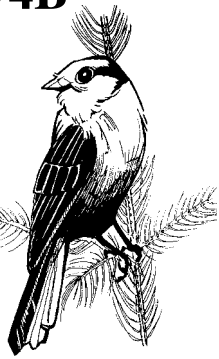




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Math struggles... See /11
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the TIMBERJAY



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ISD 696

Ely school board gets an earful on masking

Petitioners voice opposition to public health mandate

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie came under attack, sometimes personally, by scores of district residents this week who remain upset with the school administra-

More ISD 696
Advisory council reconvenes. Page 9

tion’s 11th-hour decision to mandate the wearing of protective face masks indoors on campus for the beginning

Scores of ISD 696 residents attended the Ely school board meeting in the high school gym Monday night. photo by K. Vandervort

of the new school year.

The Ely school board met in the Memorial High School gymnasium for their regular monthly meeting Monday night to accom-

modate the mostly partisan crowd, estimated to be in the hundreds.

Nearly a dozen district

See...MASKS pg. 9



NEVER FORGET



TWENTY YEARS LATER

Ely marks 20th anniversary of 9/11

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY –Following ISD 696’s postponement of a 9/11 memorial event that was organized by the school’s student council, an alternative site was found at the last minute for the “Never Forget” Memorial Ceremony last Friday at the Veterans

Ely-area public safety and emergency responders, top and bottom, gathered for a solemn procession through town Saturday morning. VCC law enforcement academy cadets, right, saluted during a 9/11 memorial event Friday at the Ely Veterans Memorial. photos by K. Vandervort



See...9/11 pg. 12

CITY OF TOWER

City council selects a new clerk-treasurer

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council, here, on Monday, unanimously accepted the recommendation of its hiring committee and agreed to offer Tower resident Michael Schultz, the job of city clerk-treasurer.

The committee must still decide on a pay and benefits package for Schultz, which the parties involved will negotiate ahead of the council’s next meeting, set for Sept. 27, at which time a final hiring decision could be made.

The decision to offer Schultz the job was not a surprise. Schultz had finished a close second to current clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua back in 2019 and he was one of only two candidates interviewed for the position this time around. The hiring committee had sought to interview a third candidate, but that person withdrew shortly before the interview.

Ranua had announced her resignation on June 1. The city’s job posting, released shortly after Ranua’s announcement, had attracted relatively little interest, with only five applicants responding over a two-and-a-half-month period. The committee had determined that two of the applicants did not meet the minimum requirements.

Schultz currently works as a revenue collections officer for the Minnesota Department of Revenue, based in the Ely, a position he’s held since 2018. He

See...TOWER pg. 10



Michael Schultz

GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Walz, Flanagan visit with Bois Forte leaders

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan visited the seat of Bois Forte Band government here on Monday to meet with tribal leadership regarding legislative issues and tour numerous facilities.

But before their activities began in earnest, they joined about 70 others gathered on the pow wow grounds for a traditional ceremonial welcome.

As tribal Chairwoman Cathy Chavers escorted Walz’s entourage to the pavilion, they paused along the way at the Band’s Veterans Memorial for conversation

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz spoke to Bois Forte Band tribal leadership on Monday. photo by D. Colburn

and reflection. When they arrived under the pavilion, a group of six Bois Forte singers shared two songs to the beat of their drum. Elder and spiritual advisor Gene Goodsky shared the meaning of the two songs with the assembly

before Chavers gave official welcoming remarks.

“This is the first time I’ve ever seen an administration that has really taken the lead and listened to the tribes

See...WALZ pg. 12



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MANUFACTURING

A group of approximately 15 people are standing outdoors in front of a large, light-colored industrial building. In the center, a group of men are holding a large green banner with a red border. The banner has white text that reads "SENATOR DAVID J. TOMASSONI" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and "SOLAR MANUFACTURING FACILITY" in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. The people are dressed in a mix of formal attire (suits) and casual work clothes (polo shirts, t-shirts, jeans). Some are wearing face masks. The background shows the industrial building and some greenery.

MT. IRON- Heliene, a Customer-First provider of North American-made solar modules has announced a \$21 million investment in a new manufacturing facility located in Mt. Iron, bringing the company's total manufacturing capacity to 900 megawatts. Manufacturing is set to begin in June 2022. The expansion will enable Heliene to meet accelerating solar demand while ensuring certainty

and high quality of the U.S. solar supply chain, in alignment with the Biden Administration's clean energy goals.

The construction of a new building will expand the Mt. Iron campus to a total of 95,000 square feet and will bring an additional 60 high-paying clean energy jobs to the area, further diversifying employment opportunities in the region.

“Heliene is one of the fastest-growing producers of solar panels in North America and we could not be happier that they are expanding production in Mt. Iron, Minnesota,” said State Senator David Tomassoni. “The state’s investment in Heliene will create jobs on the Iron Range and help us to deliver solar energy to the rest of the state and nation.”

As a member of the Solar

Energy Manufacturing for America (SEMA) Coalition and the Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA), Heliene is committed to generating well-paying manufacturing jobs in the U.S. and strengthening America's solar supply chain to accelerate clean energy adoption and reach national decarbonization targets.

ELY- On Saturday, Sept. 25, the annual Ely Marathon and Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon will take place. The event brings approximately 4,000 athletes and spectators to the Ely area. This gives us a chance to showcase our beautiful surroundings and friendly communities. Participants will run, and some will even portage canoes, from Camp DuNord up the North Arm, around the city of Winton, and finish with a run up Sheridan Street to Whiteside Park. The community is invited to partake in the festivities and race

revelry! The best spectator spots to cheer on the racers can be found on the race website at elymarathon.com, or set up a lawn chair at the end of your driveway. Whiteside Park will be host to live music, a drink tent, a bounce house, food trucks and much more from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Louis County, MNDOT, the cities of Ely and Winton, townships of Fall and Morse and the Ely Marathon team have put together a plan that is safest for all participants and community members. The following road closures will take place on Sept. 25:

(Echo Trail) North Arm
Rd. to Grant McMahan,
7:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

(Grant McMahan)
Echo Trail to Hwy. 169, 8
a.m. - 12 p.m.

(Old Winton Rd.)
Grant McMahan to W 6th
Ave., 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

(Cedar Lake Rd./
Cloquet Line) Old Winton
Rd. to Beel Rd., 8 a.m. - 12
p.m.

(Pioneer Rd.) Grant
McMahan to Miners Dr.,
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(Miners Drive) Pioneer
to 17th Ave., 8:30 a.m. -
1:30 p.m.

(17th Ave.) Miners to
Camp St., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(Camp St.) 17th to
15th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(Sheridan St.) 15th to
1st Ave, 8:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(1st Ave.) Sheridan to
Harvey, 8:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(Chapman St.) 1st Ave.
to 7th Ave., 8:15 a.m. - 2
p.m.

(Harvey St.) 1st Ave. to
17th Ave., 8:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

All emergency vehicles will be allowed on

the racecourse at any time. There will be pilot cars positioned in case other vehicles need to get through during emergency situations.

For questions, go to elymarathon.com or email run@elymarathon.com.

REGIONAL- Three members of the North St. Louis County 4-H Livestock Project Development Committee attended the Arrowhead Regional Farm Bureau Board meeting in Chisholm on Sept. 7 to seek their assistance in an ongoing project. The Arrowhead Regional Farm Bureau had supported the start-up of the first North St. Louis County 4-H Livestock Market Ribbon Auction. With funds raised from the auction, the committee youth developed equipment they deem necessary to provide growth in their livestock projects and methods to provide ongoing education to those interested in livestock.

Their wish list included several items and the intended use of these items.



submitted photo

► A digital livestock scale for them to measure the rate of gain of their larger livestock in order to adjust feed rations for increased growth or to maintain weight.

► A small animal scale to ensure their rabbits are falling within the American Rabbit Breeders Association breed stan-

dards as well as to weigh their poultry and other small animals.

➤ A fitting stand, fitting stand pad, and blower to fit their livestock for shows. This will further be used at fitting clinics to help youth develop fitting skills for their livestock projects.

- Pig whips and cattle sticks that can be used by

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GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Board still wrangling over clerk and treasurer duties

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- Greenwood officials bickered for most of their two and a half-hour meeting Tuesday night, with much of the focus on the town clerk’s duties and her resistance to fulfilling requests from the board.

Supervisor Sue Drobac, who formerly served as the elected town clerk, once again requested that the clerk and treasurer present both the claims list and disbursement list to the board for review at the monthly meeting.

“This has always been done,” Drobac said, “so the board can compare them.”

“It is for the checks and balances,” said Supervisor Barb Lofquist. “That is why we don’t need an outside audit.”

“It shouldn’t make any difference whatsoever,” said Clerk Debby Spicer, implying the work can be done at the annual board of audit.

But Drobac noted if the board waits until the end of the year, it will make it harder to discover and correct any discrepancies.

They need to match up, agreed Chairman Mike Ralston.

“We do match them up,” said Spicer.

Right now, Greenwood Treasurer Belinda Fazio is responsible for both the claims and disbursements, though she is often being assisted by deputy treasurer Tammy Mortaloni. The clerk is then responsible for logging the claims list into the clerk’s computer, so the two can be compared.

“It is not a statutory job,” said Spicer, “sometimes I don’t have time before the meeting.”

“We will work together to figure this out,” said Belinda Fazio.

After being questioned by Drobac, Ralston briefly updated the board about conversations he had with the township attorney discussing the clerk’s duties.

“As an elected clerk she feels the town board doesn’t have supervisory authority over her,” Ralston said. “She does what the statutory duties of a clerk are. Personally, I disagree.”

“When I started, I was paid an hourly wage,” responded Spicer, who

was tapped by the board to fill in after Drobac resigned as clerk last year. Drobac resigned after the town board drastically cut her pay.

“Now I am told 12 hours a week,” Spicer continued, adding that both the township attorney and attorney from the Minnesota Association of Townships agreed “that I do the statutory duties first, and then whatever duties I agree to do. I’ve agreed to do the agendas. I do the disbursements and enter the claims.”

Further wrangling between Drobac and Spicer was cut off by Ralston.

“We set the clerk’s salary last February so the newly-elected clerk would know what they get paid,” said Ralston, “and we said we wanted the office open 12 hours a week.”

The elected clerk’s salary is set at \$16,700 a year. The interim clerk was paid an hourly rate of \$27.

Ralston said this didn’t mean the clerk was only required to work 12 hours a week.

But Ralston did agree that the legal advice was that the clerk only needed to do the statutory duties.



Mike Ralston, Debby Spicer and Belinda Fazio
photo by J. Summit

“You want me to work for five dollars an hour?” asked Spicer. “Is that what you are expecting of me, working 40 hours a week?”

Drobac put a motion on the floor to have the clerk make a listing of the things she is doing that are statutory duties.

“I am not going to do that,” said Spicer.

Ralston asked that the issue be moved to a later point in the agenda.

Later in the meeting, when questions arose over a slight discrepancy in supervisor paychecks, a motion was made and passed to have the clerk confirm the annual pay for the supervisors. The monthly check written for Drobac is about fifty cents smaller than the checks

for other supervisors, and that change was recently made.

“Can someone provide that information to us next month?” asked Ralston.

“That’s not a statutory duty,” again stated Spicer. “All I know is what I was shown when I started last year.”

OAH ruling on election complaint

In other business, Drobac read some passages from an administrative law judge ruling on the complaint filed by clerk candidate Joann Bassing against Fire Chief Dave

See **CLERK...**pg. 5

Briefly

Woman injured in Angora crash

ANGORA- A 75-year-old Britt woman was taken to Cook Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after a car in which she was a passenger was struck from behind at the Hwy 53/Hwy 1 intersection on Saturday.

Luke Jonathon Sandberg, 23, of Brooklyn Park, was driving a 2010 Toyota Corolla westbound on Hwy 1 at about 8 p.m. on Saturday when he entered the intersection and didn’t see a northbound 2006 Hyundai Elantra, according to a Minnesota State Patrol accident report. The Elantra struck the Corolla from behind, sending it spinning into the east ditch.

Sandberg and a passenger in the Corolla, Vicki Collette Sandberg, 54, of Brooklyn Park, were not injured, but a second passenger, Katheryn Jean Gilson, 75, of Britt, was injured and taken by Cook Ambulance to Cook Hospital. Her injuries were described as non-life-threatening.

The driver of the Elantra, Joan Marie Musech, 56, of Cook, also was not injured.

All four individuals were wearing seatbelts. The report also noted that alcohol was involved with both drivers, but did not indicate if any citations were issued.

St. Louis County Sheriff’s Officers assisted with the call.

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Hydrogen has potential in our energy transition

President Biden recently stated, “The future of the auto industry is electric. There is no turning back.” The President is proposing legislation that will pay out billions of dollars for electric charging stations plus generous incentives for buyers and sellers of electrical cars.

As previously noted, the White House strategy will be focusing primarily on the development of electrical vehicles that will be dependent on our national

electric grid.

The devastation caused recently by Hurricane Ida demonstrates the vulnerability of the grid system. The grid currently cannot supply electricity to a significant portion of our country, and this blackout will likely last for weeks. The inability of the grid to provide electricity in black-out areas would immobilize all types of electric vehicles dependent on the grid for recharging.

Seven million miles of power lines cannot ever be completely protected from downed electricity lines due to hurricanes and tornadoes. As stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, extreme weather conditions

Letters from Readers

will be more frequent and more intense in the future. In addition, there is always the potential threats from terrorists and cyber-attacks.

The administration should give more consideration to non-polluting hydrogen-powered vehicles. Hydrogen is portable in small or large containers, can be moved by truck, ship, pipeline, and their power can be transported through wires providing maximum flexibility for multiple uses in buildings and factories. Hydrogen does not deteriorate, but batteries and gasoline will deteriorate.

At present, hydrogen production is more costly than comparable power from electricity. Likewise,

capture of solar energy was once considered too expensive when the first electric panels were produced. In a relatively short period of time, as the merits of solar became apparent, the drive to find ways to reduce costs was accelerated, and subsequently, panel costs dropped 80 percent even as efficiency increased substantially.

Japan and Russia are jointly searching to reduce the cost of hydrogen production by utilizing substitutes as an alternative to costly platinum currently used in the production of hydrogen. German technology is seeking to lower dramatically the cost of green hydrogen by splitting water into hydrogen and

oxygen using light and chloroplasts. In essence, artificial photosynthesis.

Hydrogen was first produced in the 16th century and has been used for hundreds of years and during that period safety measures have been adopted to substantially reduce its hazards as demonstrated recently by the successful operation of more than 18,000 hydrogen-fueled automobiles and 31,000 forklifts.

On the other hand, the lithium batteries used in electric cars are susceptible to risks of fire. General Motors, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, is recalling its all-electric Chevrolet Bolt cars (69,000) for the second time because potentially

the battery can cause a fire. Other companies have had trouble in the past year with lithium-ion battery fires. Ford, Hyundai, and BMW each issued recalls for their new battery-powered models.

Biden’s infrastructure plan is reported to be \$2.3 trillion, of which \$794 billion is allocated to transportation including \$174 billion for electric vehicles and only \$9 billion for hydrogen vehicles. In my opinion, this represents a poor allocation of resources.

Gerry Snyder Ely

CLERK...Continued from page 3

Fazio and Assistant Chief Mike Indihar over their efforts to politicize the fire department in favor of Fazio’s and Indihar’s favored candidates. Bassing lost the clerk election last March by a two-vote margin.

While the judges dismissed the complaint, the three-judge panel that reviewed the case agreed the two fire officials had misused their authority and said their actions should “not be condoned.”

“The actions of Fazio and Indihar present serious questions on their professional judgement,” said Drobac, quoting from a separate concurring opinion written by one of the judges.

“People need to conduct themselves in a manner that is professional,” said Drobac. “I think we need some corrective action.”

Supervisor Paul Skubic questioned the need for any board action because the “charges were dropped.”

“The case was dismissed because the statute we cited used the word ‘compel,’” said Joanne Bassing, “and we couldn’t prove compel.” Bassing noted they could refile the case under a different statute.

“The judge gave the township advice to prevent future lawsuits,” Bassing said. “We want to clean

up their act so there aren’t more lawsuits.”

A series of OAH complaints filed against the township by fire department member Jeff Maus was the presumptive cause of the township losing its Errors and Omissions insurance coverage by MATIT.

A motion by Drobac to allow the public to attend fire department meetings failed on a 2-2 vote, with Ralston and Skubic voting against. Supervisor Carmen DeLuca was absent. The vote is an apparent violation of the state’s Open Meeting Law, which provides that all meetings of “a committee, subcommittee, board, department, or commission of a public body subject to the [Open Meeting Law]” must be open to the public. The township is clearly subject to the Open Meeting Law.

A motion to allow public recording of fire department business meetings also failed 2-2.

The board had voted at meetings earlier this year, on split votes, to prevent recording of fire department meetings and to close the meetings to the public, except for one representative of the board.

“There shouldn’t be anything discussed at a fire department meeting they are worried about,” said Lofquist.

The board did pass,

unanimously, a motion to affirm the findings of the report and to place a copy of the OAH findings in the personnel files of the chief and assistant chief.

Other business

In other business, the board:

►Decided to hold the check, issued last month, to the Tower Area Ambulance, for the first half of the subsidy agreement, until a final contract is signed. The board noted that the Tower City Council had questioned some language in the agreement that Greenwood had added, limiting liability for the townships.

►Heard that the township has yet to find a new insurance carrier for its Errors and Omissions coverage. The Minnesota Association of Township Insurance Group (MATIT) dropped the township’s coverage several years ago due to excessive litigation against the township, and the township has had to pay for a separate policy.

“As of tonight I haven’t found a carrier,” said Ralston. “I’ve contacted 14 already.” Ralston did say that MATIT has agreed to cover 25 percent of the Errors and Omissions policy. The township’s current policy expires in October.

The town board also had questions on the

replacement cost estimates for the pavilion, and will try to get an outside estimate of its replacement value for its regular insurance policy with MATIT.

►Heard from Lee Peterson, who asked the town board to come up with an estimate of how large a budget reserve is needed, so that information can be used when formulating next year’s levy request. “I hate to see a slush fund built up,” he said.

►Heard that 68 responses are already in on the township’s current broadband survey, which was just mailed out, with very strong interest shown at this point. The federal infrastructure bill, which has funding earmarked for the township’s project, has yet to move forward, Ralston noted.

►Agreed to have comprehensive water testing done on the water source at the town hall at a cost of approximately \$470.

►Will get quotes on the cost of clearing a few trees around the parking lot area that are close to impinging on the landing zone.

►Heard that the rate charged by township attorney Couri and Ruppe is increasing to \$230 per hour for general legal work and \$250 per hour for developmental work.

DAVID...Continued from page 4

inspector said it was one of the best remodeling jobs he’d ever seen. But the best thing we built out of that project was our friendship. Best friends, totally.

After two years in Dodge City, we moved on to Chicago, and a short time later Dave and his family moved to Nebraska. This time, however, we stayed in touch.

Dave and I had discovered that we could tell each other anything, and we continued to do so over the next two decades. There were visits, to be sure, but as the years passed ours became a relationship carried on mostly by long phone conversations and lengthy emails. We rejoiced together over personal and family milestones, helped each other through the inevitable rough spots, and solved the problems of the world a dozen times or more, although the world took no heed of our solutions.

When I talked with Dave in the spring of 2012, he seemed to be in a pretty good space. He was feeling good about the impending high school graduation of his daughter, his youngest child, his work as the finance director for a large church was going well, and he was exploring some consulting possibilities. Life in Dave’s world was good, it appeared.

But that August, I saw

a disturbing post online from his wife – Dave was missing. He hadn’t been seen in a couple of days. The police had been alerted, people were searching, and it wasn’t too long before they discovered that my best friend had committed suicide.

Dave had spent most of his adult life battling depression, though he was awfully good about keeping that hidden among casual acquaintances and at work. To most everyone, he was the guy I described at the outset. I knew better. I’d seen some of the dark times when he felt wholly inadequate as a father, a husband, and a provider. He mostly did his best to find a necessary balance, and in the times he was ‘up’ he enjoyed life immensely. Life was a roller coaster of ups and downs for Dave, and I’d seen him manage it for two decades. I didn’t see any clues to suggest that killing himself would ever be an option. He had too much to live for.

To this day, I know none of the details of his death. I simply couldn’t bear to ask, and I never will. In the weeks and months after the news I was as much mad at him as I was sad. Mad that he’d done that to his wife, my friend, and his kids. Mad that he didn’t call me when he found himself in despair. Mad at myself for not calling more often.

Mad that he left me without my best friend. And sad as hell to imagine what he must have gone through in those final moments, and to have our friendship come to an end.

I eventually got past the mad with the help of a support group, something I’d recommend to anyone who has had a loved one commit suicide. Time has helped with the sad, although there will always be moments of that.

Last week was National Suicide Prevention Week, and if there’s one thing I hate, it’s having my best friend come to mind any time I hear or read the word suicide. But if ever there were a place and time we should be talking about suicide prevention, it’s here and now.

A study of suicides released last year found that mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction occupations had suicide rates high above the general population. Construction was second on the list, and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting was fourth. Welcome to the Iron Range and North Country. We all also know about higher suicide rates among our military veterans.

Equally troubling is the upward trend of suicide among young people. Overall suicide rates for those 10 to 24-year-olds increased 57 percent over

the last decade, according to the latest data. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 10 to 18-year-olds.

And while suicide among adults is skewed heavily toward men, adolescent girls attempt suicide twice as often as their male counterparts. It’s also gotten worse during the pandemic – emergency room visits for girls for attempted suicide were up 51 percent in February and March of 2021 versus the same period in 2020.

I don’t want any of you reading this column to end up like Dave, and I don’t want any of you to end up like me, either, with a loved one who’s taken their own life. If you’re concerned about the mental health of a loved one, a friend, or a co-worker, go to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website at <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/how-we-can-all-prevent-suicide/> to learn more about the risk factors and warning signs for suicide. Call the Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or 988 for 24/7 free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

Please, be aware, be proactive, be a lifesaver. One more suicide is one too many.

Minnesota Statute 367.11 CLERK’S DUTIES.

It shall be the duty of the town clerk:

(1) to act as clerk of the town board and keep in the clerk’s office a true record of all of its proceedings;

(2) unless otherwise provided by law, to have custody of the records, books, and papers of the town and file and safely keep all papers required by law to be filed in the clerk’s office;

(3) to record minutes of the proceedings of every town meeting in the book of town records and enter in them at length every order or direction and all rules and regulations made by the town meeting;

(4) to file and preserve all accounts audited by the town board or allowed at a town meeting and enter a statement of them in the book of records;

(5) to record every request for a special vote or special town meeting and properly post the requisite notices of them;

(6) to post, as required by law, fair copies of all bylaws made by the town, and make a signed entry in the town records, of the time when and the places where they were posted and record in full all ordinances passed by the town board in an ordinance book;

(7) to furnish to the annual meeting of the town board of audit every statement from the county treasurer of money paid to the town treasurer, and all other information about fiscal affairs of the town in the clerk’s possession, and all accounts, claims, and demands against the town filed with the clerk; and

(8) to perform any other duties required by law.



the
TIMBERJAY

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Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

Week of Sept. 20

Monday
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 Sept. 21

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.

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on Sept. 23

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

St. Martin's to hold Christmas Bazaar

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is happy to announce that they will once again be hosting a Christmas Bazaar. The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6 in the church social hall. They are in the early planning of the event and are now looking for local crafters to participate. The cost for a table is \$20. If interested, please contact Maryann at the rectory (218-753-4310) by Oct. 13. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Big Truck Night set for Sept. 30

SOUDAN- Tower-Soudan Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Breitung Township are again sponsoring Big Truck Night. This free family event will be held on Thursday, Sept. 30 from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Soudan Recreation Area (skating rink area). The event is geared for toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary age children and their families. There will be a variety of large trucks for the children to explore. Hot dogs will be served.

ECFE classes for families with children age infant through five begin on Sept. 23 at the Tower-Soudan School. This adult with child class meets Thursdays from 9 – 10:30 a.m. Contact ECFE at 218-753-4040 ext. 6113 for more information.

Joint Powers Rec Board, Sept. 28

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 8:30 a.m. at Sulu's. Any requests for funding must be made in writing, prior to the meeting, and dropped at Tower City Hall.



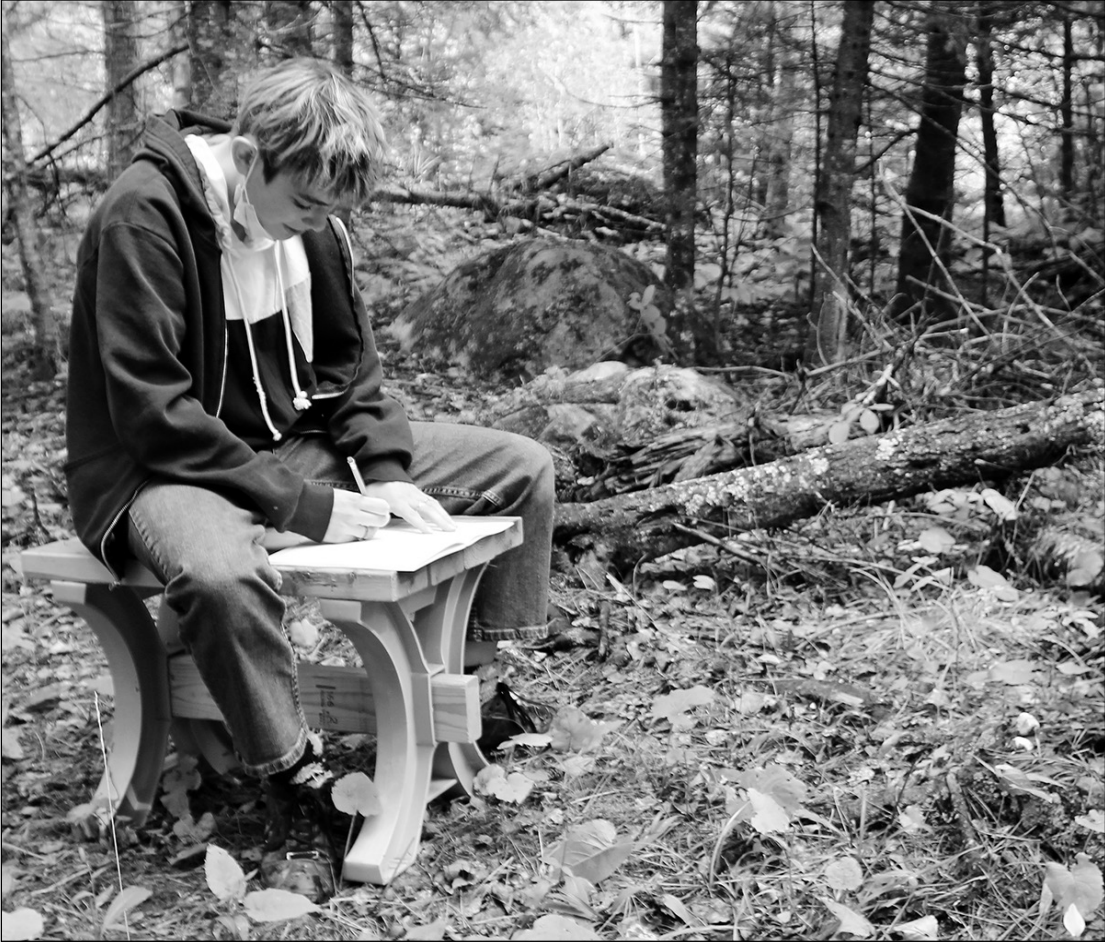
HARVEST BASKET DRAWING
Sept. 17
• Tickets Still On Sale •
Market Time...
Fridays 4-6 PM
at the Train Depot

TOWER-SOUDAN KINDERGARTEN

Clockwise from left: Teacher Kristine Sorgenfrei led her class of the school's youngest learners on their first day of "big school". Kai'lee uses her brand new set of crayons, Brayden checks out his new pencil pouch, Boone washes his hands before snacktime, and Ms. Sorgenfrei answers a question from Betty. photos by J. Summit



VERMILION COUNTRY SCHOOL



Learning inside and outside...

Students at Vermilion Country School started their school year with plenty of time outdoors as well as doing projects indoors. Pictured clockwise from top left: Bailey Pratt works on a drawing for her nature journal, Jorja Heglin builds a newspaper tower, Kierra Debelak engineered the tallest newspaper structure, Siri Salmela works on her journal, students get tips on how to do their daily nature journaling project. photos by J. Summit



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Tower-Soudan Historical Society annual meeting and dinner, Sept. 21

TOWER- Tower-Soudan Historical Society was unable to host an annual meeting in 2020 and looks forward to seeing and visiting with TSHS members and supporters

again on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at the Tower Civic Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. The feature presentation, A Time to Remember: The Memorial for Soudan's Fallen Miners, begins at 5:30 p.m.

James Pointer, Interpretive Supervisor at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, will describe the research and work to date on this project. With an anticipated opening on Memorial Day Weekend in 2022, the memorial display is intended to be

a living document, allowing changes to be made as we receive more information from family members and visitors. This presentation is free and open to the public.

After the presentation, at approximately 6 p.m., Chefs Marko Stefanich and Pam Abrahamson will serve a buffet dinner of champagne chicken, beef au jus and all the trimmings. Dinner cost is \$16 and may be paid at the door. Advance reservations are required by Friday, Sept. 17. Please

call TSHS at 218-753-5021 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and the number of attendees, if you wish to join us for dinner.

A summary of TSHS activities will be shared at the annual meeting. Membership dues (\$10 single/\$20 family) may be paid at this time for the 2022 year or any past years that are owed. Membership numbers are significant to show community support for TSHS grant applications and for operating expenses at the

Depot Museum. Membership is also important for supporting the vision, mission, and project goals of the society. If you have interest in a particular TSHS project, volunteers are also very much appreciated.

The beautiful, award-winning History of Erie Mining Company book will be for sale for \$45. A preview copy will be available.

OUR COMMUNITY

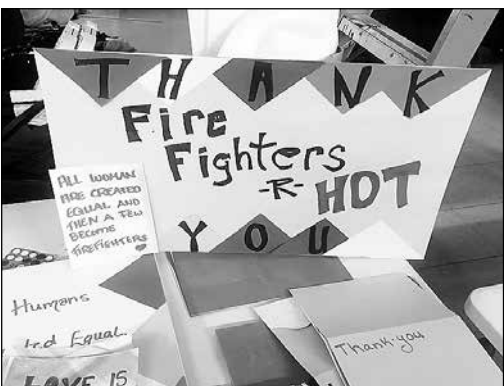
‘Signs of Love’ effort offers support to firefighters

ELY - A grass roots effort sprang up in Ely last month, with support from Susan Laine and other volunteers, to celebrate, support and thank the pilots, police, firefighters, loggers, and everyone else fighting the numerous wild fires, especially the 26,000-acre Greenwood Fire.

A variety of homemade signs sprang up all over town as Operation Signs of Love gained a tremendous following.

In addition, boxes of the posters and signs of appreciation were delivered to fire stations and incident command centers associated with the fire-fighting efforts. Brandy Marie Aase and Abigail Jacobson created a poster and mascot for those fighting the Greenwood fire: Slay the Beast. Laine said, “Superior National Forest administrators and all the folks behind the scenes appreciate the outpouring of love coming from Ely. I’ve been asked to thank the fuel guys, supply guys, and the folks who keep the camp clean and sanitary and I’ve been asked to bring posters to the Duluth airport to thank them for flying the firefighters into Minnesota. Thank you Ely for sharing your love with these amazing men and women committed to ending this fire.”

To get involved, call Laine at 218-235-8065.



Sign makers above, include, front row from left, Dan Amitrano, Miah Aase, Carter Hatfield, back row from left, Randy Stegeman, Jodi Urman, Kris Winkelman, Susan Laine. photos by K. Vandervort



HEALTH SERVICES

Ely hospital now offers robotic-assisted surgery

ELY - Starting this month, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) will offer robotic-assisted surgery.

According to a press release from the local health provider, robotic technology gives surgeons the tools for safer, more effective procedures, and studies show that minimally invasive techniques provide better outcomes and shorter recovery times for patients.

Through a partnership with Intuitive Surgical, Inc., the da Vinci Surgical System manufacturers, EBCH will be able to offer patients the latest in robotic surgery technology. The da Vinci Surgical System has been used since 2000 in various procedures and was one of the first minimally invasive

surgical systems cleared by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Surgeons in all 50 states and 66 countries worldwide use da Vinci systems and technologies.

Robotic-assisted surgery using the da Vinci Surgical System gives surgeons complete control over procedures, according to the press release. The da Vinci System is powered by robotic technology that allows the surgeon’s hand movements to be translated into smaller, precise movements of tiny instruments inside the patient. This allows for greater precision and range of motion and offers much greater tremor control. It also provides a 3D view inside the patient’s body, and the procedure is

magnified ten times greater than physicians would otherwise see.

The system is safe, effective and has been used in over seven million procedures to date. “With a proven track record of success, the da Vinci Surgical System is the perfect tool to help our team provide the best general surgical offerings possible,” said Patti Banks, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital CEO. “The EBCH Board of Directors and Senior Leadership are thrilled to bring this technology to people in the communities we serve.”

EBCH wins Gold Honors

The Ely hospital was recently voted an inaugural

Minnesota’s Best Gold-level winner in the categories of Best Hospital, Best Medical Practice, and Best Physical Therapy. A complete list of winners is available at VotedMinnesotasBest.com and in the 2021 Minnesota’s Best magazine published in the Star Tribune.

Minnesota’s Best is Minnesota’s premier readers’ choice award program and is open to all Minnesota businesses, large and small. Minnesotans were asked to nominate and vote for their favorite local business resulting in over 800 winners. There was no cost to be selected, voted for, or to win this contest.

Star Tribune Chief Revenue Officer Paul Kasbohm said, “As

Minnesota’s largest and most-trusted media company, we set out to deliver a “best of” program that helps support Minnesota businesses by being second to none in this marketplace. And judging by the contents of our magazine, we think you will find Minnesota’s Best the new gold standard for discovering all the amazing businesses that make Minnesota such a great place to live and work.”

More than 11,000 businesses, people, and places were nominated between March 28 and April 14. Minnesota’s Best voters cast more than 525,000 votes in April and May. More than 800 individuals and companies were named a gold-, silver- or bronze-winner in more than 300 categories.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



cool nights with mild days garden offers rich delights

soon the weather turns

Libraries

Ely library

Hours: Monday — Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays 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

Ely Police Department Activity Report Aug. 15-31, 2021

Arrests/Citations:

- Traffic Stop- Individual issued a citation for driving without insurance.
- Disturbance- Individual arrested for Disorderly Conduct and a Probation Violation.
- Domestic Assault- Individual arrested for Domestic Assault.

Complaints:

- Public Assist- Individual let back into their residence.
- Parking Complaint- Officers were informed of a boat that was parked for an extended period of time. The boat was moved by the owner.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted by a local business that was concerned that a person was going to return and cause issues. Officers remained there and the person did not return.
- Check Welfare- Officers were contacted about a person that was talking about self-harm. Officers determined that the person was safe.
- Suspicious Activity- Officers were called about an individual that was stacking wood and about to start a fire. Officers arrived and the individual explained that they were just cleaning up the woods.
- Animal Disturbance- Officers

- were contacted about a dog in a vehicle. Officers located the vehicle with windows open and the owner said the dog was only inside for a short time.
- Assist Other Agency- Officers assisted a neighboring agency with an unknown trouble call.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a person yelling in the street. Officers located the person who went inside.
- Loud Party- Officers were contacted about a large party. Officers were unable to locate the party.
- Neighbor Trouble- Officers were contacted about a neighbor taking pictures of another neighbor. This case is under investigation.
- Extra Patrol- Officers were contacted about extra patrol around a residence.
- Security Alarm- Officers were called to a security alarm at a local business. Officers determined the alarm to be false.
- Animal Disturbance- Officers located a cat that jumped out of a window. The cat was unharmed and returned to the owner.
- Callback- Officers were requested to call an individual about how to get a harassment order.
- Parking Complaint-

- Officers were informed of a vehicle that was parked for an extended period of time. The vehicle was moved by the owner.
- Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog that ran away. Officers were not able to locate the dog.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about two individuals arguing. Officers arrived and did not locate anyone.
- Theft- Officers received a report of a poster that was stolen from a local business. Officers located the poster and it was returned. The person was trespassed from the property.
- Fire- Officers took a report of a fire that happened outside a local business. The fire was put out prior to officers arriving.
- Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers were contacted about a two-vehicle crash with no injuries and minor vehicle damage.
- Vehicle Theft- Officers responded to a theft of a motor vehicle. This case is under investigation.
- Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog in a vehicle. Officers located the vehicle with windows open and determined the dog was not in any distress.
- Public Assist- Individual let back into

- their residence.
- Damage to Property- Officers were contacted about a storage unit that was damaged. Officers determined that entry was not made into the unit.
- Animal Disturbance- Officers were contacted about a dog that chased a person. Officers contacted the owner of the dog and a plan was put in place.
- Public Assist- Letter of good conduct sent out.
- Trouble Neighbor- Officers were contacted about a neighbor having garbage around the yard.

- Officers talked with the neighbor to get the issue resolved.
- Damage to Property- Officers were contacted about damage to a residence. This case is under investigation.
- Juvenile Trouble- Officers were contacted about a vehicle that had eggs thrown at it. This case is under investigation.
- Lost Property- Officers were contacted about property that was lost two weeks prior.
- Fire- Officers were called to a recreational fire. Officers arrived and the fire was put out.

Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust

We are now accepting 2021 Arts Grant Applications for Individual Artists, Project & Youth Grants, Scholarships & Operational Funding

Updated grant applications and guidelines are available online at www.gardnertrust.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: 12:00 noon on Fri., Sept. 24

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Keiko Williams, Executive Director, by mid-September for help and review of their applications. Call 365-2639 or email info@gardnertrust.org

Youth Grant applicants must call Keiko by Wed., Sept. 1 to schedule a grant review meeting.

- AA - Alcoholics Anonymous OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely. SUNDAY NIGHT AA - at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church is cancelled. 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. ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 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

GIVING BACK

Legacy of triumph through tragedy lives on

\$100,000 scholarship fund established by brother will keep his sister's memory alive

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK – It's been over 20 years since DeDe Desannoy Tuuri Kaml passed from this world after battling breast cancer, and almost 40 years since a tragic snowmobile accident on Lake Vermilion took the lives of her first husband and two young sons. But time will not forget her legacy of perseverance, hope, and love of family and friends thanks to a new scholarship fund in her name established by her best friend, her brother Mick.

College scholarships for North Woods School students will be awarded beginning in 2022 from a \$100,000 fund set up by Mick Desannoy and administered by the Cook Lions Club. Three scholarships of \$3,000 will be awarded annually to students attending either a technical/trade school or college.

"My sister DeDe and I were always really close through high school and even college," Desannoy said in a prepared statement. "She attended Moorhead State majoring in biology and I in pharmacy across the Red River in Fargo. She was my best friend and was always there for me and I for her."

About DeDe

DeDe and Mick grew up together in Tower, the daughter and son of a businessman and a homemaker. DeDe and her first husband, dentist William

"Butch" Tuuri, were married in St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower in 1974.

After they both completed college, the couple moved to Cook, where Butch started his dental practice at the Cook Clinic. His sister, Judith Ulseth, of Cook, remembers the first time she met DeDe.

"She flowed into my life on a sunny spring day right after we had our second child," Ulseth said. "DeDe, this new person I'd never met, hopped up on my bed, red curly hair bright against her white lace ruffled shirt with brown velvet pants. She asked me question upon question in marvel with the new baby. She did not forget to lavish attention on our oldest son, Wade. Her concern for me was startling and warm. That was DeDe, always thinking of others."

Ulseth said that the young couple first lived with her parents, Oiva and Gladys Tuuri, on Lake Vermilion.

"Then they bought an old trailer home on a lot down the lake on an old logging road called Phillips Road," Ulseth said. "That's where they lived until they were expecting their second baby."

Butch and DeDe had two sons, Will and Luke, who were two years apart, and there was nothing more important in their lives, Ulseth said.

"They were both very good with children, such a good match, the two of

them, and they were very good parents," she said. "If you were visiting with them and Will came home from school, all conversations stopped and they sat and visited with Will. She constantly had fun things for them to do, and it was just so natural to her. She would always sit down with children and talk to them, no matter whose child it was."

But DeDe's happy family life came crashing down on a March day in 1983 when Butch took the boys, now five and three, for a snowmobile ride on the lake. When they hadn't returned by nightfall, DeDe and one of Judith's uncles jumped on a snowmobile and followed Butch's tracks onto the lake. What they discovered was horrifying. Butch's snowmobile had fallen through the ice, and he and both boys had drowned.

"March 19, 1983, when her family drowned on Lake Vermilion near their home after their snowmobile went thru the ice was a devastating day for her, her families, many friends and myself," said Desannoy in his statement. "They say losing a child is the worst thing that could ever happen to a parent but DeDe lost her entire family, both children and her husband."

It was then that DeDe's faith as a Jehovah's Witness came to the fore as she tried to cope with her devastating loss, Ulseth said.

"She never felt sor-



DeDe Desannoy Tuuri Kaml is being honored with a scholarship fund established in her name by her brother, Mick Desannoy. The first three scholarships from the fund will be awarded to North Woods School graduates in 2022. submitted

ry for herself or cried out 'why did this happen' to her, but quietly would mourn privately," Desannoy said. "I remember my mother told me when staying with DeDe after the accident that she would take long walks by herself. After coming back my mother would check her jacket pockets and the kleenex was wet from tears. She always carried the 'hope' of seeing them again. DeDe's strong will and ability to 'move on' was amazing to me and she truly was my hero."

And while she was grieving privately, DeDe was also reaching out to support other family and friends. Equally affected by the tragedy was the Tuuri family, and Ulseth said DeDe and her mother became extremely close in the months and years following the accident.

Eventually, DeDe found new love and marriage with Frank "Frankie" Kaml Jr., a man 15 years her junior that she and Butch had once given rides to on the lake. The couple became close

during the times Kaml came over to work on various things around the home DeDe moved to after the accident.

"She said, 'I have been so lucky. I've been loved by two wonderful men. How could anybody have a better life than that?'" Ulseth said.

But the couple's life together was destined to last just 12 years. In 1998, DeDe was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"It was bad enough they had to do a full mastectomy, but it metastasized," Ulseth said. "She only lived 18 months from diagnosis to death."

But throughout this second ordeal, DeDe continued to be a light to all those around her, Ulseth said.

"I am so proud of her and really miss her," Desannoy said. "So much more can be said. I have spent the past year trying to figure out some kind of memorial for her and I feel this academic scholarship at the Cook school where they were raising their children would be appropriate. I felt that an essay on the 'importance of good friends and family' written by students applying for the scholarship would be good for them to write about if nothing else than to reinforce such ideals throughout their lives."

Students should contact the guidance office at North Woods School for complete details about the DDTK Scholarship and how to apply.



Folk music coming to Cook

COOK- The Cook Public Library is bringing folk music to Cook City Park on the last Thursday in September with a concert by The Lost Forty.

The Sept. 30 concert is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. at the park gazebo.

Bemidji native Brian Miller and Wisconsinite Randy Gosa perform the fascinating folk music that once rang out across the Great Lakes region in the days when pine was king. Their sources and their

approach celebrate two centuries of Irish musical influence on the under-explored musical traditions of the north woods. Their show includes rich regional history, colorful stories and beautifully interwoven accompaniment on bouzouki and guitar.

Miller is a recipient of the Parsons Fund Award from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and has been awarded several grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board for his

revival of regional folk music. Randy's versatile musicianship has been described by critic Alex Monaghan (Folk World) as "driving, percussive, lyrical, gentle, dominant by turns." As a duo, they mix a passion for north woods history and folklore with their approach to song arrangement. They have performed at the University of Chicago Folk Festival, Milwaukee Irish Fest and over 100 venues across Minnesota.



Friends Kalle and Alice are making tie-dye shirts at the Alzheimer's fundraiser at Cook's Country Connection on Sept. 9. photo by D. Colburn

Duo teams for fun on the farm Alzheimer's fundraiser

COOK- When Dana Sanders wanted to raise money ahead of participating in the Duluth Walk to End Alzheimer's last Saturday, she connected with Lois Pajari at Cook's Country Connection.

The cause of eliminating Alzheimer's disease is close to Sanders' heart – her father lives with the condition. Pa-

jari, too, know others who have been touched by the disease.

But a mere four days before what was to be a simple evening event, Pajari decided they should turn simple into festive. Making calls and recruiting others to help make it happen, by Thursday her farmyard was filled with vendors and children's

activities. Eric and Anna Pedersen were there to provide musical entertainment, and Cook Ambulance Service brought its newest ambulance out for the event.

While the event was pulled together on short notice, the event was a hit with attendees, and a repeat next year could be in the works.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Etching classes featured in October at NWFA gallery

COOK- Learn the art of etching with art teacher Lyn Reed in two October classes at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook.

Etching is a print-making technique that uses chemical action to produce incised lines in a printing plate that holds applied ink to form an image. The art of etching

is one of the oldest print-making mediums, originating in the 15th century and evolving out of techniques developed by armors.

In the "Etching One" class on Saturday, Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., students will design and print a simple etching.

"Etching Two" on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., will have students coloring their etching prints.

Reed has created

lovely pottery on display at NWFA Gallery along with many other works of art as a professional artist. She was the art teacher at North Woods School before retiring.

For each session there is a \$5 materials fee in addition to minimum class fees of \$10 for NWFA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 218-666-2153 to register or come by the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St., open Wednesdays,

Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the end of the month. In October, the gallery will not be open on Wednesdays.

NWFA's is a non-profit arts organization inspiring, nurturing and celebrating the arts in the Cook area. More information is available online at nwfamn.org, on Facebook, or by emailing nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

Church offers free community meal

COOK- With temperatures taking on a pleasant fall-like chill, scalloped potatoes with ham is indeed a meal for the season, and one that can be had for free at the monthly community meal at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook on Thursday, Sept. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. The menu also includes a vegetable, dinner roll and dessert.

This month's meal will be drive through, and everyone is welcome.

Wooster graduates from NTC with nursing degree

BEMIDJI- Jennifer Wooster, of Cook, graduated with an Associate of Science degree in nursing from Northwest Technical College in Bemidji at the conclusion of the spring 2021 semester.

Ely safe school advisory council reconvenes

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – By the second day of the new school year, a confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported in Ely schools, yet the controversial K-12 face mask mandate was the main topic at the Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council meeting last Thursday.

ISD 696 administrators have been forced to defend the controversial measure and indicated that the face-covering requirements will continue for at least another week, and likely longer, while COVID-19 surges in the community.

Superintendent Erik Erie told members that school administrators recommend that the mandate continue for all indoor settings on campus.

He acknowledged the public criticism, including a petition signed by nearly 300 school district residents opposed to the mandate, saying school leaders would continue to consult with health officials and perhaps develop a plan

Face mask rules, public health data reviewed

“Ely may be a trend setter when it comes to making the move. A lot of schools that did not start (the new school year) with requiring masks are now coming before their boards requiring the masks.

Aubrie Hoover, St. Louis County Health Department

for easing the restrictions if and when COVID-19 case rates ease.

“Nobody wants to be wearing a mask,” said Erie. “The big question is what is it going to take to change from mask on to mask off. We don’t have all the answers yet.”

In regard to the petition from the Ely Community Voice group, he added, “We’re hearing from the community, certainly with the petition. People want to know what we’re doing and why. That message certainly came through.”

After adjourning for the summer, the Advisory Council reconvened on

Aug. 10 to prepare for the upcoming school year.

“At that time the Minnesota Department of Health was expecting a surge (in COVID cases) but optimistically looked at that going down before school,” Erie said. “We know that hasn’t happened.”

One positive case of coronavirus was reported at Washington Elementary School on Wednesday. No quarantines were announced.

“We went all summer without a positive case, and we had a lot of people around here, certainly a lot of employees and a lot of construction workers and

a robust summer school program,” Erie said.

ISD 696 administrators developed messaging on what the district intended to do regarding public health protocols, including a “strong recommendation to wear face masks” that was announced on Monday, Aug. 23.

A resolution adopted that day by the Ely school board renewed the authority of school administrators to react quickly to changing COVID case data including requiring face masks.

“That allowed us to do things quickly without the need to convene a special school board meeting if

our situations change,” Erie said.

Later that week, as new information and health professional recommendations concerning the surging coronavirus case rate were considered, the school district came out with the new mask-to-school rules.

“The timing for all of us was frustrating. It was frustrating for our administration team, and for our school board,” he said. “This was a difficult decision to make given the timing and with school ready to start the following Tuesday.”

He listed the surging COVID-19 transmission rate in Ely, new guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health, and Essentia Ely Clinic messaging urging that all students wear face masks as the trigger for the change.

Guidance from changes in the regional COVID case-rate data and health professional recommendations will continue to

dictate how and when any school safe learning policies will be adjusted in Ely schools. A petition from as many as 300 district residents calling for masking of children to be the choice of parents/guardians and not the school district was to be presented to the Ely school board this week.

Aubrie Hoover of the St. Louis County Public Health Department told school officials that, “Ely may be a trend setter when it comes to making the move (to a mask mandate). A lot of schools that did not start (the new school year) with requiring masks are now coming before their boards requiring the masks.”

Hibbing was set to start with their mask mandate this week.

“Other schools are reviewing and making similar decisions to (Ely). A lot of schools are changing their plans. You are the first of many that are making this change,” she said.

The Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, Sept. 23.

MASKS...Continued from page 1

residents, including parents, students and a couple of local health professionals, addressed the school board in the open forum portion of the meeting. Most of the speakers were clearly opposed to the district’s last-minute implementation of the requirement, and their impassioned rhetoric drew loud cheers and standing ovation disruptions from the audience who filled the floor-level bleachers on one side of the gym. The Ely Police Chief stood by and monitored the situation.

A petition calling for the reversal of the ISD 696 Safe Learning Plan and the face mask requirement, signed by upwards of 300 residents, gained support throughout the Ely community in the past ten days. The petition was included in the school board agenda packet. Many of the petition signers vocally reinforced their displeasure with the school board at the meeting.

As a new variant of COVID-19 surges across the country, state and local communities, the ISD 696 administration, with the full support of the local school board, took the advice of state and local health professionals, and in a move to provide a safe learning environment for Ely students, changed the school year re-opening plan from a mask-wearing recommendation to a mask-wearing requirement.

Frank Udovich, who signed the petition, referred to the school’s “illogical fears” about COVID.

“COVID is never going away and we can never vaccinate or mask our way out of the problem,” he said.

In his online petition comments, Udovich summed up the opinion of 90 percent of the school board meeting audience: “This is absolute nonsense. You’ve not only basically PRESSURED our

young children into getting the vaccine, now you are FORCING them to wear masks. Unbelievable!!! I don’t even want to hear the excuses that ‘you’re making it a safe environment’ for all. That is ridiculous! Masks are NOT going to stop COVID so please don’t give me the ‘science’ BS on masks.”

Another speaker engaged in a personal attack directed at Superintendent Erie and was immediately gaveled out of order by school board chair Ray Marsnik.

Ely student Micah Larson, a senior and president of the school’s student council, well-known to the school board for his English department book-banning support, and a recent attempt to tie a local 9/11 tribute event with the ultra-conservative Young America Foundation, confirmed that he was the author of the petition calling for the reversal of the face mask mandate.

The young Larson boy followed his father, Matthew, in addressing the school board in support of his own petition. He questioned the presence of leadership in the Ely school district.

“I hope every one of you realizes you have lost the trust of a majority of the parents, taxpayers, and I hate to say it, but many of the teachers in this school as well,” he said.

Larson added, “There are multiple teachers that I have heard of who won’t speak their mind about this issue fearing for their job or other reasons. Obviously, the leadership in this district has simply gone down the drain.”

He threatened to leave the high school if his petition request was not honored.

“I will lose out on scholarships, possibly even college opportunities. And

you will lose a high-achieving student and current valedictorian of the Class of 2022,” he told the school board.

The school board made no move to rescind the face mask mandate.

Dr. Joe Bianco, a physician with the Essentia Ely health clinic, stressed that the mitigation of COVID-19 does not solely rest on face masks. That practice, he said, is just one component of several steps including hand and surface sanitizing, social-distancing and vaccinating.

“It is the school’s policy makers that make the policies, to look at what’s on the ground, to look at what’s in the field, to figure out what is the best strategy. That’s hard work,” he said. Bianco apologized to the Ely school board.

“Essentia Health was late to the table getting information that we felt was important for our patients to you guys. I’ll take the heat on that one. There is still a lot of data to get. To err on the side of caution is the best practice for everyone.”

School parent Mark Sponholz asked the board a series of rhetorical questions concerning their knowledge of structural engineering in developing and approving a \$20 million building renovation project.

“When they started that building project, the school board decided to talk to experts,” he said. “Why would we consider any different approach when it comes to deciding what is the right thing to do for the health safety of our school, our children and our community?”

He continued, “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Minnesota Department of Health, a number of local physicians are all aligned. We should be wearing masks. I’m here tonight

“It’s bull s**t to wear masks.

Tim Williamson, Ely petition signer

to support the decision to mandate masks because it is in alignment with a number of experts and those who have the expertise to give us guidance in this. I implore to continue to follow the guidance. Listen to the structural engineers and make sure our buildings don’t fall down. And listen to the people who are telling us what to do to keep our children safe as well.”

Few in the crowded gym expressed support for his comments.

A selection of comments in the 290 signatures on the petition presented to the school board included:

► Matthew Kosinski, “Once again the Ely School District has overstepped their bounds by mandating masks. Didn’t you get enough of this last year? I want nothing more than to remove my kids from this school district but my wife won’t move out of Ely.”

► Laverne Murphy, “The school should not be a dictatorship. The decision to mask a child should be left up to the parents. These masks can be doing more harm than good for a child and can be such a distraction to the child’s learning abilities.”

► Stephanie Powell, “My children will not be wearing masks for this school year.”

► Bob Zupancich, “Erik Erie should be fired! I’ve heard nothing but negative things about him!! No masks!!”

► Nick Wognum, “The

school board set up a committee to deal with these issues. This decision was made by the superintendent, not the committee.”

► Cael Neilsen, “I as a free American with constitutional rights decline to comply with this tyrannical mask mandate.”

► Tim Williamson, “It’s bull s**t to wear masks.”

The board listened to comments for about 80 minutes. Later, during Erie’s update on the Safe Learning Reopening Plan, members weighed in on the issue.

“I am in favor of the mask mandate and hope we will be able to lift it in a short period of time,” Marsnik said. “To me the mask mandate is not about freedom and personal choice.” He was shouted down by members of the audience.

After a pause, Marsnik continued, “It is about making sure that our students and staff have a safe place to learn and work. A place where the risk of illness is minimized. It is the goal of us on the school board to make sure this happens.”

The board chair recited the district’s mission statement: “The mission of Ely Public Schools is to educate all students in a positive and safe environment to become respectful and responsible persons who are lifelong learners.”

After citing declining

statewide MCA test results and the challenges of virtual learning, Marsnik asserted, “I want the kids in school. I’m a school teacher. I taught school for 35 years. We all want the kids in school because we all know they learn better when they are in the classroom with a teacher. This is what we want. Mask mandates and vaccinations are two of the mitigation tools we have that will help us to make this happen.”

Marsnik related information that COVID-19 vaccination trials for students under the age of 12 are ongoing and could be available this fall. He was shouted down again by members of the audience and was forced to pound his gavel for order.

“We represent all of the people in this district,” he said.

The other members voiced support for the mask mandate decision. They agreed that transparency and communication to district residents was lacking and called for improvements in that area.

The board will review the reopening plan and mask mandate at their study session on Monday, Sept. 27.



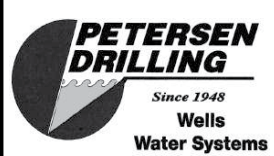
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COUNTY SCHOOLS

ISD 2142 school board chair sounds off on concession stand

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While Tuesday’s working session of the ISD 2142 school board was devoted to reviewing state assessment results, board chairman Dan Manick delivered his own scathing assessment of the district’s failure to address long-standing issues with the deteriorating condition of the concession building at the North Woods football, baseball and softball complex. Manick’s indictment came at the end of the meeting during closing comments from board members, sparked by a comment from fellow board member Pat Christensen. “The only thing I’ve got is that I had two people who approached me in the Zup’s parking lot (in Cook) wondering if they can run a garden hose over to the concession stand, or if the lines are broken underneath to the drain

Manick vows to see serious problems corrected before his term ends

line,” Christensen said. “I’m starting to hear a bit about the fact that we don’t have a concession stand, so hopefully something’s getting closer to done. They can sell, but you can’t use the bathrooms. They have no water.” The facility has been plagued for years by uneven and dramatic settling of the concrete slab on which it sits, in places more than five inches, distorting fixtures and cutting off water to the building. Uneven also describes the poor conditions of the football field and baseball and softball outfields at North Woods, all of which suffer from poor drainage, and are among a litany of construction issues at the 10-year-old school. But on Tuesday, Manick zeroed in on the concession stand. “Just kind of pig-

gybacking on Pat, I’ll probably call Reggie (Superintendent Reggie Engebritson) and see how we could put something on the agenda for the next school board meeting,” he said as a prelude to expressing his frustrations over the district’s inaction. “I’ve only got a little bit of time left in my last term here, and you want to come to the school board and make a difference with whatever it might be,” he continued. “Well, Pat’s been here how many years now, and I’m in my seventh year, and how damn long have we been talking about that concession stand? I want it on our agenda. Maybe let’s just tear the damn thing down and start over again, because before I leave here, we’re going to do something about it. I’m tired of just kicking this can down the road.”

Manick said he received plenty of negative feedback about the situation when he was the baseball coach. “I haven’t been coaching for two and a half years,” Manick said. “I used to get bugged all the time, two and a half years ago, and I’ve been sitting here for two and a half years and we’re, we’re just very polite, watching things happen in other schools. We’re adding on, we’re putting up lights at Northeast Range.” At that point, Manick momentarily veered off on another issue of inequity, that of school signage. “I’m going to take a picture of that little sign that says you’re at the North Woods School,” he said. “We’ve got electronic signs at our other schools, and we just keep kicking the can down the road.”

Manick acknowledged there were some issues with the landscape surrounding Hwy 53 and that he wanted to meet with the state Department of Transportation to explore possibilities. Then he returned to the concession stand. “I’m not going to leave here in one year and four months with that concession stand still not being able to be used or fully functional,” he declared. “You could go back and look at our sheets when we’re doing our budget, long-term facilities maintenance, how much are we spending at North Woods? South Ridge hasn’t had much either because they’re newer schools. But come on, how long do we just ignore this concession stand?” At a board study meeting in April 2019,

Engebritson said she was going to ask for the board’s approval to hire legal counsel to pursue action against Johnson Controls International, Kraus-Anderson and Architectural Resources, Inc., the three companies that designed or oversaw the work on the North Woods and South Range projects. Two weeks later, Engebritson reported that Kraus-Anderson and Architectural Resources had contacted district officials, saying that “they want to work with us and find some resolution,” but little had happened since. This past February, Engebritson said she was in contact with an attorney in the Twin Cities who specializes in these types of cases about the possibility of taking on the district as a client. In a recent conversation with the *Timberjay*, Engebritson said that the attorney is still reviewing documentation in order to come to a decision.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

previously worked for two other private collections firms, based in the Twin Cities, where he served as a manager and coach of collections teams. Schultz grew up in Virginia and holds a BA in political science from St. John’s University in Collegeville. Schultz also has recent experience in city of Tower governance, currently serving as treasurer of the Tower Economic Development Authority and as chair of the city’s Planning and Zoning Commission. If the council approves the hiring later this month, Schultz would likely begin his employment with the city in October. Ranua has agreed to stay on to help Schultz settle into the position. Police contract In other action, the council voted 4-1, with councilor Sheldon Majerle voting no, to pursue a

contract with Breitung Township for police services. Councilor Joe Morin presented cost information provided by the township, which put the city’s share of employing and equipping a full-time police chief at \$65,346 in 2022, which would include the cost of a vehicle. Morin and councilor Dave Setterberg recommended budgeting an additional \$10,000 for possible part-time wages or overtime pay for special events. The new arrangement would provide the city a substantial savings over the prior contract with the township, which had consumed 32 percent of the city’s tax levy, according to Setterberg. The new contract, including the additional \$10,000, would encompass about 19 percent of the city’s tax levy, according to figures the two council members

presented to the council this week. The new contract with Breitung would provide approximately 40 hours a week in local coverage, which Morin said would be focused on “community policing.” Both communities would rely on the St. Louis County Sheriff for 911 response the other 128 hours per week. Currently, the city relies on the sheriff’s office full-time for emergency response, with the cost of that response covered under the county’s tax levy. The council did not discuss which agency would take the lead for criminal investigation if the Breitung police department is reconstituted. The township is currently reviewing the possible hiring of Daniel Reing as the new police chief. That decision could come as early as Sept. 23.

In other personnel matters, Ranua informed the council that the city’s ambulance director, who is also an EMT, works an average of 40 hours per week, which has typically qualified city employees for various benefits, including health and dental insurance and life insurance. Ranua said that as a small employer, the city isn’t required to pay for health coverage for any of its workers, but that once the city decides to do so it should have a “solid foundation” for doing so. An agenda item that Ranua included in the council packet indicated a wide disparity in the benefit packages offered to various employees, ranging from \$14,605 for members of the AFSCME union, which includes the deputy clerk and public works staff, to \$27,900 for the wastewater supervisor, who is hired and

paid through a joint powers arrangement with Breitung. The clerk-treasurer’s benefits package totals \$18,497. In other business, the council: ➤ Authorized Mayor Orlyn Kringstad and councilor Kevin Norby to discuss with Breitung officials a request by the township for a “fair and reasonable goodwill offer” for the township’s past and ongoing maintenance of an extension of Breitung’s bike trail, a portion of which passes through undeveloped land owned by the city of Tower. The city and the township had agreed to work cooperatively on the trail project about seven years ago, which was supposed to complete a bike trail circuit extending “around the horn,” including Hoodoo Point and McKinley Park campgrounds. The project was only partially built, never reaching Hoodoo Point, and the township has mowed the trail, including the portion that passes through city of Tower property, ever since. Some on the council objected to Breitung’s request and Ranua noted that the city has mowed a portion of the Mesabi Trail that passes through the township for decades, without requesting compensation. But Kringstad said the township was signaling a desire to discuss the issue, which he said he supports. ➤ Discussed the advisability of conducting a bathymetric study of the East Two River channel to document the degree of additional sedimentation in the channel as a result of increased boat traffic and the removal of a portion of the retaining wall along the river’s east side.

of the Emergency Medical Services Board, provided to the city last month. Norby said he’d be willing to meet with the ambulance director, the clerk-treasurer, and others in order to develop recommendations to bring back to the council. “There are things we need to take action on,” Norby said. “We need a smaller group to go through the report in more depth.” ➤ Voted 3-2 to sell the police vehicle that the city had purchased several years ago as part of its police agreement with Breitung Township. Councilor Sheldon Majerle offered to take the vehicle to Waschke Family car dealership in Cook to get a valuation on the vehicle, a Chevy Tahoe. Kringstad and Norby supported Majerle’s motion to sell the vehicle. Ranua noted that used car prices are exceptionally high right now, which might yield a good price for the vehicle. ➤ Unanimously approved declaring the city’s 2005 ambulance as surplus and putting it up for bids with a \$5,000 minimum bid. ➤ Approved change orders in the Pine Street project. The first was for \$4,140 for the excavation of additional concrete roadbed, more than originally specified. The second change, totaling up to \$15,705, was for the replacement of the concrete apron and driveway in front of the fire hall and ambulance quarters. The funds to cover the additional costs will come from the Hoodoo Point Campground account, which has the money available. ➤ Asked Morin to talk with public works director Ben Velcheff about options for grading services for the city. The city’s 1973-vintage grader requires a long list of costly repairs, but the city is not in a position to easily replace the equipment. ➤ Accepted the recommendation of Velcheff to leave the city’s seaplane docks in place over the winter. The docks cannot be easily removed due to extremely low water levels. ➤ Briefly discussed but took no action on the latest rewrite of Ordinance 2, dealing with utility hook-ups. ➤ Heard a brief description, but took no action, on the 2022 budget process. Ranua noted that the council will need to approve a proposed 2022 levy at its Sept. 27 meeting.



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COUNTY SCHOOLS

ISD 2142 wrestles with subpar math proficiency assessments

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Results of statewide academic assessments conducted last spring reveal that ISD 2142 has some significant work ahead to bring up the math proficiency levels of its students, according to a review of the district's scores presented at a school board study session on Tuesday.

Only one out of five district seventh, eighth, and eleventh graders who took the math accountability tests met or exceeded proficiency standards, 18 to 23 percent lower than statewide scores, according to a summary of results provided by Kristi Berlin, director of teaching and learning.

However, nearly half of students in third through sixth grades scored at or above proficiency levels, a mark on par with their statewide peers.

Berlin said students often struggle to make the connections between math and real life, and that disconnect may well be contributing to the poorer performance in the upper

grades. She noted that she's seen examples of students scoring higher on math for the ACT college admission test where their results can influence what schools they can attend, while state assessments don't carry the same personal relevance.

"That connection to the math and the junior MCA is not a connection that we're making here, so we will continue to look at that," Berlin said.

"If I'm in seventh, eighth, 11th grade, I don't get anything to do this test, so why do I dive in?" Superintendent Reggie Engbritson added. "The ACT, I'll try to do my best for college."

But board members Bob Larson and Chris Koivisto questioned the

validity of those comments as an explanation for district students performing more poorly than students statewide on the assessments.

"Wouldn't the 'I don't care' factor be statewide, too?" Larson asked.

"That's what I bring up every time, too," Koivisto said. "It's apples and apples. The statewide numbers have the same grades not taking the test seriously, so that just doesn't hold water, and really it is that our upper grade math is not doing well."

Berlin noted a factor somewhat unique to the district. In lower grades the district uses a standard math curriculum program that aligns well

with prescribed state standards. However, because of how standards have been constructed for upper grades, there is no similar curriculum available for those grades, leaving it to teachers to construct their own as best they can. District processes that foster collaboration among teachers were significantly disrupted by the pandemic last year, she said, but there are numerous plans that will be implemented to support those teachers in the current school year.

Another focus is to look at ways to make math more relevant for students in upper grades, Berlin said, including reintroducing tech math as an elective. A "school-to-work" approach that also

shows students how math connects to various career fields also has applicability for reading and science, she said.

"We are constantly looking at trying to build a math program that has levels for kids so we can get the kids to excel," Berlin said. "But we're trying to do it in a way that doesn't dummy down math. We're trying different programs, we're trying different aspects, and we're not going to stop trying."

Reading, science

Districtwide scores for all grades tested were relatively consistent with statewide marks in both reading and science, Berlin reported.

Half of students in

the district and statewide scored as meeting or exceeding reading standards. In third through sixth grades, ISD 2142 students scored slightly above their statewide peers. The greatest discrepancy was in seventh and eighth grades, where 37 percent of students in the district scored as proficient versus 49 percent statewide.

District students were on par with those statewide in science, with four of ten students rated as proficient.

No statewide assessments were conducted last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, and because of radical alterations to learning models and intermittent school closures related to COVID-19.

WILDFIRE

Greenwood Fire containment at 75 percent

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL: - While the Greenwood Fire grew slightly to nearly 27,000 acres last weekend, the blaze, located southwest of Isabella, was near 75-percent contained by midweek, and the number of fire fighters assigned to extinguish it was reduced to about 300.

The Northern Rockies Incident Management Team 3 turned over command of the Greenwood Fire to the Type 3 Minnesota Incident Management Team C on Tuesday.

Ignited by lightning, and detected on Aug. 15, the fire started approximately ten miles southwest of Isabella. Fourteen primary structures and 57 outbuildings were destroyed on Aug. 23.

Last weekend and into this week, heavy equipment operators made progress along Highway 1 using chippers, soft tracked excavators and logging forwarders, according to U.S. Forest Service officials.

Some heat was found in the northeast corner of the fire and crews worked to secure that area. Crews patrolled and monitored along the Highway 2 corridor.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office opened Highway 2 between Highway 11 and Highway 1 to all traffic. Evacuation orders remain in place for the McDougal Lake area.

A Wildland Fire Module, consisting of nine firefighters, was inserted by boat into the fire area southeast of Greenwood Lake. That area is difficult to access and these firefighters remained there for several days, mopping up any hot spots and securing that edge, officials said.

Southeast of McDougal Lake, firefighters were using hoses to extinguish any pockets of heat. On the northeast corner, firefighters supported by tracked vehicles further secured the containment line.

Crews using heavy equipment will continue their work around Lake McDougal, removing hazard trees and making it safe for property owners to return to their homes when the work is complete.



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9/11...Continued from page 1

Memorial adjacent to the Trezona Trail.

With thousands of American flags positioned around the site, dozens of city residents attended the event that marked the 20th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Ely Honor Guard posted the American flag to open the brief ceremony, followed by the playing of the National Anthem and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Two speakers, C.J. Ross, Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academy director at Vermilion Community College, and Ely Mayor Roger Skraba, presented remarks on the solemnity of the event. The audience also paid tribute to local veterans and first responders. The playing of Taps and a moment



The Ely Honor Guard gathered near a sea of American flags last Friday for a 9/11 memorial event at the Veterans Memorial. photo by K. Vandervort

of silence concluded the tribute.

On Saturday, a somber procession of emergency vehicles down Sheridan Street was held in Ely to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11. First responder and emergency vehicles from the Ely Police Department, Ely Fire Department, Ely Ambulance Service, Morse-Fall Lake Township Fire Department, Babbitt Fire Department, Lake County Sheriff's Department, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Border Patrol participated.

Those viewing the procession observed a moment of silence as it passed in recognition of the 343 New York City firefighters, 23 New York City police officers, and 37 officers of the Port Authority who paid the ultimate sacrifice twenty years ago.

In a notice to local media late last Wednesday, Ely school 6-12 Principal Megan Anderson said the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11 will be commemorated at the school's Veterans Day ceremony in November.

I S D 6 9 6 Superintendent Erik Erie said last Thursday that the 9/11 event was planned before the school shifted to a protective face mask protocol due to public health concerns over the surging COVID-19 case rate.

WALZ... Continued from page 1

and have us involved with everything with regards to our sovereignty,” Chavers said. “They recognize it, they acknowledge it, and they understand it. We really want to say that we’re very fortunate to have the governor here during this time, a very cultural event for us here, this fall time of gathering of friends and people, everybody gathering together during our ricing season. I’m very happy that they could be here because this is a time when we discuss not only business but stories, things that we want to talk about, just as friends and not as leaders. And the tribes have great friends in Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan, and we’re very thankful for that.”

Walz looked and gestured to the lake and Spirit Island as he began talking.

“I’m filled with a sense of gratitude of being here, I’m in awe of standing on this land looking at the rice,” he said. “To our spiritual elders and drummers, thank you. You honor us by your presence and making sure we see the traditions and understand the connections.”

“We’re here to talk about the issues that impact your community, to make sure the state of Minnesota is fulfilling its responsibility,” Walz continued. “I appreciate the kind words from the chairwoman, but doing what you’re supposed to do, you shouldn’t get patted on the back. We can’t fix everything overnight, but we can sure try and make things right.”

Walz noted that the COVID pandemic had delayed this long-planned trip to Nett Lake, and acknowledged the trials felt by the community during the past year and a half and his gratefulness for the opportunity to come together.

Flanagan also addressed the assembly.

“It’s interesting, and I use that in the most Minnesotan way possible, to be an Ojibwe woman who’s serving in state government, serving in systems that weren’t created by us or for us, but oftentimes were created to throw up obstacles for our participation. Being in these places and spaces is challenging, but it’s also been a real gift to be able to serve in this way.”

Flanagan stressed that the visit and ongoing communications are intended to have an impact that far outlasts the current administration.

“What we expect is that we are talking about it so that we’re setting the course, so that you don’t need to have an Ojibwe woman as lieutenant governor and Gov. Walz doesn’t have to be governor to ensure that this work continues in perpetuity,” she said. “This should simply be the way that Minnesota does its business from here on out.”

ELY MARATHON ROUTE INFORMATION



ELY MARATHON
SEPT. 25, 2021
ROUTE & ROAD CLOSURE INFO
For more info, contact:
run@elymarathon.com

Join us at the Finish Line:
The First Half Marathon runner will arrive at the finish line around 9:20am.
The First Full Marathon runner will arrive at the finish line around 10:15am.
The First Half Portage runner will arrive at the finish line around 10:15am.
The First Full Portage runner will arrive at the finish line around 12:45pm.
Come and cheer them in!

TRAFFIC IMPACTED - Saturday, Sept. 25

St. Louis County, MNDOT, the Cities of Ely and Winton, Townships of Fall and Morse and the Ely Marathon team have put together a plan that is safest for all participants and community members.

The following road closures will take place on September 25:

- (Echo Trail) North Arm Road to Grant McMahan 7:30AM-10:00AM
- (Grant McMahan) Echo Trail to HWY169 8:00AM-12:00PM
- (Old Winton Road) Grant McMahan to W 6th Ave 8:00AM-12:00PM
- (Cedar Lk RD/Cloquet Line) Old Winton Road to Beel Road 8:00AM-12:00PM (Pioneer Road) Grant McMahan to Miners Dr. 8:30AM-1:00PM

(Miners Drive) Pioneer to 17th Avenue 8:30AM-1:30PM
(17th Avenue) Miners to Camp St. 9:00AM-2:00PM
(Camp) 17th to 15th 9:00AM-2:00PM (Sheridan) 15th to 1st Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM
(1st Ave) Sheridan to Harvey 8:15AM-2:00PM
(Chapman) 1st Ave to 7th Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM
(Harvey) 1st Ave to 17th Ave 8:15AM-2:00PM

All emergency vehicles will be allowed on the race course at any time. There will be pilot cars positioned in the case that other vehicles need to get through during emergency situations.

ELY DETOUR DURING MARATHON

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

FRIDAY:

Noon-10 pm Packet pickup at Whiteside Park
Noon-8 pm Epic Bounce House Obstacle Course
Noon-8 pm Food Trucks at Whiteside Park
6-8 pm Sweet Siren Playing in Whiteside Park
6-8 pm Dick Beardsley Book Signing in Whiteside Park
7 pm Northern Lights 5K GLOW RUN

SATURDAY:

5:30 am Busses begin picking up at Whiteside Park/Ely High School
7:30 am Start of Ely Marathon
8:00 am Start of Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon
8:45 Start of Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run
9 am Kids Finishers and Marathon runners start coming in
8-3pm Race Expo and Food Trucks at Whiteside Park
8-3pm Bounce House Extravaganza at Whiteside Park
10-3pm Dorothy Molter Beer and Drink Tent
10-2pm Rhino Rocks Whiteside Park
2pm Awards Ceremony at Whiteside Park

OBSERVATION POINTS:

- Intersection of Echo Trail to Grant McMahan Blvd: Miles 11-12 of Ely Marathon/Miles 2-3 of Half Marathon. Cars will have to take 169 West out of Ely and take a right onto Grant McMahan Blvd - no traffic will be allowed on race course.
- Winton Main Street: Mile 18 of Ely Marathon/Mile 5 of Half Marathon. Traffic will be allowed on 169 East of Ely.
- Miners Drive: Miles 23-24 of Ely Marathon/Miles 10-11 of Half Marathon. Parking available at VCC and side street.
- Whiteside Park/Finish Line: See the runners as they run up Sheridan Street for their last mile, then see them finish at the finish line. Parking available at Ely Memorial High School and side streets.

ELY DETOUR DURING MARATHON



ELY STREET CLOSURES:

The following streets will be closed from 8:30am to 2pm

- East Camp Street from 17th Ave. to 15th Ave.
- Sheridan Street from 2nd Ave. to 15th Ave.
- Chapman Street from 2nd Ave to 7th Ave

Hwy 169 (Sheridan Street) detour will run from Central Ave. to Harvey Street to 17th Ave. (shown in green).



Performing at Whiteside Park at the Finish Line from 10:00-2:00 on Saturday

NORTHERN LIGHTS 5K GLOW RUN

Friday, Sept. 24 @ 7 pm



- The 5K race will be in effect for 6:40pm to 8 pm on Sept. 24
- The entire course will be blocked off to traffic during the race.
- Barricades will be placed so that alleys south of Camp Street will be accessible.
- The course will be cleared as the last racers move throughout the route.
- Registration will be at Whiteside Park for this event this year, not at VCC



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VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies take down Deer River in four sets



Team rebounds from earlier loss to Mesabi East

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Grizzlies bounced back Monday from a loss to Mesabi East last week by vanquishing visiting Deer River, 3-1.

The teams matched each other

Left: The Grizzlies' Addy Hartway tips the ball over a pair of Deer River defenders.

photo by D. Colburn

point for point in the early going of the opening game, with the Grizzlies opening a slim 13-10 lead on a slam by Addy Hartway. But the tables turned quickly, with the Warriors making a 6-0 run for a 16-13 lead. Morgan Burnett stepped up to serve and brought the Grizzlies back even at 18 with the first of three consecutive aces, and North Woods put together a 7-0 blitz for a 25-19 win.

The Grizzlies carried that momentum forward, playing some

of their best ball of the season in the second stanza. Hannah Kinsey took charge at the net, scoring three of the Grizzlies first four points and Burnett served up a pair of aces as the Grizzlies took a 6-2 lead. Communicating well and hustling hard for digs and sets, the Grizzlies built a commanding 21-9 advantage, with Abigail Shuster, Tori Olson, Burnett and Kinsey sharing the hitting load.

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B

VOLLEYBALL

Ely goes 3-1 in weekend tourney

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

COLERAINE— Ely struggled early at a weekend tournament here but bounced back to take three straight matches to finish 3-1 on the day. “Overall, it was a great day of volleyball,” said Ely Head Coach Megan Wognum.

It didn’t start out that way, however, as the Timberwolves fell to Mesabi East in their opening set, 25-22. Ely rallied for a convincing 25-13 win in the second set, but the Giants flipped the script in the decider, taming the Wolves with a 15-6 win. Despite the loss, several Ely players posted impressive stats. Junior Madeline Kallberg led offensively with 10 kills, while senior Kellen Thomas posted nine kills and five digs. Senior setter Katrina Seliskar added 24 assists in addition to nine digs and two ace serves, while junior Kate Coughlin tallied five kills and seven digs.

Junior Rachel Coughlin had a big match in the second round of the tournament as she posted seven kills, five blocked shots, and five digs to help lead the Wolves to a 25-23, 25-15 win over Hill City. Sister Kate added eight kills in the match, while fellow junior Courtney Eilrich added five digs and two aces. Seliskar posted 22 assists and Kallberg tallied four kills and two blocks.

Seliskar’s seven ace serves helped Ely overpower Moose

See TOURNEY...pg. 2B



Left: The Grizzlies' TJ Chiabotti heads for the end zone after intercepting a first quarter Chisholm pass. It was the first of seven touchdowns for Chiabotti in the game.

Below: Chiabotti sheds a tackler as he saunters into the end zone on one of five rushing touchdowns on the afternoon.

photos by
D. Colburn

FOOTBALL

Chiabotti rules in Chisholm rout

North Woods runningback racks up seven touchdowns, 300-plus yards

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- T.J. Chiabotti is a marked man, a high school running back who might as well replace the number on his jersey with a target. Teams know that their best shot against the North Woods Grizzlies is to find a way to slow him down.

Chisholm learned last Friday just how hard that task can be, as Chiabotti exploded on the Grizzlies’ home turf for more than 300 yards of offense and seven touchdowns in just over two-and-a-half quarters of action in a 60-23 drubbing of the Bluestreaks.

There was little hint of the rout to come in the first quarter, when the two teams combined for 35 points.

Chisholm was on the move from the start, mixing passes and runs to move from their own 35 to a first-and-ten at the Grizzlies 36. But Chiabotti stepped in to swipe quarterback Dom Olson’s pass on the next play and raced all the way to the end zone for his second pick-six of the season. Chiabotti also scored the conversion, putting North Woods up 8-0 with less than three minutes elapsed on the clock.

Unfazed, Olson went right

See FOOTBALL...pg. 2B



FOOTBALL

Rangers’ offense overpowers Timberwolves



by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – An explosive Rangers offensive was too hot for Ely to handle here last Friday as Mt. Iron-Buhl

Left: Ely’s senior defensive end Chase Sandberg wraps up Mt. Iron-Buhl quarterback Asher Zubich last Friday, in Ely.

photo by K. Vandervort

routed the Timberwolves 72-6. It was a repeat performance for the now 2-0 Rangers, who crushed Hill City in their season opener, 74-6.

Rangers quarterback Asher Zubich put on a virtual passing clinic in the early going, as he found senior tight end Hunter Weigel for four touchdown passes in the first half. The Rangers added to their

scoring bonanza with a five-yard touchdown run from sophomore running back Damian Tapio and another scoring pass from Zubich to junior receiver Riley Busch. Zubich also scampered for a 65-yard score.

Ely’s Erron Anderson put six points on the board before the half ended with a four-yard run. But by then, the Timberwolves were facing a 58-6 deficit.

The Rangers added two more touchdowns in the second half. Zubich ran in his second score of the night from 35 yards out in the third quarter, and backup quarterback sophomore Colton Gallus ran in from 24 yards in the fourth quarter.

Despite the rough outing, Ely Head Coach

See WOLVES...pg. 2B



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RUNNING

Runners, some with canoes, ready for Ely Marathon

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Adventurous runners and their fans will descend on this town at the end of the road next weekend for the 5th annual Ely Marathon and Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon. Some of the 250 registered runners will also bring their canoes to run the 26.2-mile route in the Marathon Portage Division.

“This is the only official race of its kind,” Race Organizer Wendy Lindsay said. “The canoe-carrying racers will be vying to beat the world record set in 2019’s race at a time of five hours and one second. If a racer can beat the current record, they are awarded a boat from Northstar Canoes.”

The Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon, which takes place on the same day, added a canoe division in 2017. So far, there are 24 canoes registered for the races along with 15 portaging teams.



Rain didn’t dampen spirits for the Ely marathon in 2019.

Runners not up for portaging a canoe are also invited to participate. More than 500 runners are scheduled to compete in the 13.1-mile Boundary Waters Bank Half Marathon. A hundred children signed up for the Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run, according to Lindsay.

Weekend events also include

a 5k Glow Run that will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 24. The “Kids Marathon,” coined the Dorothy Molter Root Beer Run, will begin at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25. “Kids have run 25 miles prior to race day and will finish out the last 1.2 miles of the marathon route to finish at the official marathon finish line,” Lindsay said.

Run with a legend at 2021 marathon

ELY — Famed Minnesota marathoner Dick Beardsley will be joining the 2021 Ely Marathon festivities. The well-known long distance runner will be signing books on Friday, Sept. 24 at packet pickup from 6-8 p.m. in Whiteside Park and will be running the marathon on Saturday

“Dick is known for so many things, and we are lucky to have him join us in Ely,” said Wendy Lindsay, marathon

organizer. Beardsley is a motivational/inspirational speaker, suicide survivor of loss, farm accident survivor, prescription drug addiction survivor, record breaking marathon runner, famous 1982 Boston Marathon runner, Minnesota native, author, fishing guide, innkeeper, husband, father, subject of a feature film, and co-winner (with Inge Simonsen) of the 1981 London Marathon.

Live music, a beer tent, a book signing, an obstacle course, and food trucks will also add to the fun in Whiteside Park at this year’s event.

Runners can still sign up at packet pickup on Friday, Sept. 24 at Whiteside Park from noon to 4 p.m.

“The Ely Marathon partners

with over 75 local clubs, businesses and organizations, making it the largest community-coordinated effort in the area,” Lindsay said. “The race requires more than 300 volunteers.”

Registration and additional information can be found at ely-marathon.com or by emailing: run@elymarathon.com.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

But the Warriors wouldn’t go down easily. Nevaeh Evans stopped the Grizzlies’ run with a kill and took over at server, leading a 7-0 run that narrowed the gap to 21-17. The Warriors got to within two, 23-21, but Hartway outdueled two Warriors at the net for a score, and Karah Scofield followed up with a service ace for the 25-21 win.

Game three started as a carbon copy of the first, with the teams trading points to a 10-10 tie. Then Deer River reeled off another 6-0 spurt and kept control the rest of the way for their only win of the night, 25-18.

With Skyler Yernatich serving, the Grizzlies

quickly put that loss behind them, racing out to a 5-0 lead with a block and kill from Kinsey, a kill by Olson, and a pair of aces from Yernatich. The Grizzlies kept up the pressure at the net and from the service line as they built a ten-point lead at 18-8, then extended that to 12 points at 23-12. Scofield snuffed out a short Deer River run with a solid crosscourt kill, and Olson scored the game winner to close out the match with a 25-16 win.

Burnett’s sizzling 19 aces led a strong team performance from the service line, something Head Coach Kandi Olson said the team had set for a

goal coming in.

“We knew that serving had been an issue in our last game, and we needed to make sure that our serving stayed at the level that we expected,” Olson said. “It was there tonight, and it made a huge difference. Morgan was aching the whole place out tonight.”

The Grizzlies also put a premium on hitting for this match, another focus that paid off, particularly in a breakout performance from Kinsey, who nailed 11 winners in a strong overall match at the net.

“She wanted that ball in her hands every single time, if possible,” Olson said. “And when she goes

up, it pulls a huge block away from everyone else, too. Even if she doesn’t get the ball, if she is acting like she wants that ball, then it opens up our other two hitters, because blockers have to stay on her.”

Mesabi East

Mesabi East came into a Sept. 9 match against North Woods with a clear height advantage, but it was no advantage at all in the fierce duel that characterized the first game of the match. While the lead exchanged hands several times, the Grizzlies turned a 9-9 tie into a 17-14 lead. After the Giants took a 20-18 lead, North Woods

didn’t fold, knotting the score at 20. The Grizzlies fended off two set points before the Giants escaped with a 25-23 win.

Dropping that first game appeared to take a bit of the wind out of the Grizzlies’ sails. They fell behind by eight in the second game before coming back to a 13-13 tie, but lost 25-15, and never seriously challenged the Giants in a 25-14 loss in the third.

“We actually planned for their height in practice, and we were ready for that,” Olson said. “We just couldn’t seem to adjust and stay adjusted. But we learned a lot about our-

selves in that first game, and I think we’re going to come back as a stronger team because of that.”

Late results

The Grizzlies came out on the short end of a match at Eveleth-Gilbert on Tuesday, losing 3-1. Additional details were not available at press time.

North Woods was scheduled for tournament action in Hill City on Saturday, followed by a road trip to Cherry on Tuesday.

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

back to the air on the Bluestreaks’ next possession, which lasted just 40 seconds. Olson first hit Jude Sundquist for a big gainer from the Chisholm 47 to the North Woods 9, and the pair connected again for a touchdown on the second and final play of the drive. The Grizzlies blocked the point-after kick, leaving the score 8-6.

North Woods wasted little time in its own response, with an 80-yard scoring drive. Ty Fabish connected with Olin Nelson on a 24-yard pass play setting up a 35-yard Chiabotti touchdown jaunt. Fabish passed to Jared Chiabotti for the conversion and a 16-6 lead.

Chisholm answered again in less than a minute. After the Grizzlies stuffed a run at the Chisholm 30, Olson found Sundquist deep along the sideline for a 70-yard shocker score, and the point-after made the score 16-13.

Driving from their own 20 to the Chisholm 20 on the next possession, the Grizzlies found themselves going in reverse, with a holding penalty and a sack setting up second-and-26 at

the 36. T.J. Chiabotti got 11 of those yards back on two runs, setting up fourth-and-15 from the 25.

Fabish took the snap and rolled right, momentarily taking the spotlight off Chiabotti. The North Woods back slipped into the defensive backfield, grabbed a pass from Fabish, and threaded his way to the end zone for his third touchdown of the quarter, posting the Grizzlies to a 22-13 lead.

The slugfest came to an end abruptly early in the second quarter when Olson suffered a game-ending shoulder injury on a tackle out of bounds. Without their ace signal caller, Sundquist stepped in at quarterback and immediately threw a drive-ending interception courtesy of the Grizzlies’ Eric Aune.

With T.J. Chiabotti doing most of the damage, the Grizzlies marched from their own three to the Chisholm 18. Taking the ball around right end, Chiabotti broke through a trio of would-be tacklers at the 10 and ran in for his fourth touchdown of the night. He tacked on the two-point conversion for a

30-13 lead with just under eight minutes remaining in the half.

It took only ten seconds for the Bluestreaks to strike back this time, as Sundquist fielded the bouncing kickoff and raced straight down the middle of the field for a touchdown. The point after left the Grizzlies still on top, 30-20.

Jared Chiabotti got the call on three consecutive plays in the next series for North Woods, toting the ball from the Grizzlies’ 36 to the Chisholm 21. From there it was T.J. time, with another right-side sweep and another touchdown to extend the lead to 36-20.

The Grizzlies forced a Chisholm punt on the next possession, and Aune’s return gave North Woods good field position at their own 48. One play later the ball was at the Chisholm 10 after a long T.J. Chiabotti run. Two plays later Chiabotti crossed up the defense by starting right and then cutting back against the grain for a 10-yard touchdown, his sixth of the half. Fabish connected with Aune for the conversion and a 44-20 lead that the

Grizzlies carried into the break.

Fabish found Aune again on the Grizzlies’ opening series of the second half, a 42-yard catch-and-run to the Chisholm 23. North Woods drove down to the two-yard-line, but a false start penalty and a sack left them with third-and-goal from the 20. The next play could have been called from the concession stand – T.J. Chiabotti, sweep right, touchdown. Jared Chiabotti scored the two-point conversion for a 52-20 lead with 7:33 remaining in the third quarter.

Reserves from both teams saw extensive action from that point forward. Grizzlies running back Jake Swanson ripped off several nice runs, including a one-yard plunge for the team’s final touchdown. Quarterback Jonah Burnett tossed a pass to Lane Kneen for the conversion.

One final treat was in store for the fans when Chisholm called time out with six seconds left to give their kicker, Nathan Wangenstein, a shot at a 51-yard field goal. His kickoffs to the end zone for touchbacks showed he had

the leg, and Wangenstein didn’t disappoint, knocking the ball through the goalposts with a kick that drew cheers and applause from home and visiting fans alike as the game ended with the score 60-23.

Grizzlies Head Coach Joel Anderson gave kudos to the guys in the trenches who paved the way for Chiabotti’s big night.

“If you look at our offensive line, we’re pretty solid across the board,” Anderson said. “These are guys that have put in quite a bit of time in the off-season and they’re very athletic in their own right. We had guys back in normal position, compared to week one, and we were able to move guys where we needed them to be. We’re playing fast and strong offensively, and it’s a nice combination to have. We made nice holes for our backs, we gave Ty time to pass. They played a very good game.”

T.J. Chiabotti slashed the Bluestreaks’ defense for 306 rushing yards on only 20 carries, a 15.3 yards-per-carry average, and caught one 25-yard touchdown pass to go with his five rushing touchdowns. And

any team would have been happy to have the 112 yards rushing and 36 receiving yards Jared Chiabotti posted for the game.

“You really can’t say enough about T.J.’s intangibles,” Anderson said. “He’s very, very challenging to bring down. And then off of that, Jared is equally as challenging in his own right, coming off play action or anything else. If he has any space, it’s very challenging to even get a hold of him. We have a very nice combination there when we’re able to mix it up.”

After being shackled in the first game against Rock Ridge, Fabish completed six of eight passes for 109 yards and a touchdown.

“With his accuracy and his timing he looks like a senior who’s been out there doing it for a while,” Anderson said. “It was good to see Ty get things rolling.”

The Grizzlies are now 1-1 on the season. North Woods was scheduled to be back on the road on Friday with a game at Deer River.

TOURNEY...Continued from page 1B

Lake/Willow River 25-17, 25-22. Thomas had another strong match, with ten kills and four digs, while Rachel Coughlin added six kills and eight digs.

In their fourth and final match, the Wolves topped Northeast Range 25-19, 25-11, thanks to a strong all-around effort by Rachel Coughlin, who posted five kills, six blocks, 11 digs, and two ace serves.

She had help from several other teammates, including Thomas, with three kills, three digs, and two aces, and senior Raven Saino, with two kills, three digs, and two aces. Kallberg posted five kills, while Seliskar added 15 assists and three blocked shots.

“We did a great job of bouncing back after the first game,” said Wognum. “We were able to utilize some of

our strengths throughout the day. We served really well for the most part and finished the day strong.”

The weekend action leaves the Wolves at 6-1 on the season.

Wolves dump Tigers

Playing in Cherry last Thursday, the Timberwolves used strong serving and net play to overpower Cherry in three

sets last Thursday, 25-19, 25-22, and 25-17.

“The whole team showed up to play tonight,” said Coach Wognum. “We had a strong serving and passing game which allowed us to complete some of the plays.”

A total of seven players made significant contributions on the night. Thomas led the way offensively with nine kills and three ace

serves, in addition to four digs. Kate Coughlin tallied ten kills and five digs, while sister Rachel notched seven kills in addition to 12 digs and four blocked shots. Katrina Seliskar posted 27 set assists, six digs and two aces, while senior Annikka Mattson and Courtney Eilrich added four aces apiece. Kallberg tallied three kills.

“It was nice to see

everyone contribute on the floor,” said Wognum.

The Wolves were set to visit Aurora on Thursday to take on the Giants. They’re back on the road Tuesday against International Falls before returning home next Thursday, Sept. 23, when they’ll host North Woods.

WOLVES...Continued from page 1B

Louis Gerzin found some silver linings. “We played against a really good Mt. Iron team,” he said, and noted that junior running back Anderson continues to grow in the position.

“Erron had 110 yards rushing and the touchdown this week. He also played well defensively.”

Gerzin said sophomore linebacker Gavin Marshall “made some nice plays,”

and added that Deegan Richards, another sophomore linebacker, and junior quarterback and defensive safety Mason Davis both played well on defense. “Those four stood out on

defense against MIB,” he said.

Jakson Hegman, Eddie Prijatel, and Richards, all recorded seven tackles apiece. Chase Sandberg had a quarterback sack

and Harry Simons added an interception.

Ely was set to play at Bigfork on Friday afternoon with a 2:30 p.m. kickoff. Gerzin said the earlier start time for the

game was due to officiating crew shortages. The Timberwolves return home on Friday, Sept. 24 to host Cherry.

PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID cases flare up in Tower, Cook, and Bois Forte

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- As officials around the country continue debating President Joe Biden’s six-point plan to combat the COVID pandemic, including requiring vaccinations for about 80 million federal workers, federal contractors, private employees and health care workers, the North Country is seeing more evidence that the pandemic is far from over.

County public health director Amy Westbrook has cited northern St. Louis County for its lower vaccination rate than the rest of the county, and that may well have contributed to the double-digit increase in new COVID cases last week, with 26

positive test results reported by state health officials last Thursday.

Tower topped the list of zip codes monitored by the Timberjay with 11 new cases, and Cook was close behind with nine. Ely tallied four new cases, with one each in Orr and Embarrass.

Bois Forte Health Services also began reporting new COVID cases on Sept. 9., and by Tuesday the total number of new cases had grown to 14, equally split between Nett Lake and Vermilion.

No cases have been reported by ISD 2142 officials for North Woods and Tower-Soudan schools, but Ely Public School officials announced they had identified one new case on Sept. 9. Masks are required in

all indoor spaces in Ely schools, while in ISD 2142 schools masks are highly recommended for all, but not required. The most current bi-weekly case rate, used last year to help determine when schools should change learning models, stands at 32.2, almost four times higher than in mid-July. Over approximately the same time period, the seven-day rolling average of new cases in the county increased from 5 to 39.4.

Statewide

Tuesday’s state case update, including combined data from Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, reported 4,603 new cases, an average of over 1,500 a day, a number consistent with daily reports in recent weeks. Twelve new deaths were also reported, although some deaths may have

occurred at an earlier time due to lags in reporting them to health authorities. In the past week, 59 new deaths were reported, up from 45 the week prior.

With the Delta variant of the coronavirus estimated to be responsible for nearly all new cases in the state, health officials are concerned about hospitalization rates that haven’t been seen since January, at the peak of the third wave. As of Tuesday, 208 people with COVID-19 were in intensive care units, the highest number this year. Additionally, 540 patients were hospitalized but not in ICUs.

Out of about 3 million fully-vaccinated Minnesotans, just 18,970 of them have been diagnosed with a breakthrough case of COVID-19, equal to 0.6 percent. A total of 1,095, or less

than 0.04 percent have required hospitalization. A total of 108 fully-vaccinated people who contracted COVID-19 have died.

While vaccines have been remarkably effective in reducing the incidence and severity of COVID-19 infections, the slight increase in breakthrough cases relative to the overall total could indicate not only that the Delta variant is more contagious, but that the resilience of vaccines to ward off the virus completely may be fading among some.

The percentage of Minnesotans 16 and older with at least one dose of vaccine has climbed to 75.6 percent, and Minnesota ranks 17th nationally in the percentage of total population fully vaccinated at 57.05 percent.

Breitung eyes grant funding for several projects

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Breitung Township has plans for improvements this coming year, lots of plans. Docks, rinks, playgrounds, streets, trails, and infrastructure all are on the township’s radar. At a special board meeting Sept. 8, the board reviewed current projects, grant proposals to fund future projects, and other plans.

Recreation

The recreation committee reported that they were seeking \$1,500 from the Tower Fireman’s Relief Association as partial funding to turn the Margaret Lilya Pavilion at the Soudan Park into a small skating rink for beginning skaters this winter. The TFRA meeting was held later the same day and the committee received \$1,200, the entirety of the TFRA fund balance.

The committee is

working with an architect from JPJ Engineering to create a plan to update the rink, warming shack, playground and soccer field. Grant funding will be sought from a variety of sources including DNR Outdoor Recreation, IRRR Culture and Tourism, and MN Power.

The board has updates to McKinley Park with a DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant in its sights, including dock replacement, playground updates, benches, tables, and landscaping.

Repairs and updates

Chairman Tim Tom-sich reported that he has been working on IRRR Streetscapes and Culture and Tourism grants to get funding for a variety of work around town including repair of the town hall siren, leveling of the Cty. Rd. 697 entrance sign, safety improvements, and installation of benches on

Main Street and Church Street.

The township is working on repairing and updating the bike trail from the Soudan wastewater ponds down to McKinley Park Campground. An application to the IRRR Regional Trails Program for \$162,500 has been submitted.

The 4th and South St. sewer projects, funded by IRRR, CBDG and the township, are scheduled to get underway on Sept. 20. Maintenance director Tom Gorsma said that eight residents will update their personal sewer lines during the township sewer line replacement on 4th Ave. The water board is offering financing for the residents of that street of up to \$2,400. The loan payment would be added to their water bill over the next four years.

Police update

Clerk Dianna Sundahl reported that the background check on po-

lice chief finalist Daniel Reing came back that day, Sept. 8. Township officials had not yet had a chance to review the file but will make a hiring decision at the next township meeting. Supervisor Chuck Tekautz and clerk Dianna Sundahl have been communicating with city of Tower councilors Joe Morin and Dave Setterberg about the possibility of Tower contracting police services from Breitung again.

“The first year is going to be experimental,” said Tekautz citing the changes in the newly reformed police department. This department will likely only have one full-time officer, with no on-call time and one squad. The possibility of additional part-time officers has not been discussed yet.

The board is reviewing their Emergency Action Plan and will make updates to it.

In other business, the board:

Increased the fire department’s PERA annual pension benefit to \$2,500.

Agreed to schedule a series of classes at the Breitung Community Center for fire department trainees. The classes are open to members of any fire department.

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Death Notices


William Lilya

William “Bill” Lilya, 90, of Virginia and formerly of Soudan, died on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, in Vermilion Senior Living in Tower. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18 at St. Martin’s Catholic Church in Tower. A gathering time for family and friends will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment will take place in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Family services are provided by Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.



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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

Kirby C. Mathson

Kirby Carlyle Mathson, 61, a longtime resident of Embarrass, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, in his home, of natural causes. A funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20 at the Evangelical Free Church in Embarrass. Pastor Marlin Bjornrud will officiate. Interment will follow in the Embarrass Cemetery. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.



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Outdoors

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GROUSE HUNTING

Outlook favorable for grouse hunters

Warm and dry summer appears to have bolstered ruffed grouse reproduction

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Grouse hunters may be pleasantly surprised when they take to forest roads and trails starting Saturday. While traditional grouse biology suggests this should be a down year in the ruffed grouse’s 10-year cycle, the hot and dry conditions this summer appear to have set the stage for strong reproduction, and hunters may well reap the

rewards this season. “I’m cautiously optimistic,” said Tom Rusch, the DNR’s Tower area wildlife manager. “Drumming counts were down this spring,” noted Rusch. “But June weather is important and a dry and warm June is good for grouse. Early field reports indicate excellent reproduction in northern St. Louis County.” According to Rusch, the dry and warm weather prompted a significant insect hatch this summer, which provided a

quality food resource for the growing grouse chicks. And reports of large coveys of young grouse have been common this year. A strong year for grouse reproduction can overcome a lackluster population at the beginning of the year. Spring drumming counts averaged 1.4 drums per stop in the northeast this spring, a middling number about in line with expectations four years after the population’s last cyclical peak, in 2017.

Successful reproduction can have a major impact on fall hunting success, since most birds taken by hunters are young-of-the-year birds. Wildlife managers have long understood that ruffed grouse populations rise and fall on a roughly ten-year cycle, but there’s evidence that that pattern has become less pronounced in recent years and it’s not clear why. See GROUSE...pg. 5B



EFFECTS OF DROUGHT

Shorebird silver lining

Exceptionally low water levels have expanded feeding opportunities for some migrants

It’s said in every cloud there’s a silver lining and that’s true of our drought this year, particularly if you’re a shorebird. Low water levels across our region have created lots of “shore,” along the edges of lakes and streams and that’s provided plenty of feeding opportunities for shorebirds, like the greater yellowlegs, some of which are still migrating through our area. I ran across a good-sized flock of these birds last week while photographing the low water levels on the Pike River Flowage. An entire bay of this artificial lake had converted to mud flats as a result of the drought and the yellowlegs were rushing about feeding on the various aquatic critters still harboring there. As you might guess, there is also a lesser yellowlegs, but the two species are fairly easy to tell apart. The lesser is smaller, and the bill is considerably shorter— about as long as the bird’s head. The bill on the greater is about one and a half times the length of the bird’s head. I’ve learned over the years that shorebirds are fairly tolerant of humans in close proximity, so I didn’t have to crawl through the mud to get close enough for photos. I just ducked down a bit and moved slowly until I reached a VW bug-sized rock that I used as both my makeshift blind and support for my long lens. The yellowlegs continued darting about throughout my approach, appearing to pay no attention. They

were focused on eating, building up reserves to continue their migration, mostly to the Gulf Coast or points south. Shorebirds, in general, are some of our most ambitious migrants, typically spending their summers on the tundra, where they take advantage of the brief explosion of insect life to feed their young, before heading back down to warmer climes, sometimes as far as South America, for our winter. Neither species of yellowlegs summers as far north as some shorebirds. They’re taiga nesters, preferring the bogs and wet forest edges in the boreal forest to the tundra. Their breeding range begins about 150-200 miles north of our area, and includes most of northwestern Ontario and a broad swath of northern and central Canada, from British Columbia to Newfoundland. Yellowlegs nest most frequently in shallow depressions they make in sphagnum moss, usually under the protection of a spruce tree. The three or four young in a typical brood hatch ready to go and are able to walk and feed themselves within just a few hours. Like other shorebirds, the yellowlegs get the job of raising young done quickly, typically spending no more than 6-8 weeks on their breeding territory before heading back south by late July. The



Top, left, and bottom: Greater yellowlegs actively feed in the shallow water and mud flats left behind on a large former bay in the Pike River Flowage.

photos by M. Helmbarger



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

See SHOREBIRDS...pg. 5B

Wildflower Watch

This week’s featured flower
CANADA GOLDENROD



According to the authoritative website, minnesotawildflowers.info, a group of very similar species and subspecies generally go by the common name of **Canada Goldenrod** *Solidago* sp., here in north-eastern Minnesota. It’s a name that applies generally to all the tall goldenrods that live and bloom in our region. Telling the varieties apart is difficult even for a botanist, so it probably isn’t worth it for the average wildflower lover. The “Canada” goldenrod is easily distinguished from other wildflowers in bloom right now by its height (as much as four feet tall), narrow, pointed leaves, and wispy golden flower clusters. They’re a favorite of pollinators and it can be tough to take a photograph of a goldenrod without getting a bee or hornet in the picture. Goldenrods are members of the aster family. REGIONAL — More frequent rain and cooler temperatures have allowed the Department of Natural Resources to ease burning restrictions that had been imposed across a broad swath of northern Minnesota in recent months. As of Wednesday, Sept. 15, burning restrictions were be lifted in 14 northern Minnesota counties, including St. Louis, Koochiching, and Itasca. Most restrictions will remain in effect for the time being in Lake and Cook counties. The restrictions still in place in Lake and Cook counties include a ban on campfires for dispersed, remote, or backcountry camping on all state, county, or private lands. Camping stoves are permitted. Attended campfires in established fire rings associated with a home, cabin, campground, or resort are allowed. Open burning permits are restricted. The DNR will continue to monitor conditions and adjust county-specific burning restrictions as necessary.

Outdoors briefly

Burning ban lifted in much of the region

BEAR SEASON

Early harvest shows decline

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Despite an intense drought that sharply limited natural bear foods this year, bear registrations are running below last year’s pace through the first two weeks of the season. Poor food years traditionally give the advantage to hunters, since bears tend to be more responsive to baiting, but that hasn’t translated into the kind of success that hunters experienced last year, which was another poor year for most bear foods.

Through the first two weeks of the 2021 season, hunters have registered 2,299 bears, compared to 2,630 bears at this same point last year. That’s a drop of 13 percent.

While hunters still have nearly a month to catch up, about 80 percent of the bear harvest typically takes place in the first two weeks of the season, according to the DNR. Based on that, the final harvest tally should finish up around 2,900 registrations, according to the DNR’s Lisa Sanderson. That would be down slightly from the 3,203 bears registered in 2020.

While down over last year, the 2021 harvest is still likely to end up higher than in most recent years. Last year saw the highest number of bear registrations in more than a decade and this year, if the trend

holds, will likely tip the scales at the second highest in more than a decade.

This year’s relatively high harvest will likely forestall any significant recovery in the bear population, now estimated by the DNR at 10,000-12,000 animals. That’s less than half the population estimates from the early 2000s and reflects the impact of several very high harvest years in the late 1990s and early 2000s, which substantially reduced bear numbers in the state.

The DNR has significantly reduced bear permits in recent years, to allow for some population recovery, but hunter success rates have been climbing steadily in recent years, limiting the effects of lower permit numbers.

Back-to-back poor food years haven’t helped the bear population either, in part because it tends to make female bears more likely to visit hunters’ baits. So far this year, females have made up 45 percent of the harvest, a substantially higher percentage than is typical in an average food year. In bear zone 25, which encompasses most of northern St. Louis and eastern Koochiching counties, females have comprised fully 52 percent of the bear registrations. Tower area DNR wildlife manager Tom Rusch has repeatedly said that the loss of such high numbers of female bears hampers recovery efforts.

SHOREBIRDS...

Continued from page 4B

birds that I found feeding on the flowage in early September were almost certainly immature birds, which typically depart their breeding grounds a few weeks after their parents.

Shorebirds have a pretty simple survival strategy, which is to follow mild weather and chase down insects near water, which makes it possible for young birds to survive with little input from their parents. Their behaviors are largely innate, rather than learned,

which is a marked contrast to other birds, like corvids (crows and jays), that rely heavily on survival strategies and behaviors they learn from older and more experienced birds.

While the shorebird migration is largely winding down in our area, there are probably still a few stragglers out there, taking advantage of all the additional shoreline this migration season. So, keep an eye out for them.

GROUSE...

Continued from page 4B

Other relatively new factors, however, like the spread of West Nile virus into bird populations, can create additional uncertainty when it comes to grouse numbers. Even so, there are few places in the U.S. that offer better ruffed grouse hunting than northern Minnesota. “Even in down years of the grouse population’s cycle, hunters in other states still envy our flush rates and hunter success remains high,” notes the DNR on its grouse hunting webpage. Minnesota has also invested in grouse hunting opportunities, with more than 528 designated hunting areas in ruffed grouse range covering nearly one million acres. The DNR also maintains more than 40 designated ruffed grouse management areas and over 600 miles of hunter walking trails, including 75 miles of trails in 20 separate locations in the DNR’s Tower work area. Those trails were mowed in late August and should be ready to when the season gets underway this weekend.

While leaves on the trees and brush can make early grouse season more difficult, this year’s extreme drought prompted some trees and brush to shed their leaves early. That could provide hunters with an early-season advantage this year, particularly in areas with shallow soils, which tend to dry faster.

The ruffed grouse season runs Sept. 18-Jan. 2, 2022.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
64 42					68 53					81 59					76 59					75 55				
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.
08/30	74	52	0.08		08/30	76	40	0.00		08/30	71	53	0.09		08/30	70	54	0.00		08/30	74	52	0.02	
08/31	71	43	0.00		08/31	77	39	0.00		08/31	70	52	0.00		08/31	75	45	0.00		08/31	71	42	0.00	
09/01	76	42	0.01		09/01	67	54	0.00		09/01	74	49	0.00		09/01	77	46	0.00		09/01	76	40	0.01	
09/02	76	42	0.00		09/02	66	56	0.02		09/02	76	49	0.00		09/02	73	55	0.00		09/02	77	43	0.00	
09/03	68	50	0.00		09/03	74	49	0.08		09/03	70	54	0.05		09/03	63	55	0.00		09/03	68	52	0.00	
09/04	67	57	0.00		09/04	64	35	0.04		09/04	66	56	0.05		09/04	72	55	0.00		09/04	66	56	0.04	
09/05	73	50	0.07		09/05	74	36	0.80		09/05	73	50	0.04		09/05	64	48	0.00		09/05	73	49	0.11	
Total			9.93		YTD Total			11.71		YTD Total			11.92		YTD Total			14.15		YTD Total				14.27

THE SCIENCE OF FALL

As chlorophyll fades, other pigments shine through

REGIONAL— With the fall equinox set for next Wednesday, the natural world is adjusting to the coming winter. As days get shorter, there’s less sunlight to fuel photosynthesis in trees and other plants.

Plants convert carbon dioxide into sugars (glucose and starch) and oxygen by using energy from the sun through photosynthesis. As plants shut down the production of chlorophyll, which fuels photosynthesis (and makes leaves appear green) it allows for other plant pigments to show through. And for a brief time each year, those other pigments paint the landscape in countless shades of yellow, red, purple, and orange.

While day length has the most impact on seasonal changes to plants, weather also has its effects. High quality foliage, a product of a warm, humid summer, will produce brilliant colors when exposed to sunny, cool fall days. A light frost can have a positive impact, but hard freezes can ruin the display. Cool, wet summers can cause premature displays of color.

A mild summer drought may increase the display. A severe



drought such as the one we’ve experienced this summer usually dulls colors and causes premature leaf shedding, which has already been experienced in many parts of the region.

The lack of water reaching the canopy resulted in reduced sugar production, so leaves release more carbon dioxide. The stress means both the chlorophyll and carotenoids break down. Minnesota’s landscape

likely will be filled with more subtle colors of tan, bronze and auburn this year.

Trees hold on to leaves to continue drawing nutrients, even after chlorophyll production stops. They eventually shed them to save energy and go into a period of dormancy until the warm weather and light returns again next spring.

Courtesy MNDNR

What’s behind all the colors of fall?

Most years before leaves drop, nature delights us with amazing (albeit fleeting) fall color, displaying vibrant shades of yellow, orange, purple and red.

Carotenoids, the antioxidants ubiquitous in leaves, protect chlorophyll. With chlorophyll no longer in production in fall, we see their yellow

and orange pigments on trees such as ash, aspen, basswood, birch, cottonwood and elm.

When the yellow carotenoids break down, their color is replaced by the brown that results from oxidation of tannins in the leaf.

The purples and reds that appear in leaves are produced by antho-

cyanins, as a result of a chemical reaction of sugars with compounds in the leaves.

Anthocyanin pigments are red and purple and intensify in the fall, when days are sunny and nights are cool, causing sugars to get trapped in the leaf. Maple, oak and cherry are some trees that display these pigments.

Anthocyanins extend the time the tree can draw nutrients from leaves by lowering their freezing point, so they can stay on the tree longer. This antioxidant also helps leaves recover quicker when damaged by insects feeding on them.

Courtesy MNDNR

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The Vermilion Country School is a grades 7-12 charter school that opened in the fall of 2013. It is located in Tower, on the shores of beautiful Lake Vermilion, in the heart of Minnesota's North Country. The school serves a multicultural student body of 30-35 students, with an innovative program learning model that is uniquely-adapted to this remote community. For more information, visit our website at www.vermilioncountry.org

The Vermilion Country Administrator will assist in several aspects of program development and implementation while working side-by-side with our staff to oversee the educational programming. Our school's staff oversees day-to-day student management. The administrator is responsible for guiding our staff to reach our school goals, and will report directly to the school board, and act as our administrator of record for MDE and our authorizer.



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PART-TIME CUSTODIAN

Vermilion Country School in Tower is seeking to hire a Custodian for the 2021-2022 school year. Position can be combined with other openings and will remain open until filled. Pay scale \$13 per hour. Approx. 10 hours per week. Please email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org with a letter of interest and resume.

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required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Dated: Sept. 7, 2021
SIGNED BY: Steven A. Webb

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Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 17 & 24, 2021

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King Crossword

ACROSS

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- 5 For each
- 8 — Valley, Calif.
- 12 Miles away
- 13 Parisian pal
- 14 Former Yankee slugger, to fans
- 15 Abe Lincoln's first home
- 17 Cello's ancestor
- 18 In the style of
- 19 Shiny, as a photo
- 21 Trombone part
- 24 Swizzle
- 25 Ireland
- 26 Backyard structure
- 30 Old Oldsmobile
- 31 Move to one side
- 32 — roll (winning)
- 33 Theme park attraction
- 35 Landed
- 36 Mater lead-in
- 37 Test score
- 38 Spider's creation
- 41 Spill catcher
- 42 Location
- 43 Cozy spot on the slopes
- 48 Sandwich

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

- shop
- 49 Last (Abbr.)
- 50 Jeopardize
- 51 Pieces for one
- 52 Evening hrs.
- 53 Hose woe
- tune
- 8 Relishes
- 9 Eye part
- 10 Cattle calls?
- 11 In a lazy way
- 16 Hearty quaff
- 20 Joyful tune
- 21 Lowly worker
- 22 Stead
- 23 Press agent?
- 24 "The March King"
- 26 "OK" gesture
- 27 Spanish greeting
- 28 Oklahoma city
- 29 See socially
- 31 Only
- 34 Aloha State
- 35 Garden shelters
- 37 Baseball's Hodges
- 38 Scoundrels
- 39 Sandwich treat
- 40 Phone inventor
- 41 Morsels
- 44 Carrier to Amsterdam
- 45 Cacophony
- 46 Fed. property manager
- 47 Heart chart (Abbr.)

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cook Hospital & Care Center offers competitive pay and benefits including PERA retirement, Health and Dental coverage, Life and LTD.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

CALL FOR BIDS ON VEHICLE
Breitung Township
St Louis County, Minnesota

Breitung Township is extending its call for sealed bids on a 2003 GMC Envoy. Vehicle to be sold-As Is. Unknown mileage, last registration 2018. For information or to make an appointment for viewing please call: Tom Gorsma at 218-780-9463 or the Township Office at 218-753-6020.

Sealed bids should be sent to:
Breitung Township
PO Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782

Sealed bids may also be dropped off at the Township Office, 33 First Avenue, Tuesday-Thursday, 8 am-4 pm. Please ensure to mark your bid "Vehicle-Sealed Bid" and submit by 09/23/21 at 12 noon. Bids to be open at the next Regular Township Meeting on Sept. 23, 2021 at 12 pm.

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 10 & 17, 2021

CITY OF TOWER
FOR SALE

2012 Chevy Tahoe Special
105,000 miles
\$12,500
Contact Councilor
Sheldon Majerle
218-780-4150

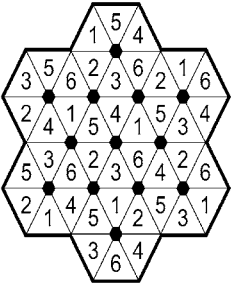
Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 17 & 24, 2021

CITY OF TOWER
FOR BID

2005 FORD AMBULANCE
Minimum bid
\$5,000
Contact
218-750-3002

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 17 & 24, 2021

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Ely AA OPEN GROUP MEETINGS- in person meetings, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 1 p.m. at the Babbitt Municipal Building, senior room. Open to all. For information contact Mary at 218-827-8327.

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).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS- East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or www.district8online.org.

AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

Adverstising PAYS OFF!



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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

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Super Crossword

ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS

ACROSS

1 Father
6 Gather
11 No. on a car lot sticker
15 Quaint letter salutation
19 Pool table fabrics
20 Large town, in Italian
21 Burn slightly
22 Purple fruit from a palm
23 Candid bow wielder? [Anne]
25 Green
26 Lisa formerly of "The View"
27 Bread eaten at Passover
28 Gallic senior citizens? [Victor]
31 Subside
33 Earnest and solemn
35 D.C. VIPs
36 Four doubled
37 Ebony-colored card given on February 14? [Karen]
41 Stable scrap
42 Writer Ayn
43 Houston site
44 Little bit
46 A Great Lake
50 Cry of worry

53 Precious gem that formed just recently? [Neil]
57 Port in Italy
61 Boot leathers
62 Chi preceder
63 Hueless
Focus or Fiesta? [Betty]
67 Self-help writer LeShan
68 Butts in
70 Long-eared hopper
71 Undersized carriage with a fold-down top? [Martin]
76 Prefix with plane
77 University of Maine's town
79 Reply to "Are you?"
80 Annoyed small songbird? [Christopher]
82 PD alert
83 Mutiny
87 Pioneer in graph theory
88 Sweetheart prone to sulk? [Ron]
92 Sailor who flew on a roc
97 Absorbed by
98 Follower of "Co.," often

99 Little bit
103 The last Mrs. Chaplin
104 Showery
106 Robust
artisan working in precious metal? [Oliver]
111 Venue
114 Byte lead-in
115 Brand of fake fat
116 Wee, in brief
117 British noble who feels no affection? [Patty]
121 Quartets doubled
123 Oratorio solo
124 "Der —" (nickname for Konrad Adenauer)
125 Clear quartz fashioned to look like a suitor's flower? [Billy]
129 Mets' clubs
130 In tatters
131 Tickle pink
132 Long-term con
133 Louver strip
134 ERA or HRs
135 Quick
136 Up to now

DOWN

1 Very close bud
2 Eternally, in poetry
3 "Glitter rock" group
4 Sicilian spewer
5 "For shame!"
6 Circus tumbler
7 "Glee" actress Lea —
8 Pt. of NCAA
9 Pear waste
10 Actress Gilbert
11 Poet Rod
12 Razor feature
13 Hotel listing
14 U. lecturer
15 Slashed-price product
16 Pastry bag fill
17 Cowboy's workplace
18 Vision
24 127-Down between Russia and Ukraine
29 Prefix with plane
30 Stephen of the screen
31 Spanish river
32 Boring
34 T. —
38 B-F linkup
39 "No" vote

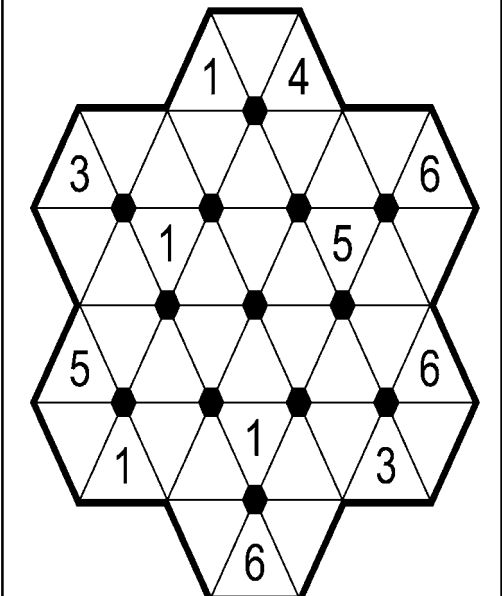
40 General on Chinese menus
41 Stage prize
45 Total up
47 More stringy
48 Possible follower of "Psst!"
49 Menlo Park "wizard"
51 Grow mellow
52 Ring arbiters
54 Meat stamp initials.
55 Subtlety
56 Horned viper
58 Osaka drama
59"— y plata"
60 "This is not —!" ("Red alert!")
63 Self-reflective question
64 Talk about ad nauseam
65 1950 Asimov classic
66 Five doubled
67 Elegant tree
69 With 109-Down, unprocessed facts
72 "Mon Oncle" star Jacques
73 Actress Joanne
74 MSN rival
75 Employs
78 Suffix with audit or arm

81 — Lanka
84 Revise copy
85 Ryder vehicle
86 A maestro conducts it
89 In Maine
90 Doze off
91 Dude
93 — de plume
94 Removes via very hot water, as impurities
95 "No" voter
96 Writer Roald
100 Oxfam or Amnesty Intl.
101 Huge statues
102 Voted in
105 Twisty fish
107 Gung-ho
108 Writer Santha Rama —
109 See 69-Down
110 Fishhook lines
111 Hefty slices
112 Deep pink
113 Madonna musical
114 Groove for a letter-shaped bolt
118 Ingests
119 Old Chrysler
120 Bombeck of humor
122 Sextet halved
126 "I reckon so"
127 Body of water
128 Drop the ball

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

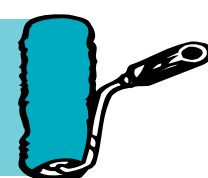
1	4	3	7	6	5	9	2	8
7	8	6	2	4	9	5	3	1
2	5	9	1	8	3	4	7	6
5	6	4	8	9	7	3	1	2
3	2	8	5	1	4	6	9	7
9	7	1	6	3	2	8	5	4
8	3	5	4	7	1	2	6	9
6	9	7	3	2	8	1	4	5
4	1	2	9	5	6	7	8	3

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19						20						21					22			
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				57		58	59	60			61						62			
63	64	65	66							67						68	69			
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77				78				79				80				81				
82				83	84	85	86					87								
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129					130					131						132				
133					134					135						136				

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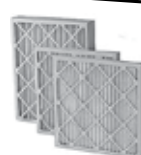
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