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**Rescue in the BWCAW... See /3**  
**Fall sports updates...See /1B**  
**Expecting a snowy winter... See /4B**

# The **TIMBERJAY**



VOL. 31, ISSUE 42 October 23, 2020

\$1.00

## STATE BONDING BILL

# Ely west end project funded

### North Country reaps benefits of \$1.5 billion measure

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

ELY – The city’s west end development project here is set to move forward next spring following passage of a state public works construction package. The nearly \$1.5 billion bonding bill

**More bonding bill coverage**  
Soudan State Park awarded \$10.8 million. **Page 8**

was passed last week by both houses of the state Legislature.

The measure’s approval ends months of a partisan stalemate that

was the biggest piece of unfinished business left over from the 2020 regular session.

The Senate voted 64-3 last Thursday to send the

bill to Gov. Walz who was set to sign the bill this week. Twenty-five House Republicans crossed over last Wednesday night to join the House Democratic majority and pass it 100-34.

The measure, which totals \$1.37 billion state-

See...**ELY** pg. 7



**A proposed trailhead complex and welcome center will soon be located at the west entrance of Ely thanks to a state bonding measure.**

## TOWER

### Clerk outlines improvements to structure of city budget

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**  
Managing Editor

TOWER — City clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua presented the most detailed look at the city’s budget in decades on Tuesday, as she outlined a number of significant changes she’s made to the structure of the budget during weeks of work.

The two-and-a-half-hour-long meeting covered plenty of ground, including Ranua’s explanation of how the city’s budget is now in compliance with the Minnesota accounting and financial reporting standards established by the state auditor— something that hasn’t been true in the recent past.

“An unprecedented amount of work has gone into the budget this year,” said Mayor Orlyn Kringstad as he introduced

See...**TOWER** pg. 9

## HALLOWEEN 2020



### Health officials: Be coronavirus-safe

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**  
Ely Editor

REGIONAL - Halloween is going to look a little different this year during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, but there are still safe ways to have a fun spooky season in the age of COVID-19.

The Minnesota Department

See...**TRICK?** pg. 10

**A house near Whiteside Park in Ely, above, is decorated for Halloween every year. Last year, trick-or-treaters, right, collected treats in Tower.**  
Timberjay file



## CORONAVIRUS

### COVID cases identified in Tower, Nett Lake, and Fortune Bay

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- New positive COVID-19 cases were identified across the North Country last week, and state officials warned that key indicators are headed in the wrong direction going into the holiday season.

Bois Forte health officials announced that three new cases had been identified at Nett Lake. Cases involving an individual in their 60s and another in their 30s were identified on Oct. 12, and a third individual in their 40s tested positive on Oct. 15. All three individuals are in isolation.

“Bois Forte Health will maintain  
See...**COVID** pg. 8



## STATE CORRECTIONS

# Togo, Willow River prison facilities to stay open

### Needed funds piggybacked on Legislature’s bonding bill

by **DAVID COLBURN**  
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

The spirit embodied in that famous quote by cultural anthropologist

Margaret Mead played out last week for a small corner of the world, the people and communities of the Togo and Willow River state correctional facilities, as the Minnesota Legislature came through with \$7.5 million to avert their impending closures.

Concerted lobbying efforts by the staff of

**Lobbying efforts by MCF-Togo staff, union and community members contributed to the state legislature approving funding to keep the correctional facility open.** Timberjay file photo

MCF-Togo, their union, AFSCME Council 5 – Duluth, and community members began immediately in August after state Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul

Schnell announced that the facility would be shut down to help close a projected \$14 million departmental budget shortfall.

See...**TOGO** pg. 7



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## Community notices

### Join in NAMI Minnesota's free online mental health classes

REGIONAL- NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) has set up a wide variety of free online mental health classes for October and November. They include classes such as Mental Illnesses and Crisis Communication, Good Mental Health in the Workplace, Hope for Recovery, Ending the Silence, Understanding Early Episode Psychosis for Families, Self-Care and Mindfulness, In Our Own Voice, Creating Caring Communities, a suicide prevention class called QPR – Question, Persuade and Refer, and many more.

The classes are designed for family members and caregivers, persons living with a mental illness, service providers, and also the general public. Find a complete listing of these classes and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "classes".

### Flu shots available Saturday at EBCH

ELY - The Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital will again host a flu shot clinic, on Saturday, Oct. 24. Earlier this month, the first-come, first-served flu shot event proved so popular that vaccines were gone in about four hours.

EBCH pharmacy technicians plan to be on site from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enter the medical facility from Pattison Street, near Amici's Event Center, and proceed to the back parking area of the hospital. Vaccines will be administered in your vehicle.

"We will be restocked and ready to go," EBCH pharmacist Chris Schneider said. "The response at our first flu shot clinic was overwhelming. We had way more people take advantage of this free and convenient service than we ever expected. It was good to see the big response for this important service."

Schneider noted that flu shots are also administered by local primary physicians. "If you can't make it to our clinic, call your doctor," he said.

### MNsure's open enrollment runs Nov. 1 through Dec. 22; assistance is available

REGIONAL- MNsure's open enrollment period starts Sunday, Nov. 1.

MNsure has a network of assisters ready to help you get enrolled. MNsure-certified navigators provide free enrollment help through virtual meetings, phone appointments, or in-person meetings that follow the Minnesota Department of Health's COVID-19 safety guidelines.

MNsure certified navigators are trained experts at local, trusted community organizations and can help you fill out your application and enroll in coverage. They can also help with coverage renewals, report changes to your account, and provide enrollment follow-up. Local navigators include:

- Kristal Strong, Bois Forte Health and Human Services, 218-753-2182
- Kim Bandy or Melissa Grahn, Scenic Rivers Health Services, 218-666-5941
- Jon Erickson, Ely Community Health Center, 218-365-5678
- Susan Milos, AEOA, 218-748-7356

Don't wait to make an appointment. Connect with a navigator in your area as soon as possible for help during the open enrollment period. Find the option that works for you at MNsure.org/help.

For general questions, you can also reach out to MNsure's Contact Center toll-free at 855-366-7873. Expanded hours begin Sunday, Nov. 1.

## TRAILS

# Work continues on Ancient Cedars Trail

TOWER- New informational kiosks have been installed at the start of the Mesabi Bike Trail by the train depot, and at the start of the new Cedars Trail. The kiosks were installed with help from Dan Broten, of the Prospector ATV Club, who also built the three new kiosks, trail volunteers, and the city of Tower, who helped with the installation of the kiosk roofs. The two larger kiosks by the depot will also host information on other area trails, including ATV, snowmobile, and bike trails, as well as interpretive information on the old growth cedars, once they are completed.

Tower-Soudan Elementary fifth- and sixth-graders got a chance to explore the new trails earlier this month, with help from trail volunteers Mary Shedd and Marshall Helmberger. The students are working on ideas for naming each of the trail loops, which are marked with different colors.

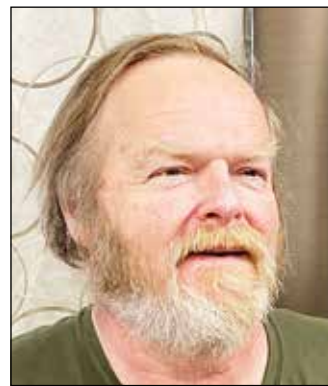
Trail maps are installed at the entry to the Cedars Trail boardwalk and are posted at trail intersections. To get to the trail, park at the depot parking lot and walk approximately one-third of a mile east on the bike trail, then turn right onto the grassy snowmobile trail, cross the wooden bridge, and the boardwalk entrance is on your left.



Top: Tower-Soudan Elementary fifth- and sixth-graders were some of the first to enjoy the new trail. photo by J. Summit  
Bottom: The city of Tower helped install the kiosk roofs. photo by M. Shedd

## NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

# 2020 Heart of Gold recipients



Dave Reilant (left) and Chuck and Jacque Glass (right) were recipients of the Heart of Gold Award from Northwoods Partners. submitted photos

REGIONAL- Every year, as part of their Volunteer Appreciation efforts, Northwoods Partners (NP) awards deserving individuals who have gone above and beyond their esteemed Heart of Gold Award. They are pleased to announce that this year's recipients are Chuck and Jacque Glass and Dave Reiland.

Chuck and Jacque Glass have been long-distance drivers for Northwoods Partners for over five years. They have spent countless hours taking people to medical appointments in Duluth, Hibbing and Virginia. They go over and beyond, providing a very pleasant experience for their riders. They have wonderful conversations with their riders. There have been many weeks when they have provided multiple long-distance rides. NP is so grateful to be able to

frequently rely on them to get their clients to appointments safely. Jacque summed up their experience perfectly, "Chuck and I have been volunteer drivers for Northwoods Partners for many years and highly recommend it. Everybody has a story and we have met wonderful people that we wouldn't have met otherwise. Senior citizens have great perspective and they all have wisdom to share along with the stories about their lives. We have learned a lot from these folks about all kinds of interests, hobbies, places they've lived, and where they've traveled. It's nice to think we are helping others by volunteer driving, but the truth is that we benefit more than they do. We are big fans of the volunteer driving program and encourage folks to try it. Volunteering adds joy to your life!"

Dave Reiland would

share with you that he was a client of NP years back. He participated in numerous NP programs and saw a significant improvement both physically and mentally. As his life was changed significantly, he came through our doors asking if he could now possibly give back the kind of support he was given. He decided to become a volunteer friendly visitor, exercise buddy and driver, and became a crucial support person for NP's Memories and Movement Program. Dave now sets up before each class, welcomes everyone, gives rides to participants, and cleans up after the program. Dave even leads the program when NP Director Lisa Porthan is unable to be there. Dave

eagerly volunteers to do mailings and any kind of additional support the NP needs. It's so wonderful to see how NP's programs have come full circle.

Northwoods Partners wants to extend a huge "Thank you" to all their amazing volunteers, not only those mentioned above by name, but to all the wonderful men and women who proudly volunteer for Northwoods Partners. Executive Director Lisa Porthan said, "They are all a blessing to our community and our organization!"

If you are interested in volunteering for Northwoods Partners, please call Lisa at 218-365-8019.

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COVID-19

# Volunteers keep North Country faces covered in pandemic

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - When the coronavirus pandemic hit, no one on the Ely area COVID-19 Response Team anticipated that local mask makers would be delivering hundreds of protective face masks to five area schools and thousands of other masks to area businesses, health care facilities, vulnerable individuals, and other community members.

The effort started way back in March, according to Response team member Sally Koski, because of a desire to respond to the COVID-19 situation in Ely with several face mask production projects that would grow to meet the needs of the community.

“Heart of the Woods Quilters, Wintergreen Northern Wear and Paula Mair each spearheaded initiatives to make masks at a time not even health-care workers had access to medical grade facemasks,” Koski said. In addition to the cotton face mask projects, a small group of 3-D printers, led by Zach Huberty, made clear face shields for area first responders.

“We felt like it was our duty to support Ely and the surrounding communities by making masks,” said Bria Schurke of Wintergreen Northern Wear. “We had the equipment, the skills, and the ability to get the word out to volunteers.”

Paula Mair launched the Masks for Ely, MN



Gail Haney poses with hundreds of masks she made and donated. submitted photo

Facebook page in early April to connect people living in Ely needing a COVID-19 mask with people in the community who were willing and able to make masks.

“I am incredibly proud to be a part of the mask-making efforts in Ely. Women have willingly given up their time, effort and supplies to help keep Ely safe,” Mair said. “This time donated came from family and other community time. It really has been a community effort.”

The Community Care Team (CCT), a partnership of community members and organizations representing health care, education, and social services, formed a working group to address COVID-19 related needs in Ely and surround-

ing areas. “This COVID-19 Response Team took on the task of coordinating mask distribution to ensure healthcare workers and vulnerable individuals had protective face coverings,” Koski said.

As Wintergreen became aware of the statewide need for reusable gowns for healthcare workers, they shifted their production efforts from face masks to gowns. Within a few days, CCT mask coordinator Ellen Root had a list of volunteer seamstresses, piles of donated and pre-cut fabric, and a face mask pattern with written and video instructions.

“We were able to pick

See MASKS...pg. 5

RESCUE

# Wet and cold, solo canoeist rescued in BWCAW

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY - A solo canoeist in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is fortunate to be alive after he was rescued Saturday when the St. Louis County Rescue Squad and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources responded to his electronic distress call.

According to Lt. Nate Skelton, of the County Sheriff Department, deputies took a call at about 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 from an Ely area outfitter that had

received an SOS device activation from one of its clients. The adventurer had been dropped off earlier in the day and was canoeing solo into Nina-Moose Lake off the Echo Trail. The area received several inches of wet snow throughout the day.

The unidentified man, age 34, was at a campsite on Nina-Moose Lake, about 20 miles north of Ely. He sent an emergency signal just before 5 p.m. The canoeist activated his SOS device and stated, “Help Wet and Cold,” according

to the sheriff’s department.

Rescue personnel in a square-stern canoe with an outboard motor arrived at Nina-Moose Lake at about 8 p.m. After a short search the party was located, wet and cold, near his last known location.

“It was as dark as I’ve ever seen it out there,” said DNR Conservation Officer Sean Williams. “You couldn’t see anything. It was snowing heavily, fog was moving in, and there was ice on the lake. We had to break through ice to get to the middle of the lake,

and when we made it to the middle it was so dark we had to use a GPS to find the shore and his campsite.”

When rescuers arrived at his campsite, a rescue squad member applied heat pads to the man’s core to begin warming him. Williams said the man was experiencing severe hypothermia.

Rescuers got him into warmer gear and built a fire, which he sat near for about 90 minutes while wrapped in a wool blanket. When the man was sufficiently warm, rescue personnel

loaded him into the boat and headed back to their entry point. Other members of the rescue squad met them at the final portage and helped get the man out of the wilderness and to medical attention. He was treated for exposure. No injuries were reported and the man was in good health upon return to the landing.

The man’s decision to rent emergency communications equipment likely saved his life.

“Had we not gotten there when we did, I don’t

know that he would have made it through the night,” Williams said. “Luckily he had the communications equipment and wasn’t afraid to use it once he knew he was in trouble.”

The sheriff’s office issued a reminder to all who venture into the BWCA to prepare for all conditions, to not take any unnecessary risks, leave an itinerary of your travel plan, and travel with a GPS or SOS device if possible in case of emergencies.

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# OPINION

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## Editorial

### Stauber's hollow rhetoric

Congressman mouths meaningless  
GOP talking points on healthcare

Rep. Pete Stauber, unlike his DFL opponent Quinn Nystrom, has nothing to offer the Eighth District when it comes to protecting public access to the region's healthcare system. At a time when residents of the district are facing the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, access to our healthcare system is more than an academic concern.

Unfortunately, Trump acolyte Pete Stauber wants to eliminate the Affordable Care Act, which currently provides access to either public or private health insurance coverage to tens of thousands of Eighth District residents. In its place, Rep. Stauber offers the usual hollow Republican talking points: He'll protect people with pre-existing conditions. He'll push to allow insurance companies to compete across state lines in order to reduce premiums.

There is no substance to either of these claims, and every Republican politician who mouths these empty words every election season knows it full well.

Consider the sale of health insurance plans across state lines. Several states have allowed this for years, and it's had zero impact on the number of health plans offered in these states. That's right. Not a single new insurance company has entered the market of any of those states.

That's no surprise. The biggest impediment to new insurance company entrants into any market isn't regulation, it's the establishment of an affordable provider network. A resident of Cook or Ely, after all, isn't interested in seeing a doctor in Illinois or Kansas, which means any insurance company attempting to break into the northern Minnesota market will need contracts with the local providers. That costs time and money to establish and provides no guarantee that they'll be able to attract customers even if they make the effort — which is why health insurance companies largely stick with their already established markets. This whole concept of selling across state lines is meaningless rhetoric used year after year to make it appear Republican politicians have answers on healthcare when, in fact, they haven't a clue.

It's the same with the GOP's claim that they'll protect people with pre-existing conditions. It's an easy promise to make, but it's a much tougher one to keep. Private insurance companies won't insure people with high medical costs if they don't have to, or they'll jack up their premiums to unaffordable levels. The Affordable Care Act provided a compromise — it guaranteed a large number of new enrollees

for private insurance companies in exchange for a number of concessions from insurers, including that anyone could enroll without regard to pre-existing conditions. Republicans complained that the ACA resulted in higher premiums, which it did — although it also provided subsidies that made insurance much more affordable than before for millions of Americans. But if you think premiums are high now, just wait until Congress mandates that insurers cover pre-existing conditions without the benefit of an insurance coverage mandate guaranteeing millions of new customers to the industry. And, if Rep. Stauber has his way, the subsidies that currently buy down most of the premium cost for millions of Americans, will disappear along with the ACA. That's why the GOP will do absolutely nothing to help Americans with pre-existing conditions — it's not possible outside of the kind of framework crafted in the ACA, or through a single-payer system, like Medicare-for-all.

Unfortunately, the ACA is already on life support, thanks to Republicans. With the expected confirmation of conservative ideologue and ACA opponent Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court later this month, the ACA is likely to be wiped away by a politically motivated high court next spring. That means it will really matter who is representing the Eighth District when Congress is forced to clean up the mess left behind by the Republican Party's longstanding efforts to undermine affordable healthcare for average Americans.

Unlike Stauber, Quinn Nystrom actually knows something about healthcare. A diabetes sufferer herself, she knows the challenges posed by the high cost of insulin and has been an advocate for healthcare reform since she was in grade school — literally.

It was Stauber's hollow rhetoric, and miserable voting record, on healthcare that prompted Nystrom to get into the Eighth District race and she brings a level of experience, knowledge, and empathy to the subject that Stauber could never hope to match.

The fact is, thousands of residents in our local area are at real risk of losing their health insurance in a matter of months because of Republicans like Pete Stauber. He's certainly not protecting “our way of life,” which for most of us includes living. Our region needs more than Rep. Stauber's hollow rhetoric on a critical subject like healthcare.



## Letters from Readers

### Stauber refuses to take responsibility for voter safety

Many in the Eighth Congressional District are concerned about intimidation at the polls. Pete Stauber has failed us by his indifference for our safety at the polls.

Contacting Ms. Nystrom's campaign, I received her written position:

“People must be able to vote safely in person. Calls for groups like the Proud Boys to “stand by” and for (his) supporters to go to polling locations sets up voters to be intimidated and confronted at the polls, especially people of color. Such assaults have no place in our community and send a frightening message of violence. We cannot allow this election to be tampered with in any way, and I call on our local election officials and law enforcement to ensure that every person has the ability to vote safely and without fear of intimidation.”

After never receiving a reply to an email, I called Mr. Stauber's office obtaining this response:

“Voting is a state issue. Follow up with the Minnesota Secretary of State. Voting is not a federal issue or responsibility. The Representative does not have a position.”

Checking with Sen. Klobuchar's office, I found she has a multi-year record of sponsoring many bills in the Senate to protect voting safety at the polls. Her office confirmed voter intimidation is undoubtedly a federal issue.

Mr. Stauber does not take any responsibility for nor take any position on voter intimidation.

No ownership around the essential cornerstone of voting safety in America? Is that what we want in our Representative? You decide.

**Keith Steva Cook**

### Whatever happened to a kinder, gentler nation?

“If you're in trouble, or hurt or in need - go to the poor people. They're the only ones that'll help...the only ones.” - John Steinbeck

It's been exactly one year since I repatriated after 35 years of teaching in some of the poorest places on earth (Zaire, Yemen, Kyrgyzstan), and I know from more than three decades of experience that Steinbeck was right. The less a person has, the more (relatively) she is willing to give. Humbleness breeds compassion. Compassion makes for an integrated and supportive society.

The United States, in spite of widespread poverty, is one of the wealthiest nations on Earth, but returning to the land of my birth, particularly in the current political climate, has been the greatest culture shock I have yet had to endure. In his 1988 acceptance speech, Republican presidential nominee George H. W. Bush called for a “kinder, gentler nation.” Back when I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Botswana, that sounded like a great idea. What happened to it?

Kindness, gentleness, compassion — these are not words that immediately spring to mind in the context of “Trump's” America. They are, however, noble ideals that many more modest countries have succeeded in achieving.

The U.S. has had enough bellicose bluster and deceitful derision. It's time to reverse our course and start veering back towards that kinder, gentler nation that Bush envisioned. It's what we need in order to regain the respect of our allies and our trust in one another.

**David B. Stanton Cook**

### Mother Earth is still willing to help

Any interest in humanity's past should include a read of the early '60s tomes of Joseph Campbell on humankind and our mythologies. He was the third man sitting evenings with Doc Ricketts and John Steinbeck down on Cannery Row. The infusion of spirituality in Steinbeck's works must have been influenced by these conversations. Campbell appeared on PBS over several segments discussing myths with Bill Moyers not all that long ago.

Of note in Campbell's research is the primitive adulation of the Mother Earth symbolism. Indeed, archaeological finds of the earliest types are typically the female forms fashioned from rock or clay.

In the three days following 9/11, the University of Wisconsin-Madison recorded daily temperatures that differed from the days, months and years prior. The daily high was greater, the daily low was lower. You can find the data online.

This three-day observation is the effect of banned air traffic. That air traffic condensate has been buffering the weather systems now for a very long time and was absent in those three days when only Bin Laden's and military craft were aloft.

Yet Mother Earth responded immediately in the absence of human consumption.

The Earth is in trouble and, in our arrogance, we ignore our greatest ally. We refuse to let Mother Earth attend to our transgressions.

She was there immediately like any good mother would be for even the miscreant children.

**Jeff Wilfahrt Ely**

# Working together can actually work

These days the news can be disheartening, so I'll often look elsewhere for ways to feed my heart. That might be more thoughtful, in-depth reporting; inspiring (or escapist) prose or poetry; a movie or music; or a phone call to a friendly voice. Rarely has



**BETTY FIRTH**

Whole Foods Co-op's journey through its last fiscal year, that's exactly what I received: a beautiful example of people working together to improve life for themselves and others. So I dove into some background on the whole cooperative movement.

Cooperatives are businesses owned and controlled by the people who use them and

differ from other businesses because they operate for the benefit of members rather than to earn profits for investors. There are 40,000 co-ops in the U.S. that serve one out of every four citizens. The cooperative form of ownership has been used primarily for housing (think New York), finance (think credit unions), agriculture, insurance, utilities, health care and child care.

The motivations behind diverse cooperatives are similar: to bring together a group of people with similar needs to

use the power of a group to obtain products or services otherwise unavailable, to improve product or service quality, or to reduce costs; to expand marketing opportunities; to increase income; and/or to improve bargaining power. Members invest in cooperatives because they trust that doing so is in the best interest of themselves and the community.

The beginning of the modern cooperative movement is traced to the industrial revolution (1750-1850) when people were pushed off farms and out of

small towns into larger cities. Mutual aid organizations were created to meet the social needs of dislocated people and contributed to the formation of cooperative business principles. Some people felt cooperatives fit a vision of a more harmonious, utopian society. William King published the magazine “The Cooperator,” full of information about cooperative practice and theory. He believed the development of consumer cooperatives governed with democratic prin-

See **CO-OP...pg. 5**

# Letters from Readers

## Don't put your beliefs over the good of the country

As the election nears we the People find ourselves, most of us, wondering how things will go on Election Day. Considering the division we face between the left and right, this is a serious time for all of the country.

As the virus looms, the economy plummets, the climate produces destruction, politicians create their own divisions, loss of the world's respect. We the People are faced with madness at the top. The lies, lack of concern for the dying, misuse of power and public resources, voter suppression, manipulation of the courts, and threats to Social Security, all disturbing to say the least, are downright frightening.

What is of even more concern, as it has been since the 2016 election, is the cult-like following of the President by ordinarily sensible people. When asking those who are of this ilk why, they say they don't necessarily approve of the adultery, draft dodging, lying—the list is widely known—but they like his policies, the way he has helped business, and his opposition to abortion. For true believers, are words of hate toward women, gays, and minorities Christian-like? Something is wrong here—very wrong.

Some will claim that I am only getting my information from one side, the liberal side.

This is not the case and I fear they are only getting their information as they say I am, because, surely, surely they don't wish to be led by someone of such poor character and recklessness! Such irrational behavior will bring disastrous results if our

country is subjected to another four years of partisan leadership driven by madness.

How can we the People believe that it is right for one of the two major parties to gridlock the Senate and House actions, to dominate the courts? In just four years what has become of the division of power, the safeguard of our nation? How can we choose to be dictated to by someone who feels no compassion for thousands of families who've lost their closest relatives? And especially, how can we choose to follow, with blind faith, someone who is so very self-serving and dishonest?

It is time to give some very deep thought to what we desire in leadership. Do we want the country to be driven into the ground by the power-hungry because of our personal religious beliefs or business interests? If so, we shall soon see the results of such mindless thinking. Well, we already are.

**Cecilia Rolando Ely**

## We need an advocate for Northern Minnesota

The natural resources and life here in Northern Minnesota are second to none. Yet, due to radical environmental influence and 25 years of doing nothing liberal leadership, our communities are slowly eroding, along with our way of life. This is evidenced by the gradual loss of population, loss of services, loss of business, loss of jobs, and loss of tourism. Even our First and Second Amendment rights are under siege! Northern Minnesota has long been forgotten in favor of Metro political interests.

Recently, both Senator

Tom Bakk and Rep. Rob Ecklund voted with the Metro to impose higher taxes on ALL Minnesotans to pay billions of dollars worth of damage done to Minneapolis by the many days of rioting, burning and looting which was prolonged and encouraged by liberal leadership. Because of their unwillingness to act and because of poor overall decision-making, we will ALL be paying the price!

With all the needs and concerns here in Northern Minnesota, where is Senator Bakk? He has spent countless time and effort in St. Paul doubling his own base salary with hefty expense reimbursements. According to the *Star Tribune*, he has used the per diem system so successfully, that he collected over \$350,000 in taxpayer money in just a six-year period, more than any other senator in the state of Minnesota. Yet, ask yourself, "What has he done for us?" other than contributing to the food shelf? Does his lavish income even begin to reflect what he has done for this area? Do we ever see him other than a rare visit during campaign time? The majority of people need jobs, opportunities and dignity, not government handouts and crumbs.

Chris Hogan is the pro industry and business, pro trade unions, pro law enforcement and pro small town and rural candidate. He believes in local and state control of our lands, waters and natural resources and he believes in the power of our people! We need new energy, new innovation and a candidate who has NOT been in office so long that he has learned how to best serve himself, rather than the people he is supposed to represent. We need someone who will work for us and be

responsive to the needs of Northern Minnesota, not those of the Metro. We need someone who will preserve and protect our freedoms, our constitutional rights and our way of life. And most of all we need someone who produces RESULTS! We need Chris elected to Senate District 3!

Please vote for Chris Hogan on Nov. 3, because Northern Minnesota Matters!

**Nancy McHarg Ranier**

## Would you vote for Hitler because Churchill was rude?

I was talking with a man who had entrusted me with a hand full of half-grown stalks of corn that needed planting. They had no soil on their roots. Where to plant them? Then the scene changed.

I was observing a woman being choked by a man. She was only choked until she was 'put to sleep'. But she awoke too early and was again choked, both times being lied to that it was not happening.

When I woke up, I realized this was no ordinary dream—this was from God. The woman being choked is the church. The man choking her is the devil. I was an observer.

The upcoming election is neither a popularity nor a personality contest! But it does have to do with whether or not you want to keep your rifles for hunting. Whether or not you want law and order on your streets. Freedom to worship as you choose. Or the ability to speak freely on college campuses.

Before moving to Tower in 1995 I was secretary/receptionist at the Blake Upper School, one of the most prestigious college

prep schools in America. Virak was one of our students. He was a quiet young man with great artistic ability which was frequently featured in the student newspaper. Most noticeable about his drawings was that they were very dark and foreboding. He had escaped from Vietnam to come to America. Virak went out for track. His coach asked, "How did you learn to run so fast?" His response was, "You learn to run fast when you have an AK 47 rifle aimed at you."

This election is not about a person or political party. It is about the freedom of America for our children and grandchildren. Would you have voted for Hitler because Churchill was bombastic and sometimes rude? We will stand before the Judge. Please, compare the important issues and platforms of the democrats, republicans and the Bible—then vote.

**Marilyn Mueller Greenwood Twp.**

## We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to [marshall@timberjay.com](mailto:marshall@timberjay.com).

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

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

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

## MASKS...Continued from page 3

up right where Wintergreen left off and continued to provide reusable cotton face masks to our area when personal protective equipment (PPE) was in critically short supply," Root said.

The Community Care Team focused specifically on providing masks to area nonprofit agencies with frontline workers as well as community members with greater vulnerability to becoming seriously ill if they contract COVID-19, according to Koski.

In addition to the CCT effort, other individuals and groups in the Ely area stepped up to produce face masks and distribute them in the community. Heart of the Woods Quilters guild members sewed hundreds of masks in a variety of fabrics and donated them to the CCT for distribution.

By mid-October, volunteer mask makers with the Community Care Team effort had produced more than 2,800 reusable cotton face masks for

use in the Ely, Babbitt, Tower and Soudan areas.

"While masks are only one part of the fight against COVID-19, choosing to wear a mask to protect those around you can be an empowering decision," Koski said. "And while mask makers and mask wearers may not have been able to meet each other in person, they are connected through an act of caring that builds community."

Mask maker Autumn Cole expressed the sentiments of

many of the mask makers. "I, along with many others in our Heart of the Woods quilt guild, began making masks early on as requested by our local health care professionals and facilities," she said. "I felt it was part of my civic responsibility to care for our community, keep us healthy, and slow the spread of COVID-19. Whenever we were asked by another group in town such as the schools, retail stores, churches, or high risk individuals, our group immediately responded

making hundreds of donated masks. We are still making masks. I always seem to fall back on our Cole family motto, 'Helping others is what life is all about,' which continues to inspire me to do just that."

Another mask maker, Missy Bailey, added, "I'm happy to contribute to this very important effort to keep our little community safe."

## CO-OP...Continued from page 4

principles would address working class issues, and emphasized that small cooperatives could be started with capital supplied by members. The Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers, organized in 1844, is considered the prototype for the modern cooperative association with a set of principles for successful cooperative business operations still used in cooperative practice today. The 1840's brought famine and hardship in Europe, and cooperative responses help meet the needs. Cooperative banks spread across Europe, the forerunners of credit unions and the cooperative farm credit system in North America. Cooperative farm marketing and farm supply organizations flourished in Denmark in the 1870's without government assistance, and the Folk High School system is given partial credit for their success. The Folk High School system, which spawned folk schools all over the globe, was established to provide non-formal, liberal arts education to the public, at a time when only the wealthy classes were educated. That access to education helped create an active and engaged citizenry necessary for a democratic society to function well.

In the U.S., the first recognized cooperative business was a mutual fire insurance company founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1752, which still operates today. In 1810, dairy and cheese cooperatives were organized, followed by co-ops for other agricultural commodities. With westward expansion, more cultivated land created a surplus of farm products, and farmers faced difficult conditions with low prices, high freight charges, and high interest rates. Marketing cooperatives were organized by farmers to counteract the difficulties. Racial discrimination made it hard for southern black farmers to participate, and they formed their own organizations. In the second half of the 19th century, more and larger marketing and purchasing cooperatives and co-op stores appeared.

Reacting to monopolistic practices and excesses of capitalism, interest in cooperatives grew around the turn of the century as they were seen as a path to a more socially responsive economy. The Cooperative League of the U.S. (CLUSA) was organized in 1916 to promote a broad cooperative agenda, drawing support from the social

democratic Finnish cooperatives in the Upper Midwest and agricultural cooperative purchasing associations. The USDA and university extension services supported cooperative efforts, and federal support increased during the Great Depression through the Farm Credit Act (1933), the Federal Credit Union Act (1934), and the Rural Electrification Act (1937).

The civil rights movement embraced cooperatives as a way to support independent black farmers in the south. Interest in alternative food systems and a lack of access to natural and organic foods caused a revival of consumer food co-ops during the mid-1960's and early 1970's, which in turn were a major influence on the growth and development of the organic and natural foods market.

Many co-ops started in the basement, kitchen, or back porch of a house and expanded to become very successful businesses. The Linden Hill Co-op in Minneapolis, formed in 1977, was typical of the collaborative effort with everyone pitching in and getting the work done. Customers and members said that the friendship and commu-

nity spirit were just as important as the fresh produce. The Wedge and Linden Hills co-ops in Minneapolis merged in 2016 to form the third largest retail food co-op in the nation with 25,000 members and over 500 employees. Lakewinds Co-op with stores in Chanhassen, Minnetonka, and Richfield is the fifth largest.

Although co-ops have grown in size and sophistication, that spirit of community is still valued and nurtured through careful attention to quality products, fair treatment of workers, support of community social needs, and democratic operating principles. Minnesota has more food co-ops than any other state, and the Twin Cities ranks second in the nation in retail food sales with \$213 million sold in 2019.

Why was that annual report so inspiring? The Whole Foods Community Co-op began as a buying club with 20 members, 50 years ago. In their fiscal year ending in July 2020, it had \$20,737,825 in revenue, and gave \$240,483 in owner discounts and \$63,200 in discounts to owners with limited incomes. \$183,000 in food was donated to agencies fighting

hunger. \$157,400 was donated to local community programs. \$4,774,172 was invested in staff. And during this challenging time of the pandemic, which cost the co-op dearly through the fourth quarter, instead of asking staff to sacrifice, their wages were raised \$2/hour.

Why is that inspiring? With all the polarizing dissension, ugly rhetoric, and unwillingness to work together that we see in Congress, the White House, and many parts of our country, the Whole Food Co-op and others like it are a beacon of hope that human beings really can do it. They have proven that we can actually cooperate and work together to create a better world through a connected, caring community. That doesn't mean there haven't been many and intense differences of opinions in the process, but they figured it out, made it 50 years, and in the process managed to build another store in Denfield, a neighborhood previously lacking in sufficient grocery stores. Sit up and pay attention, Washington.

We're your best source for local news...

Week of Oct. 26

**Monday**  
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Nov. 16.

Greenwood Fire Dept.- Meetings on the first (business meeting) and third (drill) Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Breitung Town Board- 12 noon on Oct. 27 at the town hall.

**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.

# A look at the history of Tower's financial troubles

COMMENTARY

Local council races are typically pretty staid affairs, with little controversy. Candidates tout their abilities and dedication, rather than criticize those they're running against, especially with misinformation and distortion.

Unfortunately, Tower has a candidate in this fall's city council race who is leveling false claims in his effort to blame the financial disaster left behind by the previous administration (of which he was a part) on the current city council. It's worth putting those claims in context.

First, without question, it was the previous city administration that left the city of Tower in a deep financial hole. It's true that the city has more debt today than it has at any time in recent years, but it was the previous administration that incurred that debt or made additional borrowing inescapable.

From 2015-2018, during the last four years of the previous administration, the city's finances went off the rails, although the true situation was masked for a time as I'll explain. The city went deeper into debt, borrowing \$258,000 from Gunderson Trust, ostensibly for harbor development, and \$421,000 for the ill-considered extension of the municipal sewer to Hoodoo Point. At the same time, the previous administration stripped city assets to pay for operations. Between 2015 and 2018, the city sold off seven parcels of land, for a total price of \$213,550, all of which appears to have been spent. The city received \$178,761 in an insurance settlement in 2014 stemming from the fire at the city's ambulance garage. Rather than rebuild the



**MARSHALL HELMBERGER**

garage, the city opted to spend the money elsewhere, while leaving valuable equipment and vehicles to rust in the weather.

At the same time, the previous administration stripped virtually every bank account the city had. The city, for years, set aside funds in money market accounts to pay for new police vehicles, fire department equipment, sick leave, and street repairs. These funds should have totaled \$171,671, but by the time the former clerk-treasurer was let go, these funds were down to just \$29,929.

They also had a storefront loan account with over \$100,000, which was drained to just over \$8,000. These aren't my opinions. These are documented facts.

The candidate who is campaigning on the purported financial failures of the current administration was part of the former administration and, last year, he criticized interim clerk-treasurer Ann Lamppa when she turned to the League of Minnesota Cities for an emergency cash flow loan when the previous clerk-treasurer's mismanagement of a state-funded project left the city with a \$400,000-plus construction bill and no money to pay for it. According to Lamppa, this individual told her the former clerk-treasurer would have

The previous administration "found money" by borrowing from Gunderson Trust, spending insurance settlements for operations, selling off land, and draining virtually every reserve fund.

"found the money" somewhere. What he apparently doesn't realize is that, eventually, the money runs out. The previous administration "found money" by borrowing from Gunderson Trust, spending insurance settlements for operations, selling off land, and draining reserve funds. But these tricks only get you so far. By the time the previous clerk-treasurer was dismissed in June of 2019, the city had nowhere else to turn. They had hit rock bottom.

Despite this candidate's bogus claims, the city's finances are improving thanks to a tighter rein on spending. The city is retiring its \$250,000 debt to the League of Minnesota Cities over the scheduled five years. They paid \$50,000 this year and have \$53,000 in the budget for next year, all while keeping the city's levy the same as this year and budgeting for a modest surplus.

The city still has a long way to go. The city doesn't yet have the ability to replenish the reserve accounts the previous administration drained dry. The city doesn't have any more remote lands to sell. There's no insurance money left to rebuild an emergency services garage or use to cover other expenses.

Like most folks spreading misinformation, the council candidate in question operates on vague claims, rather than specifics, which allows him to avoid context or being pinned

down. It's true that the city currently has a very large debt—larger than in any recent year. But there's a reason for that—the non-recourse loan for the Lamppa manufacturing plant is now on the city's books at about \$1.78 million, which by itself is nearly double the typical debt that the city has carried at any one time.

This is where context matters. No one in their right mind would pass up a non-recourse loan from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation to allow a homegrown manufacturing company with an outstanding product to expand and create new good-paying jobs in Tower. This was a huge win for the city, one that was engineered by the IRRR and the Tower Economic Development Authority. Repayment of the loan is based solely on net revenues from the facility. If Lamppa were to leave at some point, the city wouldn't owe anything until a new tenant was found. What's more, this debt was incurred under the previous administration, so it's hardly fair to blame the city's current debt load on city officials today. They inherited that debt. Any way you slice it, this council candidate is operating on disinformation—and that should concern every voter in Tower. The city is facing enough challenges without adding such an individual to the city council.

Read It  
HERE



## DIY Fun

This Soudan kid has built himself an entire town in his yard

by **STEPHANIE UKKOLA**  
Staff Writer

**SOUDAN-** Ten-year-old Isaac Tuchel has spent the past year building and creating his own small town in his front yard. If you look closely you will find a replica of his own house and farm, a racetrack, an auto parts store, marina, restaurant, gas station, airport, cabin, fire and ambulance hall, ski



lodge, football field, monument, construction business, ATV park, gravel pit, and houses for his friends, too. Tuchel has about 130 vehicles; some were gifts from his family but many he bought with the money he earns from mowing lawns. He and his dad Matt put up most of the buildings together.



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**Official Newspaper:**  
City of Orr, City of Tower, Townships of Bearville, Eagles Nest, Embarrass, Kugler, Vermilion Lake, Field, Morcom, Leiding, Crane Lake, ISD 707.

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### St. Paul's Carry-Out Chili Feed on Nov. 3

**SOUDAN-** St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan is holding its popular Election Day Chili Feed on Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

This year, due to safety concerns, chili, bread and dessert will be available for take-out only. Three varieties will be available: regular, without beans, or hot and spicy.

People can order ahead by calling 218-753-5354 (leave a message), or just stop by on election day.

### AEOA Senior Dining; carry-out only

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

Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, meals will be available for carry-out only between 12:15 and 12:30 p.m. Diners need to wear a mask and sanitize their hands once they enter the building to pick up their meal.

Reservations are required the day before, or morning of, because meals are individually packaged for take-out. Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4.50 per meal, but all ages are welcome at

the regular rate of \$6.25. There are no income guidelines.

Call the school at 218-300-1447 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.

**Week of Oct. 26**  
**Monday:** Chicken Philly sandwich, vegetable  
**Tuesday:** Mini corn dogs, baked beans, carrots with ranch dip  
**Wednesday:** Beef fried rice, vegetable, dinner roll  
**Thursday:** Chunky chicken gravy over mashed potatoes, dinner roll, green beans  
**Friday:** Monster Mac and Squiggly Things.

**Monthly menus available on-line at [vermilioncountry.org/cafe-teria-menu](http://vermilioncountry.org/cafe-teria-menu).**

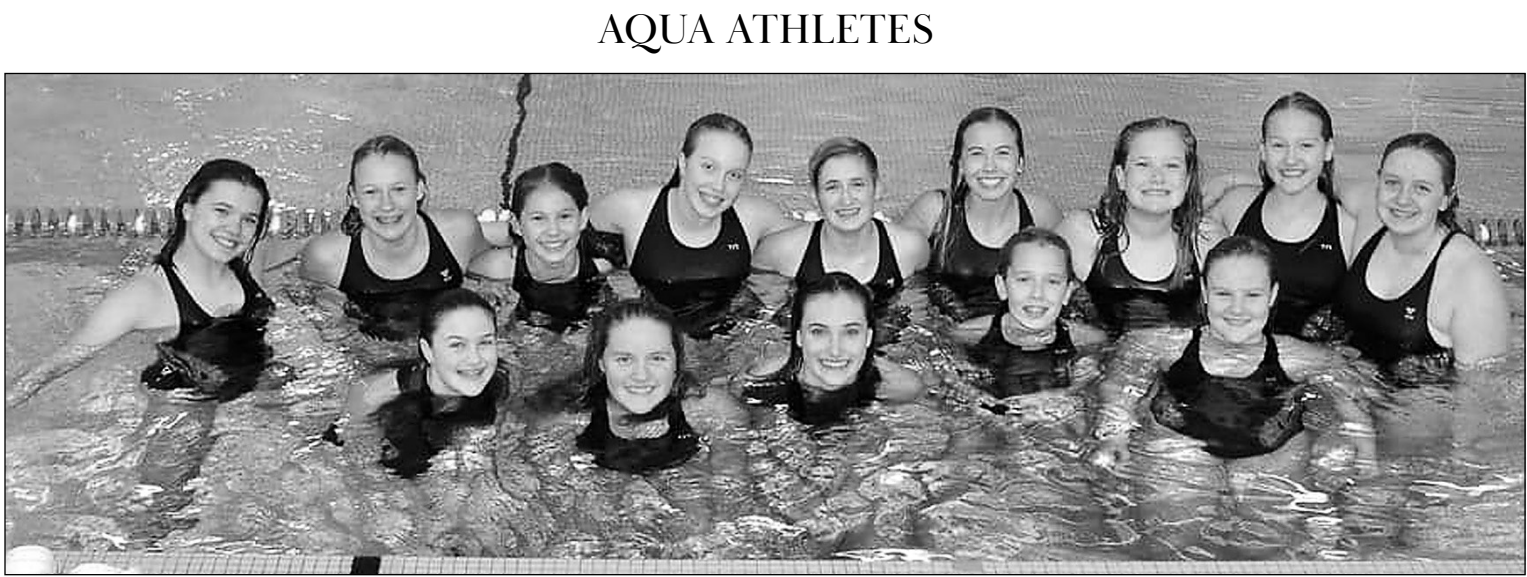
**Libraries**

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

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

**Support groups**

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**OPEN AA - 7:30**  
 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA - Every Monday**  
 at noon at Ledgerock Community Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely.  
**BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.**  
 Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church  
**AL-ANON - Sundays**  
 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.  
 For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.  
**BABBITT AL-ANON**  
 Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.  
**CO-DEPENDENTS'**  
 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ely.  
**ELY FOOD SHELF -**  
 Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.  
**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED**  
 - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.



**NER/Ely girls swim team wraps up season**

The NER/Ely Nighthawks varsity swim team wraps up the season this Saturday with the Section Meet at Mesabi East. Coach Cheri DeBeltz honored McKenna Coughlin, the Nighthawks' only senior this season, who also played varsity volleyball. "McKenna had joined swimming when there was not going to be volleyball this season," DeBeltz said "Once the announcement was made that volleyball was back on, she wanted to still finish out her swimming season. She is a great addition to the team, and a wonderful young lady to work with." The 2020-2021 NER/Ely swim team includes, front row from left, Cedar Ohlhauser, Esther Anderson, Kelly Thompson, Cylvia DeBeltz, Sabrah Hart, and back row from left, Morgan McClelland, Lily Tedrick, Tuuli Koivisto, Anna Larson, Evie Cavalier, Lauren Olson, Maggie Fetterer, Emma Fedders, Maggie Dammann. submitted photos



**Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



wind removing leaves  
 snow drifting down mightily  
 color eraser

**SUPPORTING THE ARTS**

**Gardner Trust awards grants**

Local artists, organizations and fine arts events share more than \$15,000

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust recently awarded \$15,468.20 to local artists, art organizations, and fine arts events.

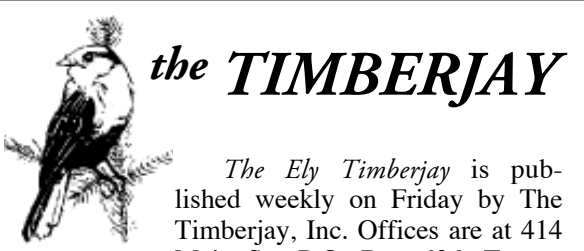
"The Gardner Humanities Trust had a very competitive fall grant round this year," said Executive Director Keiko Williams. "There were several grants that were not funded or had funding reduced to keep within the grants budget for the year. The Trust maintains an operational reserve if there are outstanding opportunities for the community that arise that are outside the budget."

Individual artist grants are awarded for unique, short-term opportunities that will impact an artist's career.

- Sally Koski was awarded \$788.20 to support a natural dying process for nunofelting. Nunofelting uses natural fabrics as a base for the felting process. Sally is applying for a University of Minnesota Master Gardener Volunteer workshop in order to develop expertise in designing, planting and harvesting a natural dye garden. She also plans on creating some instructional videos and educational sessions through Community Education.
- Betty Firth was awarded \$900 to support a mentorship opportunity with mosaic artist Sheryl Tuorila. Betty will study with Sheryl and later offer a public demonstration and small group instruction.
- The Trust's project grant program supports activities in the fine arts and is intended to make possible presentations or productions. Five project grants were awarded this year to the following organizations:
  - The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra was awarded \$2,760 to present a classical string concert in Ely's Historic State Theater on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021.
  - The Ely Winter Festival was awarded \$2,920 to support the 2021 Snow Sculpture Symposium at Whiteside Park in February 2021.
  - Reflections Dance Company was awarded \$2,500 to help present a winter showcase with live performances and to premiere a full-length dance movie.
  - Ely's Historic State Theater was awarded \$3,200 to support a film series featuring women directors. Discussions of the director's work and topics about women/cinematic arts will be held before and after each film.
  - The Ely ArtWalk was awarded \$2,400 for its outdoor art exhibit in downtown Ely in February 2021, a collaboration of area artists and Ely business owners.

The 2020 Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust board members are: Laura Moberly, Jill Swanson, Cade Thibodeaux, Beth Ohlhauser, Andy Messerschmidt, Angela Campbell, Mary Setterholm and Chris Steele.

Any questions about the grant programs, the Trust or ways to support the arts in Ely can be directed to Williams at 218-365-2639 or at info@gardnertrust.org.



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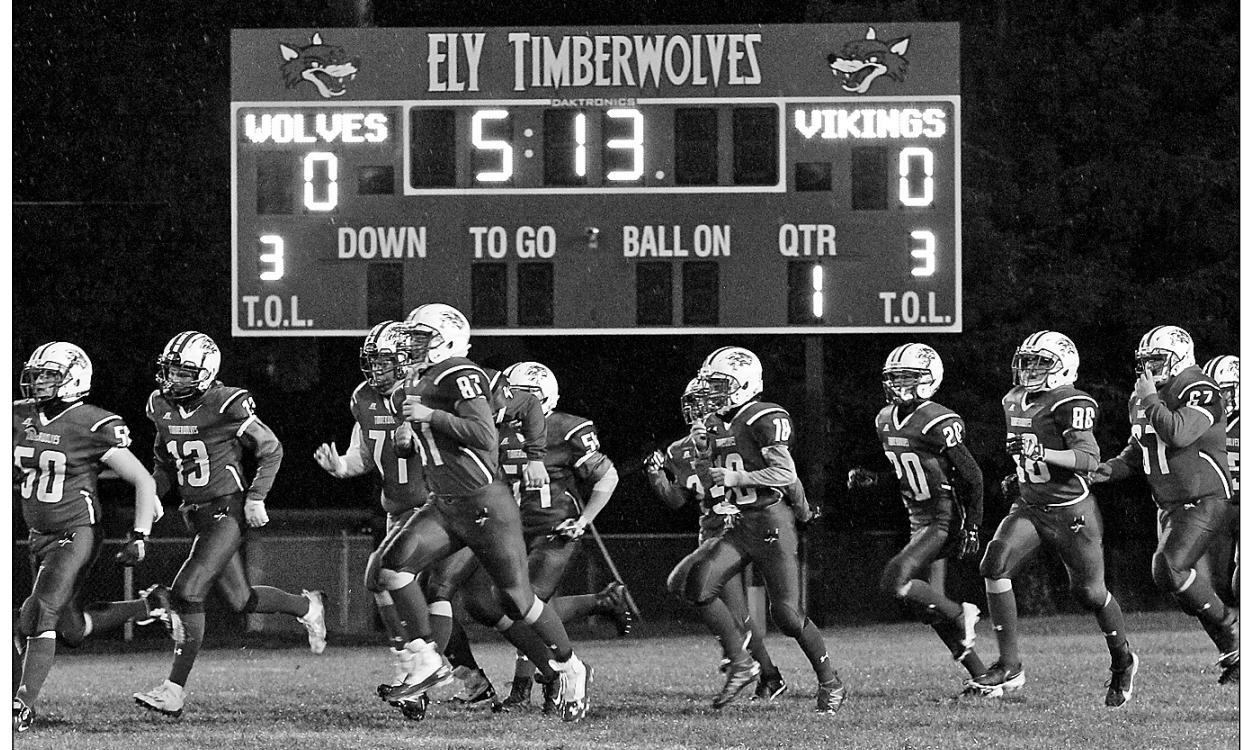
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**HERE COME THE ELY TIMBERWOLVES**



The Ely Timberwolves varsity football team ran onto the field under the glow of a new scoreboard at Memorial Field last Wednesday for their home opener. The team's five seniors, including Lane Anderson, and his parents, right, were honored prior to kickoff. Anderson went on to score Ely's first touchdown on the way to a 20-0 win over the Cook County Vikings. photos by K. Vandervort



# Girl Scouts moving on up with bridging event

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- The Girl Scouts tradition of bridging signifies a girl's readiness to move up a level in their scouting endeavors, and it was time for 13 Cook Girl Scout troop members to celebrate their progress with a dinner and ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Cook on Oct. 21.

Memory Malone, one of the leaders for the Cadette Troop 1203, said between 40 and 50 scouts, leaders, and family members attended the event, which also included giving various awards for things like cookie sales and notable badges earned.

But the bridging ceremony took front and center, as Daisies became Brownies, Brownies became Juniors, and Cadettes became Seniors.

"There's an actual bridge that we have, and they cross the bridge,

a visual symbol for everybody to see, and they get their new vest or sash when they cross the other side," Malone said.

The Troop 1184 Daisies are the newest Girl Scouting group, and two of them, Shay Wilcox and Jade Rautiola, moved up to Brownies.

Troop 1204 Brownies moving up to Juniors included Zoey Wilcox, Mallory Bibeau, Lyla Rautiola, Bayla Rutchasky and Olivia Baumgartner.

Troop 1203 Juniors moving up to Cadettes included Elizabeth Udovich, Tori Phillips, Grace Bundy, Ari Vines, Khloe Holland and Merilee Scofield.

Those assembled for the event also participated in a cake raffle to raise a little more than \$200 to help the Daisies with expenses for activities.

Malone said that Girl Scouting in Cook has grown in numbers the past couple of years, and



Four different groups of Cook Girl Scouts ranging from Daisies to Cadettes are joined by their leaders as they display vests, sashes, and awards received at a bridging and award ceremony and dinner at First Baptist Church in Cook on Oct. 14.

submitted photo

that leaders of the various age groups are focused not only on fun and skill-building for the girls but on teaching the value of being of service to the community.

The girls won't have long to wait for their next opportunity, as on Oct. 28 they will be delivering treat bags to the residents of Carefree Living and Cook Care Center. The

troops won't be going inside the facilities, but will be dressed in Halloween costumes and will parade outside where residents and staff can see them through the windows.

"All the girls seem to really enjoy it; we're getting new kids all the time," Malone said. "So we're doing something right."

# Low interest spurs high interest in properties

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- While the overall economy took a nosedive in the wake of business shutdowns and restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic, the real estate sector in the North Lands enjoyed one of the best sales seasons in a decade, and that trend continued beyond Labor Day and throughout September.

Julia Maki, co-owner of B.I.C. Realty in Cook, said it was about time the area saw the increased activity.

"A lot of the country has experienced a housing boom over the last couple of years, and I know Duluth and Minneapolis have been really

hot," Maki said. "We've kind of been excluded from that, just because we're a more rural remote area. It's been pretty stable since the housing market crashed. We're starting to finally see a good increase in prices and people building their net worth and owning real estate up here, and in price appreciation, which is great for property owners in our area."

While interest in north country properties, particularly lakefront properties, has been driven by people looking to escape the metro areas and COVID-19, that's not the only reason that Maki and other realtors have often had multiple offers on a property at more than the original

asking price.

"The low interest rates have really been a big help," Maki said. "Last week they hit historic lows again. If the cost of borrowing money is cheaper, they can afford more."

With lower interest rates also comes more buyers, and buyers who can consider properties that might otherwise have been out of their price range. At the same time, there have been fewer choice properties on the market, everything working together to create what Maki called a "perfect storm."

"When you have that kind of cocktail, it really drives up the price," she said.

Lakefront proper-

ties and homes that are move-in ready have been the hottest sellers, while vacant land sales, outside of small plots for hunting, have been sluggish.

"Lots were a really hard sell this summer because the cost of building new has skyrocketed," Maki said. "If we had a house in really good shape come on the market, those typically sold right away and usually above asking price."

New construction on undeveloped lots has the added cost of needed infrastructure, from driveways to utilities, Maki said. But some buyers who wanted to build their own new house found a way around that by purchasing a property with an existing structure that

could be demolished to make way for new construction.

While it's the time of the year when sales typically start to slow and summer residents head for warmer climates, market conditions are still good for sellers who want to capitalize on the them, Maki said.

"There's less inventory, less competition," she said.

But activity will in-

evitably slow to a trickle as winter conditions create challenges for prospective buyers. When that happens, Maki said she'll finally have some time to catch up on all of the paperwork from all of the summer activity, start planning for next year, "and catch up on our sleep."

## NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

# Principal shares changed perspective

FIELD TWP- One of the aspects of COVID has been a great deal of added stress for educators, families, businesses, and seemingly life in general. I wanted to focus this week on some thoughts about how COVID has affected school and my perspective. I don't know what our future will look like after COVID. I don't know when "COVID will be over." I do know that what we once looked at as normal is now different. My perspective has changed. Here is my list of things that I once took for granted and will now appreciate more. I hope we all will.

➤ High-fives. The simple act of walking down the hallway and giving a student a high-five for doing a nice job on something.

➤ Joining in with a group of kids to shoot baskets, play four-square, or any other sort of play that uses a ball and close contact. I never even thought twice about tossing a ball with a student.

➤ Lunch. Kids are spaced, facing the same way, and encouraged to not "group up." We are social creatures. This af-

fects our socializing for sure. I really enjoy having conversations with kids, especially my guys who like talking about snowmobiles. Now, our circle of conversation is pretty wide. It's not the same.

➤ Classroom parties



JOHN VUKMANICH

simply aren't the same without homemade cupcakes.

➤ Sports. I watched my own daughter swim this fall on Facebook Live. She had her best season ever and I never thought that I wouldn't be there to watch it. Appreciate it.

➤ Concession stands. Speaking of sports, a high school sporting event just isn't the same without a slice of pizza!

➤ Technology. We have become SO dependent on it during this time of Zoom meetings and

Distance Learning. I am a little bit old school, and at a time when I wish we could get away from the ball and chain of mobile devices, we are more dependent on them than ever. Hopefully wifi access in our rural areas will be improved now, too.

➤ Seeing smiles and faces. Humans read each other based upon the emotions on our faces. That's all different now. Masks are covering us up.

➤ A school full of kids. The majority of our kids are here at school, but there is noticeably less traffic and excitement in the building. It doesn't feel the same.

➤ Teachers. Educators work hard at making sure your kids have the best experience they possibly can at school. We also take plenty of flak once in a while. I hope that teachers are more appreciated, feel more appreciated, and that we appreciate each other as well.

➤ Hugs. We aren't supposed to hug our students. Sometimes they need a hug and they hug us. Last week an elementary student came down the hallway and said, "I really wish I could give you a real hug." Once we get through COVID,

I think we all need a real hug.

Here is a list of things that I think are actually positive from the COVID experience. I hope we remember this as a society as we move forward. Hopefully we have learned to:

➤ Better appreciate each other and each other's company.

➤ Not get hung up on the small things.

➤ Appreciate going out to eat.

➤ Value our families.

➤ Value our physical and mental health.

➤ Value being at school.

➤ Value the non-academic parts of our school days.

➤ Support each other.

➤ Roll with it.

➤ Be positive.

➤ Value kindness and sincerity.

Teachers and school administrators have never been under so much stress. It's not because we are dealing with life and death. It's because we are trying to make everyone happy at a time when it is impossible. Do your best to stay positive and happy.



**the TIMBERJAY**

The Cook/Orr Timberjay is published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 [218-753-2950], and PO Box 718, Ely, MN 55731 [218-365-3114]. Fax number is 218-753-2916. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Visit our website: www.timberjay.com.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office in Tower, Minnesota. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Timberjay, P.O. Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Three award-winning community editions are published each week for Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr, and Ely.

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**ELY...**Continued from page 1

wide, includes dozens of projects ranging from water systems to public safety to parks.

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak voiced a sigh of relief Thursday night as he celebrated the news of Ely's \$1.5-million portion of the funding package. "We have the plans ready for the trailhead building that will anchor our west end development project," he said. "Hopefully we can get the bid proposals out this fall yet and hope to start work early next year."

The complex at the Hwy. 169 entrance to Ely as a trailhead for the David Dill Taconite Snowmobile Trail, Prospector Loop ATV Trail and the Mesabi Trail. The facility will also function as a rest stop and tourist

information center for visitors.

In 2018, the city received a state bonding award for \$1.3 million to begin the planning, engineering and site design of the facility.

The multi-faceted complex features a 3,400-square-foot trailhead building and extensive parking areas in the shadow of the city's water tower. The four-season facility could include cultural heritage displays, regional business and tourism attraction information, ADA restrooms, interpretive kiosks, and changing/dressing areas.

The West End Redevelopment District portion of the project will include roadway and utility extensions. Novak said he wants to talk

with city council members about extending Pattison Street, behind the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, and finding additional funding sources to continue with the extensive renovation and expansion plans to include workforce housing and proposed growth at the city's hospital. "We also have to figure out what we're going to do with the old city garage property," he said.

**North Country projects**

Here is a partial list of northeastern Minnesota projects included in the bill:

➤ Aurora, Hoyt Lakes, Biwabik, Town of White - \$5 million for the East Mesabi Joint Water System.

➤ Buhl - \$1.5 million for wastewater, clean water, and

sewer infrastructure.

➤ Chisholm - \$1.9 million to construct a new public safety facility for police and fire.

➤ Hibbing - \$1.3 million for the mine view facility.

➤ Hill Annex Mine State Park - \$2 million for design and engineering of projects to respond to rising water levels at the Canisteo and Hill Annex Mine complexes.

➤ International Falls - \$1.8 million for reconstruction of the runway, taxiway, and apron at the International Falls/Koochiching County Airport.

➤ Koochiching County - \$3 million for a rail grade crossing separation where Hwy. 24 crosses railroad tracks near International Falls and Ranier.

➤ St. Louis County - \$950,000 for right-of-way acquisition and construction of Voyageur Country ATV Trail connections in the Orr, Ash River, Kabetogama Township and International Falls areas. \$1.365 million for a regional behavioral health crisis facility.

➤ Silver Bay - \$1.1 million to design and construct a multi-modal trailhead center, including a wayside rest area.

➤ Togo - \$2.6 million for a new sewer treatment system at the Minnesota Correctional Facility

➤ Virginia - \$9.5 million for a regional public safety center and training facility for police and fire.

**TOGO...**Continued from page 1

Layoff notices went out Oct. 1, and a mid-November graduation for Togo's unique Challenge Incarceration Program would have been its last. The facility would have been closed for good in early December, putting more than 60 full and part-time employees out of work in an area already hard-hit by the pandemic economic downturn. MCF-Willow River would have closed in January.

But the facilities would not go down without a fight. Nearly 500 joined a Facebook group set up to facilitate communication about advocacy efforts and provide support. Two rallies for Togo were held in Nashwauk, with Schnell attending the first to explain his decision and offer his support for supplemental funding. The city of Bigfork hosted an interactive watch site for a House committee virtual meeting in September where employees and supporters offered testimony on behalf of the endangered facilities. People bombarded legislators and aides with phone calls and emails, and local legislators took up the cause, chief among them District 6A Rep. Julie Sandstede (DFL-Hibbing).

"It was very unique in my experience," Sandstede said on Tuesday. "The communities, the surrounding communities, legislators, the warden, workers, we had such

a robust presence and a broad representation of voices that all spoke to this, resoundingly saying 'No.' And that we were able to hear that in government, that is just so refreshing to me. Honestly, I think it's wonderful."

Schnell, who had unsuccessfully asked for supplemental funding during the regular legislative session last spring, praised the advocacy efforts in a letter sent to Togo and Willow River staff last week.

"Just a quick note to extend my gratitude to all of you for your efforts and advocacy on behalf of the CIP programs at Togo and Willow River," Schnell wrote. "It's clear to me, that final passage of the DOC's supplemental budget request was based on a number of critical factors: the quality of the services you provide, your obvious commitment to your work, your vocal advocacy for your programs, and the unwavering support of local legislators and members of the local communities. I will always remember the outpouring of community support for you and the programs you operate during the rally events in Nashwauk and Willow River. It's not often that communities become so mobilized around the importance of correctional programs, and it's not lost on me that the community support and turnout is

because of you and your programs' demonstration of the potential for transformation of the lives of the people we serve. I want to thank all of you for your honesty and willingness to engage during my visits to both facility sites, and the Tele-Town Hall calls. As I've said during my visits and will repeat again, I'm sorry for all the stress and pain this situation created for you and your families."

**Special session**

Indicative of the support generated for Togo and Willow River were eight bills, five in the House and three in the Senate, that were introduced shortly after the Legislature convened its special session on Oct. 12.

The primary legislative thrust would be to include \$7.5 million in House File 1, referred to somewhat inaccurately as the "bonding bill" for its \$1.36 billion list of statewide capital improvement projects. Working "every single day since Aug. 3" with Schnell and others, Sandstede said they determined that \$7.5

million would be sufficient because of cuts already made and extra coronavirus funding that had been received.

"There was a tax provision portion of that bill, and then there was also the supplemental budget," Sandstede said. "The supplemental portion is where we needed to get the money for Togo and Willow River. I had personally introduced other bills specific to just Togo and Willow River, knowing if the bonding bill went down, knowing if a supplemental portion of the bill went down, I still had to have the bases covered somewhere else."

The money was included in HF 1 but was designated generally for the Department of Corrections. Not willing to depend on past promises, Sandstede offered an amendment specifying Togo and Willow River that took some wrangling to get through, as it was initially attached to another bill.

"I had to fight like a dog to get it," she said.

"We've seen it happen all too often where people's recollection of what was really agreed upon and really said isn't always as you may recall it. That's why it just it had to be there. It was willingness on the part of leadership to allow me to do that, it was working across the aisle, but it really took some absolute determination and grit to just say, 'I'm not backing down. This has to be.'"

With the amendment in place, all 75 House DFL members and 25 House Republicans provided the three-fifths "super majority" needed to pass the bill. The Republican-controlled Senate passed the bill 64-3 the next day. The positive reaction has been overwhelming, Sandstede said.

"My email, my Facebook, my private messenger, all of that has just been jam packed full of people thanking me," she said. "There's been such an outpouring of thanks, appreciation, gratitude, so heartfelt and sincere. They have hope again."

**Work continues**

The money will be sufficient to keep Togo and Willow River operating through June 30, but advocates may well find themselves back at it again in the spring. The state is facing a multi-billion-dollar shortfall for the next two-year budget cycle.

"Without a doubt, the Department of Corrections is going to have to address their budget and they will be facing budget cuts, more than likely," Sandstede said. "Could Togo be part of that? At this point, nothing is off the table. However, we're really kind of out in front of the issue by making the case that we did for Togo and Willow River. That doesn't mean our work is done. [This has] bought us some time to start looking at overall budgets before we have to send them, looking at what cuts are beneficial and what is pennywise and pound foolish, which is what I believe cutting Togo and Willow River CIP programs is."

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STATE BONDING

# Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park gets \$10.5 million

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook/Orr Editor

**SOUDAN-** Previously stalled by lack of funding, two major improvement projects at Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park are back on track after the Minnesota Legislature designated \$10.5 million

to them last week as part of a nearly a \$1.5 billion bonding package.

The measure allocated \$5 million to continue rehabilitating the main mine shaft, which underwent an initial phase of work in 2012 to fix damage from a fire in 2011. Work done at that time revealed more extensive deteriora-

tion of steel beams below the seventeenth level of the mine than had been anticipated, as well as additional wood and debris that were potential fire hazards.

Under the proposed plan, contractors will replace nearly all of the steel and concrete beams and clear the wood and debris. Park officials last

year projected it would take two winters to complete the work. It is not currently known if the new funding has been allocated in time to commence work this winter.

The mine has been a popular attraction, averaging 35,000 visitors annually who descend the shaft to tour the mine.

The other \$5.8 million in the bill was designated for "the predesign, design, and construction of a campground and related infrastructure" at the park, reigniting the plan for a campground in the park south of Hwy. 169 and accessible to off-highway vehicles such as ATVs and snowmobiles.

Another portion of the bill dictates that the DNR must manage the area south of Hwy. 169 as a "secondary unit" state recreation area, and that off-highway vehicles must be permitted to access campgrounds and overnight facilities in that area via designated routes.

## COVID...Continued from page 1

regular contact with the isolated individuals and will monitor their compliance with isolation instructions," said a press release on the tribe's website. "Bois Forte Health is engaged in contact tracing

and will follow up with those suspected of having recent contact with the individuals who tested positive. Finally, the Band is coordinating with the Minnesota Department of Health regarding posi-

tive cases on-Reservation to ensure a robust and thorough public health response."

Fortune Bay Resort Casino General Manager Jenna Lehti confirmed in a Monday email to staff

that two employees tested positive for COVID-19 last week.

"One employee hasn't worked in a week, and therefore has not exposed anyone at work," Lehti said. "The second employee, after reviewing surveillance footage, also did not expose anyone at work. Please remember the Minnesota Department of Health defines "exposure" as within 6 feet of another person for longer than 15 minutes." No guests came into close contact with the affected individuals. Lehti commended the staff for maintaining social distance, which she credited with keeping the number of exposed employees to a minimum. She also asked staff to increase sanitation for commonly used workplaces and equipment.

Tower-Soudan Elementary School became the second ISD 2142 school to have a positive COVID-19 case. After hearing about a possible case on Monday from a parent at the school who said they had not been notified about it, the Timberjay contacted Superintendent Reggie Engebritson, who confirmed that a case was identified last week.

"I assessed the situa-

tion, did the contact tracing, and there were no close contacts," Engebritson said. "The person had not been in school since Monday, Oct. 12." Engebritson said she sent out a notification through the district's alert system, and that she received responses confirming that she had already notified families and staff. But at least two parents of Tower-Soudan Elementary students said they had not received a notification. A belated notification via the campus messenger system, sent out Oct. 19, apologized for the delay in getting the message out to families and staff. "For some reason I thought I had sent it out," Engebritson said.

Engebritson also serves as superintendent for the Mt. Iron-Buhl school district, which shifted on Monday to all distance-learning for two weeks in response to COVID-19 cases.

The bi-weekly case rate per 10,000 that is used to guide school decision-making about learning models remained elevated last Thursday, with the overall county rate at 28.5. The number for St. Louis County outside of the Duluth area dropped from 19.7 to 18.2, still well above the threshold for districts to consider shifting from in-person learning to a hybrid model incorporating distance learning for upper grade levels. It's the sixth consecutive weekly rate over the threshold of 10, but districts work with health and education officials to use local data to determine if a shift is recommended.

### Conflicting views

State health officials reinforced in a Monday press conference that the number of positive COVID-19 tests has increased faster than the number of tests administered, a clear indication the coronavirus continues to circulate widely in communities.

The seven-day positive case average, which lags by a week, is currently 5.8 percent. That is an increase from 4.9 percent the week prior. The state generally says a 5 percent rate or above is a concerning sign of disease spread.

Tuesday marked the 11th consecutive day the state reported more than

1,000 new cases.

"For the first time now we're seeing faster growth in cases than in testing," health commissioner Jan Malcom said. "We are seeing hospitalizations increase, we are seeing mortality rates increase. We are going deeper into the fall and the holiday season with a far higher level of cases than we had hoped, because we know what comes next." Malcolm told reporters that with the pandemic currently escalating in Minnesota, they would "not recommend further increasing gatherings of people."

"All of these indicators are going in the wrong direction, which to us does not indicate that it's time to relax our cautions," she said.

However, at the state capitol in St. Paul, Republican lawmakers delivered quite the opposite message at an "OpenUP MN" press conference.

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R-East Gull Lake) and House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt (R-Crown) released a joint statement promising voters that if they return control of the Legislature to their party they will take steps to lift restrictions on businesses and schools imposed by Gov. Tim Walz.

The GOP plan includes implementing more in-person learning at K-12 schools, resuming all school sports, and allowing local districts to decide whether to have fans at games. It also includes lifting restrictions on how many people can worship at religious ceremonies, as well as ending broad public health rules on bars and restaurants.

"We trust Minnesota families, schools, churches, and businesses to be responsible and live safely," says the statement. "Instead of concentrating power in one person or at the state level, we will return it to Minnesotans and the local leaders they elected."

All 201 legislative seats are on the ballot this year. The House currently has a 75-59 Democratic majority while Republicans hold a 35-32 advantage in the Senate.

MinnPost contributed to this article.



## COVID-19 Testing Available

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# TOWER...Continued from page 1

the topic. "This represents the city moving from an ad hoc budgeting process to one that follows state budgeting procedures," he said. "This process will make this much easier in the future and will bring greater transparency to our citizens."

Creating separate accounts was one way that the new budget will provide greater transparency, because revenues for the various city functions, from the airport to police, to water and sewer, will be clearly identified and anticipated revenues and expenditures will be accounted for. In addition to a chart of accounts and spending proposals, Ranua's budget included a narrative portion that described the various funds and their purposes.

Ranua, who has just completed her first year as clerk-treasurer, noted that the city had gotten itself in trouble with deficits in many accounts over the course of some prior years because it didn't properly budget for known expenses. In some cases, known expenditures totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars were not accounted for in city budgeting. "I think that's where some of the issues came in the past," said Ranua. She noted that the nearly half million dollars in identified deficits in the harbor development was the result of improperly budgeting for the expenses the city incurred on the project. By definition, budget deficits reflect spending over a budgeted amount, and that had been routine in the past in Tower. Frequently, major cost items, such as known increases in payroll or major equipment purchases, were not included in annual budgets. Now, Ranua tries to keep city spending in line with budgeted amounts, or she requires the council to approve a budget amendment— as is required by law— something the city did not do in recent years.

Ranua identified a number of accounts that she separated out as "enterprise funds," which are those city functions that tend to, or at least could, produce a profit. "What I like about considering these as enterprise funds, is you look at it in a different way, to generate revenue for a purpose, such as buying down property taxes," she said.

In the past, the city lumped accounts, such as airport fuel sales, within the general fund, which tended to mask whether the city was generating actual profits. She said her analysis of fuel sales suggests the city had been losing money for several years. She said by better identifying the city's costs associated with the sales, and paying more attention to fuel pricing, she hoped the city could generate \$10,000 annually in profits, which would eliminate the need to use property taxes to fund the city's share of airport operations and maintenance.

Ranua also said the city should be reinvesting in its various facilities, many of which are aging. "Hoodoo Point Campground has been a workhorse for the city, that helps to keep the city's property taxes lower," she said. "We need to think about rolling some revenues back into upgrading the campground," she said.

Ranua created a separate account for Hoodoo Point this year to be able to better track the facility's profits and to segregate the

proceeds from a fee that the campground has charged users for several years to help pay for upgrades. In the past, those fees weren't segregated and ended up in the general fund, creating questions about how much was actually available for campground upgrades. Ranua said the campground has traditionally transferred about \$60,000 a year to the city, but she said her current budget includes no transfer for 2021. She noted that the cost of paying off bonds for the sewer extension to the campground, at over \$37,000 a year, has cut into the amount that can be transferred and she argued that the city should consider putting those funds back into the campground, at least for a time.

Ranua noted that she has also budgeted funds for the first time in years to undertake a forest inventory. The city has significant forest land ownership and Ranua said she's yet to find a forest management plan for those lands since her arrival. But before any management decisions can be made, she said, an inventory is needed so city officials understand what kind of resources they actually have.

Ranua questioned the propriety of land sales that the city undertook between 2015 and 2018, noting that the charter directs that city forest lands be administered for "the perpetuation of such forest in the best interests" of the city. "We've been selling a lot of these

lands to cover some of these things that weren't planned well for, but that's not the best approach," she said.

Ranua's new system of accounting provides for substantially greater transparency, because it clearly identifies sources of funding for each budget account, including where everyone's tax dollars actually go.

The budget also clarifies sources of funding for the city's debt, by setting up a separate debt service account. Her budget identifies that most city debt has clear funding sources. Debts owed on TEDA buildings, for example, are more than covered by lease payments. Water and sewer debts are paid for by the Tower-Breitung

Wastewater Board, while Northstar Addition infrastructure is covered by tax increment financing, or TIF. The only debts financed by property taxes are the general obligation bonds the city sold in 2015 to cover \$258,000 in harbor debt along with the \$250,000 extraordinary expense loan that the city received from the League of Minnesota Cities in 2019 to cover a cash flow crisis stemming from prior mismanagement of city funds.

In total, Ranua's budget includes revenues to the general fund totaling \$638,403, with estimated expenditures of \$611,417, for a \$27,000 surplus. Across all funds, she expects the city to generate \$2,866,293 in revenue,

with \$2,696,570 in expenditures. Of the \$394,761 the city expects to raise in property taxes next year, \$311,708 is earmarked to the general fund, \$5,000 to TEDA, \$7,500 for ambulance replacement, and just \$70,000 for debt service.

Ranua said she's waiting for the completion of the business plan for the ambulance service before finalizing an ambulance budget for next year. She's also waiting for further discussion with the council on the city's utilities account and is waiting for budget figures from the Tower Economic Development Authority, which is expected to approve its 2021 budget at its meeting on Nov. 5.



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#### 2012 ELANTRA GLS

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#7534B

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\$12,557

#24027B

#### 2012 COMPASS 4X4

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#9368B

#### 2006 ESCAPE HYBRID 4X4 Only 97K Miles

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#24415A

#### 2014 TERRAIN SLT AWD Leather, Roof

\$11,975

#24247A

#### 2011 SILVERADO LT Z71

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#24182B

#### 2017 EXPLORER XLT w/Leather

\$27,878

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#### 2014 LEXUS IS 250 AWD

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**TRICK?...**Continued from page 1

of Health recommends families celebrate at home with members of their own household by carving pumpkins, watching a scary movie, or decorating a scary space.

MDH officials recommend celebrating Halloween safely this year to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by choosing activities with lower risk.

➤ Celebrate at home with family. Carve or decorate pumpkins. Have a Halloween movie night with treats.

➤ Celebrate outside with family, neighbors, and friends. Hold a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt or a virtual Halloween costume contest.

➤ No-contact neighborhood trick-or-treating. Put treats in individual goodie bags and place them at the end of your driveway or at the edge of your yard for families to grab and go.

➤ Conduct an outdoor costume party or haunted forest.

➤ Visit pumpkin patches or orchards. Use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples.

➤ Avoid trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go from door to door and costume parties or haunted houses held indoors.

➤ Avoid "trunk-or-treating" where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots.

➤ Avoid hayrides and fall festivals with people who do not live with you.



**Little Ely monsters, from left, Henrik Lund, Daphne Kratz, and Gus Lund are ready for Halloween 2020 with a spider web and jack-o-lantern.** photo courtesy of Zoe Lampman

**Ely activities**

The Ely Community Resource is hosting Pumpkins in the Park on Friday, Oct. 30 at Whiteside Park. Families can register for a free pumpkin to carve and contribute to decoration of a winding path through the park

"This alternative Halloween celebration allows for children to show off their Halloween costumes and admire dozens of carved and lit pumpkins," said ECR Director Julie Hignell. "Social distancing guidelines will be in place, and protective face masks are encour-

aged."

According to ECR organizers, jack-o-lanterns will be lit at 4 p.m. on Oct. 30 for pre-K to second grade children to wander along the path to the band shell where they can pose for pictures in their Halloween costumes. Older children, grades 3-5, will arrive from 5-6 p.m. to do the same. Those children in sixth grade and up are invited from 6-7 p.m.

To reserve a pumpkin to carve, and for more information, call ECR at 218-365-5254. Pick up pumpkins at the ECR office, 111 S. Fourth Ave., on Friday, Oct. 23. Return

carved jack-o-lanterns to ECR on Thursday, Oct. 29. This event is supported by the Northland Foundation.

Carefree Living and Boundary Waters Care Center invite all families to visit residents at the facility's windows after the event for more safe Halloween fun.

The annual Halloween "Trunk or Treat" celebration will be held in Whiteside Park on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 2-5 p.m. The alternative activity to house-to-house trick-or-treating is sponsored by Northern Tier National High Adventure.

"While we understand that COVID-19 presents some challenges to Halloween this year, we want to make sure that Ely's youth are able to get outside and enjoy this holiday," said organizer Leslie Thibodeaux on a Facebook post.

If you plan to host a trunk, let the organization know so they can plan and space out accordingly. For more information, email [leslie.thibodeaux@scouting.org](mailto:leslie.thibodeaux@scouting.org).

COVID-19 precautions in place for the activity:

➤ Organizers ask that families please practice social distancing while at the event. They will have the various trunks spread out with greater distance between each.

➤ Some activities may not be available due to inability to properly sanitize between groups, but each trunk will have treats.

➤ Individuals working the trunks/activities will be required to wear masks.



**Boo!**  
Watch a spooky movie on Halloween.

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Participants also are asked to wear masks when possible.

➤ Curbside pick-up will be available for those who feel uncomfortable participating in the activities. The curbside pickup will be located near the band shell on 8th Ave. Just pull up to the curb near the table and a Northern Tier staff member will hand you goodie bags for the youth in your vehicle.

The annual Washington Elementary Halloween Vocabulary Parade is canceled this year due to public health concerns.

**Tower**

While Halloween plans have been scaled back this year due to safety concerns, there will still be trick-or-treating on Tower's Main Street after school on Friday, Oct. 30 from approximately 3:15

- 4:30 p.m.

Participating businesses will be handing out treats outdoors only, while following safety measures, so children should not go inside any of the businesses. The Tower Fire Department has canceled the annual children's party, but instead will be passing out special treats to children from a fire truck parked on Main Street on Friday afternoon during this time also.

Tower-Soudan Elementary students will be holding costume parties inside their classrooms, but there will be no schoolwide Halloween celebration this year.

**Cook**

The Cook Lions Club will not be holding its annual indoor Halloween party for kids, but will still celebrate the day by handing out bags of candy from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 31 at the Cook Community Center.

The candy is single wrapped and bags were assembled Oct. 15 to ensure sufficient time for virus protection. Patrons are asked to stay in their cars as they drive through the parking lot to collect their candy.

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## VOLLEYBALL

### Wolves drop L-BF in three

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

ELY — The Coughlin sisters combined for 29 kills here Tuesday night as the Timberwolves overcame match-opening miscues to top Littlefork-Big Falls in straight sets.

**Left: Raven Sainio goes up high for a kill during Tuesday night's match-up with Littlefork-Big Falls. Sainio notched five kills on the night.** photo by J. Greeney

"We struggled some with our serve-serve at the beginning of the match, but we were able to overcome that by the end of the first set," said Ely Head Coach Andrea Thomas. Her team didn't look back. After winning the first set 25-20, the Wolves cruised to 25-9 and 25-18 wins in the second and third sets. "We continued to have hard, consistent serving from multiple players," said Thomas. "We were also able to speed up our offense due to good passing, which resulted in many

girls getting kills."

In fact, six Ely players notched kills on the night, including 15 for McKenna Coughlin, nine for Rachel Coughlin, five for Kate Coughlin and Raven Sainio, four for Madeline Kallberg, and three for Kellen Thomas. Meanwhile, setter Katrina Seliskar added 36 assists and two ace serves. McKenna Coughlin added two ace serves, while Rachel

See VOLLEYBALL...pg. 2B

## VOLLEYBALL

### Grizzlies notch win over Bigfork

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- While Tuesday's weather was less than ideal for a road trip, the North Woods varsity volleyball team and fans didn't mind the drive back home from Bigfork, as the Grizzlies won their first match of the season by defeating the host Huskies 3-1.

It was only the second match of the COVID-shortened season for the Grizzlies, who had two schools cancel matches with them last week for health reasons, and they had a cheering section for motivation.

"The roads were definitely an adventure, so we didn't expect many fans, but sure enough, a large number of the parents did show up," Head Coach Kandi Olson said.

The forced layoff gave the Grizzlies more practice time, but by Tuesday they were more than ready to square off against someone other than themselves.

"That unexpected week off definitely brought our momentum down," Olson said. "The kids were so frazzled by the fact that other teams were playing and we weren't. We would have definitely benefitted from more game experience."

North Woods lost the first game 23-25 in a back-and-forth style that suggested the team was a bit rusty.

"We actually had a slug-

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B

## SWIMMING

### Virginia rallies to beat NER

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

BABBITT — The Northeast Range/Ely girls varsity swim team was up by as many as eight points midway through their final dual meet of the season last week, but couldn't hold off a visiting Virginia team that rallied to pull out a victory.

"We lost by just two

See SWIM...pg. 2B

## FOOTBALL

### Big plays deliver Grizz win

Fourth-quarter dominance key to 48-36 win over Deer River

by DAVID COLBURN  
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- North Woods fans had reason to feel confident at halftime of Thursday's home tilt against Deer River. The Grizzlies had a comfortable 36-14 lead, and there were few signs at that point that the Warriors would mount much of a challenge.

That changed dramatically in the third quarter, as the Warriors scored two touchdowns and were on the move for a third that could have given them the lead. But from the first play of the final stanza, the Grizzlies owned the fourth quarter and won 48-36.

Big plays were the order of the day in the first half, with Jared Chiabotti getting the Grizzlies rolling with a 45-yard scoring dash just five minutes into the game. After the Warriors chewed up the rest of the quarter with a long scoring drive to

See GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B



**Above: The Grizzlies' Olin Nelson stretches the ball across the goal line for key touchdown in the fourth quarter.**

**Left: The Grizzlies' Carter Holman makes a critical stop in the fourth quarter to blunt Deer River's momentum.**

photo by D. Colburn

**Right: Ely sophomore halfback Jason Kerntz proved hard to handle for Cook County defenders as he led Ely rushers with 132 yards under cold and wet conditions.**

photo by K. Vandervort

the team was motivated to play well."

Playing before just 150 fans due to COVID-19 public health guidelines, the Timberwolves' five seniors, Lane Anderson, Riley Bishop, Gabe Ebert, Brock LaTourell, and Adam Williamson, along with their parents, were honored prior to the game under the glow of the new scoreboard at Memorial Field.

Following that brief ceremony,

See FOOTBALL...pg. 2B



### Ely improves to 1-1 in dominating victory

by KEITH VANDERVORT  
Ely Editor

ELY — Defense was key under cold and rainy conditions last Wednesday, as the host Timberwolves held Cook County scoreless in their home opener, winning 20-0 to even their season's record at 1-1.

Following a frustrating 48-6 loss last week at South Ridge, a motivated Ely team controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball, allowing the Vikings just 176 total yards while racking up more than 300 yards of offense of their own. "We clicked on all three levels, offense, defense, and special teams, which we didn't do last week," said Coach Cory Lassi. "I was very pleased with how

## TOWNSHIP NEWS

## Vermilion Lake delays action on ambulance contract

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Timberjay staff writer

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Tower Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua addressed ongoing financial questions surrounding the city's ambulance service at the Vermilion Lake Township Board regular meeting on Oct. 8.

She said that although the former clerk-treasurer, Linda Keith, had often transferred funds without council authorization, the service has had its own separate ambulance subsidy checking account since the 1980s and this particular account hadn't been touched.

Ranua said that past ambulance transactions went through the city's main check-

ing account, but as of Jan. 1, they've been conducted through the ambulance account She said it's still a work in progress because each insurance vendor needs to change their direct deposit information to the new account. Ranua said the city is developing a new website which will show bank statements, an act of transparency to build trust in the city's management, which has come into question over recent years.

Board member Phil Anderson, the township ambulance liaison, said that he had toured the new ambulance and that it was very nice, but was disappointed in the lack of discussion of the ambulance agreement during the meeting, though there was some discus-

sions on finances.

"I get the feeling that there are people trying to control the ambulance," he said, "but it's not designed to do that."

Anderson made a motion to approve the aid agreement, which failed for a lack of a second. The other two board members had not received a copy of the agreement yet and said they would like a chance to review it before going forward.

In other news, the town board approved spending of CARES Act funds of up to \$6,975 on no-touch thermometers, hand sanitizer, disinfectants and PPE, as well as costs associated with the change to mail-only voting.

The next meeting will be Nov. 12 at 10 a.m.

## Breitung buys new truck

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA  
Timberjay staff writer

SUDAN- At a special meeting Thursday afternoon, the Breitung Town Board approved purchasing a new "cardinal red" 2021 GMC Sierra 2500 pickup truck for \$33,000 from Ranger Chevrolet in Hibbing. The additional truck was purchased to place maintenance staff in separate vehicles for COVID-19 safety, and it will be used for plowing and general use.

Chairman Tim Tomsich reported that he met with Tower Mayor Orlyn Kringstad, airport director John Burgess, and residents Dan Mobilia and Dave Pollock, who have raised concerns about noise levels and frequency of seaplane traffic near

their homes. Burgess said there is a recommended flight path to alleviate noise concerns, but many airport users are unaware of it. He will discuss it with the FAA and put up a sign.

The board selected two applicants to interview for the maintenance assistant position. Interviews will be held Thursday, Oct. 15 and a decision will be made at the next regular meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 27 at noon, pending background checks.

The board approved adding four additional election judges due to COVID-19, including one whose sole responsibility will be sanitation.

The board made a pre-application for CBDG grant funding for infrastructure repairs and cleaning.

## FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

Ely took the opening kickoff and scored as 250-pound Lane Anderson, who normally serves as a defensive lineman, plowed six yards through defenders for the first score of the night. Anderson finished the night with 33 yards rushing on six carries. He also tallied a two-point conversion.

Coach Cory Lassi said using Anderson in that role was carried over from last year. "We call it our Heavy Jumbo set," he said. "We use our bigger lineman up front, and put Lane in the back field who is a big strong kid and hard to bring down. The intensity really gets going when we line up with that."

Ely's defense was led by linebacker Eddie



Ely's junior defensive end Alec Cook delivers a punishing hit on Cook County's quarterback Cy Oberholtzer. photo by K. Vandervort

Prijatel, with 14 tackles. The sophomore standout also added to Ely's offensive totals with 58 yards rushing on nine carries. Brock LaTourell and Harry Simons each added nine tackles, while Simons added an interception. Jakson Hegman had seven tackles while three other players added five tackles each. Alec Cook and Lane Anderson each sacked the Cook County quarterback.

The Timberwolves had 302 yards of total offense, led by Jason Kerntz who rushed for 132 yards on 23 carries. He also sprinted 70 yards through the Cook County defense on a screen pass from Mason Davis for a touchdown in the second quarter. That

proved to be Davis' only completion for the night on five attempts in the rainy conditions. Kerntz added another score, his second touchdown of the night, on a 28-yard run, in the final quarter.

"Mason executed that screen play perfectly," Lassi said. "They blitzed like we thought they would, and he dropped back far enough to avoid the rush, and 70 yards later Jason was in for the score."

The Timberwolves' Thursday night contest with Silver Bay was canceled due to COVID-19. Ely is currently scheduled to face Northeast Range at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30.

## GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

knot the score at 6-6, it took just two plays for the Grizzlies to retake the lead on a 46-yard touchdown run by T.J. Chiabotti.

Deer River mishandled the ensuing bouncing kickoff, and North Woods was in business again at the Warriors 42. T.J. Chiabotti ripped off a 33-yard run to the seven-yard-line, and scored two plays later. Jared Chiabotti scored the two-point conversion to put the Grizzlies up 20-6.

Less than 90 seconds later Deer River struck back with a 49-yard scoring pass from Blake Fox to Ty Morrison, and with the conversion the Warriors trailed 20-14.

But before the Warriors could catch their breath, the Grizzlies struck back. Starting on their own 39 after the kickoff, T.J. Chiabotti cut through the left side of the line and streaked down the sideline. Two defenders tried to trip him up at the Deer River 15, but Chiabotti kept his

balance and rumbled into the end zone, a 61-yard score that came just 14 seconds after the Warriors had closed the gap. A Ty Fabish-to-Zach Cheney PAT pass made the score 28-12.

North Woods appeared to have stalled on its next possession, facing a third-and-10 from its own 46, but Jared Chiabotti broke to the outside and raced for yet another long-distance score, this one a 54-yarder. Fabish and Cheney connected again for the PAT, and the Grizzlies appeared to be breezing toward an easy victory as they headed into halftime leading 36-14.

But Deer River mishandled North Woods in the third quarter. The Grizzlies went nowhere on their first possession, setting the Warriors up at the North Woods 44 after a short punt. Seven plays later, they scored to cut the lead to 36-22.

A jarring tackle on the

Grizzlies' next possession forced a fumble that the Warriors recovered on the North Woods 22. It took six plays for the Warriors to score, and with the successful two-point conversion they were back in the game, 36-30, with three minutes remaining in the quarter.

The Warriors recovered another North Woods fumble on the next series and were confidently on the move from their own 35-yard line to the North Woods 28, facing fourth-and-one as the quarter ended.

The Grizzlies had stopped the Warriors on fourth down on the game's opening drive, and at a critical time they did it again. Carter Holman slipped his blocker and slammed into charging Warriors back Tygh Gullickson, wrestling him down a foot short of a first down.

"We had to weather the storm, and we did a good job of that," Head

Coach Joel Anderson said. "We went back over our assignments and we told them they had to be aggressive there. Carter's a very fast kid, a very strong kid. He gives people fits on that defensive line there because he's hard for those bigger linemen to get out of their stance and pick up right away."

The play crushed Deer Lake's momentum, and North Woods methodically and relentlessly pushed the other way, running 14 plays to reach the Deer River seven-yard-line. A false start penalty on the next snap set the Grizzlies back to the 12, but then Fabish, who was 3-9 passing on the game, connected with Olin Nelson at the 7. Nelson was hit at the 4 but pushed forward and stretched the ball across the goal line just before he hit the ground.

"We put together a very good drive there," Anderson said. "The line did a fantastic job of

opening up holes. Olin is a great athlete, a big, strong kid. Ty put the ball where it needed to be."

The score put North Woods up 42-30, and the drive left little time for the Warriors to respond.

With Deer River dumping its run game and relying on the pass, North Woods defensive back Erik Aune made them pay, intercepting a pass at the Deer River 48 and running it back to the Warriors 33. After Jake Panichi bulled his way for 11 yards and a Grizzlies first down at the 15, T.J. Chiabotti hurdled a would-be tackler at the 6 and scored the team's final touchdown on the next play to put the game out of reach.

T.J. Chiabotti toted the ball 23 times for 263 yards and four touchdowns. Jared Chiabotti ran the ball six times, rolling up 103 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensively, linebacker Jake Panichi led the team with 13 tackles.

Anderson said that was reflective of the scheme they try to play, with the line clearing away interference to give linebackers clear shots at the running backs.

"Jake is in that position for a reason," he said. "He's proven he can wrap up and bring people down."

Anderson said his team showed good progress in its second game and expects the trend to continue.

"I think we're only going to get better in terms of being able to execute," he said. "We cleaned up a lot of stuff from game one to game two, cleaned up our protection quite a bit, added pieces to the offense that we were missing the game one, and it showed. Hopefully we can continue the rest of the season."

The Grizzlies were scheduled to host Barnum on Friday in a game rescheduled to start at 4 p.m., followed by an Oct.

## NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

gish start," Olson said. "It took us a little while to get into game mode. I think losing the first game was a good wakeup call for us."

Wakeup was an understatement, as the Grizzlies thoroughly dominated the Huskies in the second game with strong serving and tenacious defense,

winning 25-5.

"Our serving really led the way," Olson said. "They really decided to turn the volume up and they took it to an extreme level. The energy they had on the court was fantastic."

Bigfork regained its composure and pushed the Grizzlies in the next

game, but North Woods prevailed 25-17. The final game was a reverse of the first, with the Grizzlies coming out on top with a 25-23 decision to win the match.

"It was back and forth the whole way, and once again we had several players playing differ-

ent positions, and it just took a little while to find their groove," Olson said. "Going into the third game we let our foot off the gas. It was a good lesson for us about what we can do when we push really hard and what happens when we take a break."

With only two matches

played thus far, Olson is still juggling lineups and positions with her young team as she searches for combinations that click.

"Seeing how the kids work with each other and next to each other is a critical part of volleyball," Olson said. "Some of those live game experiences show you which people

work really well together and who needs to be moved to work well with someone else."

The Grizzlies didn't have to wait long to get back on the court, as they were scheduled to play at Mesabi East on Thursday. Their belated home opener is set for Tuesday, Oct. 27 against Eveleth-Gilbert.

## SWIM...Continued from page 1B

points (48-46), and it came down to our last relay," said Coach Cheri Debeltz. "We just could not hold off the Virginia girls to take a third place in that event,

and ended up placing first and fourth (in the 400 relay)."

The Blue Devils took a lead in overall points in the second-to-last event with a

one-two finish in the 100 Breast Stroke.

The Nighthawks had five first places for the night: Morgan McClelland, 200 Freestyle,

2:19.78; Lily Tedrick, 200 Individual Medley, 2:37.6; Kelly Thompson, 100 Freestyle, 1:04.62; Tedrick, McClelland, Anna Larson, Kelly

Thompson, 200 Relay, 1:57.31; and Tedrick, McClelland, Cedar Olhauser, Thompson, 400 Relay, 4:18.66.

"We are very proud of

the girls for the season we have had and are looking forward to our section swim meet on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Mesabi East," Debeltz said.

## VOLLEYBALL...Continued from page 1B

Coughlin added five digs and three aces to her stats for the night. Thomas also

added two blocks and two ace serves.

"It was a great team

effort," said Coach Thomas.

The Wolves were set to

host Cherry on Thursday, Oct. 22. They'll travel to Silver Bay on Tuesday and

will be back home to host Mesabi East on Thursday, Oct. 29. Varsity game

times are set for 7 p.m.

Obituaries and Death Notices



**Joie P. Swenson**

Joie Pauline Anderholm Swenson, 80, of Britt, passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020, at The Waterview Woods Rehabilitation Home in Eveleth, after a long battle with Lewy Body dementia and Parkinson's disease. The family would like to express sincere gratitude to the staff members of The Waterview Woods Rehabilitation Center for the excellent care Joie received in the last two and a half years of her life. Because of the COVID-19 epidemic, the funeral service at Saints John and Paul Episcopal Church will be a private family service. Burial will be in the Chisholm Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements were entrusted to Rupp Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Chisholm.

Joie was born on Jan. 2, 1940, in Duluth, to Fred (Fritz) and Agnes Anderholm, and was raised in Duluth. She graduated from Duluth East High School in 1958 and the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 1962, majoring in music education with organ and piano as her major instruments. She was a lifelong teacher of both piano and organ and was the church organist at Kenwood Lutheran in Duluth, starting while she

was in college. After moving to Virginia, she was a 50-plus-year organist at St. Paul Episcopal Church in Virginia. She also was a music teacher in several schools in the area, first in elementary schools in Grand Rapids, and then in elementary and junior high schools in Virginia. After taking a break when her children were young, she again taught, first at Marquette School in Virginia and then at various schools in the St. Louis County School District, including Orr, Toivola-Meadowlands, Forbes and Alango.

On June 15, 1958, Joie married a fellow Virginia High School teacher, Darrel Swenson of Chisholm. One year later, Joie and Darrel bought a place in Britt where they had lived ever since. Joie was an avid reader, but when she was not reading a book, she had her knitting needles out and was knitting afghans. Every member of Joie's immediate and extended family received at least one afghan from Joie. Afghans for new babies, high school graduates, and newlyweds were always being knit. She was also a very busy mother to her three children, supporting them as they grew, in all of their academic and extracurricular activities.

Joie is survived by her husband of 52 years, Darrel; son, Tod (Tiffany) of Eveleth; daughters, Teri (Mike) Lindsey of Oviedo, Fla., and Traci Swenson of Oakdale; brother, NC-Curt (Mary Lou) Anderholm of Merritt Island, Fla.; grandchildren, Ashley Swenson of Pasadena, Calif., Jordan Swenson-Noyes of Austin,

Texas, and Graeham Robertson of Austin, Texas; special nephews and nieces, Richard Olson, Char Juntunen, Lee Olson, Lynne Kottman, Sharon Weiner, Dennis Anderholm, Fred (Jay) Anderholm, Bradley Anderholm, Jim Anderholm, Connie Votaw, John Anderholm, Chris Anderholm and Mary Beth Lueks, and all of their families; sister-in-law, Diane Swenson and her daughters, Tara and Kari.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fritz and Agnes; brothers, Fred Anderholm and Cecil Anderholm; and sister, Florence Olson.

**Robert F. Padgett**

Robert Frank "Bob" Padgett, 66, of Silverdale, completed his life's journey on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020. Due to COVID-19, no service will be held at this time. A private gathering will be scheduled for a later date. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

Bob was born on Dec. 29, 1953, in Virginia, to Robert Roy Padgett and Rita Jean (Ohmann) Padgett. He graduated from Virginia High School in 1972.

Bob worked at MinnTac for several years and later became a real estate agent. Bob owned and operated Beatty Portage on Lac La Croix for several years. Prior to retiring, Bob spent twelve years working with the Gawboy family of rural Tower.

Bob was the ultimate outdoorsman. He enjoyed gardening, berry picking, and wild rice harvesting and processing. Bob picked and braided sweet grass every

year, handing out the braids to friends and family.

Bob's passions were hunting and fishing. Bob was an Arctic explorer, fishing the Arctic Circle. He also fished in Wyoming for trout with his father and his Uncle Doug.

Duck hunting was Bob's ultimate passion. He hunted in Canada and the Dakotas for waterfowl, but Nett Lake was his favorite hunting spot. Bob spent many falls pursuing ducks with his hunting buddies on Nett Lake. Bucko, Curtis, Timmy and Willie were there to greet Bob as he entered heaven's gates.

Bob had a huge heart. He believed in paying it forward. He touched many lives by caring for them during their time of need.

Bob is survived by his sisters, Debbie (Kendall) Hilde of Pike Township, Susan (Mike) Koski of Embarrass and Cindy Padgett of Makinen; brothers, Greg (Shelley) Padgett of Lake Vermilion and Dan (Gayle) Padgett of Embarrass; many nieces and nephews; and his special love, Adeline.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Roger.

**Lois L. Kachmarzinski**

Lois Lorraine Baker Kachmarzinski,

84, of Babbitt, died on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, at Carefree Assisted Living in Babbitt. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24 in the Babbitt Assembly of God Church. Rev. Ben Morgan will officiate. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will follow in the Argo Cemetery. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Todd Ison of Corpus Christi, Texas, Timothy Kachmarzinski of Babbitt and Diana Drift of Babbitt; grandchildren she raised as her own children, Cherish Jarvi of Gilbert and Garry Nelson of Grand Forks, N.D.; siblings, Pearl Bjorgen of Spokane, Wash., and Ginger Skoog of Great Falls, Mont.; granddaughters, ShaRee and Heather Kachmarzinski of Babbitt; great-granddaughters, Braelynn and Haven Chavers of Gilbert; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

**Robert J. McDonald**

Robert J. McDonald, 87, of Chisholm, died on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, at Fairview Range Medical Center in Hibbing. A public

visitation was held on Sunday, Oct. 18 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Chisholm. Social distancing and masks were required. A private family Mass will take place at a later date. Interment will be in the Chisholm Cemetery. Arrangements are with Rupp Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Chisholm.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Tiburzi McDonald; children, Mike (Dayla) of Cambridge, Paul (Tracy) of Ely, Sue (Neil) Tesdahl of Crosby, Tom (Kathy) of Ely, Judy (Bob) Racek of Riverview, Fla., and Joel (Carrie) of Hibbing; grandchildren, Rhett, Eric, Tomi, Bryce, Blake, Kailee, Brock, Conner, Mariah, Megan, Mataya, Natalie, Kyle, Brady, Adam, Abbey and Ayden; great-grandchildren, Gannon, Dekker, Tatum and Darlene; and sister, Darlene Anderson.

**Dr. Mary Jo Godt**

Dr. Mary Jo Wiermaa Godt, 68, originally of northern Minnesota, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, in Augusta, Ga. A private memorial service will be held to celebrate her life. If you would like to honor Mary Jo's life, please plant a tree or make a donation to your local animal

shelter.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Robert Godt; stepdaughter, Heidi Godt (Sue); mother, Elsie; sisters, Amy Hoit (Mel), Susan Milleville (Greg) and Alyssa Hawn (Jeff); brother, John Wiermaa; and many nieces and nephews.

**Charles J. Evancevich**

Charles J. "Chuck" Evancevich, 61, of Ely, passed away on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, surrounded by his loving family, after a three-week battle in the hospital where he fought courageously for his life. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Oct. 17 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, masks were required for the service and social distancing procedures were followed. The family was unable to have a gathering after the service, but a celebration of life is planned for July 2021. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his loving wife of 25 years, Brenda Porisch Evancevich; children, Cassie (Hunter) of Minneapolis, Carly of Babbitt and Brandon of Babbitt; brother-in-law, Allan Porisch; brother-in-spirit, Gary (Marsha) Lehrman; a niece and a nephew; and several cousins.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Field Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Field Town Hall, 1627 Highway 25.

To view your ballot, go to the Minnesota Secretary of State website.

Due to the recent Minnesota Governor's Executive Order, the Minnesota Secretary of State is requesting that voters wear a face covering at the polling place. Masks will be provided for those who do not have one. Curbside voting will also be available.

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 23, 2020*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST CITY OF ORR**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Orr will conduct a public accuracy test as required by law to test the AutoMark Assistive Voting Device.

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. Orr City Hall, 4429 Hwy 53, Orr, MN 55771

Cheri Carter, Clerk/Treasurer

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 23, 2020*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST CITY OF TOWER**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public accuracy test of vote counting equipment to be used in the November 3, 2020 General Election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 10:30 AM at Tower City Hall, 602 Main Street, Tower, MN.

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 23, 2020*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST LEIDING TOWNSHIP**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public accuracy test of the AutoMark vote counting equipment to be used in the November 3, 2020 General Election will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall.

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 23, 2020*

**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 707, NETT LAKE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 707 (Nett Lake), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2020, for the purpose of electing (three)\* school board members for four-year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

**Instructions to Voters:**  
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:

**School Board Member**  
**Vote for Up to Three\***

- Candidate S
- Candidate T
- Candidate U
- Candidate V
- Candidate W
- Candidate X
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*Write-in, if any*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*Write-in, if any*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*Write-in, if any*

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be as follows: MAIL BALLOT AND DROP-OFF AT: Virginia Government Services Center drop box available at 201 S 3rd Ave. W, Virginia. There are two options, the voter can place their ballot in the drop box or they can deliver it in person during the hours listed below. Mon - Fri: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 2: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 8:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: June 8, 2020  
BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
Malita Spears, School District Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 9 & 23, 2020*

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**MORCOM TOWNSHIP Notice of General Election**

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Morcom Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bear River School, 12512 Hwy. 22, Cook.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 23 & 30, 2020*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FIELD TOWNSHIP**

The Public Accuracy Testing of the Auto Mark and DS200 ballot counter for Field Township will take place on Monday, October 26, 2020, at 3 p.m. at the Field Town Hall.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 23, 2020*

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**Answer if your health department calls.**

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# Outdoors

Our lives in the  
Northwoods

## WINTER PREDICTIONS

### Forecast: More snow expected in northern Minnesota

NOAA's annual winter outlook projects near-normal temperatures with occasional arctic outbreaks

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER  
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — If you liked last winter's plentiful snow and mostly seasonable temperatures, you may be in luck. The outlook for the upcoming winter suggests it's rinse and repeat as a building La Niña pattern in the Pacific portends a higher likelihood of storminess in the Upper Midwest.

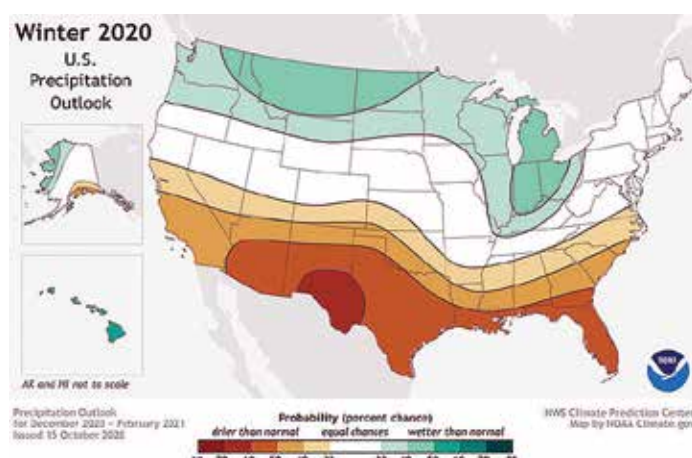
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, has issued its annual

winter outlook and it points to near-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation for northeastern Minnesota. "With La Niña well established and expected to persist through the upcoming 2020 winter season, we anticipate the typical, cooler, wetter North, and warmer, drier South, as the most likely outcome of winter weather that the U.S. will experience this year," said Mike Halpert, deputy director of NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

While the southern half of the country is expected to be warmer than average this winter, below-normal temperatures are favored from the Pacific Northwest into the Northern Plains, including the northwestern third of Minnesota. Other parts of the state are forecast to have equal chances of above- or below-average temperatures this winter.

Meanwhile, the northern tier of U.S. states, from the Pacific

See **WINTER...** pg. 5B



## OUTDOOR RECREATION

### Why trails matter

Rural communities that invest in trails do better economically

We know that much of rural America is struggling with stagnation.

Limited job opportunities, and declining population as young people move away in search of better opportunities. It's an old story, and but it's one that some rural regions, including some communities here in the North Country, have begun rewriting.

The economic data is unmistakable. Across the country, rural regions that emphasize outdoor recreation are thriving — and that trend seems to have accelerated in the age of COVID-19.

Just ask anyone selling outdoor gear these days — they can hardly keep the shelves stocked. Everything from canoes to fat bikes, to ATVs, are in short supply as Americans are turning to the outdoors in droves. Communities and regions that offer great outdoor experiences are attracting new residents, many of them young professionals, who are looking to live where they play. With the increasing number of people able to work remotely, many good-paying corporate jobs are no longer tied to life in the big city. Smaller communities that offer a high quality of life — and for many that means exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities — are likely to thrive in the years to come. For years, this trend has brought enormous



MARSHALL  
HELMBERGER



**Top and above: Views from trails on the hill on Tower's north side. Outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities have become increasingly important for economic development in many small towns.**  
photo by M. HelMBERGER

growth to communities in the inter-mountain West, but we're seeing how outdoor recreation can build similar success stories here in Minnesota.

Sometimes, it's just a matter of recognizing the amenities that our communities already have, while making a greater effort to develop them. That was the case recently

in Tower, with the Ancient Cedars Trail. Some folks in town have known about, and hiked and snowshoed, in that area for years, but the construction and promotion of the trail has expanded use of the area exponentially. I rarely visit the trail these days, even on a chilly late fall day, without running into people I don't know on the trail. I always ask where they're from, and it's regularly attracting people from far and wide. While that's likely good news for those businesses in Tower that cater to visitors, the broader import of amenities

See **TRAILS...** pg. 5B

## BUSINESS

### Your Boat Club to offer Polaris snow machine, ATV rentals

by JODI SUMMIT  
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER — Your Boat Club's second summer on Lake Vermilion was a busy one. With families eager to try out COVID-safe activities, both boat club memberships and daily rentals almost doubled from the previous year, according to Your Boat Club owner Luke Kujawa.

"We are getting families outside," he said. "There has been a lot of demand. It's been a crazy year."

Lakewide, Vermilion saw an increase in both boating and boat sales, according to other marina owners who also had record summers.

While the summer season has wound down, Your Boat Club is making plans for an active winter season with their partnership with Polaris Adventures, a nationwide rental program that focuses on offering safe, memorable, and year-round adventures using state-of-the-art Polaris vehicles.

"We were looking to expand," said Kujawa, "and this is a great opportunity to add new products to that mix." With this expansion, the Lake Vermilion location, which has about nine employees in the summer, will also add more year-round employees.

The opening of the new Prospector Loop Trail System, only a few blocks away from the marina, made the decision to expand an easy one. The new system of trails links Tower, Ely, and Babbitt, as well as providing links to other ATV trail systems. The area also boasts hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails, with several trail systems running through Tower.

"This is really an exciting new way to enjoy the Prospector Loop Trail System," says Kujawa. "The ability to rent a Polaris vehicle to experience this new trail system really expands the already appealing outdoor recreational opportunities available. Now especially, families are looking for ways to get out of the house, beyond the boating season. For us the partnership with Polaris is a no-brainer."

The location will start with 10 snowmobiles, but that number is expected to

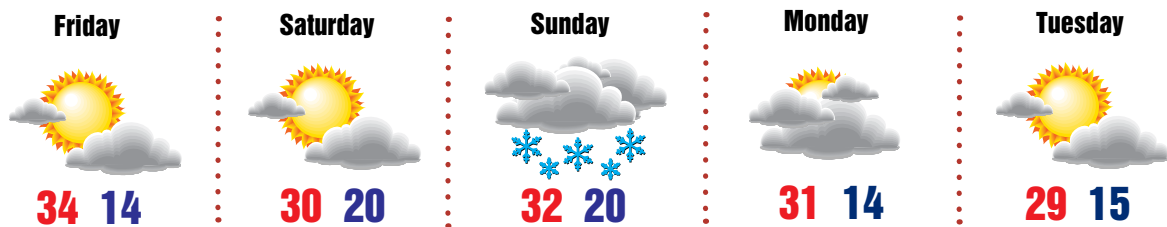
See **RENTALS...** pg. 5B



**HUNTING**

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST**

from NOAA weather



Ely				Emb.				Cook				Orr				Tower			
Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
59	39	0.81		60	40	0.90	61	40	0.95	55	43	0.00	58	38	0.87				
10/12				10/12				10/12				10/12							
10/13	57	32	0.20	10/13	60	32	0.22	10/13	54	39	0.26	10/13	54	39	0.09	10/13	57	30	0.00
10/14	55	30	0.02	10/14	56	29	0.00	10/14	53	36	0.04	10/14	41	36	0.08	10/14	55	29	0.00
10/15	43	31	0.62	10/15	43	30	0.87	10/15	42	31	0.82	10/15	39	28	0.70	10/15	42	30	0.85
10/16	40	23	0.01 0.2"	10/16	39	22	0.00	10/16	38	25	0.00	10/16	34	21	0.00	10/16	35	21	0.00
10/17	34	16	0.00	10/17	39	16	0.00	10/17	32	21	0.01 0.2"	10/17	32	19	0.01	10/17	34	16	0.00
10/18	34	17	0.08 2.9"	10/18	33	17	0.21 3.0"	10/18	32	20	0.11 2.0"	10/18	27	21	0.19 2.0"	10/18	33	16	0.28 3.2"
Total		17.34	3.1"	YTD Total		18.09	3.0"	YTD Total		25.16	2.2"	YTD Total		NA	2.0"	YTD Total		20.58	

**TRAILS...**Continued from page 4B

like the Ancient Cedars Trail, or the Prospector ATV trail, or the Bog Walk in Orr, is that it makes our communities more desirable places to live.

Ely's new trailhead complex at the city's west entrance will not only help visitors find their way, it's a permanent monument to the huge number of outdoor recreation opportunities and amenities that the Ely area has to offer.

Tower is beginning to make the connections as well, although it still has a way to go to really get the word out about what I believe are some of the most remarkable outdoor recreation opportunities of any community in northern Minnesota. Tower has long been known as the hub for a number of major snowmobile trails, but with the creation of the Prospector ATV Trail, it will offer extensive opportunities for the two most common types of motorized recreation.

Yet that's just the start. The new Cedars Trail is a great amenity on the city's south side, but the rugged,

pine-studded hill on the city's north side is at least as dramatic. The hill, which rises two hundred feet above the city's Main Street, is laced with miles of interconnecting trails that few people, other than locals, even know exist. Dramatic rock formations, high cliffs, picturesque pine forests, and views across miles of Lake Vermilion are all on offer for those who know where to go. Making sure more people know where to go will be key to putting Tower on the map as an outdoor recreation mecca. That's one reason the individuals behind the Ancient Cedars Trail are now planning to map and publicize the trail system up on the hill.

Add in the trail network at the nearby state park, the outstanding ski trails just south of town, and Jasper Peak, not to mention direct access to Lake Vermilion, and you have the makings of a real outdoor recreation destination. How about "Trails to Adventure" as the community's theme and organizing principle?

Adding to the good news is the fact that our primary regional funder, the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, is making these connections as well, and they're putting money—serious money—into outdoor recreation. The mountain biking trails the IRRR has built across the Range, including extensive new trails at Giants Ridge, are drawing in big numbers of riders. That not only draws in visitors who spend money and prompts some of them to consider moving to the area, it makes life better for residents who also enjoy riding. And that matters. It seems every community in our area is always bemoaning the loss of young people from our area. Creating outdoor recreation opportunities that make the North Country tougher to leave has its benefits as well.

That's one reason that the Tower Economic Development Authority has been putting time into trails. Economic development is really community development.

**WEATHER...**Continued from page 4B

Northwest through the Great Lakes region are expected to see above-average precipitation. In northeastern Minnesota, that's likely to translate into abundant snowfall, portending favorable conditions for outdoor recreation.

While a wetter-than-average winter in northeastern Minnesota could offer some relief from ongoing drought conditions, NOAA's latest forecast projects

that drought conditions will linger. Winter is typically Minnesota's driest season, with average total melted precipitation of less than one inch per month from December through February. But parts of northeastern Minnesota, such as the Ely area, are likely to end 2020 as much as 6-8 inches below average for the year. While recent snow and cold temperatures have sharply reduced fire danger and moistened

the ground, water levels still remain lower than normal across much of the region, particularly in Lake and Cook counties and portions of eastern and far northwestern St. Louis County. The U.S. Drought Monitor listed those areas as experiencing moderate drought as of Wednesday. Much of the rest of St. Louis County is considered abnormally dry.



**Eleven-year old Ben Bakk bagged his deer during the special youth hunt held this past MEA weekend. It was the second year in a row that Ben, the grandson of state Sen. Tom Bakk, bagged a deer at the meadows hunting club, where the Bakk family and friends have hunted for more than 80 years.** submitted photo

**Outdoors briefly**

**Be aware of early ice-up**

**REGIONAL** — Freezing temperatures across northern Minnesota have resulted in ice formation on many local lakes about two weeks earlier than usual— and that's caught some wilderness travelers in the Boundary Waters or other portions of the Superior National Forest off guard.

To prevent unnecessary search and rescue, forest officials are reminding visitors to plan ahead and be prepared for a wide variety of conditions like ice and snow. The extended forecast points to continued cooler-than-normal conditions and continuing chances of snow.

**RENTALS...**Continued from page 4B

grow, said Kujawa. In the spring they will be adding a dozen Polaris side-by-side ATVs. Rental rates will be at "market rates," which will vary based on the time of year and day of the week. Your Boat Club members will qualify for discounts on the rental rates, but rentals are open to the general public, and reservations can be made in advance. Reservations will be made online at [www.yourboatclub.com](http://www.yourboatclub.com).

connect the marina with the nearby Prospectors Trailhead on Highway 135, located adjacent to the new Lamppa Manufacturing building.

The Your Boat Club location at Lake Vermilion will offer snowmobiles as early as Dec. 15, depending on trail conditions, and will expand to include side-by-side vehicles next May.

Your Boat Club is working with DNR Trails and the local ATV club to create a new spur to

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**CLEAN**

- Boats, trailers, and gear
- Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axles, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing

**DRAIN**

- Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- Trash unused bait

**DRY**

- Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!** LEARN MORE AT [CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG](http://CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Attn: Vermilion Lake Township Voters  
Change to Mail Balloting for Elections**

On July 17, 2020, the Vermilion Lake Town Board adopted a resolution authorizing mail ballots for all elections for the Township of Vermilion Lake. Going forward, all elections for residents of the Township of Vermilion Lake will now be done by mail-in ballots processed by the St. Louis County Auditor's Office.

As long as you are a registered voter you will automatically receive a ballot in the mail approximately 30 days before the election and a postage paid return envelope to return your ballot. If your mailing address is a P.O. Box or you are a snowbird and you have your mail forwarded, you would have to register to receive an absentee ballot, because mail ballots are not forwarded.

If you prefer to vote in person, you would be able to vote at any time during the absentee period (46-days prior to the election) or up to 8:00 p.m. on election night. You could vote at the County Auditor's Office at the following locations:

St. Louis County Auditor's Office, Virginia Government Services Building, 201 South 3rd Ave West, Virginia, MN 55792

St. Louis County Auditor's Office, St. Louis County Courthouse 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214, Duluth, MN 55802

If you vote in-person seven days prior to election night, you have the option of placing your ballot directly into a ballot tabulation machine. If you vote prior to that during the absentee period, you would place your ballot in an envelope and it would be processed by the absentee ballot board.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Crystal Alaspa

Township of Vermilion Lake, Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 11 & 25, Oct. 9 & 23, 2020*

**LEIDING TOWNSHIP  
CAMP FIVE TOWNSHIP  
Notice of General Election**

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Leiding Township and Camp Five Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Leiding Town Hall, 10707 Hwy. 53, Orr, MN 55771.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 16 & 23, 2020*

**KUGLER TOWNSHIP  
Notice of General Election**

Notice is hereby given to all qualified voters of Kugler Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota. General election will be held Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall, 9072 Hwy 135 N., Tower, MN 55790. Polls are open to elect the following:

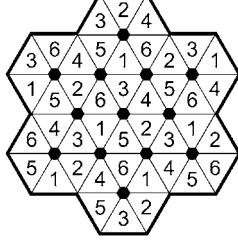
- (One) Board Supervisor A – four-year term
- (One) Board Supervisor B – four-year term
- (One) Township Clerk – four-year term

Please call the Kugler Town Clerk Julie Suihkonen with any questions, 753-3314.

*Published in the Timberjay, Oct 16 & 23, 2020*

**FIND  
IT  
HERE**

**SNOWFLAKES**  
solution



**EMPLOYMENT**



**living well  
THERAPY**

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST**

Living Well Physical Therapy currently has an exciting opportunity for a physical therapist to be part of our expanding team and work in a private practice setting in Northeast Minnesota. The qualified candidate will have strong manual therapy skills, experience in working with a wide variety of clients, and excellent customer service skills. Benefits will include a competitive wage, paid sick and holiday time, health care benefits, matching 401K, and continuing education funds.

Interested candidates should please  
call Patrick at 218-343-6253.  
Or e-mail patrick@living-well-therapy.com

**Township of Eagles Nest**

**Attn: Registered Voters of the Township of Eagles Nest  
RE: Change to Mail Balloting for Elections**

On April 21, 2020, the Township of Eagles Nest Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution authorizing mail-in ballots for all elections for the Township of Eagles Nest. **Going forward, all voting by registered voters in the Township will be done by mail-in ballots processed by the St. Louis County Auditor's Office.**

As long as you are a registered voter, you will automatically receive a ballot in the mail approximately 30 days before the election with a postage paid return envelope to return your ballot. **If you get your mail at a post office box or if you are a snowbird and you have your mail forwarded, you would have to register to receive an Absentee Ballot, because mail-in ballots are not forwarded or delivered to a Post Office Box.**

If you prefer to vote in person, you would be able to vote at any time during the absentee period (46-days prior to the election) or up to 8:00 p.m. on election night. You could vote at the County Auditor's Office at the following locations:

St. Louis County Auditor's Office,  
Virginia Government Services Building  
201 South 3rd Ave West  
Virginia, MN 55792

St. Louis County Auditor's Office,  
St. Louis County Courthouse  
100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214  
Duluth, MN 55802

If you vote in person seven days prior to election night, you have the option of placing your ballot directly into a ballot tabulation machine. If you vote prior to that during the absentee period, you would place your ballot in an envelope and it would be processed by the absentee ballot board.

If you have any further questions please contact me at 612-708-6823. There will be no one at the town hall on Election Day. **Any questions, call 612-708-6823 or email eaglesnestwp@citlink.net**

Sincerely,

Deb Siverhus, Clerk of Eagles Nest Township

*Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020*

**EMPLOYMENT**

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

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

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

- > Work together with the Board to implement strategic plan goals/objectives
- > Oversee all operations ensuring quality food distribution
- > Recruit and coordinate staff and volunteers and provide positive leadership
- > Manage finances and statistics
- > Further positive relationships with donors, community members, Food Shelf "shoppers", and other nonprofit organizations.

Start Date: January 1, 2021

For more information email resumes by Nov. 15 to: eafsedsearch1@gmail.com, or mail resumes to Attn: ED Search, Ely Area Food Shelf, PO Box 786, Ely MN 55731. 10/30

**FULL-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE at the  
TOWER SOUDAN  
INSURANCE AGENCY**

The agency is looking for someone with good customer service and office skills, and willing to be trained as an insurance agent. If interested, please e-mail your resume to tsagency@frontiernet.net or mail it to PO Box 499, Tower, MN 55790.

10/16

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**Answers**

S	C	R	U	B	A	B	S	E	N	T	S	A	D	D	R	U	G					
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B	Y	R	D	S	I	T	N	I	T	E	R	S	R	O	O	S	T					

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Waste Worker II  
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Apply by 11/03/2020**

**www.stlouiscountymn.gov  
or call 218-726-2422**

*Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 10/23*

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

## HAIR CARE

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

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

## HOSPICE

VIRGIE HEGG HOSPICE PARTNERS can provide help for patients and their 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.

## LICENSE BUREAU

COOK LICENSE BUREAU- TEMPORARY HOURS DUE TO COVID-19 Open: M-W-F 9am - 3pm. Mail in or drop off only at this time. Call with any questions, 218-666-6199 Email: cookdep159@gmail.com

## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEETING in Ely! "New Ideas" WOMEN IN RECOVERY: 12 Steps. For women seeking help and hope to recover from any addiction: drugs, alcohol, food, gambling etc. Every Thursday noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Come join us! Q: 218-235-3581.

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 231 E Camp St., Ely. Enter through side door.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give yourself a break. There 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).

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!



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## Super Crossword

## CITY SCRAMBLE

**ACROSS**

1 Wash with vigor  
6 Not there  
12 Melancholy  
15 Aspirin, e.g.  
19 "Petunia" star Birch  
20 Many a Giotto work  
21 "Woo- —!"  
22 Wee amount  
23 Suit fitter in a California city?  
25 Holding the attention of  
27 Seat winners  
28 "Breezy" co-star Kay  
29 Boys and men from an Oregon city?  
31 Michigan city whose residents are a bit more eccentric?  
36 Jacuzzi sigh  
37 Swirly letters  
38 Popular cookie  
39 Hamm on a soccer field  
41 Actor Hill of "Moneyball"  
45 Denounce  
48 Plundered an Ohio city?  
51 Big lug  
54 Judd of song  
57 L-P middle

58 "Renegade" star Lamas  
59 Hay bundle  
61 Setting of "Anne of Green Gables"  
63 Yang partner  
64 Mouse-spotting cry  
65 Painting exhibitor on wheels in a Maryland city?  
70 Sphere  
71 Sphere  
72 Debt memo  
73 Green shade  
77 Pennsylvania city with a big population of forefathers?  
83 Sussex loc.  
86 Pale —  
87 One making a change  
88 Palo —  
89 Piano relative  
92 24-hr. cash convenience  
93 Runoff conduit  
95 Part of LAPD Includes an Arizona city in the tally?  
99 Noah's Ark groupings  
101 Military foe

102 Cleanup org.  
103 Not distant  
106 Electric car maker  
110 Sprite  
112 Speak badly of an Illinois city?  
116 Off-Broadway awards whose winners hail from an Idaho city?  
120 Film director Reiner  
121 Thurman of "Jennifer 8"  
122 Illumination  
123 Warehouse vehicle produced in a Texas city?  
128 First-aid gel  
129 — -di-dah  
130 Negative battery poles  
131 City close to Minneapolis  
132 Antarctic explorer Richard  
133 Perch  
134 Compounds in explosives  
135 Perch

**DOWN**

1 Big step  
2 Casual slacks  
3 Scorches  
4 Net address  
5 Baseball club  
6 In pursuit of  
7 "The Chase" star Marlon  
8 One nabbing something  
9 Immigrant's class, in brief  
10 Sgt., e.g.  
11 Body trunk  
12 Collielike pooch  
13 Top-grade  
14 Firm belief  
15 Do some excavating  
16 Make turbid  
17 With 105-Down, eclectic digest  
18 Comics' acts  
24 Corrida cry  
26 Three-sharp musical key  
30 "We — please!"  
32 Actor Knight  
33 "No man — island"  
34 Phone no.  
35 Lodger  
40 Impromptu  
42 Goose of Hawaii  
43 Timber-dressing tool  
44 Boxing blow  
46 Counterpart of "sir"  
47 De — (afresh)  
49 Slanting  
50 R&B's Braxton  
51 "SOS" group  
52 Jack of early talk TV  
53 Model Macpherson  
55 Melancholy  
56 Like aragon  
60 Smoky peak in Sicily  
62 Rodents in research  
63 Lionel Richie hit of 1983  
66 Actor McShane  
67 Lawn pests  
68 Mauna —  
69 "Lohengrin" heroine  
74 "— turn up eventually"  
75 Executive "no"  
76 Greek Cupid  
78 Tigers, e.g.  
79 Make glad  
80 Biscotto nut  
81 Creek critter  
82 Work detail  
83 Latin "Behold!"  
84 Gas in signs  
85 Pasting stuff  
90 Snared  
91 Surgical probe  
92 Without — (worry-free)  
94 College military gp.  
97 On edge  
98 Modern, in Mannheim  
100 Island locale  
104 Consent (to)  
105 See 17-Down  
107 Atelier  
108 Units of light  
109 Noah's Ark landing site  
111 Thwarts  
113 Lion of C.S. Lewis' "Narnia" tales  
114 Metal waste  
115 Em preceder  
116 Blur out the secret  
117 Grease-filled  
118 Monster film lab helper  
119 — B'rith  
124 Songwriter DiFranco  
125 "Baloney!"  
126 Above, in odes  
127 Bustle

**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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## FUNERAL SERVICES

**Range Funeral Home**

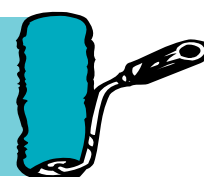
Virginia 741-1481  
Hibbing 263-3276  
"Friends Helping Friends"

5	1	2	7	8	6	9	3	4
8	7	9	1	3	4	5	2	6
4	6	3	9	5	2	7	8	1
6	9	5	8	2	1	3	4	7
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1	2	4	3	7	5	6	9	8
7	3	6	2	1	8	4	5	9
2	4	1	5	9	7	8	6	3
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122										123	124	125				126	127		
128						129				130						131			
132										133						135			



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