia
Hours
Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm
Sat: 8am-3:30pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

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1-800-450-9278
Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday
www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

COOK CITY COUNCIL

Will a new rescue sled be coming soon?

Council hears ambulance and fire reports, and good summer news

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Cook City council had plenty to review at its regular monthly meeting last Thursday with fire and ambulance annual meeting reports and the annual report for the library.

However, the meeting opened with an encouraging request from the organizers of the annual Cook Farmers Market, which last year was conducted by online sales exclusively in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“They do want to hold the market in the park this year,” City Administrator Theresa Martinson reported. “They would like to use the park from June 19 through the first Saturday in October. They provided all of their certificates of insurance, and they will follow all masking and COVID rules.”

Council members unanimously approved the request.

In another indicator of a step toward normal from the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic, council members approved a request from the Cook VFW to host a special event in their parking lot in conjunction with Cook Timber Days, scheduled for June 11-13.

Ambulance

The annual ambulance advisory board meeting took place on March 1, opening with an announcement by Martinson that townships should expect to see an updated service agreement in the mail in upcoming weeks.

While Rothleutner told the board that they should start looking at replacing Ambulance #2, which is approaching 40,000 miles, a more immediate need would be to replace the service’s 17-year-old rescue sled. It’s an item she amplified with the city council on Thursday.

“I think it’s done its fair share,” she said. “I’d

like to look at replacing it with like a side-by-side with a box on the back for a patient compartment. It kind of looks like a mini-ambulance.”

Rothleutner noted that operating the sled is typically done in conjunction with the fire department.

“I’ve been on the service for six years and I have yet to see an ambulance crew member drive,” she said. “The option is usually that the fire department’s bringing it – we’re usually not even operating it. The EMT jumps on with the crew.”

Referring back to the ambulance, Rothleutner reinforced the need to begin seriously considering a replacement because of the lengthy time it takes between placing an order for one and actually receiving it.

“If you are looking at replacing a rig, it’s going to take you anywhere from 14 to 18 months right now,” she said.

The newest ambulance came just in time to

cover when Ambulance #2 had a tire blow out and break in a brake line, Rothleutner said.

“We ended up getting a flat a couple of weeks ago on our way to Duluth with a patient in the back,” she said. “They did a wonderful job driving it and were able to keep it on the road and control it.”

Along with fixing the brake line, the ambulance also received six new tires, she said.

Rothleutner also asked the council to consider installing a keyless entry system for the ambulance station.

“We’ve got a bunch of people out there that have lost keys, they don’t know where they are, and they’re asking for duplicates,” she said. “If you ask me, that’s a problem with the very expensive equipment inside our buildings. With missing keys you never know who’s going to be coming in.”

Rothleutner said that while the fire department

doesn’t want to go that route, she does, because “we have people borrowing stuff and they don’t return it.”

A keyless system provides the ability to run reports showing exactly who entered a building at specific times, she said.

The council approved moving forward with the process of selecting a system.

Fire

The Cook Rural Fire Association meeting also took place on March 1, and while the council was provided with a copy of the minutes to be approved, Fire Chief Pete Johnson did not attend Thursday’s meeting.

The service ran 75 calls in 2020, and Martinson reported that all of the townships have signed current service agreements.

The department is fully staffed with 25 members, with 10 enrolled in two firefighter classes.

Safety Training Offi-

cer Ted Paakkonen talked extensively about the training schedule and modifications related to COVID-19.

A grant application has been submitted to FEMA for \$40,000 for purchasing new turnout gear for new recruits.

Martinson recommended that the advisory board start planning for a new fire truck by 2026, as the current fleet is aging rapidly.

Total revenue received for fire services in 2020 was \$9,150. Due to the rising costs of repairs and equipment, the board approved a per capita rate increase from \$17 to \$20 for both full-time and seasonal residents.

Concerns were raised about townships not receiving monthly reports, and it was decided that monthly reports would be emailed or mailed with the ambulance reports.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Young Grizzlies have fun with StudCo Buddies

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP- Last year, I began having a conversation with the Student Council and their advisors about the possibility of having some school-wide initiatives to work on aspects of our school culture. Not that we have a poor school culture. Our kids get along well and are respectful for the most part. There is always room for improvement, though.

Enter Student Council Buddies.

I had a chance to talk with Student Council member and North Woods Junior Abby Koch and Teacher/Advisor Amy Cherrywell today regarding Student Council Buddies. Abby has been an instrumental part of organizing it and happened to be walking through the commons as I was thinking about my weekly article. Timing is everything, right?

Student Council Buddies, or StudCo Buddies for short, is a program that involves North

Woods High School student council members and varsity athletes who spend time with elementary students at North Woods. The program is flexible, with the older students working with the younger students in different areas and capacities. Some students need mentors, others need some tutoring support or a pep talk to do a good job on their schoolwork. High school students may come into classes and read to elementary students or interact with them on an academic project or subject. I’ve seen StudCo buddies on the playground at recess with the little ones. Our athletes have also been mentoring via basketball. Do you remember being an elementary student? Do you remember how the high school students seemed like giants and the high school athletes were larger-than-life heroes?

Imagine having the chance to shoot baskets with varsity basketball players! Today at North Woods, I spent some

time in the gym observing North Woods Grizzlies basketball players T.J. Chiabotti and Sean Morrison, along with Grizzlies football starting quarterback Ty Fabish, playing some 3-on-7 versus some tenacious third graders. The baskets may have been lowered a little, but I am pretty sure that the third graders nailed a couple 3-pointers and Sean Morrison (well known for his vertical) had a slam dunk. It was complete enjoyment to watch these young men interact with the little ones. If you ever need something to make your day, shoot some hoops with some third graders!

The intent of the program is to help connect some of our younger kids to high school students who are a positive influence and can give them some real-world guidance to navigate through childhood. Truthfully, I feel it has benefits for our high school kids as well.



During StudCo Buddies time, North Woods Grizzlies basketball player Sean Morrison evades the tenacious but awestruck defense of Team Third Grade as he elevates for a shot at the basket.

submitted photo

Engebritson receives award from administrative peers

REGIONAL- Reggie Engebritson, who serves as superintendent for both St. Louis County and Mt. Iron-Buhl school districts, was honored as a 2021 Regional Administrator of Excellence during the virtual Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) spring conference held March 11-12.

Established in 1985, the award honors an administrator each year from each of the nine MASA regions. The person selected is representative of the leadership excellence found in MASA members, exhibits a willingness to risk, possesses strong communications skills, is a progressive change agent, and has



Reggie Engebritson
high expectations for themselves and others.

Each recipient is an active member of MASA who demonstrates professional and organizational leadership within their respective region. MASA members of each region determine the recipient of their local award.

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

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

State hits COVID-19 vaccination milestone

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL— There was an air of celebration last week when Gov. Tim Walz announced that as of Tuesday all Minnesotans age 16 years and older would be eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations beginning March 30. Yet, the news was tempered by the latest rise in new cases in recent weeks as the b117 variant has gained a greater foothold in the state.

The new expanded vaccination policy makes roughly 4.4 million Minnesotans now eligible for the vaccine, even as it may make wait times longer for some Minnesotans. “It adds to the queue, obviously, as we said, but that queue is not equally spread out in all parts of the state. The thinking behind this is with the large number of vaccines that are coming it gives flexibility, especially to the providers.”

With the expansion, the state skipped over the next groups slated to become eligible for the vaccine, and the news was received less positively among some of those passed over, as a reporter

Vaccinations expanded as feds increase supply

pressed Walz about during the news conference.

“The initial frustration is coming from people who were on the cusp of becoming eligible, healthy 50- to 64-year-olds, younger people with an underlying condition,” the reporter said to Walz. “They are frustrated that now people who they thought were behind them in line are now going to be competing with them.”

Those sentiments were amplified by callers to a Minnesota Public Radio show as they were waiting for the governor’s formal announcement.

“I believe that opening it up to 16 years old and up is going to cause a massive frenzy,” one caller said. “We were so diligent as far as giving the shots out to everybody that needed them, as far as seniors and healthcare workers and teachers and everything like that. Now, all of a sudden, we’re going to open the floodgates. My wife is 62. She’s in excellent health. And now she’s going to be lumped in with everybody else that’s

trying to get a shot. What kind of logic is there when somebody does this? If I ran my business this way, I couldn’t get any anything done.”

Walz noted that providers are still encouraged to prioritize vaccinations according to the groupings that have already been established, and that any potential problems will be resolved in just a few weeks because of increasing allocations of vaccines from the federal government.

“The expectation is that they are still in the front of the line,” Walz said. “We have made the line a little longer, but they’re not competing against them. We want to make sure that (providers) are still hitting those groups, but if those folks aren’t there or there’s no demand for it, they move to the next, because there’s a significant increase that’s coming. Those questions will take care of themselves within about the next 21 to 28 days because of the sheer volume [of vaccine] that’s coming.

They’re not necessarily competing. We’re telling those providers to still prioritize the groups in that order.”

However, Walz and Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm both admitted there is no system to monitor how vaccines are prioritized, even though both have indicated awareness that “line jumping” has been happening since early on in the vaccination effort.

“There is no audit, procedure, anything like that in place now,” Malcolm said. “I think we’re all on the same page about the importance of continuing to prioritize around risk and giving the providers flexibility.”

Walz reported that among educators and childcare workers, who have been prioritized for about two months, 66 percent have been vaccinated. Malcolm said that the number of staff in long term care facilities who have been vaccinated is “in the 50-percent range” and that some healthcare systems have reported vac-

cination rates of between 50 and 60 percent for their workers. Walz addressed the issue of apparent reluctance among many to get vaccinated.

“There will be a campaign out there to help educate people,” Walz said. “This isn’t about shaming people, it’s letting folks know these are safe vaccines that have gone through the process. There will be a real concerted effort around this – to be candid, this is our next big task over the next three to four weeks, with the volume of vaccines we’re getting.”

Meanwhile, as providers began administering vaccines to all comers on Tuesday, the state reached another significant milestone – one million Minnesotans have now been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. According to the state’s vaccination dashboard, more than 1.6 million people have received at least one vaccine dose, representing 37 percent of those age 16 and over.

Malcolm also empha-

sized that even though the number of doses expected to be received is increasing, demand will still running well ahead of supply.

“It doesn’t mean that everybody is going to get all the doses they could use next week,” she said. “That will be building up over time.”

Regional data

Clear evidence of the COVID-19 outbreak in Ely and its schools showed up in the state’s weekly reporting last Thursday.

New cases in the Ely zip code totaled 36, according to the report, the largest one-week increase in the past five months and bringing the cumulative total of cases in Ely to 225.

Outbreaks in Ely, Aurora, and surrounding areas drove the seven-day average case total in northern St. Louis County to 39.8 last week, about the same level and direction as in late October before the massive statewide spike in November and early December. Northern St. Louis County is the only region of the county where the case count average is in the range considered unchecked community spread.

COVID...Continued from page 1

and four in Washington Elementary, according to Superintendent Erik Erie. The cumulative count for the school year stood at 42 as of March 30.

“The majority of the positive COVID-19 cases are in the Memorial Building,” said K-5 Principal Anne Oelke. “However, we are watching the siblings of the families very closely and are anticipating further spread.”

Prompted by the COVID-19 spread in the Ely community and the increased positive COVID-19 cases

in a short amount of time in the schools, ISD 696 administrators consulted with the St. Louis County Public Health Department last Wednesday to implement the “reset” in the Washington Elementary Building.

During a distance learning period in the school district, no child care services are provided. There are no extracurricular activities, and no events or services as the buildings are shut down.

Meal pickup is available daily between 11:30 -11:45 a.m. at

the handicap door on the north side of the Memorial Building. Each student will be provided a free hot lunch pack out (Wednesday are bagged lunches), as well as a bagged breakfast for the following day. Please call Kim Puzel at 218-365-1735 to reserve your student’s lunch.

“We will continue to monitor the Ely community spread and school community spread as well as consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health and St. Louis County Public Health,” Oelke said.

“We would still like families to report to the school nurse when students are sick and consulting with their health care providers for COVID-19 testing,” she said. “Please continue to call the school nurse, as this will ensure continued data collection for our decision-making. This information is vital for our school to return to in-person learning.”

Testing recommended

In announcing the “significant” increase in COVID-19 cases here,

St. Louis County Health Department officials reminded people to get tested and quarantine if they’ve been exposed in order to prevent further transmission of the virus.

“We know people are tired, and probably have been experiencing information overload about COVID-19 precautions this past year,” St. Louis County Public Health Director Amy Westbrook said in a statement.

“But outbreaks such as what we’ve seen in several of our communities in the last two weeks make it very clear that we

can’t let our guard down yet. Vaccinations are making a difference, but we still must all remain vigilant and do our part to minimize the spread of this virus.”

In the past week, there have been nearly three dozen confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ely, which represents 15 percent of the total cases for all of St. Louis County.

St. Louis Public Health says some of the cases “appear to be travel related” but others are linked to social gatherings and youth sports.

TOWN...Continued from page 1

from the township attorney stating such a vote was allowed. The letter was not in the meeting packet, but DeLuca said it had been emailed to all the supervisors that afternoon.

“We can choose to vote,” said Ralston, “there is no rule that says you can’t.”

Ralston noted that if the vote went 2-2 and was not resolved, the seated chair would remain anyway.

DeLuca was nominated for vice-chair and was confirmed on the same 3-2 vote.

Drobac asked if the board should expand those approved as signatories for the township’s accounts at Frandsen Bank.

“At the training (online) I attended today,” Drobac said, “MAT recommends that all board members are signatories, plus the clerk and treasurer and their deputies.”

“That would be a huge headache for the bank,” said Ralston.

“That’s just a recommendation,” said DeLuca, “I say we go with the chair, vice-chair, clerk, treasurer, and deputies.”

“You do what MAT recommends when you agree with it, but then don’t when you don’t agree,” said Lofquist.

Ralston said he would

get information in writing from MAT, and the issue could come back to the table at a future meeting.

The vote to approve the chair, vice-chair, clerk, treasurer, and deputies passed 3-2.

When it came time to select the township attorney, Drobac asked if the township should look at hiring someone more local that the attorney from Duluth, and then use MAT attorneys as much as possible.

“The budget we have now for attorneys is \$18,000,” she said. “That is quite a bit.”

DeLuca retorted that “if we didn’t get sued by a certain person all the time, we wouldn’t have the bills.”

Lofquist countered that this wouldn’t be the case if “the township did things right.”

The board voted 3-2 to stay with Mike Couri, but gave Drobac permission to contact Mitch Brunfelt, of Virginia, who serves as the city of Tower attorney, for information.

The board discussed moving to in-person meetings at some point.

“It is very difficult and cumbersome to conduct meetings over the phone,” Ralston noted. “But guidance from MAT is still advising us not to, hope-

fully that will change.”

Ralston asked that township officials, and those listening in, act professionally.

“Snide comments and laughter do not help,” he said, reacting to several instances of inappropriate comments from some unidentified people who were listening to the meeting on the telephone lines and had not muted themselves.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Prior to the start of the meeting, held the Board of Canvass for the recount in the clerk’s race, which reaffirmed the two-vote victory of Debby Spicer over JoAnn Bassing.

► Set regular meetings for the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. with the annual reorganization meeting on the fourth Thursday in March.

► Appointed Lofquist as the road supervisor.

► Appointed DeLuca to the ambulance commission on a 3-2 vote, and Lofquist as alternate on a 4-1 vote with DeLuca voting against.

► Appointed DeLuca as grounds and maintenance supervisor on a 3-2 vote.

► Appointed Skubic as the representative to

the Vermilion Trail Board.

► Selected the *Tower News* as the township’s official newspaper. Drobac made a motion to appoint both local newspapers, but DeLuca had already made a motion for the *Tower News*. Spicer said a township generally has one official paper. Lofquist said in that case it should be the most-read paper. Spicer claimed,

falsely, that the *Tower News* has more circulation. The motion to approve the *Tower News* passed 3-2.

► Approved getting a subscription to the *Timberjay* on a 3-2 vote, with DeLuca and Skubic voting against. “The *Timberjay* is really the township newspaper,” said Lofquist. “That is your opinion,” replied Ralston.

► Appointed Ralston

as noxious weeds representative on a 4-1 vote with Ralston voting against.

► Appointed DeLuca as 911 coordinator on a 4-1 vote with Drobac voting against.

► Appointed Drobac and Lofquist as representatives to the broadband committee on a unanimous vote.

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RELIEF...Continued from page 1

of county grants covered a wider range of business costs than the initial round, including employee wages, utilities, and rent for businesses that suffered financially as a result of the pandemic. For Dream Weaver, that amounted to \$7,000 in relief this time. "I don't know how we would have been able to cover those costs," Watt said. "We are very, very lucky."

Dream Weaver, like many small, locally owned businesses, has had to navigate a full year of COVID-related restrictions. Watt says they are now able to operate at 100-percent capacity while still maintaining the required social distancing.

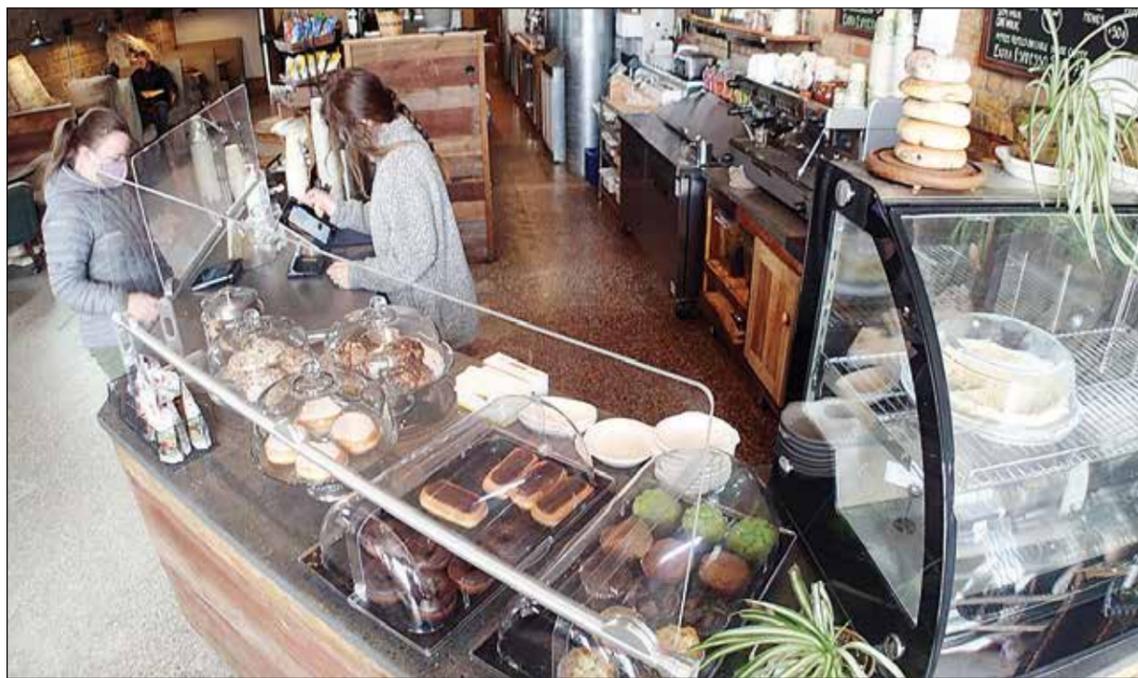
"My staff has been phenomenal," she said. "They are the reason things are going so well."

St. Louis County distributed some of its \$3.84 million in COVID-19 Relief Grants to many area businesses in late February. Almost 750 businesses and non-profits received grants through this program, which were awarded based on funding priorities in three tiers, according to Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning and Community Development for St. Louis County.

The county funded 749 applications and denied 116. About 30 applications were denied because the business had a tax lien on file, and most of the rest that were denied were non-profits that didn't meet the program's criteria, which was squarely aimed at businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Funding amounts awarded were based on which funding tier they fit in, the number of employees, and a few other factors.

"We had to make



Northern Grounds, in Ely, received \$15,000 in Phase 3 grant relief funding from St. Louis County. photo by K. Vandervort

some tough decisions," said Johnson.

Johnson said the approval process for the grants was very thorough, with multiple staff members reviewing each application. "I feel more comfortable that we had a system to comb this through," he said. "Though I wish we had more money to go around."

These grants also filled some gaps that were created with other state and federal-based assistance programs, and prioritized businesses that did not receive a COVID-19 Business Relief Payment from the state of Minnesota.

Joan Kjorsvig-Beans, co-owner with her husband Don and daughter Cindy of Northern Grounds in Ely, said their business was skipped over in a state-run program that gave out grants to restaurants based on drops in their reported sales tax revenue. Their business generates income from both lodging and the bar and restaurant.

"Our lodging was fairly good last year," said Kjorsvig-Beans, "and that helped support Northern Grounds."

But the restaurant was closed for over 70 days, and their overall sales tax figures did not accurately show the impact COVID-19 had on their total operation.

"We didn't have a chance to build up our reserves for winter," she said.

So, the \$15,000 grant the business received from St. Louis County came at the perfect time.

While they are optimistic about business picking up this summer, there are still challenges ahead. Because of the need to socially-distance diners indoors, their seating capacity is less than a third of normal. And they are still not able to open up their upstairs meeting and special events space, due to COVID-related safety measures.

The Vermilion Club and BayView Bar and

Grill both received grants, \$15,000 and \$7,500 respectively.

"Everything helps," said owner Greg "Arch" Archibald, but he noted that the funding the business has received, including the federal PPP monies, haven't made up for all the lost revenue this past year.

"It has really helped pay our winter utility bills," he said.

Right now, Archibald said, is their quietest time of year, between the end of snowmobile season and the opening up of the lake, which will bring cabin owners back up.

"It's a pretty dead time right now," he said, "and nobody is out late."

Wendy Lindsay, owner of the Pebble Spa, said their business actually had their busiest January ever. They used the \$20,000 in grant funding they received to support their two existing locations and to help with the opening of a third location in Duluth.

"We were able to

use the funding to hire and train more staff," she said. The business has also implemented wide-ranging safety measures to keep their customers and staff as safe as possible.

Lindsay said they are currently seeing an uptick in business due to the federal stimulus checks and are booking appointments several weeks in advance.

"We are hopeful that the summer will be wonderful," she said. "And we have a lot of people calling for appointments because they have been vaccinated."

Pebble Spa employs 38 people at its three locations.

Smaller retail shops generally got smaller grant awards, but business owners noted that every little bit helps.

Ubetcha Antiques and Uniques in Tower got a \$2,500 grant from the county.

"It really helped with our winter utility bills," said owner Victoria

Meloche. "We also got PPP, which was very helpful."

The PPP grant means the business will be able to hire an additional employee so they can be open daily after Memorial Day.

"We've been closed two days during the week since last March," said Meloche.

Meloche said they are seeing business pick up.

"The nice weather has brought people out," she said, "as well as people who have been vaccinated."

"We are seeing people who haven't been out in a year because they were afraid," she said. "Now they are coming in. They know we are keeping up with our safety plan and they feel safe coming in here."

COVID-19 Relief Grant Program

St. Louis County distributed \$3.84 million in COVID-19 Relief Grants to many area businesses in late February. Almost 750 businesses and non-profits received funding through this program, which were awarded based on a three-tiered system of funding priorities.

In addition to the \$3.8 million in state funds, the county has also distributed nearly \$12 million in federal CARES Act funds. This includes \$6.2 million distributed to small businesses in two phases last year; as well as \$1.8 million to 12 public school districts and two charter schools within the county; \$2.8 million in funding to community organizations; and \$89,000 in individual assistance.

The complete list of businesses receiving funds in Phase 3 is available online at stlouiscountymn.gov/cares.

Local grant recipients of Phase 3 grants from St. Louis County

- Adventure Bound Seaplanes, Tower, \$1,000
- AJ's Fastlube, Ely, \$2,500
- AK Plumbing, Babbitt, \$1,000
- Alder Inn, Babbitt, \$1,000
- Arrowhead Outdoors, Ely, \$2,500
- Art & Soul Gallery, Ely, \$2,500
- Asin-Mitig LLC (Rockwood), Ely, \$1,000
- BayView Bar and Grill, Tower, \$7,500
- Benchwarmer Grille, Tower, \$15,000
- BBG (Ben Greene), Embarrass, \$1,000
- Bloomers Floral, Ely, \$2,500
- Boathouse Brewpub, Ely, \$3,000
- Brittons Café, Ely, \$7,500
- Burntside Satellite LLC, Ely, \$1,000
- Canadian Waters, Ely, \$3,000
- Carefree Living, Babbitt, \$7,000
- Caterpillar Clubhouse Childcare, Winton, \$1,000
- Cliff Wold's Outfitting, Ely, \$1,000
- Comfort Plus (Patel Enterprises), Ely, \$2,500
- Cook Area License Bureau, Cook, \$2,500
- Cook Building Center, Cook, \$7,000
- Cook News-Herald Publishing, Cook, \$14,000
- Cook's Country Connection, Cook, \$1,000
- Dee's Bar, Ely, \$1,000
- Development Theory LLC, Tower, \$1,000
- Dorothy Molter Museum, Ely, \$2,500
- Dream Weaver Salon, Cook, \$7,000
- Ely Area Senior Citizens, Ely, \$1,000
- Ely Blue Line Club, Ely, \$2,500
- Ely Design Works, Ely, \$1,000
- Ely Drop and Shop, Ely, \$3,000
- Ely Echo, Ely, \$3,000
- Ely Family Dental, Ely, \$7,000
- Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club, Ely, \$3,000
- Ely Steakhouse, Ely, \$1,000
- Ely Steam Sauna, Ely, \$3,000
- Ely Vision-Optometry Center, Ely, \$3,000

- Essentially Greene Healing, Babbitt, \$1,000
- Front Porch Coffee, Ely, \$1,000
- Catz Billiards and Blues, Ely, \$3,000
- Gator's Grilled Cheese Emporium, Ely, \$1,000
- Goldmine Camp, Orr, \$1,000
- Grand Ely Lodge, Ely, \$15,000
- The Great Outdoors, Ely, \$3,000
- Grizzly Hospitality/Trail's End Resort, Orr, \$7,500
- Hand-Done T-shirts, Ely, \$2,500
- Happy Days Roadhouse, Ely, \$1,000
- HD Winton Roadhouse, Winton, \$7,500
- Heavy Metal Sports, Ely, \$3,000
- Hideaway Bay and Lounge, Babbitt, \$3,000
- Int'l Wolf Center, Ely, \$15,000
- JB Doors, Babbitt, \$1,000
- Jim Brandenburg Gallery, Ely, \$1,000
- Jim's Ash Trail Store, Orr, \$1,000
- JLMZ Inc/Voltz Technologies, Ely, \$1,000
- Junction Inn and Suites, Babbitt, \$3,000
- Just Bite Me/Miller's Bait, Babbitt, \$1,200
- Kec's Kove Resort, Kabetogama, \$5,000
- Keen Insurance and Financial Services, Ely, \$2,500
- Kwazy Wabbit, Ely, \$1,000
- Lamppa Manufacturing, Tower, \$3,000
- Land of Lakes Insurance, Ely, \$2,500
- Log Cabin Coffee, Ely, \$5,000
- Long Aggregates, Orr, \$1,000
- Lossing Inc., Babbitt, \$3,000
- Lost Sock Laundromat, Babbitt, \$1,000
- Lumber Orr Hardware, Orr, \$2,500
- M.R. Larson/Kondos Outdoors, Ely, \$1,000
- Merhar's Ace Hardware, Ely, \$3,000
- Montana Café, Cook, \$5,000
- Moosebirds, Cook, \$7,000
- Nordic Home North, Tower, \$2,500
- Norman's One Stop, Orr, \$2,500
- Northern Grounds, Ely, \$15,000

- Northern Routes Rolloff, Ely, \$1,000
- Northern Frontiers Thrift, Babbitt, \$2,500
- OJ's HVAC and Refrigeration, Ely, \$1,000
- OUT Mobile Escape Rooms, Ely, \$3,000
- Pengal's Store, Ely, \$2,500
- Pine Ridge Motel, Crane Lake, \$1,000
- PuckStyle LLC/Nathan R. Dicasmirro, Soudan, \$1,000
- Range Jewelry and Gifts, Babbitt, \$1,000
- Raven Productions, Ely, \$1,000
- Roots Inc, Ely, \$2,500
- Rusco Plumbing, Ely, \$1,000
- Salon No. 10, Ely, \$1,000
- Sir G's Italian, Ely, \$3,000
- Spiritwood Music, Ely, \$1,000
- Steger Designs, Ely, \$20,000
- Stone Soup Events, Ely, \$1,000
- Studio North, Ely, \$5,000
- Takeoff LLC/The Landing, Cook, \$25,000
- Tamarack Resort, Ely, \$2,500
- Tank's Bar and Restaurant, Babbitt, \$7,500
- The Boundary Waters Journal, Ely, \$7,000
- The Dam Supper Club, Orr, \$15,000
- The Pebble Spa, Ely, \$20,000
- Thomas Long and Son Trucking, Orr, \$1,000
- Throwback Cabin Properties/Ubetcha Antiques, Tower, \$2,500
- Timberjay Inc, Tower, \$14,000
- Vaughn Inc/Junction Bar and Grill, Babbitt, \$3,000
- Vermilion Club, Tower, \$15,000
- Vermilion Shear Image, Tower, \$1,000
- Viking Bar, Cook, \$5,000
- Voyager Park Lodge, Kabetogama, \$2,500
- Women's Wilderness Discover, Ely, \$2,500
- Woods and Waters LLC, Ely, \$2,500
- Zaverl's Bar, Ely, \$3,000
- Zup's Food Market, Ely, \$7,000

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 (Categories: Adult, Student)
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 Or deliver to Gallery at:
 210 S River St, Cook
Hours: Thur-Fri 10-4, Sat 9-1
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PUBLIC HEALTH

How can we all help to prevent suicide?

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

Talk sponsored by LVCC gives information and resources

“Many of us know someone who has made a suicide attempt or has completed suicide. Those struggling with suicidal ideation are just like you and me. They have problems; we have problems. The difference is that, for the moment, we believe we can handle our problems and do not feel overwhelmed by them. The vast majority of all suicidal people want to live—they want the pain to end. Without a basic knowledge of suicide, we may not recognize or acknowledge the warning signs. Through awareness and education, we can be a support to those contemplating suicide. We can make a difference”

Ilene Rice, retired family therapist, Lake Vermilion and Colorado Springs, Colo.

REGIONAL- “We should have zero suicides,” said Ilene Rice. “But it takes everyone to make it happen.”

While there is no data yet on the impact of COVID-19 on suicide rates, statistics do show an increase in suicides in 2020. The pandemic has added intense emotional and mental stress to many this past year, while at the same time making it harder to access many supportive services, and the board of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center decided it was a good time to sponsor a program about suicide prevention.

Ilene Rice gave an hour-long presentation via Zoom on March 28 to about 30 area residents and friends of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center. LVCC had been sponsoring many talks and events, but the pandemic put a temporary end to in-person meetings, so online events are being added until in-person meetings are

Suicide Prevention Resources

Ilene Rice recommends you add some of these phone numbers to your cell phone to make them easy to share in an emergency situation.

24/7 Crisis Hotline: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Network www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

1-800-273-TALK (8255) (Veterans, press 1)

Crisis Text Line: Text 741741

You will get an automated response telling you you’re being connected with a Crisis Counselor and invited to share a bit more. The Crisis Counselor is a trained volunteer, not a professional. They can provide support but not medical advice.

Veterans Crisis Line: Text 838255

Social Media Platforms: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-someone-else/safety-and-support-on-social-media/>
SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

Treatment Referral Hotline (Substance Abuse): 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

LGBTQ YOUTH 24/7 if you are thinking about suicide and in need of immediate support
Trevor Lifeline 1-866-488-7386

Access Trevor Chat through computer as you may have technical difficulties if using a smartphone or tablet.

Trevor Text Text START to 678678

thriverrange.org
Text RANGE to 741741 for Local free 24/7 confidential crisis support by text

nowmattersnow.org
Toolbox for Stress, Addiction and Suicide

Free Online Therapy & Resources for Mental Health & Substance Problems—please take time to view these excellent videos. They are helpful whether or not you live in the area.

Emergency? Call 911

once again safe.

“Suicide is an issue for everybody,” said Rice. “It is time to bring it out of the shadows.”

“It is the tenth leading cause of death in our county, and it is the most preventable,” she said.

Rice talked about the warning signs for suicide. Risk factors may put someone at a higher risk for suicide, but they are different from the warning signs, which are things a person does.

Many suicides spring from depression.

Comments like “I wish I were dead,” “I’m just going to end it all,” “If such-and-such doesn’t happen, I’ll kill myself” are all direct warning signs. Indirect signs can be verbalizing things like “I’m tired of living,” “I can’t go on,” “I think my family would be better off if I were dead,” “Pretty soon you won’t have to worry about me,” and “You’re going to regret how you treated me,” she told the group.

Behavioral clues include acquiring a gun, putting personal affairs in order, giving away

prized possessions or money, and withdrawing from friends and family. Events that might lead to suicidal thoughts include being fired from a job or expelled from school, the death of a spouse or child, anticipated loss of financial security, or the diagnosis of a terminal illness.

“It is natural to deny that someone is suicidal,” Rice said. “and thinking that only a professional can help.”

“Most suicidal people don’t want to end their lives,” she said. “They just want to end their pain.”

Rice said there is a simple technique called QPR to use if you suspect someone is suicidal, and the technique can be learned by anyone.

“Q” is asking a tough but simple question— are you considering suicide? This can save a life, Rice said. Set aside a time and space with privacy and be sure to have suicide hotline information with you or on your cell phone.

“It can be really uncomfortable asking these questions,” she

said. Questions can be asked either directly or indirectly.

“Have you been thinking about killing yourself?”

“Have you been so unhappy that you were wishing you were dead?”

“This is the most important question you can ask,” she said. “If a person answers yes, that is a good thing. The research shows that by asking you are providing a ray of light where there has been utter darkness.”

The next step in the process, “P”, is to see if you can persuade the person to get help.

“Ask, ‘Will you let me get you help?’” she said. “They might want you to know what they are going through. It is important to listen. Don’t interrupt or judge.”

This is also the time to ask if they have a plan for suicide.

“The more detailed the plan, the more imminent the suicide,” she said. “Suicide is the solution the person has chosen to solve their problem. You can help someone think of other solutions.”

If someone appears to be actively suicidal, it is important not to leave them alone. Either find someone who can be with them if you cannot or take them to an emergency room.

“Sometimes there is a tipping point and people think they cannot live anymore,” she said.

Rice said it is also important to tell the person that you don’t want them to die, you want them to get help.

“Offer to go with them,” she said. “Offer to help make an appointment and make them promise to go with you.”

If someone refuses help, she said, you can call a suicide prevention helpline and ask for advice.

The final step, “R”, is for referral.

“The best referral is to take that person to a mental health provider,” she said, “or have the person promise to go on their own, and make sure they follow through.”

“Be that hope,” she said. “Be sure to follow up with calls or texts.”

Asking someone if they are suicidal does not

put them at greater risk for suicide and does not “put the idea into their head.”

“Sharing your concern and fears will bring relief,” Rice said.

Responding to messages on social media that might be suicidal was also discussed.

“Always take the post seriously,” she said, “and respond with kindness and compassion.”

If you know the person in real life, you can call or drive over for a visit.

Men over the age of 45 and teenagers have the highest rates of suicide. People who are being bullied on account of their sexual orientation, race or other reasons can be at high risk.

Rice said removing the stigma about seeking help for mental health issues would help reduce suicide rates. There are proven therapies that can help with depression and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Removing access to fire arms and prescription drugs around a possible suicidal person is also important, she noted.

“Suicide is a health issue,” she said. “Suicidal people want their pain to end; they don’t want to die. The impulse to die doesn’t last forever.”

Rice also discussed supporting those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

“We often don’t know what to do or say,” Rice said. “People are left alone when they really need support.”

Like with any loss there are no tried-and-true answers, but being with your friend, offering support as needed, and being patient are always important.

The program was recorded, and will be available on the LVCC website, vermilionculturalcenter.org.

COOK...Continued from page 1

maintenance, and understanding that manganese could be an issue given its prevalence in the region, Flack agreed to the suggestion. “We didn’t have to, but it’s probably going to happen in the future, and we wanted to be proactive,” Flack said. The initial findings led to a second test to confirm the results, which led to the health risk advisory from MDH.

Manganese occurs naturally in rocks and soils across Minnesota, is commonly found in ground and surface water, and in small amounts is necessary for good health. However, consumption of high levels of manganese can lead to problems with attention, memory, motor skills, and behavior, according to MDH. The risks differ for infants versus older children and adults, and the potential for harm is difficult to precisely estimate.

That the water plant wasn’t filtering out manganese wasn’t surprising, as that function wasn’t part of its original design. The city’s consulting engineer, John Jamnick, explained what happened when the filtering system was

moved to the new water plant in 2008, at a special city council meeting last Thursday.

“We took the old filter from the old plant and brought it to the new facility and we put new sand in the filter there,” he said. “At the time, based on the water quality information we had, we just put back in normal gravel base sand and a filtering sand.”

The filtering media should be replaced every 10 to 12 years, Jamnick said, and since the procedure was due to be performed, the old sand will be extracted and new materials will be installed that will effectively eliminate the manganese problem.

“Working with Tonka Water, which is a reputable worldwide company, they evaluated some of the numbers and information we gave to them and they recommend going with a greensand layer to help with manganese issue.”

Tonka also recommended putting in a layer of anthracite with the specially-treated greensand.

“That will help on the iron side, because iron and manganese kind of work together in a lot of water

supplies,” Jamnick said.

The \$52,000 cost for the replacement includes just over \$22,000 for the materials and around \$29,000 for labor, Jamnick said. It will take about 30 days for Tonka to get the materials shipped to Cook and have a crew available to do the work, and the project should be completed in May.

“There may be some extra flushing of the water lines this spring,” Jamnick said. Flack said additional flushing could be done in the fall.

Greensand filtering systems for homes and wells are available for people who may be concerned about elevated manganese in their water supply.

For questions about health concerns or more

information about manganese, contact the MDH

Health Risk Assessment Unit at 651-201-4899, or

health.risk@state.mn.us.

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Ekphrastic Poetry Display

An ekphrastic poem is a vivid description of a work of art. Through the imaginative act of narrating and reflecting on the “action” of a painting or photograph, the poet may amplify and expand its meaning.

Area Poets: Tim Cook, Jeanette Marie Cox,
DyAnne Korda and Rosella Stewart

inspired by **Ely Artists/Photographers:**
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Roy Misonznick and **Iowa artist** Grant Wood.

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Operation Round Up



ISD 696

Bids tabulated for part of Ely school project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

School board set to award construction work next week

ELY – A public bid opening last Thursday for the first phase of a multi-year building and facility renovation project for the Ely school district gave construction managers and district officials an idea of the real-world cost expectations, estimated to cost about \$20 million.

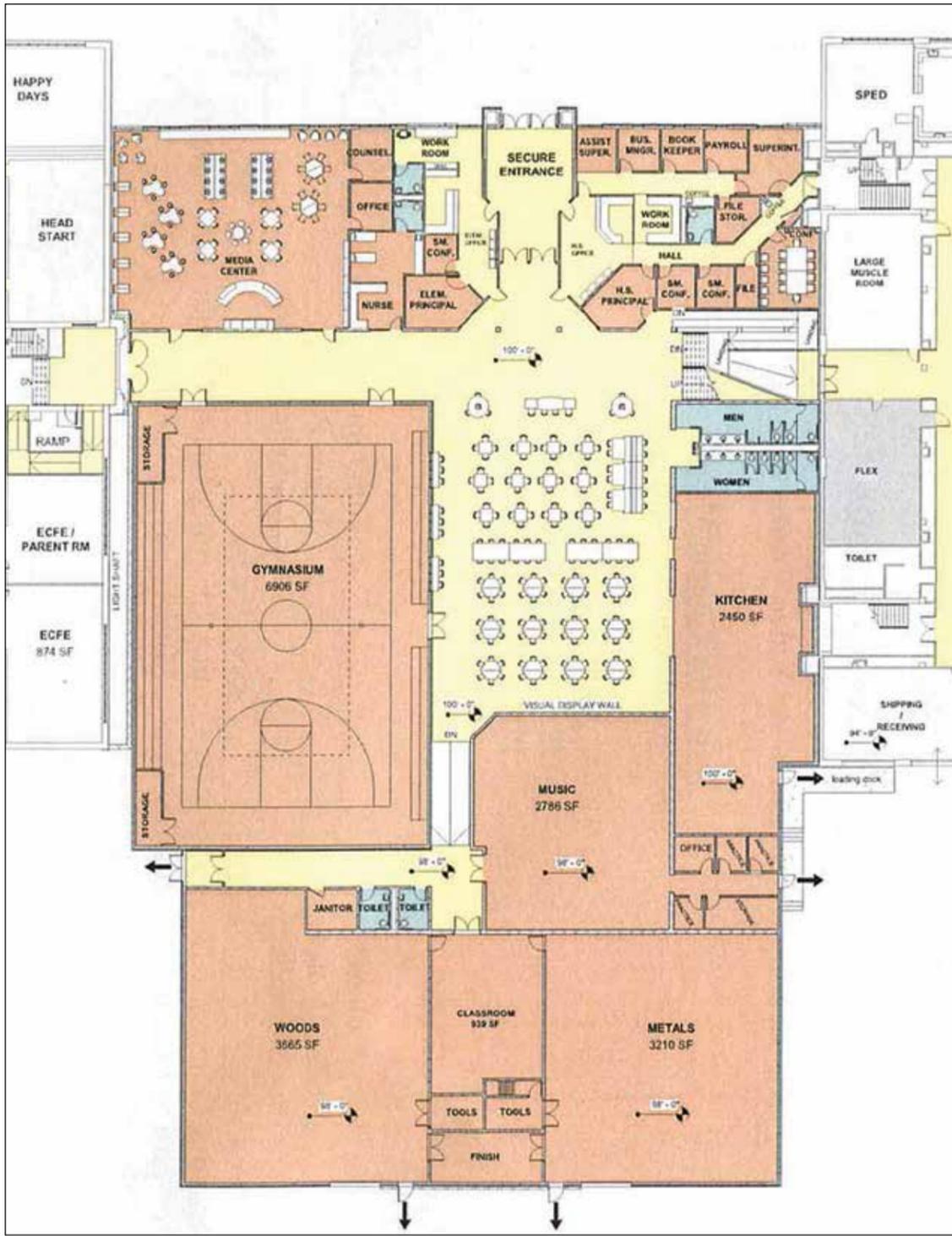
Project construction manager Kraus-Anderson Construction Co. hosted the bid opening in the Washington School auditorium. Just a couple of contractors, a representative from Architectural Resources, Inc., two ISD 696 staff members, a school board member, and a member of the local media witnessed the arduous task of opening and tabulating the sealed bids on more than 30 work scopes.

The bids will be awarded at a special ISD 696 school board meeting on Tuesday, April 6. A bid package for the second phase of the project will be let later this spring, according to Superintendent Erik Erie. Both construction phases will occur at the same time.

Work is scheduled to begin next month with the demolition of the former steam plant and Industrial Arts building. Construction of a new structure to link the Memorial and Washington buildings will be part of the first phase of the project. Major improvements and renovations to the existing buildings will encompass the second phase of the project, with completion slated for the first day of school in for the 2022-23 school year.

The new structure between the two buildings will serve as the centerpiece on campus, featuring the main and secured entrance to the school. It will also house district and school offices, an open concept commons/cafeteria area, new kitchen, new gymnasium, multi-grade media center, and music and industrial technology classrooms.

The bids received for the first phase of the project are under review this week by the construction manager and school district officials. Kraus-Anderson will make their recommendations for awarding each of the



bids for the 30-plus areas of work on the first phase.

“We are currently doing the analysis and our due diligence in preparation of the school board meeting,” said Kraus Anderson Vice President/Manager, Business Development John Campohasso.

The lowest bid may not always be awarded the job, as multiple factors are considered. Some bids received may include cost proposals of multiple phases of the project.

Below are several examples of the Phase 1 base bids received, with the apparent low bidder listed first.

► Construction Testing and Inspection – Northeast Technical Services Inc., \$57,000;

Braun Intertec Corp., \$65,570; EPC Engineering and testing, \$118,010; American Engineering & Testing, Inc., \$407,948.

► Construction Field Engineering – JPI Engineering, Inc., \$8,800; Benchmark Engineering, Inc., \$28,000.

► Demolition – Kellington Construction, Inc., \$155,000; Maertens-Brenny Construction, Co., \$234,000.

► Concrete – TNT Construction Group, \$662,500; Home Menders, Inc., \$751,300; Lenci Enterprises, \$788,000; Hawk Construction Inc., \$949,900; Maertens Brenny, \$1,159,000.

► Structural Precast – Wells Concrete Products Co., \$940,380; Taracon Precast, \$1,125,940.

► Masonry – Harbor City Masonry, Inc., \$529,640; Maertens Brenny, \$768,000.

► Steel Supply – Construction Systems, Inc., \$714,000; JRK Steel, Inc., \$735,200; Bens Structural Fabrication, Inc., \$763,600; Thornberg Steel, \$792,000.

► Steel Erection – Red Cedar Steel Erectors, Inc., \$247,400; Northern Industrial Erectors, \$275,000; Radotich, Inc., \$390,800; The Jamar Company, \$459,350.

► Rough Carpentry – Lenci Enterprises, \$279,000; Kellington Construction, Inc., \$312,300; Maertens Brenny, \$461,000.

► Finished Carpentry – Lenci Enterprises, \$219,000; Northwest

Cabinets, Inc. \$232,133; TMI Systems, Corp., \$255,455.

► Metal Panel – Range Cornice & Roofing Co., \$148,384; AW Kuettel & Sons, Inc., \$152,000; The Jamar Co., \$152,500.

► Roofing – Range Cornice & Roofing Co., \$635,805; AW Kuettel & Sons, Inc., \$651,000.

► Doors Frames and Hardware (material only) – Northern Door & Hardware, \$207,886; Sell Hardware, \$222,640.

► Exterior Glass and Glazing – St. Germain’s Glass Inc., \$149,967; Mesabi Glass & Door Co., \$159,545; Anderson Glass Co., \$163,000; United Glass Co., \$188,095; Superior Glass Co., \$234,261.

► Drywall – Mulcahy

Lickolaus LLC, \$579,900; Pinnacle Wall Systems, \$617,563.

► Ceiling and Acoustical Treatment – Twin City Acoustics Inc., \$248,000.

► Flooring – Contract Tile & Carpet, LLC, \$159,745; Northland Flooring & Design, LLC, \$176,000; Grazzini Brothers & Co., \$192,650.

► Wood floor – H2I Group, \$89,650; Prostar Services Inc. \$100,000.

► Terrazzo floor – Advance Terrazzo & Tile Co., \$249,000; Grazzini Brothers, \$306,455; WTG Terrazzo & Tile Co., \$360,820.

► Wall Covering and Painting – Fransen Decorating, Inc. \$90,870; Steinbrecher Painting Co., \$91,500; Swanson & Youngdale, Inc., \$113,709.

► Signage – Building Materials Supply Co., \$53,849; Kellington Construction Inc., \$91,700.

► Gymnasium Equipment – H&B Specialized Products, \$49,900; H2I Group, \$68,500; Sportscon, \$77,061.

► Combined Mechanical – Shannon’s Inc., \$1,644,000; JK Mechanical Contractors Inc., \$1,884,400; RJ Mechanical, \$1,905,500; Peterson Sheet Metal Inc., \$2,039,000.

► Fire Suppression – Absolute Fire Protection, Inc., \$93,200; Summit Fire Protection, \$119,300; Viking Automatic Sprinkler, \$143,000.

► Combined Electrical – Parsons Electric, \$961,500; Nelson Collie Electric Inc., \$1,158,700; Hunt Electric Corp., \$1,161,231.

► Site Clearing, Earthwork and Utilities – Rachel Contracting, \$1,236,208; Veit & Company Inc., \$1,292,000; TNT Construction Group, \$1,369,000; Ulland Brothers, Inc., \$1,377,360.

► Building Demolition – Veit & Company, Inc., \$290,000; Rachel Contracting, LLC, \$435,890; Carl Bolander & Sons LLC, \$884,000.

► Asphalt Paving – Mesabi Bituminous, \$248,500.

► Concrete Paving – TNT Construction, \$419,497; Hawk Construction, \$505,900; North Country Concrete Inc., \$675,000.

EASTER PROMOTION

Timberjay Newspaper 2021 Ham Box winners

ORR

Lumber Orr Hardware - Edthe Peterson
Pelican Bay Foods - Jerry Dahl
Orr Muni - Hanna Smith

COOK

Waschke Family Chevrolet - Sarah Wright
Cook Building Center - Margo Johnson
Subway of Cook - Rhonda Niska
North Star Credit Union - Donna Raati
1st National Bank - Bev Koski

TOWER/SOUDAN

Tower-Soudan Agency - Dennis Passi
Soudan Store - Polly McDonald
Frandsen Bank, Tower - James Runkle
Vermilion Fuel & Food - John

Norby
Zup’s Tower Grocery - Karl Jonas
Good Ol’ Days - Lilly Russel
EVCU, Tower - Samuel Gilchrist
Ubetcha Antiques & Uniques - Mike Tezak
Vermilion Park Inn - Linda Haugen

ELY

Dee’s Bar -
Wintergreen Northern Wear - Frandsen Bank, Ely - Sally Moose
Merhar’s Ace Hardware - Dan Hecht
Piragis - Connie Stocks
Ely Auto -
Potluck Kitchenware - Elaine Hartleben
Grand Ely Lodge, Evergreen - Jeanne McEntyre

Zup’s in Ely - Gloria Cox
Ely Flower & Seed - Janeen Hietala
Ely Surplus - Sharon Bruschko
Mealey’s Gift & Sauna Shop - Luis Rosa
Front Porch Coffee & Tea - Zup’s Northland Market - Janine Janiak
Blomberg’s Cenex, Ely - Al Kovall

BABBITT

Babbitt Branch, Ely Area Credit Union -
Blomberg’s Cenex, Babbitt - Carly Evancevich
Zup’s in Babbitt - Paul Hoheisel

EMBARRASS

EVCU, Embarrass - Bonnie Thiel

PRE-OWNED VALUES

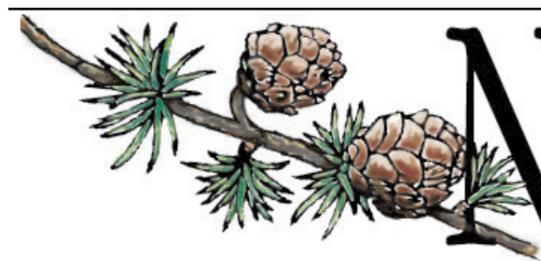
2020 Chevrolet Suburban Premier 4x4	Only 15K Miles!	\$60,990
2020 Chevrolet Malibu LT	GM Certified!	\$19,990
2020 Jeep Compass Latitude 4x4	Only 1,985 Miles	\$23,990
2018 Chevrolet Silverado LT 4x4 Crew	New Arrival!	\$30,990
2018 Chrysler Pacifica Touring L	Power Sliders and DVD!	\$22,990
2017 Jeep Renegade 4x4	Only 14K Miles!	\$20,990
2017 Mitsubishi Outlander 4x4	Only 27K Miles!	\$17,990
2017 Ford C-Max Hybrid Titanium	Only 14K Miles!	\$17,990
2017 Nissan Rogue SL Sport AWD	Leather and Navigation!	\$19,990
2016 Jeep Cherokee Limited 4x4	Only 48K Miles!	\$19,990
2016 Chevrolet Traverse LTZ AWD	Well Equipped!	\$18,990
2016 Jeep Renegade Latitude 4x4	Just Arrived!	\$17,990
2015 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD High Country		\$43,990
2012 Chevrolet Silverado LT 4x4	Clean Trade-In!	\$17,990

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SECTION 7A BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Grizzlies' road ends at Deer River

T.J. Chiabotti led team in total points, three-pointers, assists, steals and total minutes this season

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

DEER RIVER- The North Woods boys basketball season came to an end last week with a disappointing 89-83 Section 7A semifinal loss at Deer River, squandering a spirited rally that saw the Grizzlies turn a 15-point first-half deficit into a tenuous

lead throughout most of the second half.

The Grizzlies' offense sputtered early, scoring just five points in the first six minutes against a smothering Warriors man-to-man defense. North Woods defenders had trouble dealing with high screens that freed Deer River shooters for open jumpers and drives to the

bucket, allowing the Warriors to build a 27-12 lead with nine minutes left in the half.

"You can tell a lot about a game from warm-ups, and Deer River was real loose," Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe said. "I could tell they were feeling confident. They came out very aggressive with the basketball to start the game. It took us a little

Right: T. J. Chiabotti during action earlier this year.

file photo

bit to get our feet on defense to make some adjustments."

Yet only four minutes later, the Grizzlies held a 31-30 lead. Sean Morrison initiated the

See **GRIZZLIES...**pg. 2B



INTERNATIONAL WOLF CENTER

New pups coming soon

Expected to arrive in May, to meet public in June

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Wolf pups are coming to the International Wolf Center this spring. Wolf Center staff expect that the pups will arrive in May and will be visible to the public over the first weekend of June, but the dates are approximate, according to Chad Richardson, communications director.

"They are ambassadors to the wild, and the International Wolf Center believes in wolf education," he said, "One method for accomplishing the Wolf Center's mission of advancing survival of wolf populations in the wild is

through the use of ambassador wolves. We see the benefits when visitors experience our captive wolves, especially socialized wolves that offer a glimpse into the individual traits of wolves, showing the social nature of the species that makes it successful as a top-level predator."

Some people portray wolves for their predatory behavior and fail to appreciate the intricate pack life and social organization that keeps them together as a social unit, said Lori Schmidt, IWC wolf curator.

"As curator, it is my job to maintain a socially cohesive unit of wolves on the exhibit, and we do recognize that to do

this, new life must be added to the exhibit."

The International Wolf Center in Ely is a non-breeding exhibit, so when pups are added, about every four years or so, they coordinate with another professional animal organization.

The source is dependent upon reproductive plans within their facility and availability.

"We always acquire captive-born pups," Schmidt said. "This year we are coordinating again with the Wildlife Science Center in Stacy, Minn. They collaborated with the International Wolf Center first in 2008 to provide pups Aidan and Denali, and had

Above: Young pups Axel and Grayson were added to the wolf center lineup back in 2016. These two Arctic wolves are now pure white adults.

photo by K. Godfrey

pups ready for us in 2020, but the International Wolf Center had to cancel the transfer due to COVID-19."

This year, the Wolf Center is planning to integrate the Northwestern subspecies into their exhibit pack.

"There are five subspecies of wolves in North America and we currently manage three subspecies,

See **PUPS...**pg. 2B

THE LEGISLATURE

Ecklund talks issues in virtual town hall event

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Everything from the Ely mayoral race to legalized recreational use of cannabis was among the issues that Rep. Rob Ecklund, DFL-International Falls, addressed Tuesday in a livestream legislative update.

The District 3A legislator wasted little time with opening remarks, instead diving headlong into a far-ranging set of questions about district, state, and national issues posed by viewers on Facebook Live, as well as some submitted prior to the broadcast.

One recurring theme was the status of broadband Internet service and expansion, an issue Ecklund has thoroughly embraced.

"That's been one of the key things I've been working on since I've been in the Legislature," Ecklund said. "Right now, I've got a bill for \$120 million sitting in Ways and Means (committee) to fund the rural Border-to-Border grant program."

The bill would allocate \$60 million in each of the next two years to fund broadband expansion across the state.

Ecklund addressed the conflict created between state and federal funding options that has diced up townships and other areas of the district into smaller segments that can only be funded by one source or the other, but not both. Nevada-based LTD Broadband, a company with limited broadband experience, won a \$312 million federal award under the Trump administration to develop systems for tracts throughout Minnesota. That decision has already had repercussions for Cook, where Paul Bunyan Communication's original plan for the city had to be scaled back because its state-supported initiative overlapped places awarded to LTD Broadband by the federal government.

"One supplier got the majority of the contract," Ecklund said, referring to LTD Broadband, "and it's being looked at. The sad thing about it is that it's a lot

See **ECKLUND...**pg. 2B



Rob Ecklund

FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Ely celebrates "Artful Living"

Annual art auction fundraiser benefits Ely Community Resource

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The Ely Community Resource annual art auction fundraising event, dubbed Celebration of Artful Living in Ely, will again take place online due to social distancing guidelines in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The fun starts Saturday,

April 3 at 9 a.m. sharp and continues to 1 p.m. on Monday, April 12.

"Ely Community Resource youth programs have been supported by Ely's talented painters, quilters, potters, bakers, photographers, knitters, seamstresses, furniture makers, jewelry makers, and every type of crafter throughout the years," said ECR Executive Director

Julie Hignell.

Over the past several years, in addition to the variety of art items available in the auction, lifestyle items and experiences have been offered by expert fishing guides, canoe and kayak outfitters, massage therapists, and Minnesota attractions.

All the action takes place

See **AUCTION...**pg. 2B



GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

startling comeback with a putback two-pointer, and then it started raining Chiabotti treys, with three-pointers coming on successive possessions from Jared, T.J. and Brendan Chiabotti, cutting the lead to 30-23. Then Brendan Chiabotti brought the team all the way back, nailing a trey, getting a steal and fast break bucket, and converting a bucket-and-one after being fouled on another fast break score. The eight-point blitz gave the Grizzlies their first lead of the game.

“It was kind of one of our typical runs, where it wasn’t our shooting that spurred it, it was just making some defensive plays, a couple steals

here and there,” Kleppe said. “You make a couple defensive plays and they translate into some threes, and before we knew it we’re right back in the game.”

Deer River regained the lead, but Davis Kleppe connected on a three-pointer with 34 seconds left to knot the score 42-42, and an Alex Hartway steal and score put North Woods on top at the half 44-42.

The Grizzlies came out in the second half and stretched the lead to as many as seven points, and held a slim 67-65 advantage halfway through the final stanza.

“We came out just carrying over some of those things that we had

done before halftime,” Kleppe said. “The defensive energy was really high, the offensive energy was high. It was just a matter of how much gas we were going to have left in the tank.”

Deer River tied the game 73-73 with 5:40 remaining, and that’s when the tank went dry. Coming out of a time out, the Grizzlies had turnovers on consecutive possessions that the Warriors turned into four points and a 77-73 lead. A Brendan Chiabotti trey pulled the Grizzlies within one, but then the Warriors reeled off a 9-0 run with seven of those points coming at the free-throw line, and Deer River coasted from there to the

89-83 win.

“They’re a very good ballclub with a lot of weapons and they really showed that,” Kleppe said. “We were battling the future section champs. I just commend my guys. We played right to the buzzer and we left it all out there. That’s a credit to them.”

Deer River handily beat No. 1 seed Nashauk-Keewatin in the section final on Friday, 60-42, to advance to the state tournament.

Four Grizzlies scored in double figures, with T.J. Chiabotti’s 21 points barely edging out Brenden Chiabotti’s 20 points for top honors. Jared Chiabotti scored 15 and

Alex Hartway had 11.

Creating scoring opportunities off turnovers has been a signature stat in North Woods victories, but in this game the Warriors turned the tables on them, forcing the Grizzlies into 24 turnovers that Deer River converted into 35 points. Intent on forcing the ball into the paint, the Warriors ended up with a big advantage at the foul stripe where they out-scored the Grizzlies 19-5.

North Woods ended the season with a record of 14-6.

“We were able to stay on the floor all year, we followed all the precautions and did what we needed to do,” said Kleppe, giving a nod to the cloud of coro-

navirus that hung over the season. “We graduated Trevor Morrison last year, our leading rebounder and leading scorer, and those were some big shoes to fill. All things considered, it was a great year. We wound up as the No. 3 seed behind two very good teams that, when you look at their size and athleticism, I don’t think that should have been a shocker to anybody. We played them both tough and came up short. But in a lot of other aspects, we met or exceeded our expectations for this crew.”

AUCTION...Continued from page 1B

online. The website is www.32auctions.com/ECR2021.

“The ‘32auctions website’ makes it fun to bid by offering notification when your favorite items receive a bid higher than yours,” Hignell said. “Extended bidding at the ending time is new this year, and the choice of paying through PayPal or with a check is available when you pick up your items.” Shipping is also available.

Some of the items included this year:

- ▶ Totes/bags by Candace Bischoff, Tara Boerst, the Always Anonymous Donor, Emma Peterson and Nancy Miller.
- ▶ Jewelry by Dawn Boll, Sharee Johnson, Kay Vandervort and Cindy Bina.
- ▶ Original paintings by Bob Cary, Shaun Chosa, Sarah Levar, Joe Baltich,

Linda Dahl, Michelle Moore.

- ▶ Art by Liz Anderson.
- ▶ Quilt/fabric art by Dorothy Sand, Debbie Erzar, Marisa Haraldson, Deb Edwards, Desi Dunsten, Mary Jo Karasti and Ginny Stage.
- ▶ Food by Castle Danger, Erin Moravitz, Merdie Merrill, Mary Louise Icenhour, Betty Firth, Rachel Heinrich and Pat Koski.
- ▶ Events by BJ & Tom Kobierski, Northern Grounds Wine Society, Lincoln Park Craft District, Deb Campbell, Fortune Bay Resort and Sunset Steakhouse, Great Lakes Aquarium and Carol Orban.
- ▶ Pottery by Sandy Brandley, Wade Pharr and Linda Trapkus.
- ▶ Orchid by Gracie’s Plantworks and potted by Wende Nelson.
- ▶ Services by Roots

Salon, The Pebble Spa, Jessie Brooks Massage, Tara Kay Photography, Listening Point Foundation and Betty Firth.

- ▶ Knitting by Nancy Piragis, Diane Thomson and anonymous.
- ▶ Felting by Kay Vandervort, Sally Koski and Susan Ferguson.
- ▶ Clothing from Devon Luthens, Wintergreen and Steger Mukluks.
- ▶ Sporting goods by Peter Hughes and Steve Eisenminger, MN Vikings, Piragis Northwoods and Spirit of the Wilderness.
- ▶ Golf at the Ely Golf Course and The Wilderness.
- ▶ Classes by Wade Pharr and Susan Laine.
- ▶ Journals by Nicole Selmer.
- ▶ Beading by Daina Antanaitis.
- ▶ Photography by Steve Voiles, Dale Beers,

Right: A custom-made ski chair, by Kevin Dauwalter, is available at the 2021 ECR art auction. Dauwalter will make a ski chair using your alpine/Nordic skis or can help you find some. Wood components are cedar and stained.

submitted

Jim Brandenburg, Kris Kidd, Heidi Pinkerton and Ben Jaffray.

- ▶ Weaving by Cathy Bell.
- ▶ Laminated cutting board by Michael and Kathy Brennan.
- ▶ Woodwork by Linda Fink and Tom Dunsten.
- ▶ Zen rocks by Keiko Williams and Susan Ferguson.
- ▶ Deck furniture by Kevin Dauwalter.
- ▶ Finnish kantele by Ted Golbuff.
- ▶ Handmade soaps by



Deb Erdmann. and Evelyn Kuzma.
 ▶ Greeting cards by Wendy Rouse, Kris Kidd
 ▶ Raanu Art by Muff Schumacher.

PUPS...Continued from page 1B

Canis lupus arctos (Axel and Grayson, born in 2016), Canis lupus occidentalis or northwestern subspecies (Denali, born in 2008) and Canis lupus nubilus or great plains subspecies (Grizzer, born in 2004),” she said.

The Wildlife Science Center has more than 100 wolves and is an active

participant in both the Mexican gray wolf and red wolf captive breeding programs.

“The mission of WSC is to serve as an educational resource for all ages by: providing exposure to wild animals and the body of knowledge generated for their conservation; to advance

understanding of wild animal biology through long-term, humane scientific studies on captive populations, thus contributing to technical training for wildlife agencies, educational institutions and conservation agencies,” Schmidt said.

How to see the pups
 All wolf pup viewing

opportunities must be booked in advance, and the Wolf Center’s 2021 pups will not be part of their hourly programs. “Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we will be structuring outdoor viewing opportunities that will require pre-registration to participate in a 15-minute pup viewing

opportunity,” Schmidt noted. “We will do our best to accommodate everyone, but safety of our guests and our staff is paramount and opportunities may be weather dependent.”

Another way to see the 2021 wolf pups is with a one-hour behind-the-scenes tour, available for members only.

The International Wolf Center will also conduct a pup naming contest beginning in early June.

For more information on becoming a member of the International Wolf Center, go to www.wolf.org.

ECKLUND...Continued from page 1B

of money, but it’s spread out over a decade. To have big chunks of the state cut out of any other development just because it’s in that funding is terribly unfortunate. We’ve asked for some federal help on this to see if this is what they intended. We have not gotten an answer back.”

Ecklund acknowledged that some areas of the district have good broadband service, while there are other places “where it’s virtually impossible to get a signal.”

“District 3A has got the best of both worlds and the worst of both worlds when it comes to broadband,” Ecklund said.

The financing conundrum stands to hit rural townships particularly hard, given that lower numbers of potential users and installation issues make fiber optic broadband systems more costly. Ecklund said he is encouraging counties to use some of the federal relief money coming in to help.

“If they can afford to, (they can) set up a broadband account so that when Township XYZ puts in a proposal with one of the carriers and they have to come up with some money, maybe the county could

also help,” Ecklund said. “When there’s more local skin in the game it looks better on the application.”

Ecklund also said that “broadband deserts” aren’t unique to rural areas, as there are numerous service gaps in the Twin Cities and elsewhere.

“It is a problem throughout the state and this pandemic has just exacerbated that,” he said.

Ecklund also addressed other bills that he has authored or co-sponsored this session. That includes a measure to provide relief to loggers who purchased timber permits last year with the expectation they would sell spruce and balsam to the Verso mill in Duluth, which shut down last June. Ecklund’s bill would provide full or partial refunds of the permit down payments. Another Ecklund initiative is a bill to address the increasing rate of chronic wasting disease in the state’s deer population, and another to develop a master plan for the state’s ATV trail system.

The Ely mayoral race came up when Ecklund responded to a question about rank order voting, a ballot system that has

voters rank their preferences for all candidates running for a position rather than cast a single vote for one of them. Such a system can circumvent the need for primary elections and runoffs.

Saying he’s a recent convert to the idea of using rank order voting in municipal elections, Ecklund used Ely as an example.

“If you take a look at what’s going on in Ely right now, there’s six people running for mayor,” he said. “The guy that won didn’t want to be mayor and he tried to withdraw and didn’t withdraw soon enough, so that race was thrown out in November. They had to have another one, and six people filed. Ely will be without an elected mayor until sometime around, I think, June or July before they’ll have the final election. If Ely had the option for rank choice voting, that could certainly save Ely a significant amount of money.”

A sampling of other items Ecklund addressed included:

▶ He said that he didn’t know if any significant voter-related legislation would come out of this legislative session, given

the differences in majority party control of the Senate and House.

▶ Noting that it wasn’t the business owners in Minneapolis and St. Paul who damaged their properties in last summer’s civil unrests, Ecklund expressed support for state funding to help those businesses and areas recover, saying, “The seven-county metro sends far more tax dollars to northeastern Minnesota than we send down there. We’re Minnesota. I feel we need to take care of rebuilding the downtown.”

▶ Ecklund said it was unlikely any action would be taken on legalizing adult cannabis use because there is no movement in the Senate to act, but that he has voted three times in favor of legalization.

▶ Ecklund has included \$6 million to address veterans homelessness and \$1.5 million for veterans suicide prevention in a military omnibus bill.

▶ A measure that Ecklund supported that would set a uniform four-walleye limit for all state lakes may not see any action this session. “The chair didn’t give it a hearing,” he said. “I don’t know why it didn’t get a

hearing in the House.”

▶ Responding to a question about what he could do for the PolyMet and Twin Metals mining projects “to help move them along,” Ecklund said, “There is none of that right now that is under the purview of the Legislature except for monitoring, like everybody else is doing.”

▶ He expressed overall support for moving forward with clean energy ideas but indicated concern that heavily coal-dependent rural electric associations may need additional time and support for conversions beyond the 2040 date proposed by one clean energy bill.

▶ Ecklund reinforced support for the Second Amendment and the rights of gun owners and said that if anything were to be done about gun control, “It’s got to be way more thoughtful and not from the hip.”

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

West end development tops Ely's priority list

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Construction of new trailhead building may begin later this year

ELY – The Ely Economic Development Authority gathered Tuesday night to discuss and plan their goals for the upcoming year to promote the economic growth of the business community.

The city's economic advisor, John Fedo, initiated the discussion with a look back at the progress and successes of the EEDA's efforts in the last year in the midst of the unique challenges of COVID-19.

"Which of these (goals) are still valid, and to what degree?" Fedo asked in reviewing the 2020 list. "Trailhead development, our number one priority, obviously has moved to our number one accomplishment. The realization that this project will see physical construction this year is pretty inevitable."

The city's west end development area continues to be a top priority, from the entrance on Highway 169 with a new welcome center and trailhead parking area, south to the hospital expansion area, and east to an extended Pattison Street area, to include a new ambulance service facility and additional workforce housing.

This priority won't be com-

plete until the city determines whether to move forward with the original plan or change it somehow through alterations in state and local funding and renewal in the level of participation, particularly from the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital.

Mayor Chuck Novak reminded EEDA commissioners that the first phase of the west end development is complete, and the second phase of the project is "moving forward with the funding that was provided." The design phase of the trailhead building continues to progress and construction is likely to begin this year.

The successful completion of the third phase of the development project will largely depend on how the city markets its efforts in terms of a state bonding bill, according to Novak.

"We have to see how this (legislative) session ends," he said, "and we have to see who is on the bonding committee, as they play musical chairs down there, and make sure relationships are established with those members and get their support early."

Fedo noted that state legislators don't typically favor the ongoing funding of projects, "but on the other side, they don't like to have a project uncompleted."

He reminded commissioners that the groundbreaking ceremony at the trailhead location last year was successful in that the legislators who participated were impressed. "They want to come back and see a building under construction. That will help us as we define what our third phase will be," he said.

Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said that as early as next month, city council members will be asked to advertise for bids for the construction of the trailhead welcome center building. "We have pre-design documents submitted (to the state)," he said. "At the same time, we are finalizing our grant agreement with the Department of Natural Resources for the \$1.5 million in bonding money."

He also noted that a right-of-way permit request to the Minnesota Department of Transportation was recently submitted.

"There are lots of parts to phase two, but I would like everybody to be thinking about what we want for phase three," Langowski said. "We worked so hard on where the road is located and what the building will look like, but remember, this project swings around to the site of the former city garage. The ambulance service is forging ahead on a new facility for that area. We still have that big white elephant that is the former city garage. The Planning and Zoning Committee has looked at this area, but I think it will take collective brain power of everybody in looking at that."

Langowski related recent discussions with local realtors and their concerns for workforce housing.

"We have many businesses changing hands. Where are the workers going to come from?" he asked. "That will not change. This all ties together."

Novak updated EEDA commissioners on the local Housing Redevelopment Authority's project to construct townhome housing in the phase three area.

"(Designers) have a foot-

print design concept ready to go," he said. We have to see what the bonding capacity is for the HRA. It could be as much as \$2.5 million. We have to move forward on that."

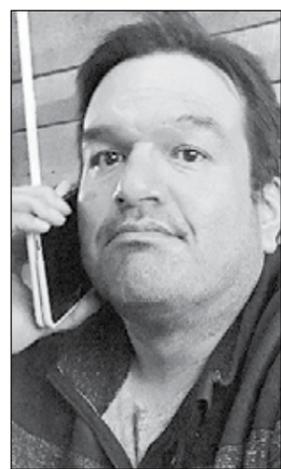
Novak added that many lots remain in the Spaulding development area on the north end of town.

"People are moving and they are building houses," he said. He also noted that with the recent Memorandum of Understanding with Morse Township, an expansion area on the south end of town is also a possibility. "We have many opportunities for workforce housing," he said.

Fedo added, "This is nothing new or totally foreign to the legislators. This is a consistent message we have been giving them. That is part of the original idea of the whole west end development idea."

EEDA commissioners will continue the 2021 priority discussion at their next meeting on Tuesday, April 27.

Obituaries and Death Notices



Ira O. Isham

Ira Orlando Isham, 45, of Nett Lake, also affectionately known as "son, sonny, burrito, burrits", passed away at home on Thursday, March 25, 2021. A Traditional Wake was held on Saturday, March 27 at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. A Traditional Service was held on Sunday, March 28, also at the Bois Forte Government and Services Center. Spiritual Leader was Alan Hardee and Spiritual Advisor was Gene Goodsky. Pallbearers were Lewis Strong, Lance Hill, Joe Whiteman, David Morrison Jr., Marcus Knife Chief, Tony Mason, Jerry Gogleye and Charles "Chuck" Graue. Honorary pallbearers were Drayvin "Drags" Isham, Ira "Dory" Isham, Jaylen Strong, Corey Strong, Ira "Pete" Isham and Edward "Tuddies" Isham.

Arrangements were with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Ira was born in Littlefork on Nov. 4, 1975, to Ira "Pete" and Doris (Day) Isham. He grew up in Nett Lake and graduated from Orr High School in 1994. Ira attended college at Mesabi Range and BSU to pursue a degree

in computer technology. He had an entrepreneurial spirit and a passion for computers and technology, and anything science or history based. He was the proud owner of "North Country Computers" for numerous years and was also employed at the Nett Lake School and the Bois Forte Tribal Government as a computer/IT specialist.

Ira enjoyed the outdoors, guiding, hunting, and spending time with his father doing the same. He also enjoyed playing pool, spicy foods, working on cars, and golfing. He had a love for music and his best times were spent fishing off the dock with his boys. His life

touched the lives of many through his witty sense of humor, his loyalty, and his good-hearted spirit. He will be missed dearly by his family and friends.

Ira is survived by his parents, Ira "Pete" and Doris Isham; lifelong partner, Sheryl; sons, Drayvin "Drags" and Ira "Dory" Isham; sisters, Teresa (Marcus) Knife Chief and Billie (Dean) Isham; nieces and nephews, Corey, Jaylen and Sasha Strong, Marissa (Mason) Rose, Felicia Mason and Chelsea (Mason) Winans; great-grandnieces, Kyrie and Isla; and great-grandnephews, Kamron and Chance.

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Creative ONLINE Workshop
Saturday, May 1 • 10 am to 12:30 pm.

***If you need help getting online access, please contact us.**

This workshop is for anyone who is ready to bring their unique ideas to Cook's River Street. Artists and creatives are encouraged to look at our main street and offer ideas on how to increase visibility and signage, foster connection and cohesiveness, and fill up spaces with innovative design.

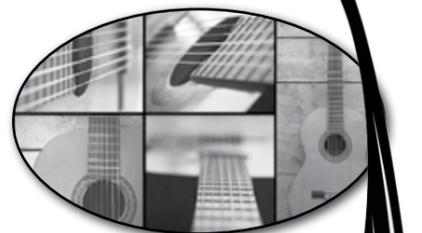
This activity is part of Artists on Main Street, a partnership between the City of Cook and Rethos, with support from the Bush Foundation.

Eligibility

- Have creative ideas
- Live within a 30-mile radius of Cook City Hall
- Attend the online creative workshop

Benefits:

- Free training on creativity
- New connections to other artists and downtown Cook
- Eligible to apply for It **STARTS** on River Street project support of up to \$1,000



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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Over 4,000 acres of Potlatch land transferred for public use

by GREG SEITZ
For Quetico-Superior Wilderness News

REGIONAL — Almost 4,400 acres of land located between Duluth and Minnesota's northern border have been acquired by St. Louis County, thanks to efforts by two conservation groups. The deal will transfer lands from forest products company PotlatchDeltic to the county for permanent protection and public access.

The county will manage the lands for recreation, wildlife, and sustainable timber harvest.

"PotlatchDeltic was one of the largest private industrial forest landowners in St. Louis County, and the impact of that land being sold and developed would reverberate across the North Woods," said Daryl Peterson, director of restoration programs with the Minnesota Land Trust. "Once land is sold off to a hundred different parties, it is nearly impossible to manage the incredible forest ecosystems native to northern Minnesota."

The Minnesota Land Trust and The Conservation Fund

Right: This wetland complex is among the forest land that will be open for public use under a transfer of about 4,400 acres of PotlatchDeltic land to St. Louis County.

photo courtesy B. Rinke
Minnesota Land Trust

purchased the four large parcels with \$4.2 million provided by the Minnesota Legacy Amendment, and then donated them to St. Louis County. The deal was the biggest in Minnesota Land Trust

See TRANSFER...pg. 5B



MANAGEMENT

DNR seeking input on Tower area fish plans

REGIONAL — The Department of Natural Resources is inviting anglers and others interested in fisheries management in the Tower area to comment on management plans for several lakes through April 10.

The DNR uses fisheries management plans to identify specific management activities planned for designated lakes over the next five to 20 years. The plans include background information such as water chemistry characteristics, water temperature information, species presence, stocking, regulations and historic catch rates from previous fisheries surveys.

The plans also can identify biological and social factors that may limit a fishery's potential, and seek to address these limiting factors by prescribing science-based management tools when biologically, fiscally and socially appropriate.

Comments and suggestions from the public are important for planning and evaluating the success of activities laid out in management plans.

Fisheries information and management activities are being updated for the following lakes in St. Louis and Lake counties.

St. Louis County:

► Burntside: Maintains walleye stocking and ends lake trout stocking (last stocked in 2010).

► Camp: Maintains walleye fishery with post-winterkill fry stocking if necessary.

► Ge-Be-On-Equat: Lowered walleye fry stocking rate.

► Heikkilla: Establishes first management plan for this lake.

► Little Elbow: First plan since trout stocking was discontinued in 2010.

► Long (near Eveleth): Continues current management.

► McInnis (Unnamed): Establishes first management plan for this lake.

► Purvis (Sparrow): Lowered walleye fry stocking rate.

► Trout: Ends lake trout stocking (last stocked in 2018).

Lake County:

► Moose: Continues current management.

► Topaz: Establishes first management plan for this lake.

People can contact the Tower area fisheries office by calling 218-300-7802 or emailing tower.fisheries@state.mn.us to receive an electronic copy of any of the draft plans.

Comments and suggestions for managing other lakes and streams in the Tower work area are welcome at any time and will be considered when those plans are due for review.



LAKE VERMILION

Walleye boom time

DNR survey shows highest walleye count on Lake Vermilion in 37 years

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Anglers should find exceptional numbers of eating-sized walleye on Lake Vermilion this year, based on results of the annual fall sample netting conducted by the Department of Natural Resources.

The strong year class in 2016 appears to have bolstered Vermilion's walleye population. In fact, the fall 2020 sample netting produced an average of 20.4 walleye per net, the highest average walleye catch recorded in the 37 years the annual sampling has been done on Lake Vermilion.

At the same time, the DNR reports evidence that both 2018 and 2019 also produced strong year classes, which are contributing large numbers of smaller walleye, some of which may be harvest-sized by this summer.

The increase in walleye numbers was apparent across the lake. The walleye catch rate of 23.3 fish/net in the east basin ranked as the third highest catch rate historically on the lake's east end. A catch rate of 16.0 fish/net was the second highest catch rate on record on west Vermilion. The latest results appear to suggest that the low walleye numbers and overabundance of older walleye on the lake's west end may have turned around as a result of recent strong year classes.

The high walleye numbers came

even as the lake experienced substantial fishing pressure last year.

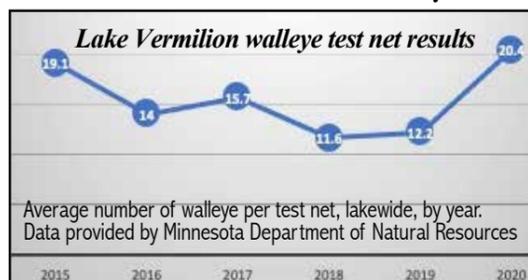
The average length of walleyes captured in the gill-net survey was about 14 inches. It was the smallest average size since 2008, which can be attributed to the large numbers of younger walleye from recent strong year classes entering the catchable size range. These fish should provide substantial catch and harvest opportunities over the next several years, according to the DNR. Additionally, high catch rates of fish 20 inches and larger will continue to provide memorable catch opportunities throughout the lake while also ensuring plenty of broodstock.

The walleye captured in the survey ranged from 0 to 23 years old. Across Vermilion, the catch rates of walleye from the 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, and 2015 year classes were all above historical averages. The catch rate of two-year old fish was the highest ever recorded for that age grouping.

At the same time, the catch rate of walleye eight years and older was also high, exceeding the 75th percentile for the second consecutive year and for the tenth time in the past 11 years. The number of large walleye on the lake has increased dramatically since the introduction of a protective slot limit in 2006.

The improvement on the west end of Vermilion has been the most

See WALLEYE...pg. 5B



Above: A Lake Vermilion angler hoists a nice walleye for his friend's camera during a recent fishing opener.

Below: Pulling a nice eater walleye from Lake Vermilion's Frazer Bay. file photos



CAMPING

USFS now accepting reservations for Echo, Jeanette, and Pfeiffer lake campgrounds



A summer scene at the public dock at the Pfeiffer Lake Campground. courtesy recreation.gov

REGIONAL— The U.S. Forest Service is now taking reservations for Echo Lake, Lake Jeanette, and Pfeiffer Lake campgrounds, all located in the Superior National Forest. These facilities will be open for use by the public beginning May 10, through Sept. 30, and those interested in camping at these popular facilities can go to www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

The Superior National Forest has more than

277 backcountry sites, 18 rustic campgrounds, and 23 developed “fee” campgrounds to choose from. Go to their website at www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/superior/recreation to find an interactive map of recreation opportunities on the forest, including a list of campsites.

The Superior National Forest is currently offering virtual services, so the website is the best way to find the latest updates on Forest Service facilities.

WALLEYE...Continued from page 4B—

dramatic, as numbers have increased steadily since the last weak year class in 2013. So far, the 2018 cohort looks to be a potential banner year class, according to DNR surveys.

Perch numbers higher

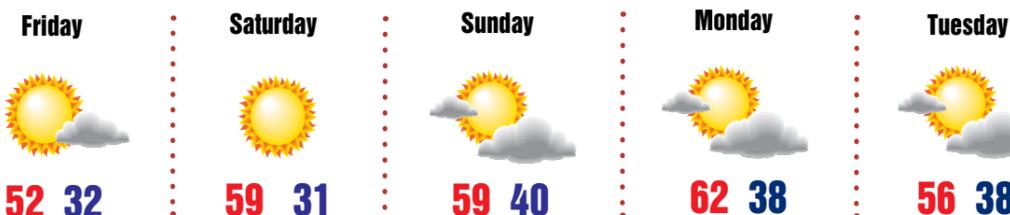
The catch rate in the fall survey averaged 34.9 fish/net, which was the highest catch rate since 2013. However, the catch rate continues to vary dramatically from east to west. The catch rate of 15.6 fish per net in east Vermilion was an improvement from 2019 and was

slightly above the 25th percentile. By contrast, the west Vermilion catch rate of 63.8 fish per net was the second highest ever observed in that basin.

The average length of yellow perch captured in 2020 was relatively small at 7.2 inches compared to historic averages. This was driven by very high numbers of 5 and 6-inch fish captured primarily in West Vermilion. The catch rate of fish 9 inches and larger, which are typically the size anglers prefer to harvest, was below average.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
03/22	58	37	0.09		03/22	60	36	0.10		03/22	57	36	0.00		03/22	48	28	0.11		03/22	60	34	0.18	
03/23	48	27	0.00		03/23	49	25	0.00		03/23	45	27	0.00		03/23	52	25	0.00		03/23	47	24	0.00	
03/24	48	29	0.26	1.5"	03/24	49	27	0.16		03/24	47	27	0.14	0.5"	03/24	39	30	0.19	0.6"	03/24	48	28	0.35	1.0"
03/25	34	23	0.15	0.6"	03/25	33	22	0.17	0.6"	03/25	32	22	0.11	2.0"	03/25	39	23	0.00		03/25	32	20	0.16	1.0"
03/26	34	22	0.00		03/26	36	22	0.00		03/26	35	21	0.00		03/26	39	25	0.06	2.0"	03/26	35	21	0.00	
03/27	32	24	0.06	0.4"	03/27	34	26	0.14	1.1"	03/27	36	25	0.05	1.0"	03/27	36	27	0.00		03/27	34	24	0.16	0.8"
03/28	36	18	0.40	3.4"	03/28	34	16	0.21	0.7"	03/28	34	17	0.59	6.0"	03/28	39	16	0.00		03/28	35	13	0.45	5.0"
Total			2.25	68.2"	YTD Total			1.51	49.2"	YTD Total			1.61	66.6"	YTD Total			1.04	NA	YTD Total			2.32	54.5"

FOREST MANAGEMENT

USFS planning prescribed burning this spring

REGIONAL—The U.S. Forest Service is planning to conduct a series of prescribed fires across the Superior National Forest to improve and maintain forest health and wildlife habitat, and reduce hazardous fuel build up and the risk of intense wildfire. The meadow and forest ecosystems in northeastern Minnesota are fire-dependent and rely on periodic fires to stay healthy. Prescribed fires are carefully planned and managed to meet natural resource objectives in a safe, effective manner.

Depending on the fuels and weather conditions, the prescribed fire units could be burned starting as early as March 29 and

all the way until June or July of 2021. The window of opportunity for prescribed burning is very small. Safety factors, weather conditions, air quality, personnel availability and environmental regulations are continually monitored before, during and after a burn.

Prescribed fires are conducted by trained fire management professionals who have studied fire behavior and fire control techniques and can help to minimize danger to burn crews and nearby residents and property.

Benefits of using prescribed fire as a management tool on the Superior:

- Protects communities and

infrastructure by reducing hazardous fuels and the risk of high intensity wildfires.

- Improves and supports wildlife habitat for many species on the forest including kestrel, woodcock, moose, white tail deer, black bear, meadow vole and the rare Nabokov blue butterfly.

- Limits the spread of invasive plant species and maintains native ecosystems.

- Promotes the growth of trees, plants, and wildflowers, and the wild blueberry crop.

For more information about prescribed fires, see the Superior National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/superior.

TRANSFER...Continued from page 4B

history since it was founded in 1991. Additional funding came from the Four Cedars Environmental Fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, and the Wallin family.

The protected land fosters many types of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, gray wolves, Canada lynx, and ruffed grouse. It also provides habitat for sensitive bird species, located at the edge of breeding ranges for the Golden-winged and Blackburnian Warbler, as well as the American Woodcock.

Forest fragmentation is a major concern in northern Minnesota. As large landholders divest of their property, they are often subdivided.

New development and roads break up the large, contiguous blocks of habitat that many species need to thrive. The Minnesota Forest Resources Council has identified such fragmentation as the biggest threat to the ecological and economic health of Minnesota’s forests.

“Minnesota’s forests face an enormous challenge today: development pressures are increasing and impacting the state’s ability to sustain its working forests,” a 2010 report by the DNR said. “Conserving this interconnected network of private and public lands as working forest is integral to Minnesota’s overall quality of life.”

The lands include parcels near the St. Louis and Cloquet Rivers,

and Winchester Lake, north of Lake Vermilion.

The acquired lands are part of a larger PotlatchDeltic plan to divest of about 10,000 acres in northern Minnesota. The company says its land ownership in the state is dominated by parcels in remote areas, which are “ideal for conservation and working forest protection.”

PotlatchDeltic expects to divest of almost all its Minnesota holdings by next year. It also still operates a lumber mill in Bemidji and plans to continue that business.

This story originally appeared in Quetico-Superior Wilderness News and is republished here by permission.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available

Scenic Rivers is now scheduling appointments for individuals to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at our medical locations following state eligibility guidelines. Supply is limited and call volumes are high, so we appreciate your patience. If you believe you meet the MN state vaccine eligibility requirements, please call the number below to schedule an appointment.

**Cook Medical
Vaccine Scheduling**
20 5th St SE
(218) 361-3297



**Tower Medical
Vaccine Scheduling**
415 N 2nd St, Suite 2
(218) 753-2405



1-877-541-2817

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

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Cook Hospital

PUBLIC NOTICES

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Bearville Township shall meet on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bearville Town Hall (13971 Hwy. 22, Bearville Township). The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

The Bearville Township Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting will be held in person at the Town Hall; masks and social distancing will be required. The Bearville Township Board encourages those wishing to appeal their valuation to contact the Itasca County Assessor prior to the meeting with their concerns. If you wish to connect remotely, please contact the Town Clerk (bearvl@frontiernet.net or 218-376-4495) by Monday, April 19 for a link and directions to connect.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 2 & 9, 2021

FIELD TOWNSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The April board meeting of Field Township will be held April 13, 2021, at 7 p.m. at the Clerk's home, 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora.

Pat Chapman, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 2, 2021

EMPLOYMENT



Boundary Waters Care Center is looking for motivated caregivers in the following positions:

PT Social Services Worker-
This position is ideal for a candidate seeking to make a positive difference in the lives of our residents. The ideal candidate will be efficient with computer programs, have excellent communication skills, and a Bachelor's Degree. Experience in Social Services is ideal but not required, willing to train the right candidate.

Certified Nursing Assistant-
Flexible Full-Time and Part-Time Positions Available. Benefits are available for full time positions, competitive pay up to \$18.36 per hour (with experience credit pay given to qualified applicants), paid time off.

Full-Time Culinary Aides and Fill-In Cook-
Now hiring 2 full-time culinary aides and fill-in cook.

Part Time Schedule Coordinator-
This position will be responsible for maintaining and updating the staffing schedule. The ideal candidate will be proficient with computers, a team player, and flexible with availability. This position will be approximately 10 hours per week. Pay is negotiable depending on experience.

Apply today at
<https://boundarywaterscc.com/careers/>

For more information contact Sarah Spate, Human Resources, 200 W Conan St, Ely, MN 55731, or sspate@boundarywaterscc.com, or 218-365-8756. 4/2

STEGER MUKLUKS & MOCCASINS PROUDLY MADE IN ELY, MINNESOTA SINCE 1985

Steger Mukluks is accepting applications for a full time on-site sewer or home sewer.

We will train but applicants must start with basic sewing skills and an eye for quality.

All on-site factory employees must comply with our state-mandated COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

If this sounds like a good fit for you call Steger Mukluks at (218) 365-6553 and request an application. Interviews will be conducted over the phone.

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Head Football Coach

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Head Football 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 2021-2022 season).
 > Previous coaching experience preferred.
 > Must be available for several practices/games per week from mid-August through early November, 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
 > Resume
 > Copy of credentials declaring appropriate License (per M.S. 122A.22)

Mail materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us
 Stipend: \$5,600
 Deadline to apply: April 16, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, April 2 & 9, 2021

FUNERAL SERVICES

Range Funeral Home



Virginia 741-1481 Hibbing 263-3276
 "Friends Helping Friends"

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tub session
- 5 Petrol
- 8 Microwaves
- 12 Jai —
- 13 Dadaist artist
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 Home to the Buccaneers
- 17 Fish feature
- 18 Evening hrs.
- 19 Whirl
- 21 Jazz genre
- 24 Crossword hint
- 25 Former mates
- 26 Turquoise-like color
- 30 Mimic
- 31 Rib
- 32 Ltr. holder
- 33 Pentagon
- 35 Broad
- 36 The Eternal City
- 37 Golfer's wear
- 38 Calms
- 41 Actor
- 42 Canal zone
- 43 Dorm room sleepers
- 48 Curved molding
- 49 Corn spike
- 50 Pakistani language

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

- 51 Office plant
- 52 Reuben bread
- 53 Grate
- 9 Operatic solo
- 10 Hide
- 11 Auction
- 16 Sound booster
- 20 Year-end celebration
- 21 Tempo
- 22 Big fair, for short
- 23 Pager sound
- 24 Stop
- 26 Trucker in a union
- 27 Floral rings
- 28 Nullify
- 29 Always
- 31 Helen's home
- 34 Impudent
- 35 Orville's brother
- 37 Moving day rental
- 38 Starting
- 39 Olympic sled
- 40 Lusty look
- 41 Employ
- 44 Path
- 45 Epoch
- 46 License to drill?
- 47 Dine

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EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED Well Being Development Executive Director

Seeking 20+ hr/week Executive Director for managing WBD's mental health and wellness nonprofit programming. Tasks include overseeing board committees, HR, and finances. \$20-24/hr DOQ, PTO, and a flexible schedule.

More Information:
www.wellbeingdevelopment.org
 Email Resume: info@elynlc.org

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Industrial Technology Teacher 1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for an Industrial Technology Teacher beginning the 2021-2022 school year; 1.0 FTE; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check required.

Qualifications include:
 > Current Minnesota teaching license in 5-12 Industrial Arts preferred
 > Previous teaching experience preferred
 > Excellent communication skills

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Application for Employment in Licensed Positions
 > Resume
 > Copy of official transcripts
 > Current Minnesota teaching license
 > 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent Erik Erie, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us
 Contact Memorial MS/HS Principal Megan Anderson at (218) 365-6166 ext. 1726 or manderson@ely.k12.mn.us with questions.

Start date: August 31, 2021
 Deadline to apply: April 9, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, April 2, 2021

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP- Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon Family Group is a community-based mutual support program for the friends and families of alcoholics. It is confidential and open to anyone affected by someone else's drinking. Hope Lutheran Church in Embarrass hosts an Al-Anon group on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. 218-984-2037.

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

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

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

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

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

BATH	GAS	ZAPS
ALAI	ARP	AREA
TAMP	BAY	GILL
PMS	GYRATE	
BEBOP	CLUE	
EXES	TEAL	BLUE
APE	TEASE	ENV
TOP	BRASS	WIDE
ROME	VISOR	
ALLAYS	HAL	
SUEZ	TWIN	BEDS
OGEE	EAR	URDU
FERN	RYE	RASP

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HELP WANTED

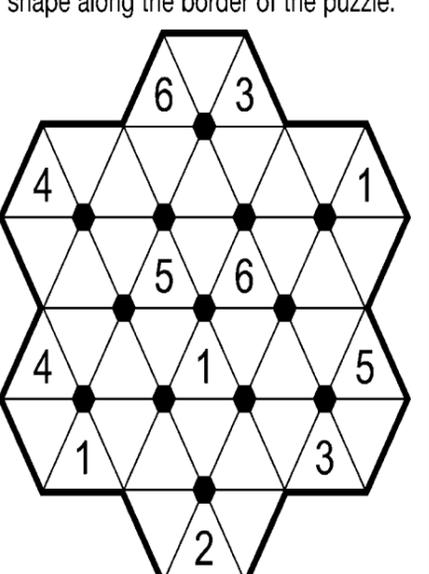
SATURDAY CLEANERS WANTED- Come clean with our amazing team on Saturdays at White Eagle Resort. Competitive wages offered based upon experience. Contact us at 218-666-5500 or apply online at Whiteeagleresort.com. tfn

VERMILION CLUB and BAYVIEW NOW HIRING for all positions: pizza cooks, servers, bartenders, dishwashers, line cooks, and dock attendants. Apply in person at the Vermilion Club, 3191 Old Hwy 77, Tower. 4/9

SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

MARINE

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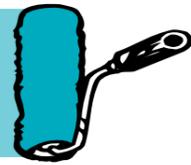
Super Crossword POWER USERS

- ACROSS**
- 1 It may follow "Co."
 - 4 Give a hug
 - 11 Fave buds
 - 15 Location
 - 19 Sheep sound
 - 20 Flan topping
 - 21 Smell — (be suspicious)
 - 22 — -pedi
 - 23 Groups with queens and workers
 - 25 Talk wildly
 - 26 Lickety-split
 - 27 — IRA
 - 28 Ending for host
 - 29 Nitric acid, old-style
 - 31 Knife incision
 - 33 Best Actor awards, e.g.
 - 37 Blood vessel
 - 38 Dairy Queen treat
 - 41 Freshen up
 - 43 Apple product
 - 44 Tax-taking org.
 - 45 Razor-billed seabird
 - 46 Made a lap
 - 47 Xenon and neon
 - 51 Some nameplates
 - 53 Certain recyclable
 - 56 Syringe fluid
 - 57 "Touched" actor Beatty
 - 58 Suffix with Midwest
 - 59 Like dweebs
 - 60 Sleep lab study
 - 63 Ocean route
 - 65 Expectation
 - 66 Airport uniform inits.
 - 69 Peddle stuff on the street
 - 73 The, in Cannes
 - 74 Apple product
 - 76 View lustfully
 - 77 Really clean
 - 79 Whole bunch
 - 81 Patriotic ladies' gp.
 - 82 "I told ya!"
 - 84 Hoarse
 - 88 Rival of Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield
 - 91 Petroleum distillate used as fuel
 - 93 "Death Be Not Proud" poet
 - 94 Pro vote
 - 95 URL letters
 - 96 Ocean east of N. Car.
 - 97 Eternally, poetically
 - 98 Make thrilled
 - 100 Be really successful
 - 103 — de corps
 - 106 Spanish wife
 - 107 Ozeki's sport
 - 108 Tiny garden pest
 - 111 Mothers
 - 114 Witty writer
 - 116 Showoff's cry
 - 117 Spanish coin
 - 118 Basis of this puzzle's theme
 - 122 Part of QED
 - 123 Deli dish
 - 124 Ouzo flavorer
 - 125 Walk- (small parts)
 - 126 — terrier (dog breed)
 - 127 Wallet bills
 - 128 Items in the classifieds
 - 129 Word that can follow the starts of nine answers in this puzzle to make the names of
 - 118-Across
- DOWN**
- 1 Steel girder
 - 2 Measurable in microns
 - 3 Cow carrier on rails
 - 4 With 24-Down, organic cotton garb, maybe
 - 5 Drone, e.g.
 - 6 Dudes
 - 7 Demand from a kidnapper
 - 8 Gallic friend
 - 9 Fair grade
 - 10 Golfer Ernie
 - 11 Brand of root beer
 - 12 German wife
 - 13 — bean (risotto bit)
 - 14 Tennis great
 - 15 Mobile device worn on the wrist
 - 16 Adhesive in an art class
 - 17 Broadcasting
 - 18 Buzzed
 - 24 See 4-Down
 - 29 "How — you?"
 - 30 Salem's state
 - 32 Victory
 - 34 Suffix with land or moon
 - 35 "How — you?"
 - 36 "My Way" lyricist Paul
 - 38 Wee devils
 - 39 Prior to, to a bard
 - 40 Pack animal
 - 41 Material carried away in a deluge
 - 42 End-of-list abbr.
 - 46 Soda insert
 - 48 Bar furniture
 - 49 Flee to marry
 - 50 Monica of the court
 - 52 Sine — non
 - 54 Perceives
 - 55 Purchaser
 - 57 Unaided vision, with "the"
 - 61 Nita of silent films
 - 62 Lamb's mom
 - 63 Stage array
 - 64 Curved bit
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