

Clocks get turned back Saturday night

the TIMBERJAY

VOL. 31, ISSUE 43 October 30, 2020

\$1.00



ELECTION 2020

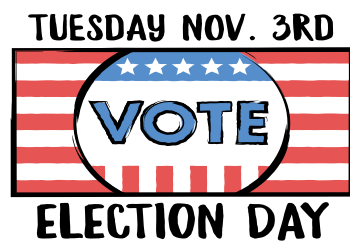
Ely affirms goal of safe elections

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Council initially rejected citizens' resolution

ELY – With Election Day looming next week and with prompting from two local residents, the city council has affirmed their goal continuing to conduct free and fair elections in the city of Ely.

A proposed resolution presented by political activists Carol Orban and Betty Firth was rejected by Mayor Chuck



Novak for technical reasons last week; however he supported a

motion by the council affirming the same goal: to make sure that every ballot is counted.

Firth and Orban formally requested to read their resolution to the council:

“The Ely City Council resolves that our democratic system rests upon the innate dignity and worth of every citizen. Its laws provide equal

MORE ELECTION

- Political signs stolen in Ely
- County officials face flood of absentee ballots **Page 9**

protection to all. The Ely City Council opposes any threats to destabilize any election, including any actions that undermine

citizens' trust in the integrity of our electoral system. Ely officials involved in any stage of the electoral process assure that the vote of every citizen - whether they vote in-person, drop box, or absentee ballot - will be counted.”

Firth told council members that she and Orban were concerned about recent reports about voter obstruction of the upcoming presidential election.

See...ELY pg. 9

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Life's too short

A wife and mother battles breast cancer

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Karen Schultz, of Cook, has battled breast cancer since 2014. Her daughter, Angela, and the rest of the North Woods volleyball team wore headbands, below, in celebration of Karen's homcoming. photo by D. Colburn



COOK- It was supposed to be just another ordinary day at the end of August in 2014 when Karen Schulz, of Cook, hopped in her car and drove to Hibbing. She was on her way to an appointment, and she'd done this before.

“It was just a ‘go in for your annual female thing every year,’” she said. “I’d never had any issues. Everything always came back good.”

It took just one look at the mammography screening technician’s face for Karen to know this time was different.

See...KAREN pg. 8

EDUCATION

Tower school transitions to distance learning

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Students at Tower-Soudan Elementary have moved to distance learning for five days after two staff members in the building tested positive for COVID-19. The last day the two positive cases were in school was Monday, Oct. 19.

“Between those cases and the number of people who had close contact, we need to be home for 14 days from the last contact with the person who tested positive,” said ISD 2142 Superintendent Reggie Engebritson. “The last day the two positive cases were in school was on Monday, Oct. 19. Two weeks from that day brings us to Tuesday, Nov. 3.”

Teachers were using Monday, Oct. 26 as a planning day, and distance learning will start Oct. 27 and continue

See...TOWER pg. 10

MORE

COVID-19 reported at Ely schools. **Page 3**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Survey finds growing demand for real estate in region

Limited internet service and environmental risk of copper-nickel mining seen as drawbacks

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor



REGIONAL— The coronavirus and the increasing challenges of urban life have prompted record interest in lake homes and remote properties in northeastern Minnesota.

That’s according to a survey of real estate

professionals in the region, compiled recently by the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

The survey, conducted by IRRR consultant Jim Glowacki, queried brokers or agents at 20 ran-

domly-selected real estate firms in the region. Every firm reported greater “out-of-region” interest, with the majority coming from the Twin Cities, followed by Rochester, Colorado, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

Roughly three-quarters of those interested buyers cited the current pandemic, and the social unrest that hit many urban areas in the wake of the killing of George Floyd earlier this year, as the primary reasons for wanting to relocate, either seasonally or year-round.

See...SURVEY pg. 11



Realtors cite the region’s growing reputation for outdoor recreation and that many buyers want access to the Boundary Waters. file photo

Snowflakes falling, shovels throwing...
It's a great time for a new book, to browse our Fall/Winter Fashions or to get out and have some fun!
WINTER RENTALS AVAILABLE
Open Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday 10 - 4
piragis.com 218 - 365 - 6745 boundarywaterscatalog.com

Contact The Timberjay

218-753-2950
editor@timberjay.com



Community notices

Pancake breakfast for the Embarrass Fair, Nov. 7

EMBARRASS- A pancake breakfast, sponsored by the Embarrass Region Fair Association, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Support the Embarrass Region Fair by enjoying all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, fruit cup, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee the first Saturday of each month through May at the Timber Hall. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (6-10 years), and children under 5 years eat free.

Sleepy Hollow radio play to be live-streamed on Halloween

REGIONAL- On Saturday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. there will be a performance by Northern Stage Works of the radio play, "The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow," by Tony Polermo. The entire production will be live-streamed to the audience so they can watch it from the comfort of home.

To purchase tickets online, go to <https://www.onthestage.com/lyric-center-for-the-arts> and select the performance of "The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow". People who purchase tickets to the Lyric's performance will be emailed a secure link that will connect them directly to the live stream. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$20 to share with family and friends on the same screen.

Free online septic and well homeowner education class on Nov. 5

REGIONAL- The North St. Louis SWCD is hosting a free online septic and well homeowner education class presented by The Minnesota Department of Health and University of Minnesota through Zoom.

The class will cover the basic functions of septic systems, well water testing, and how to protect your well from contamination sources. Attendees will receive valuable information on Chemicals of Emerging Concern (CEC) including the impact of drugs and chemicals on ground and surface water. Homeowners will also receive information on maintaining their septic systems and wells.

The class will run from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5. Register online at www.nslswcd.org or call 218-288-6143.

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."

NAMI State Conference, "Mental Health in Challenging Times," Nov. 14

REGIONAL- NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will hold its state conference virtually on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The conference, "Mental Health in Challenging Times," will feature breakout sessions on pressing mental health issues for professionals, individuals living with mental illnesses, family members, advocates, and students.

Three keynote speakers will also highlight the conference: Patrice Harris, M.D., a psychiatrist and the first African-American woman to be elected president of the American Medical Association; Thomas R. Insel, M.D., psychiatrist, neuroscientist, and co-founder of Humanest Care, an online stepped care solution for mental health; and Susan Bartlett Foote, author of Minnesota's Crusade for Forgotten Souls: The Roots of Minnesota's Pathbreaking Mental Health Advocacy.

Registration is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members, and \$40 for people seeking the 4.5 CEUs. For more state conference details and registration, go to namimn.org or call 651-645-2948.

ELECT

SHELDON MAJERLE

City Council • 2 Year Term

Common Goals • Common Sense

Over 25 Years Fire & Ambulance

Tax-Paying Resident

☑

GET OUT AND VOTE

Paid for by the candidate on his own behalf

COMMUNITY

Heritage Holidays at Nelimark begin Nov. 5



Many delicious home-baked goods, gifts and decorations, are for sale at Nelimark Homestead's special holiday weekends, Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 5-7 and Dec. 10-12. file photo

EMBARRASS- The Nelimark Homestead will celebrate the holiday season on two weekends, Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 5-7, and Dec. 10-12, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day.

This year has brought us challenges but we decided it was good to gather again with some changes for safety. There will be no coffee or goodies served in order to encourage social distancing and

prevent prolonged periods of visiting.

Next year we hope to be back to our favored way of doing things, including good conversation, coffee and friends.

There will be hand-

made gift items, fresh baked breads and goodies for sale. There will be decorations, Christmas music, and a festive atmosphere to enjoy.

MENTAL HEALTH

Making it matter with micro-interventions

REGIONAL- A free, online stress management class is available. The class is appropriate for anyone who has struggled with mental health or substances, friends or family of people who are struggling, and anyone who wants to learn coping (DBT) skills.

Micro-interventions are small steps you can

do in five minutes or less to improve your health or to support others. People have said this micro-intervention class has improved their life. 92 percent reported improved stress management and 75 percent reported that it improved relationships.

Those who complete the class receive a cer-

tificate and an option for free continuing education credits. If you live in St. Louis County (or another county listed) select "Prepaid Course" at sign-up. This course can be completed on a phone or computer in two hours or less and includes the option to become a program ambassador.

To go to the class, visit <http://bit.ly/ommu-nityMicroInterventions> (capitalization matters), sign-up with email, and create a password. Watch videos, comment, and answer questions. Then practice the coping skills in your own life.

Thrive Range helps those who are struggling

REGIONAL- A local mental health resource, www.ThriveRange.org, is available to help. The website includes free resources based on research and is available 24 hours a day.

Resources include:

► A free online stress management course designed by Hibbing native Dr. Ursula Whiteside,

Ursula Whiteside LLC.

► Free computerized therapy for depression symptoms. Cognitive Behavior Therapy (or CBT) is offered through a guided video course. This service is normally \$125 per person, but is free to Iron Rangers.

► Now Matters Now, a toolbox for stress, addiction, and suicidal thoughts.

This website provides videos of stress coping tools taught by people in recovery and based on Dialectical Behavior Therapy (or DBT).

► Man Therapy, for macho men. This humor-based educational website provides basic and advanced education for men on the other kind of fitness - mental fitness.

For emergencies, there is a video on how to reduce high stress fast (e.g. suicidal urges and cravings), and two phone numbers for immediate support if you or someone you care about is really struggling.

Entrepreneur Fund awarded over \$1 million to expand small business lending

REGIONAL- The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) announced on Sept. 25 that the Entrepreneur Fund was awarded over \$1 million in grants to capitalize its loan fund for small business lending. The U.S. Treasury granted awards nationwide to 397 CDFIs, totaling \$204.1 million. This award will enable the Entrepreneur

Fund to leverage 7-10 times the award amount in private loan capital for its 17-county service region.

C o m m u n i t y Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), like the Entrepreneur Fund, are mission-driven financial institutions that fill gaps by providing access to capital by offering affordable financial products and services that meet the unique needs of economically underserved communities.

A \$520,000 Financial Assistance (FA) grant was awarded to the Entrepreneur Fund to grow its capital base and will leverage additional private investment for the purposes of lending and providing services to regional entrepreneurs.

In addition, the Entrepreneur Fund is one of 13 organizations nationally to receive the Healthy

Food Financing award. The \$500,000 award will use funds to enhance their capacity to make investments in a range of retail and non-retail healthy food projects serving low income communities, including food production, grocery stores, mobile food retailers, farmers markets, cooperatives, corner stores, bodegas and others across the region.

Ely Community Health Center

Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.

Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals

111 S 4th Ave E, Ely

Volunteer opportunities also available

HERITAGE HOLIDAYS

Nelimark Homestead
Embarrass, MN
(Across from Timber Hall)

Extra Day!

November 5, 6 & 7

December 10, 11 & 12

Thurs, Fri, & Sat

10 AM to 3 PM

BAKED GOODS

HANDMADE GIFTS

GREAT CONVERSATION

For such a time as this:
coffee & goodies will not be served

Saturday
November 7th

BIG MOOSE

art and crafts show

must wear mask & maintain social distancing

10am-4pm
Free Event

10 W. Pattison St. Ely, MN

@bigmooseartandcraftshow

www.amicseventcenter.com | 218.365.4433

COVID-19

ISD 696 hit with more COVID-19 cases

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Fifth- and sixth-grade students exposed

ELY - A continuing trend of growth in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Ely area hit the Ely school district late last week.

ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie said he was notified last Friday by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) of lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in three members of the Ely school community.

"This affects both school buildings, Ely Memorial and Washington Elementary, with a last attendance date of Monday, Oct. 19," he said.

The additional school cases bring Ely's cumulative total to 43, up from 38 last week, and 36 the previous two weeks. Erie reported seven total coronavirus cases in the school.

"We have worked with MDH to identify those (in the Ely school community) who had close contact with the case(s), and have communicated with them individually," Erie said. "The risk of exposure for other individuals present in the building on that date is no greater than the risk of contracting the virus in the general community."

He added, "If you were not identified to have close contact with the positive case(s) you should still monitor for symptoms of illness, but do not need to stay home unless symptoms develop. If symptoms develop, stay home and consult with your physician to determine if medical evaluation is needed. We understand that this may create unease in our community. We have taken action to clean and sanitize the facility and are working closely with MDH to monitor the situation."

Erie provide an update Monday to school board members during a study session and

revealed that students in Kelly Noble's fifth grade class and the eighth-grade "Red Team" cohort were identified as having "close contact with a positive case of COVID-19."

Last Thursday, one day prior to Friday's new school case data report, the district's Safe School Learning Plan Advisory Council was notified that the bi-weekly coronavirus case rate rose to 25.5.

"In recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Education, once we get over 20 they recommend hybrid learning for all students," Erie said. "We are looking for two data points so we don't ping-pong back and forth (with learning models)."

Hybrid learning is already taking place in the Memorial building.

"It is now a question of looking at hybrid learning and what that means in the elementary (building). Our recommendation was to remain with the current plan for this week because we are waiting for two data points," he said.

According to the new information reported last Friday, letters were sent to parents and district employees indicating that Noble's entire fifth-grade class started distance learning on Tuesday, Oct. 27 and that learning model will be in effect for two weeks. The other fifth-grade classroom is not affected by the model change.

"The only change in the Washington building is for that fifth-grade classroom," Principal Anne Oelke said. "Our hybrid learning for K-4 remains the same for now. If we need to go into a hybrid model, we would be looking at the A-B (cohort) schedules similar to what is going on in the Memorial building."



Principal Megan Anderson also notified parents that the 15 students in the eighth grade "Red Team" will also be distance learning for 14 days and return to school on Nov. 3.

"Our nurse did call those families affected, and I followed up with emails and letters to the rest of our school community," she said.

For privacy reasons, the identity, status or other details about the positive coronavirus cases in the school are not available. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends that every child that was notified of the exposure be tested for COVID-19, even if they are not showing symptoms.

Erie explained the decision-making process of the Safe Learning Advisory Council.

"This can be frustrating when we look at data and consider changing our learning models," he said. "It does require our parents to make plans around these learning models. I appreciate that our principals are keeping our parents updated so they can prepare for those things."

He added, "If we have another week where we are in the

20s, or we have significant local (increases), that could also affect our decision making."

He reiterated that a transition to hybrid learning in the elementary building would largely impact just the fifth grade in establishing split groups or cohorts. Half of the class would attend in-person on Monday and Tuesday, the second group would attend in-person on Thursday and Friday and distance learning would be in place on Wednesdays. The building's capacity would allow for in-person learning for the rest of the elementary school classes.

Anderson confirmed that one teacher who was in close proximity to a positive coronavirus case is currently in quarantine and distance teaching.

"That teacher is teaching from home, and we have a substitute teacher in the classroom to facilitate the learning," she said.

"Ultimately, we all want to keep our students in school and we use the data to try to do that, but also recognize that we want to keep our people safe. We don't want to end up in distance learning. There is a fine balance there," Erie said.

Briefly

Teen to be charged after crash

VERMILION LAKE TWP - Charges are pending after a 16-year-old boy from Greenwood Township crashed a vehicle on the Tarkman Rd. in Vermilion Lake Township on Tuesday afternoon.

The Bois Forte Police Department received a report at 11:22 a.m. that the teenager had been drinking and had taken the family vehicle without permission. At 11:35 a.m., the Breitung Police Department and St. Louis County Sheriff's Department responded to a report that the same teen had stolen a bottle of alcohol from The Ledge Liquor Store and then fled the scene in his family's vehicle.


At 2:19 p.m., the sheriff's department received a report of a single vehicle accident. The teen had driven the vehicle into the ditch on Tarkman Rd. and was unconscious when law enforcement arrived on the scene. He was transported to Essentia Health Hospital in Virginia with non-life-threatening injuries.

Alcohol was involved and charges are pending, according to the sheriff's report.

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950



REAL ESTATE



Edina Realty
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

TIM LILLQUIST, Realtor
Serving Lake Vermilion, Tower, Soudan, Breitung, Cook, Ely and surrounding communities
612-834-5769 (cell)
timlillquist@edinarealty.com



218-757-3233
www.TheLakeCountry.com

Ash River, Orr-\$235,000 2 BR, 1 BA home with garage, shared shoreline, dock and boat slip. **MLS#140005**

Crane Lake-\$1,150,000 2.7-acre estate with 2 BR home along with guest cottage, greenhouse and fish house. **MLS#139896**

Sales are great! WE NEED NEW LISTINGS!
Thinking of selling? Contact us for a free property evaluation.



218-666-5352
info@bicrealty.com
www.bicrealty.com

LAKE VERMILION Large homesite w/ 209 ft lakeshore and 3.2 acres. Access via private easement road. Build 'your' dream home on one of MN's most desirable lakes! **MLS# 132690 PRICE REDUCED! \$154,000**

TOWER 3 BR units. \$10K payment w/Letter of Intent to Purchase. Harbor Drive city street, maintained by city. Leases for dock space to buyer by city. Units to be built. Pricing subject to change. **MLS# 139199 \$449,000**

LAKE VERMILION 3 BR, 3/4 BA w/ 8.3 acres, approx. 300 ft of shoreline. Deck w/lake views, guest cabin, 20 ft x 24 ft, 2-stall boathouse and 2-stall garage. **SOLD! Listed at \$495,000**

PINE ISLAND 2 BR, 3/4 BA cabin. Kit./LR w/stone FP, DR w/ lake view, large BR, laundry, deck, new boathouse, septic system, lake water system. 200 ft lake-shore, .80 acres. **MLS# 139282 PRICE REDUCED! \$269,000**

We sell the North!



VERMILION LAND OFFICE
Real Estate • Appraisals

Looking To Buy Or Sell? Give Us A Call!

www.vermilionland.com • info@vermilionland.com
Tower: 218-753-8985

Orr-\$189,000 Charming cabin and guest house on a private Pelican Lake Island. **MLS#137099**

Elbow Lake-\$159,000 530 ft of shoreline on 3.83 acres with towering pines. **MLS#136256**

Pelican Lake-\$140,000 50 acres on Pelican Lake with 400+ ft of shoreline. **MLS#126770**

#1 NOBODY IN THE WORLD SELLS MORE REAL ESTATE THAN RE/MAX

*As measured by residential transaction sides.

NEXT TIME COME HOME!

JANISCH REALTY 218-780-6644



Let's Make Sold Happen For You Too!

OPINION

“CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW...
ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM
OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS;”

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Trump has failed America

History will not look kindly on our 45th president

“Here’s our prediction: Trump will leave office with a higher deficit and a higher unemployment rate than he inherited from Barack Obama. And his toxic rhetoric will leave the country more divided than ever before.” **Timberjay editorial, Oct. 31, 2018**

Almost exactly two years ago today, this newspaper made a prediction that irritated some supporters of our current President. Yet every single one of the predictions we made that day has come true — in spades.

It’s easy to forget that when Donald Trump was elected in 2016, the federal deficit for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 of that year was a comparatively paltry \$587 billion. Under Trump, the 2020 fiscal year ended last month with a record deficit of \$3.1 trillion, an increase of more than 500 percent over the numbers he inherited from President Obama.

Obama left office with an unemployment rate of 4.7 percent after inheriting a collapsing financial system from his predecessor. The September 2020 jobless rate, the last number we’ll know before the election next Tuesday, was 7.9 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In fairness, some of this is clearly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the 2020 deficit was forecast to reach \$1 trillion even before the outbreak of the coronavirus, or nearly double the deficit that Trump inherited. There is no denying that Trump blew up the deficit.

What’s more — like it or not — presidents are routinely tested by any number of crises. President Obama faced the Great Recession and took the steps necessary to halt the collapse and rebuild the economy. President Trump and Congress made a similar effort in an early response to the coronavirus, which did boost the economy. But the administration’s failure to follow up with a second stimulus package has put that recovery, and any further improvement in employment numbers, on shaky ground. Like it or not, Trump owns the current unemployment rate.

Furthermore, Trump’s failure to effectively respond to the public health challenge posed by the pandemic has slowed the recovery as well. Other countries are doing better economically because they did better at controlling the spread of COVID-19. In the U.S., the virus it is now rampant, particularly here in the Upper Midwest, which has become the global epicenter of the disease. Trump’s constant dismissals of sound public health

measures are largely responsible for this worsening crisis.

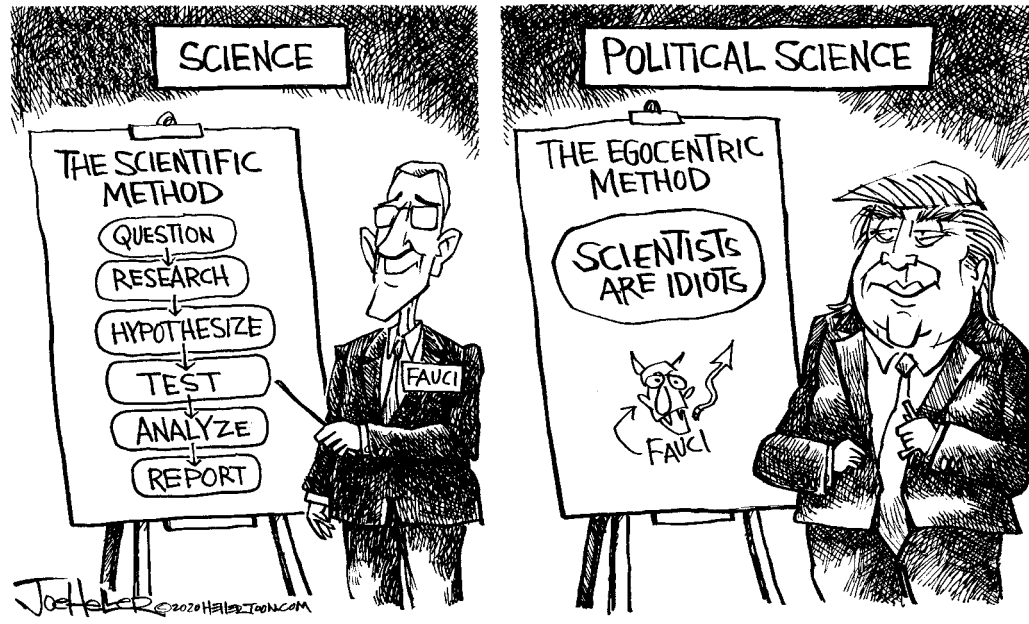
But our current woes aren’t all attributable to the pandemic. Candidate Trump made much of the U.S. trade deficit and promised that his supposed skill as a negotiator would allow him to rewrite trade deals to bring jobs back to America. It never happened. China has never signed the new trade deal Trump kept touting. All Trump accomplished was wiping out U.S. farm exports, leaving the agriculture sector on the dole like never before. The numbers tell the story. President Trump’s trade deficit has been larger in all four years of his current administration than it was at any time under President Obama.

And Trump, if he leaves office, will do so with fewer Americans having access to affordable health insurance. He has, at the same time, set the stage to deny affordable health coverage to another 25 million Americans, depending on the outcome of an upcoming Supreme Court decision.

And no one can deny that President Trump has left this country more divided than ever before. He peddles conspiracy theories, makes openly racist appeals, glorifies violence and cruelty, teargasses peaceful protesters, and has done more to undermine our system of democratic rule than anyone in American history. He has turned the entire executive branch of our federal government into a campaign committee, utilizing officials who are, by law, supposed to remain above the political fray, as little more than campaign operatives. He even turned the White House into a campaign prop.

Meanwhile, he has repeatedly kowtowed to the world’s worst dictators and directed millions of federal tax dollars and campaign contributions directly into his own pocket. He sent his children and other minions across the globe to make deals with other governments while he leveraged their efforts through the mechanisms of U.S. foreign policy for profit and political advantage. He promised to drain the swamp. Instead, he nestled right down in the middle of it, like Jabba the Hutt.

We recognize that the president still has some supporters in our region. We also believe that they will, over time, come to realize the degree to which they were misled by a con — who promised to Make American Great Again, but who ultimately debased this country and the presidency itself like no one before him. History will ultimately write the story of our 45th president. It will not be kind.



Letters from Readers

Listen to your conscience

Many of us have found ourselves at a gathering where someone in the group has told a joke or made a terrible comment about a particular race of people, an ethnic group, someone’s sexual orientation, a religion, or perhaps someone’s physical or mental disability. At that moment we perhaps grinned, maybe even chuckled slightly, or worse, agreed with the person speaking. Almost immediately we heard the voice in our heads that our mothers so carefully nurtured. But by our silence and complicity at that moment we handed over a wholehearted approval of those vile, hurtful spoken words. Our silence became acquiescence. After quick reflection on our inaction the better angel (mother’s voice) has now strongly instructed that if a similar situation arises, an immediate rebuke is not only warranted but required. Unfortunately, Congressman Pete Stauber has decided to push the mute button on his better angel. When we learned that the president pays much lower taxes than front line healthcare workers, or saw his mishandling of the pandemic where more than 220,000 people have died, or his calling war dead “losers” and “suckers”, or withholding funds to the World Health Organization and joining a lawsuit to strike down the Affordable Care Act in the middle of a pandemic, where was Congressman Stauber? When President Trump refused to condemn white supremacy numerous times, or sought to cripple the Postal Service while millions of people utilize mail-in ballots, and, perhaps most egregiously, when he suggested he won’t leave office if results show a clear loss, what is Congressman Stauber’s reaction to all of this? Acquiescence.

George Pliml Cook

Quinn Nystrom deserves our votes

I encourage folks to get out and vote for Democrat Quinn Nystrom to represent us in the Eighth Congressional District. While Pete Stauber puts out slick ads and hordes of signs, his record shows how out of step he actually is with the values of working-class people. Stauber is a full-blown Trump supporter, a vocal climate science denier, and he consistently votes for tax policies that hoard money for the very rich. He is firmly in the camp that is taking health coverage away from Americans at this very minute while also seriously restricting women’s rights. Beneath a thin, false veneer, Stauber is anti-union. And, personally, I have trouble respecting a man who, when he does wear a mask to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, uses an American flag to catch what comes out of his mouth and nose.

Quinn Nystrom is a whole different person. First, she’s totally honest with us. Second, she can be trusted to work hard for an American future that we can be proud of and our children will appreciate. I feel good about voting for her.

Lee Peterson Greenwood Twp.

Let’s return Ecklund to St. Paul

As a Veteran, a retired Steelworker and as a retired Registered Nurse we truly appreciate Rob Ecklund’s efforts to “do the right thing” for all his constituents in this unique region of northeast Minnesota. There is a combined rich history here in not only mining but logging and tourism that’s not found in other parts of Minnesota. As our Representative in 3A, Rob has shown he is indeed pro-environment, pro-mining and pro-sportsman. Yes, you can have all three in one person and a check of Rob’s voting record shows personal involvement by Rob in all of

these areas and more. It takes someone with the “hands on” experience and knowledge to keep this region moving forward in these difficult times. Having earned a living as a Steelworker in the papermill in International Falls, Rob certainly understands what it takes to make it in the “blue collar” world.

Rob is a Marine, and once a Marine ALWAYS a Marine. He carries that dedication to service with him as serves the approximately 15,500 Veterans that reside in District 3A by achieving the position of chair of the Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Committee. Rob is well known to all of the Minnesota Veterans Service groups and works closely with them in moving the necessary legislation forward that supports the special needs of Veterans, particularly Vietnam-era Veterans whose exposures to toxic chemicals, like Agent Orange, were unique and devastating to that generation. Later generations will face consequences from their exposures to toxic airborne carcinogens and depleted uranium.

In closing, we would encourage the voters of District 3A to take advantage of Rob Ecklund’s experience and dedication and return him to St. Paul so he can continue on with the work he has begun.

Rick and Julie Stoehr Tower

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.

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

Trick-or-treating on the spooky road to the White House

Google, that infamous internet search giant that’s the focus of a new federal antitrust indictment, hasn’t let its legal woes stand in the way of having a good time. They’re out with another edition of “Frightgeist,” Google’s annual compilation of the most searched-for Halloween costumes, and surprise, neither Donald Trump nor Joe Biden made the list.



DAVID COLBURN

You can find masks for both, but the Trump masks are far better than the Biden masks in both likeness and flair. Trump pretty much always looks like Trump. In the worst Biden mask, poor Joe looks a whole lot like a senior citizen version of the second half of Beavis and Buttthead (insert your own political joke here).

But as usual, I digress. Follow along with me as I

apply Freddy-Krueger-esque razor-sharp analysis to the question you’re all dying to have answered: Which presidential candidate is best suited to wear which of this year’s top costumes?

1. Witch

There are good witches and bad witches, but what all witches have in common is this — they cast spells. Trump’s resume here stands out, starting with the spell he cast over the last election. He was merely a novelty when he entered a crowded Republican primary field in 2016, but he won the nomination. Then to

the amazement of pollsters and pundits and teeth-gnashing, garment-rending Hillary Clinton voters, he won the presidency. Today, the Republican Party is so spellbound with Trump that it has inexplicably lost sight of most of its core principles. From once calling Trump “a race-baiting, xenophobic religious bigot” who did not represent the values of his party or this country’s military, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham today loves Trump more than Joanie loved Chachi. When it comes to casting spells, Trump has a track record second to none. As for Biden? Speaking and

acting as we’ve come to expect from those who hold the highest office in the land is refreshing to many of us, but hardly spell-binding. I’ve come up totally dry for moments where Biden has displayed the spell-binding power of Trump.

- Winner: Trump.
- 2. Dinosaur

I’ll steer clear of any critiques based on the fact that for its 3,500-pound bus-like size, the brain of a stegosaurus was teeny-tiny, about the size and shape of a bent hot dog (another

Letters from Readers

Many are idolizing the villains

Along the winding path of this country's history we have stories like that of Bonnie and Clyde. With time and distance they are now recognized as nothing but cold blooded selfish killers. Yet in their day they had accolades among the citizenry. So did Jesse James and even the supporters of Wisconsin's McCarthy (R).

No political force here in the states has ever been perfect. The fact that 'money gets what money wants' holds true under every administration. Eisenhower saw this and admitted his complicity as he left office identifying the military industrial complex as a threat to the nation.

The graft and corruption evident in the current administration is blatant, perhaps more so than at any other time.

And just as Bonnie and Clyde were idolized in their time so now we see the echoes of that in the current election cycle. Robbing a bank is robbing the work and savings of others. Hard to believe voters will actually support getting taken to the cleaners by chanting for more abuse.

I'm a Gold Star Parent whose family saw the check written and paid in full for yet another Republican conflict.

Jeff Wilfahrt
Ely

Most Minnesotans don't support sulfide mining near BWCAW

The Boundary Waters is the crown-jewel of Minnesota, and a haven for families across the country to retreat to, connect with nature, and make cherished memories. The wilderness is the lifeblood of Northeastern Minnesota's amenities-based economy, and supports sustainable jobs and businesses in the region. For generations, elected officials from across the ideological spectrum have worked together across the aisle to preserve the wilderness and the economy it sustains. Now, with the threat of a new sulfide-ore copper mine at the edge of the Boundary Waters looming, our elected officials must honor this legacy of bipartisan support, and pledge to permanently protect the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

Leaders from both sides of the aisle have long prioritized protecting the Boundary Waters from mining and toxic pollution. In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt established the federally protected Superior National Forest, which contains the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Throughout

the twentieth century, these protections were expanded and strengthened to limit mining and development in the area and ensure that future generations could enjoy a thriving and undisturbed Boundary Waters Wilderness. It's a proud and powerful legacy that has kept this area pristine for over a century.

Protecting the Boundary Waters is more than just a proud tradition, it's smart politics. More than half (57 percent) of Minnesota voters say they are more likely to vote for a political candidate who will fight to keep sulfide-ore copper mining away from the Boundary Waters, and more than two-thirds (68 percent) want the Boundary Waters permanently protected from threats such as sulfide-ore copper mining. Our elected officials have a responsibility to meet the demands of voters, and that means honoring the legacy of bipartisan support for preserving the Boundary Waters.

The proposed Twin Metals sulfide-ore copper mine at the edge of the Boundary Waters would damage the wilderness and devastate Northeastern Minnesota. Voters do not want this risky mine in this special place.

Emily Brown
Ely

Stauber votes the GOP party line on healthcare

The *Timberjay* editorial was correct about Rep. Stauber. He is just another politician who says he votes non-partisan, but that's on smaller issues. The bigger issue here is healthcare and what he says he's doing and what he really is doing are two different things. In the first debate with Quinn Nystrom, he accused her of being for Medicare-for-all. Nystrom tried to set him straight on that but I don't think it sunk in. It's a deflection, of course. Typical in politics. He says he's for maintaining pre-existing conditions in the Affordable Health Care Act because he has a son with those conditions, but he, like his fellow GOP members, wants to do away with the Affordable Care Act. He votes along party lines on that, of course. The GOP panders for votes, especially this time of year close to the election, telling people they will protect us. He says he's for lower prescription prices but like Nystrom pointed out, he voted it down. Again. Voting along party lines.

One online commenter on the *Timberjay* website states that: "If health care was the only issue I could back her but it is only one of many issues we have in our area. I don't believe she stands a chance because of being outspoken against the new mining." Quinn Nystrom

has stated that she's not against mining. Instead, she said she's concerned about the Twin Metals project and referenced a U.S. Forest Service study later canceled by the Trump administration, saying "I'm not going to be just a rubber stamp on a project. I don't feel comfortable giving a green light to a project where 60-plus pages of a U.S. Forest Service report has been blacked out and redacted."

I believe we need new blood in Washington. I think Quinn Nystrom would be a bonus if she were elected to go to Washington.

Brian LaFrenier
Embarrass

Let's not "Take Tower Back" to the Dark Ages

Malicious rumors and recent articles and letters to the editor, primarily in the *Tower News*, have seriously misrepresented the progress the City of Tower has made in the past year and a half toward improving city operations, financial management and transparency, financial solvency, planning and development, and overall confidence in prudent management. I am hopeful that the voters will choose to continue that progress when they select new city council members on Nov. 3.

The challenge faced by the new city council in 2019 was correcting rampant mismanagement, disregard for generally accepted government accounting principles, not understanding of the difference between revenue and profit (TAAS), mismanagement of EMS, and insubordination. The new city council, especially after the resignations and replacement of the remaining two council members from the previous administration, systematically assessed the dysfunction at City Hall and the shortcomings of city finances. We set priorities and began the painful but necessary process for rebuilding. I am still grateful to the many professionals who donated their time, talents and skills to assist in fixing what was a broken, nearly bankrupt, and dysfunctional city government.

The city's 2019 financial audit evaluated the budget (that the new council inherited from the previous Clerk-Treasurer and City Council from 2018) and was able to reduce the management corrective recommendations by over one-third. This occurred after dismissing the previous Clerk-Treasurer, and engaging former Clerk-Treasurer, Ann Lamppa, for four months while doing a search and eventually hiring a highly qualified new Clerk-Treasurer, Victoria Ranua.

In addition to Ms. Ranua, many other professionals have

helped bring Tower back from the brink of disaster, perhaps most notably Nancy Larson, whose expertise has recovered more than \$1.2 million in grant funds and identified an equal amount of new funding for future projects. She has also restored, along with the new quasi-independent TEDA, Tower's reputation and standing with granting authorities, especially IRRR, CDBG, MN-DEED and others. Because of them, Tower is on the move again!

Unfortunately, two contributors to the *Tower News* have systematically distorted the city's financial position, accounting methods, financial reporting, and 2021 budget, largely due either to their lack of understanding or desire to obstruct the progress made by the city.

The contributors to the *Tower News* have repeatedly referred to the current city council as "Mayor Kringstad's hand-picked council." This is meant in a derogatory way but is also partially true. I continuously talk with citizens of Tower about "civic engagement" and how they could be involved in city management - council, commissions or otherwise. Many have stepped up and some have become council members. The result is a council that has representation from every section and corner of Tower and has brought wide-ranging skillsets and experience to the council. Such skills and experience have filtered into every aspect of city management.

Every citizen of the City of Tower should be grateful for the countless hours contributed by our new city council, and TEDA under the direction of President Stephen Peterson and Executive Director Marshall Helmberger. I know I am, and that is why I urge that voters in our community to not 'Take Tower Back' to the Dark Ages of the recent past. We have the bright sunshine of a more transparent, economically progressive future to which we can look forward.

Orlyn Kringstad
Mayor of Tower

Please vote for candidates who will move us forward

The 2020 elections at the national level are more important than ever for Americans who value a democracy and the U.S. Constitution. I encourage you to vote for the candidate who will be a President for All of America. He will be the president who brings people together and works in a bipartisan manner to get things done for our country. He is caring, compassionate and a professional public servant who truly cares about you.

As important as is our national election, the City of Tower election is of equal value and concern. I have had the pleasure of working the past year and a half with concerned and committed councilors and a mayor who truly care about you and the future of the city. Those new temporary councilors who stepped up to the plate to help the city find its way through a myriad of financial issues, as well as committee restructuring and more, should be commended. The councilors have righted the ship and are moving in the right direction with truth, transparency and a commitment to get the most of each tax dollar for the benefit of you, the citizens of Tower.

I've been impressed by the professionalism and commitment of the new councilors. They deserve your vote to continue their good work. What the city needs more than ever is confidence, commitment and continued transparency in city operations and management at all levels. The city clerk-treasurer and deputy clerk-treasurer are working hard to carry out the required work of running a city smoothly, and are excellent in the skills and expertise they bring. The city council will continue to oversee even better city operations and bring on future development to the benefit of its citizens given the professional skills and love of the city they share as a team council effort. They are involved in every aspect in a way never seen before and that needs to continue!

I wish I could vote in the city of Tower, but I cannot because I am a Sudan resident. But if I could, I would vote for David Setterberg and Kevin Norby for the four-year term. I would vote for Sheldon Majerle and Joe Morin for the two-year term. The four councilors are the makeup of an excellent Team Tower! They bring commitment to the citizens, a history and love of the city, and hope and plans for its future.

Please vote for my dream team - Team Tower - Setterberg, Norby, Majerle and Morin!

Nancy Larson
Sudan

Editor's note:

The Timberjay received many letters this week and several letters had to be held for future publication. Election-related letters were given priority. If you don't see your letter, check again in next week's edition.

COSTUMES...Continued from page 4

opportunity to insert your own political jokes here).

Dinosaurs are extinct because they couldn't adapt to changing conditions. This criterion clearly favors Trump. For example, he's been giving the same basic message about health care ever since he was inaugurated: "We have a terrific plan that will be unveiled in _____ (insert fairly soon, two weeks, three weeks, the next four weeks, prior to the end of the month, or, be like Trump and make up something else on the spot). Nothing has changed. He's running the same campaign he ran in 2016, coronavirus will magically disappear whether there's 220 cases or 220,000 deaths, and on and on. In many ways Trump is a model of consistency. But he's clearly not very adaptable to changing conditions.

Then again, Biden went to Congress the same year, 1972, that the first bulky scientific handheld calculator debuted at a price of \$395, Josie and the Pussycats in Outer Space pre-

miered on Saturday morning TV, former President Harry Truman died, and this sexagenarian writer graduated from eighth grade. To many, Biden represents the end of an era in American politics, and the age of the dinosaurs was measured in, yes, eras.

Winner: Tie - Trump gets a tyrannosaurus rex costume (they both have small hands), and Biden gets a brontosaurus costume (once dismissed as having never existed, brontosaurus is back, kind of like Biden's latest quest for the presidency).

3. Harley Quinn

Dr. Harleen Frances Quinzel is a fictional character with a fiendishly serious attraction to one of Batman's arch enemies, the Joker. So which candidate deserves a costume that represents the desire to cozy up to evil?

I can already hear in my lonely writer's garret the din rising from Trump-aholics clamoring for Burisma Joe and his sidekick, Boy Hunter -

"Lock them up, lock them up!" I momentarily refer you back to how Trump won a share of the dinosaur award. His minions apparently share his affinity for unoriginality and broken records. But no, I'm afraid Trump's bromance with North Korea's Kim Jong-Un, one of the world's most horrible dictators, is almost an equalizer. Add in his doe-eyed envy of ruthless Vladimir Putin's 82-percent approval rating in Russia and his fledgling courtship with Philippine strongman Rodrigo Duterte. (Intrigued, perhaps, by how Duterte gets away with saying "Just because you're a journalist, you are not exempted from assassination.") Then stir in his appreciation of other merciless despots around the globe, and the all-too-compelling evidence of Trump's multiple man-crushes on evil authoritarians tips the scales bigly. They say Joe's dirty; I say Donald's flirty, and that's just what the costume calls for.

Winner: Trump.

4. Rabbit

Winner: None. As a former Easter bunny and rabbit lover, I would never stoop to even suggesting a politician merits a costume in their fluffy cuddly image.

5. Bonus - Loki

The Norse god of mischief, or at least his cartoon counterpart, is the most-searched-for costume in the Duluth area right now, and as such is a good way to end the best bit of political prognostication you've read since I rightly predicted Stymie would be the president of the Ancient And Honery Order Of Wood Chucks in the "Our Gang/Little Rascals" show.

This one deserves contextual consideration befitting the holiday - classic Halloween mischief. There's decorating trees with toilet paper, egging houses and cars, filling jack-o-lanterns with shaving cream, and one of my personal Kansas traditions, stealing an outhouse and setting it on fire in the middle of Main St. (Disclaimer: None of these pranks is endorsed by the

publishers or other employees of the *Timberjay*. We're all on our own here with this one.)

So, tell me, and be honest - who would be way, way better (and way more fun) to take along with you on these adventures for successful completion of your chosen missions? Donald Trump or "Sleepy Joe" Biden?

Winner in the largest landslide in presidential election history: Trump! Now, would someone please get The Donald on the phone and hand me a couple dozen rolls of Charmin? It's almost Halloween!

And for those aghast that I would even consider consorting with Trump, you should be thanking me. I'm getting him off the campaign trail for a night. Maybe more if we get caught. But then again, if Trump can wiggle his way out of paying more taxes than I do, surely, he can get us out of disorderly conduct charges, right?

Week of Nov. 2

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.

Election Day- Polls open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. in Tower, Breitung, Greenwood, Kugler. Mail-in voting only for Eagles Nest and Vermilion Lake townships.

Wednesday
Tower AA- Open Basics- 7 p.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church. Questions, call 753-2332.

Thursday
AA Meeting- Lake Vermilion 12x12 (Open). 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, use the rear side door entrance.

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

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

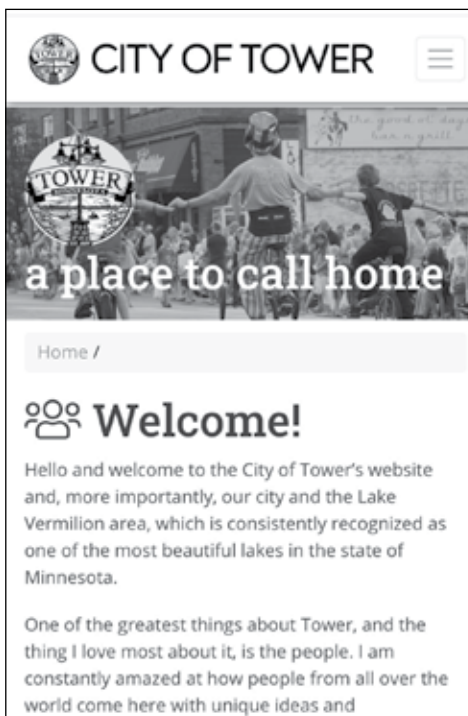
New City of Tower website to debut soon

TOWER— A new city website here will provide the public with access to far more city information than ever before— and do so with a fresh look and design intended to highlight the area’s scenic qualities. The new website, once online, will replace the current website at the same web address, www.cityoftower.com.

The website redesign has been a work in progress for months, with the assistance of local website designer Frank Zobitz, who the city hired through a grant from the Blandin Foundation’s broadband initiative. The new website is expected to go live in a matter of days, as soon as city staff can complete uploading the large volume of material that the site will make available.

In addition to city council and committee agendas, packets, and minutes, the site will host a wide range of financial information that was never readily available to the public in the past, including city audits, bank statements, claims registers, budgets, and revenue and expenditure reports.

“For the first time, residents in Tower will have easy access to information they often couldn’t even obtain in the past with a



visit to city hall,” said outgoing city council member Mary Shedd, who helped lead the effort. “This is a huge step forward in terms

of transparency in government.”

The site will also eventually offer conveniences for city residents, such as online bill-paying, although that service likely won’t be ready when the website goes live. The new site will also help the city spread the word about economic development opportunities in the community. An extensive section on the Tower Economic Development Authority provides promotional information on Tower and how to access financial incentives. It also highlights TEDA property available for development, recent TEDA success stories, and provides easy access to past TEDA agendas, approved minutes, and contact information. Little information about TEDA has been available on the city’s website in the past.

The Blandin Foundation and its local broadband committee provided \$9,000 for the website project.

A view of the mobile (cell phone) version of the new homepage. The new website is expected to go live in the next week.

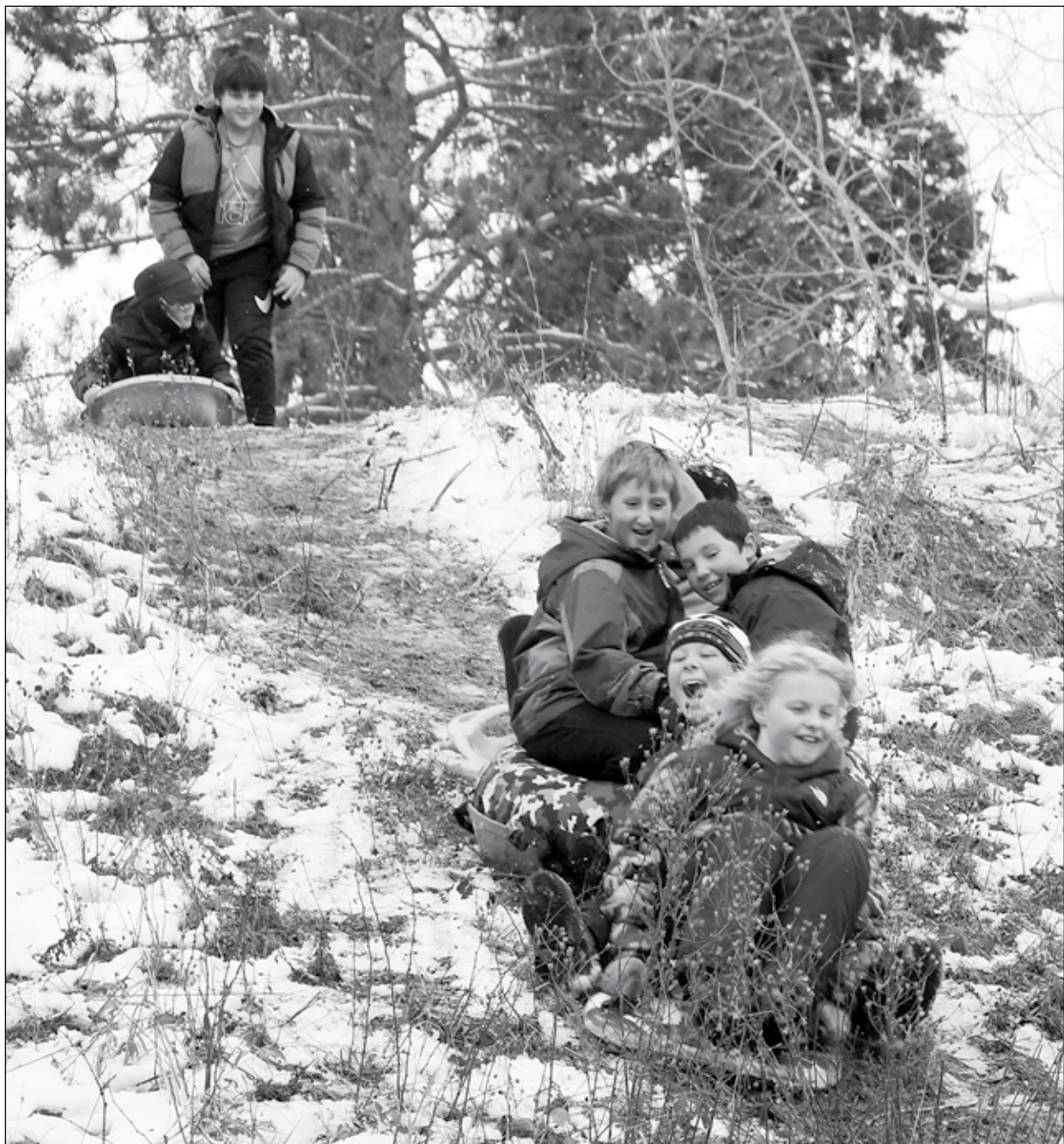
Soudan sliders...

It only took a few inches of new snow to start the season on the "Soudan Sledding Hill."

This enthusiastic group of boys went sledding right after school last Friday.

Other kids in Soudan were seen busily creating giant (child-sized) snowballs.

photo by S. Ukkola



the TIMBERJAY
The Tower-Soudan Timberjay and Cook-Orr Timberjay are published weekly on Friday by The Timberjay, Inc. Offices are at 414 Main St., 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 at 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.

Publisher	Marshall Helmberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Cook-Orr Editor	David Colburn
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics/Ad Sales	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales/Sports	Jay Greeney

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

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Orr Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.
NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.
Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

Trick-or-Treat on Tower's Main Street on Friday, Oct. 30

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.

Since Tower-Soudan Elementary is closed this week due to two positive COVID cases among staffers, there will be no Halloween festivities at the school.

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 218-753-5341 (leave a message), or just stop by on election day. Call Susan on Tuesday at 218-780-1560 for curbside pickup from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until we run out.

Community Thanksgiving Meal canceled

TOWER- St. James Presbyterian Church’s annual community Thanksgiving meal has been canceled due to safety concerns. The church and their volunteers will miss taking part in this traditional community event, but they hope to see everyone back again in 2021.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service planned

TOWER-SOUDAN- Area churches are planning a virtual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. The service will be filmed and made available for viewing online. Look for details in an upcoming paper.

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.

Monthly menus available online at vermilioncountry.org/cafe-teria-menu.

Week of Nov. 2
Monday- Pulled pork sandwich, corn
Tuesday- Enchiladas, corn

Wednesday- Rotini w/meat sauce, garlic bread, salad

Thursday- Sweet & sour chicken over brown rice, dinner roll

Friday- Pizza, salad

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Soudan
Annual Election Day CHILI FEED
• Take Out Only •
Tues, Nov. 3 11 AM-6 PM
\$7 includes bowl of chili, bread, beverage, dessert!
Call: 218-753-5341 to order in advance
Curbside Delivery: 218-780-1560

HIGHER EDUCATION

VCC Provost Shawn Bina calls it a career

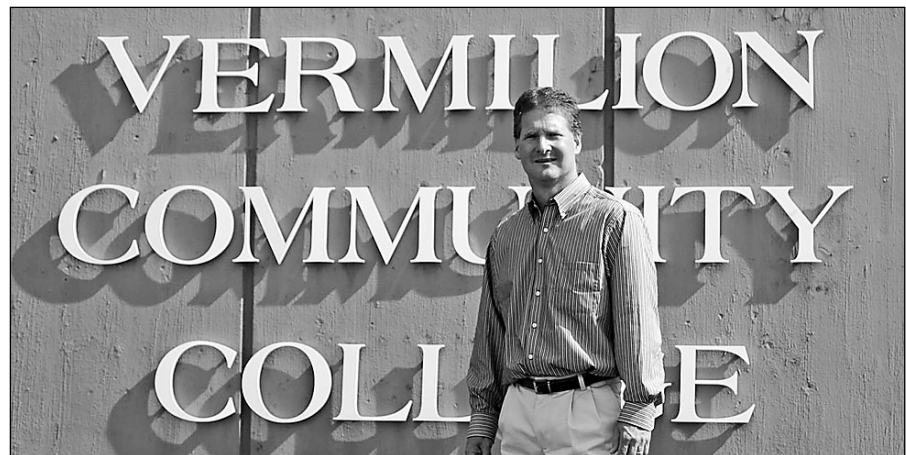
ELY - Vermilion Community College Provost Shawn Bina announced last week that he will retire at the end of the fall semester, ending a 27-year-career at this community's institution of higher education.

"It is with many mixed emotions that I make this announcement regarding my tenure at Vermilion Community College," he said. "After 27 years at the college, 11 of them as Provost, Vermilion has become as much a part of me as all other aspects of my life."

He went on to say

that leading VCC was a great privilege for him. "I am especially grateful to the thousands of students who passed through Vermilion's doors during my time here. It is your enthusiasm for a promising future and your hunger to broaden your horizons that have kept me focused and feeling young these many years," he said.

"I must also say that I have never worked with a more dedicated faculty and staff than our team at Vermilion. Without each of you, past and present, I would not be retiring with the sense of pride I



Provost Shawn Bina has worked at Vermilion Community College for 27 years. He is retiring at the end of the semester submitted photo

have for all that we have accomplished together. I will be forever grateful. You are Vermilion, and each of you will continue to be the beacon that ushers in an even brighter future," Bina said.

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 Ledgerrock
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.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



thick, heavy, wet snow
painting a flat white background
about here to stay

Subscribe to the
TIMBERJAY!
Call
218-753-2950



the TIMBERJAY

The Ely 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.

Publisher	Marshall Helmsberger
General Manager	Jodi Summit
Ely Editor	Keith Vandervort
Cook-Orr Editor	David Colburn
Staff Writer	Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager	M. M. White
Graphics	Scarlet Lynn Stone
Ad Sales	Jay Greeney

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

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

Chamber honors Ely community members

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The Chamber of Commerce's annual business networking dinner and awards night here went virtual due to public health cautions over the continuing coronavirus pandemic. The Celebrate Ely business networking event was held online on Wednesday.

Chamber officials announced the recipients for this year's Good Neighbor Business Award, Good Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award, and Excellence in Customer Service Award.

"In previous years, we have recognized some very worthy individuals, groups and businesses for our Jackpine Bob Cary Community Spirit and our Good Neighbor Business Awards," said Chamber President Dafne Caruso. In January, the Chamber board added two additional awards – the Good Citizen

Volunteer of the Year Award and Excellence in Customer Service Award.

"Little did the board know that 10 weeks later our state would be experiencing a stay-at-home order," Caruso said. "While we may be weary of the phrase 'new normal,' our residents and workforce continue to inspire us all through their selfless efforts."

The 2020 Good Neighbor Business Award recognizes a business that provides financial contributions, donations of services, facilities or other resources, and involvement in community organizations or activities.

"This business has provided support to the Ely Senior Class, Happy Days Preschool, PTO, Ely Nordic Ski Team, Zeke Urbas Cancer Benefit, and Team Rubicon," she said. "They sponsor a Little League team, too. They also have served as host site to the Great American

Beard Fest. The Ely Chamber of Commerce is pleased to present the Good Neighbor Business Award to the Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant and owner Brian Tome."

The Chamber's new Excellence in Customer Service Award highlights employees who make an impact on customer and guest experiences.

"This year's recipient is Cheryl Boyes, the manager of the Ely Area Food Shelf and an extraordinary member of the community," Caruso said. "She goes above and beyond working for the Food Shelf's mission to alleviate hunger in the area using community partnerships. Her efforts have greatly expanded the services the Ely Area Food Shelf provides."

The new Good Citizen Volunteer of the Year award went to Paula Mair. "Our community is filled with so many individuals who are always willing

to donate their time and talents to support their neighbors and community," Caruso said.

"With the onset of COVID-19, we saw many volunteers step forward to deliver food and supplies to high-risk or shut in community members. We also saw a group of sewers and seamstresses across the Ely area join forces to create thousands of masks for our health care workers, high-risk residents, community and visitors. So many individuals not only donated their time, but also their own fabric and other mask supplies. In the early days of the pandemic, this group of hard-working volunteers were working independently. Paula recognized the need to connect those making masks to those who needed them. She was the mastermind behind the Masks for Ely Facebook page that continues to connect people with masks."

The former Loony's Northwoods Emporium building was reduced to rubble earlier this month to make room for the expansion of Piragis Northwoods Co. The outfitter recently purchased the building, located across the street from their Sheridan Street business, to make room for a new 80x40 structure to house an outlet store. Piragis received a grant to cover the cost of the building demolition, estimated at about \$27,000, from the state Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation's Commercial Redevelopment Program.
photo by K. Vandervort



Ely Homecoming celebrated COVID-style

ELY – Memorial High School students will be celebrating Homecoming this year in subdued fashion due to the continuing public health concerns over the coronavirus and the school's hybrid learning model.

Principal Megan Anderson said the annual fall celebration will look quite different next week. "There will be no dance, no pep rally, and no

hallway decorating this year, but we will be still planning for dress up days and we will have a virtual royalty crowning," she said.

Dress up days will be held on Monday and Tuesday for those students in the A Group who will be in school. Similarly, students in the B Group cohort will have dress up day on Thursday and Friday. "All students will

have a Pajama Day on Wednesday when we are in our distance-learning model," Anderson said.

A virtual Homecoming royalty crowning will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday and the event will be streamed live on the school's Facebook page.

The girls' nominees for the 2020 Homecoming Court are McKenna Coughlin, Gabby Motes,

Sydney Richards and Madeline Roderick. The boys' nominees include Will Davies, Emmett Faltesek, Brock LaTourell and Jonah Schwamm.

The 2020 Homecoming King and Queen and court members will be introduced and honored during halftime of the Timberwolves football game on Friday night against Cherry High School.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ely, MN

FACEBOOK LIVE
9:30 AM • SUNDAYS
facebook.com/gracelutheranely
www.graceinely.org

Tuesday Group
ELY - The upcoming Tuesday Group schedule is listed below. All talks are at 12 noon on Tuesdays.

All presentations are administered in a virtual presence until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic. Send email to stevieschon@gmail.com for more information.

Nov. 3 - Jon Erickson - Ely Community Health Clinic - Coronavirus Update and 2021 Initiatives

Nov. 10 - Kesley Ebbs - Ely Area Invasive Team

Nov. 24 - Jessica Hellmann - U of M Institute on the Environment

Council members, director spar over rate hike

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- For a second consecutive meeting, Cook city councilors and Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Reed Erickson wrangled last Thursday over a council demand that could cost the authority \$8,000.

At issue is the rate the city charges CHRA for PILT, or payment in lieu of taxes. PILT payments are made by tax-exempt nonprofits as a substitute for property taxes.

Historically, the city was charging CHRA at a rate of 10 percent, but three years ago changed

the rate to five percent to assist with some financial issues. Last year's PILT payment by CHRA was \$8,000. Now the city wants to raise the rate back to 10 percent, doubling what CHRA has to pay to \$16,000.

At the September meeting, Erickson provided a cooperative agreement from 1980 that in essence stated the city could only charge at an amount consistent with state law, which would be five percent. Erickson said that CHRA's finances hadn't improved since the city lowered the PILT, and contended that the increase would create addi-

tional hardship.

Councilor Jody Bixby noted that when the council lowered the rate it was specifically for three years and that an increase back to 10 percent should be expected. Erickson reiterated that based on the agreement between CHRA and the city, charging 10 percent would be a violation of state law.

With no resolution forthcoming, both parties agreed to consult with legal counsel and resume discussions at the October meeting.

Erickson bolstered his claim by presenting opinions from the

CHRA's attorney and St. Louis County Auditor Nancy Nilsen that five percent was consistent with the agreement and state law. Erickson also read a portion of Nilsen's email for further support.

"In addition, the St. Louis County attorney has advised this office that unless there's a clear agreement between the HRA and Cook for a service charge other than five percent, the charges are five percent," Erickson read.

However, the council, armed with an opinion from its own attorney saying 10 percent was appropriate under the agree-

ment, was reluctant to budge. Bixby contended that history was relevant to the discussion.

"They have paid the 10 percent, and five percent came up when Reid asked us to lower it, and as a goodwill gesture the city did," she said. "But we didn't say it was forever at that time. It was always at 10 percent."

Discussion continued for nearly 20 minutes, with city councilors supporting the idea that a 40-year-old document was long overdue for being renegotiated. Erickson wasn't ready to agree.

"I don't want to make a compromise that goes

against the law," he said. "I don't have the power to do that."

City administrator Theresa Martinson said that the city had a list provided by the county auditor of other HRAs that are paying 10 percent PILTs. Erickson said he had similar information, but that the existing agreement between the city and CHRA was worded differently from those.

In the end, both parties agreed to send the issue back to their respective attorneys to consult with each other and draft a new agreement that would be mutually acceptable to both parties.

NORTHWOODS FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

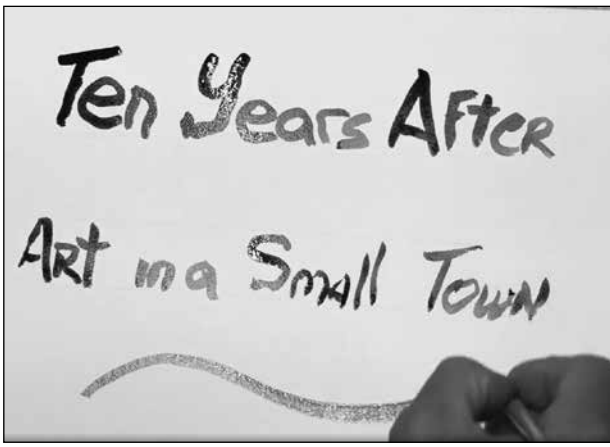
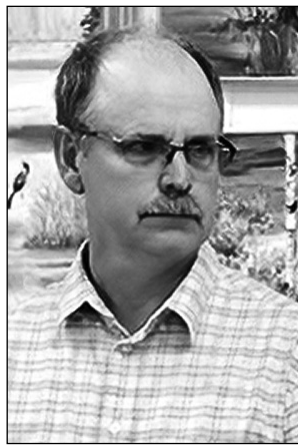
Arts group tells story in new video

COOK- To any visitor who stops at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook, the diversity and quality of art and artists is readily apparent.

What isn't as evident is the organization's broad scope of activities and its support of the arts across its ten-year history, but now that story has been told in a new documentary video, "Ten Years After, Art in a Small Town," a gift created by artist Jim DeVries.

When the Minnesota Discovery Center offered a course teaching documentary film production, DeVries, a naturalist at the Laurentian Environmental Center, volunteered to take the class. Each student in that class produced a finished short film, and DeVries focused on NFWA's history and developing culture to celebrate its ten-year anniversary.

DeVries used a number of different voices to tell NFWA's story, including current president Shawna Kishel,



Naturalist and artist Jim DeVries has created a seven-minute documentary film chronicling the history and activities of Northwood Friends of the Arts to commemorate its tenth anniversary. submitted photosw

gallery manager Alberta Whitenack, founding member Lois Pajari, and Sue Rauschenfels, Jean O'Melia, Lyn Reed and Larry Rude, who together wear multiple hats including artist, teacher, and volunteer.

This film and others produced during the film class will be included in the Range Tourism Guide very soon.

"Ten Years After, Art in a Small Town" may be viewed on NFWA's Facebook page at northwoodsfriendsofthearts

and also the website at NWFAMN.ORG.

NFWA's gallery is in the Dream Weaver Salon complex at 210 S River St. in Cook. Open hours with social distancing are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Currently the gallery is exhibiting "The Susan Martin Memorial Member Show," which will extend into November this year for holiday shoppers and art enthusiasts.

Classes are usually

held in the Wolfe Den classroom at the gallery, but instead of art and music classes this year, NFWA has launched "Curious and Creative Art Adventures." There are doodling art place-mats in local restaurants and newspaper activities. Soon to be released is an art project workbook for students, parents and teachers.

More information is available by writing to NFWA, PO Box 44, Cook MN 55723 or emailing nwfamn.org@gmail.com.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Facilitating learning at a distance

FIELD TWP- It's no secret that a public school contains a wide array of students from all walks of life, backgrounds, and educational needs. Now more than ever, North Woods is working hard to meet students where they are at during the COVID pandemic. We have students in-person and also distance learning at the same time. Some of our distance learners need

they need assistance in connecting with teachers. Dean of Students Mr. Oehler, Counselor Ms. Stark, Social Worker Ms. Jansen, Support Services Tutor Ms. Palmer, Homeschool Liaison Ms. Whiteman, and I are acting as go-betweens to assist and encourage families to stick with school.

Technology is a big part of what we are doing right now, and because not everyone has the internet, we are also utilizing resources to help get kids connected. We have rural locations,

such as the Crane Lake Chapel, who have volunteered their time and their space to help provide internet and supervision on Wednesdays for 7-12 students. If you are interested, please contact us and we can get you in touch with them. We are also issuing internet hot spots temporarily for families with no internet connection. Our hope is that we can keep moving forward to make school as normal as possible during a non-normal time.

Our teachers are still the content experts, and a

student who is having academic questions should still be communicating with their teachers. If families are struggling at home with distance learning, though, please give us a call so we can make a plan. Busses are still making deliveries on a limited basis on Wednesdays, so if there are supplies or materials that need to be transferred, we are able to do so once a week.

Hang in there everyone!thi



JOHN VUKMANICH

extra support and help academically. Some also need assistance connecting with the school and teachers.

In the interest of keeping students connected, North Woods is utilizing many of our non-teaching staff in the role of "Distance Learning Coordinator," which means that we are sending emails and making phone calls to ask families if



Members of the Cook Lions Club present North Woods School with a \$1,000 donation for additional cleaning and disinfecting items to aid in the school's coronavirus prevention activities. Pictured are, from left, Denise Parson, Lions Club member and North Woods third grade teacher; Carol Erickson, North Woods secretary; John Vukmanich, North Woods principal; Connie Harju, North Woods secretary; and Jody Refsdal, Lions Club treasurer. submitted photo

Halloween candy drive-thru is Saturday

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.

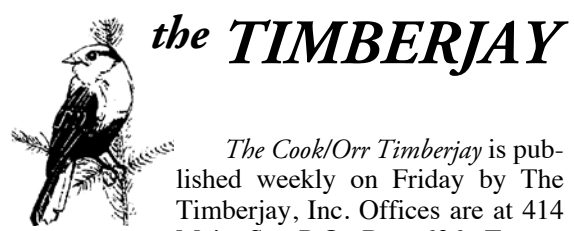
Open studio art will be Nov. 7 at art gallery

COOK- Create with others by joining Northwoods Friends of the Arts artists group, "Open Studio Art." The group will meet on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants are welcome to bring their projects to NFWA Gallery's Wolfe Den classroom each first Saturday of the

month to work with other artists. No registration or membership is required. There is enough room to mask and social distance. Mark your calendars for the next first Saturday on Dec. 5.

Find more information by emailing NFWA at nwfamn.org@gmail.com or on the website at NWFAMN.ORG.



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.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Publisher | Marshall Helmsberger |
| General Manager | Jodi Summit |
| Ely Editor | Keith Vandervort |
| Cook-Orr Editor | David Colburn |
| Staff Writer | Stephanie Ukkola |
| Office Manager | M. M. White |
| Graphics | Scarlet Lynn Stone |
| Ad Sales | Jay Greeney |

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

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, Lake Vermilion Resort Association, Lake Vermilion Area Chamber of Commerce, Ely Chamber of Commerce, Laurentian Chamber of Commerce.

Subscriptions Available:
St. Louis County: \$37 year Elsewhere: \$52 year. We accept VISA/Mastercard/Discover. Please specify Tower/Soudan, Cook/Orr or Ely edition.

NOTE: Changes of address must be sent or called in to the Tower office. Out-of-state delivery may take 2-3 weeks. For prompt out-of-state delivery try the First Class Subscription: \$100 year or \$10 per month.

Read the entire paper on-line every week. On-line subscriptions cost \$29.95/year; details at www.timberjay.com.

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

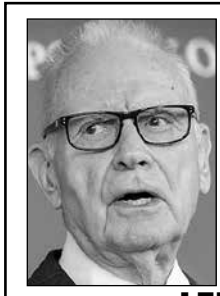
COMMENTARY

The political minority controls the majority of Americans

As the Senate held hearings and debated the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, attention understandably focused on the policy implications of a sixth conservative vote. What got less notice was an important political fact: If she's confirmed as expected, it will mean a majority of the Court will have been put there by senators representing a minority of the American people.

Four justices on the Court already—Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, and Kavanaugh—were confirmed by a Senate “majority” put in office by fewer voters than the senators who opposed them. Barrett will be the fifth.

In fact, the ideal of “majority rule” in the U.S. is mostly window-dressing these days. The people in power as we head toward the November general election increasingly do not represent the will of the American



LEE HAMILTON

people.

This starts at the top. Of the last three presidents, neither President Trump nor, in his first term, George W. Bush won more votes than their opponents. In a country where ultimate political control is supposed to lie with the majority of citizens, this is an odd result. People in other countries have a hard time grasping how the Electoral College could produce such an outcome.

In the Senate, the Republican senators now in control represent not just a minority of the country's population, but a minority of its economic activity (as measured by GDP) and of its tax revenues. The Senate has never been democratic, since small states from the very beginning have had the same number of senators as large states. Yet now we're at the point where the makeup of the Supreme Court for the foreseeable future

will be determined by a group of politicians who, as Vox pointed out recently, received 13 million fewer votes than their colleagues across the aisle.

The one federal body that does reflect a majority of the country at the moment is the House of Representatives. Oddly, though, there's an exception to this: If neither Donald Trump nor Joe Biden is able to win an outright majority of the Electoral College, the decision gets thrown to the House. This hasn't happened since 1876. And if it does, the decision will be made by each state's delegation, with each state getting a single vote. Since Republicans control 26 state delegations and Democrats 22 (Pennsylvania is tied; Michigan has seven Democrats, six Republicans, and one independent), it opens the real possibility of a president installed by a House minority.

So the U.S. finds itself in an uncomfortable situation: Our basic institutions no longer reflect majority rule. In the past, when bipartisanship was con-

sidered a congressional value and the Senate majority paid greater attention to trying to accommodate the views of the minority, this might not have mattered as much. But politics is fought with bare knuckles these days, and political power is seen as bestowing the ability—and hence, the right—to ram through legislation and court nominees.

The most likely solution to all this is at the ballot box. That's certainly what Americans expect. But there's also increasing talk of alternatives. Some politicians and activists are pushing to eliminate the Electoral College—in fact, a bipartisan majority of the House tried just that in 1969, only to have it killed by a filibuster of senators from small states. More radically, the late John Dingell of Michigan, the longest-serving House member ever, came to believe that the Senate itself should be abolished; as he would point out, the largest state in the country gets just two seats, while the smallest 20 states, whose combined population is still smaller, get 40 seats.

Daunting procedural obstacles stand in the way of reforming the governing structure of this country so that it better represents the majority of voters. And ensuring attention to the rights and political interests of the political minority is baked into both our Constitution and Americans' enduring sense of political fairness and decency. But if this minority-rule pattern continues and U.S. political and judicial leadership no longer represents a majority, one has to wonder, with Lincoln, how long such a country can endure.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Letters from Readers

What to do when you can't abide Trump anymore

Maybe you liked the president's 'shake it up' approach. Maybe you liked his stance on immigration or tariffs. You may have liked his words on taxes or mining regulations. Maybe it was simply that 'those damn Twin Cities folks aren't going to tell me what to do'. Maybe some of those promises helped you leave the Democratic Party and join with friends to support the current occupant of the White House.

It would be great if that were the end of it. But you've grown to have doubts about the president. You're bothered by some of his behavior. You don't like his tweets, of course. His on-camera behavior is like a bully or a petulant child. You understand his opposition to newspapers like *The New York Times*, but he goes on to attack the entire free press, which you know in your bones is critical to our freedom. He's even attacked Fox News.

You're also uncomfortable with the corruption that's come very close to the president. His family and his business are intertwined with the presidency. While he claims to be helping the mining industry locally, Ivanka and Jared live in a \$6 million mansion owned by Antofagasta's CEO. What?

He touts a tax law that enabled big corporations and wealthy supporters to reap billions. While he helps the monied interests, he's not supportive of collective bargaining and union rights nationally. He pays NO taxes and refuses subpoenas, claiming he's above the law. And more, he holds close to a half-billion-dollar debt owed to foreign creditors, plus a bank account in China.

Further, you've seen he has a tendency to praise dictators. Recently he's sounded like he wants to be one. He routinely demands that officials investigate and 'lock up' opponents. Who does that? It sounds chillingly like Russia or China. And, dear Lord, who intentionally separates kids from their parents and puts them in cages? More than anything though, you firmly believe he could have better handled the coronavirus and saved thousands of lives. Instead, he's actively attempting to shut down the Affordable Care Act in the middle of a pandemic. Millions will be left without healthcare and pre-existing condition protection. It just seems too much. You're worn out with the chaos. It's impossible to hon-

estly say to your kids (or others) that you are proud of the man.

So, you ask yourself, "Maybe I should consider not voting for him this time... I mean Joe does seem to be a decent man, and we can still work on the issues that concern me. Besides, even many long-time Republicans are crossing over themselves. And after all, my vote is confidential. I wouldn't have to tell my friends."

**Steve Anderson
Birch Lake**

Vote to rebuild the nation's foundation

I am no fan of political parties. The structure of both shuts out the average person and favors the influence of special interest money on elections and policy. However, this year the choice is clear and imperative—to vote Biden/Harris and to reject the modern Republican Party up and down the ballot. My decision is not rooted in fealty to party or agreement with every issue the candidates stand for, but something much more basic—a commitment to community and decency.

There was a time when the Republican Party was a party of ideas, with a commitment to limit government to do those things that are needed by our society, but no more. However, over time, the GOP has morphed from the party of limited government to a party of no government, believing that every person is an island. This form of extreme individualism that the Republicans have adopted is rooted in their fascination with the likes of Ayn Rand, a fiction writer elevated to the role of philosopher by the addle-minded in ultra-conservative circles. Rand believed that the concept of community is foolish—the belief in charity, destructive. This is what drives the modern GOP and we can all see the results daily.

Is it any wonder that politicians who believe that our government should do nothing stand by as hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens die and otherwise have their lives irrevocably damaged by the raging pandemic? I think not. Nor is it surprising that Republicans would resist common and easy methods of controlling COVID-19 such as wearing a mask—a simple piece of cloth. It is more important to the modern GOP to please one's self than protect your neighbor and avoid burdening our collective resources.

The privilege of governing cannot be entrusted to those adhering to such a destructive

philosophy. Our nation cannot endure if we are nothing but a collection of individuals focused only on ourselves. A sense of community is central to maintaining a thriving and vibrant society. Concern for others and a willingness to pitch in for our neighbors is a cornerstone of a sense of community and source of strength of a country. Civility is essential to democracy. All of these principles have been abandoned by the Republican Party.

This philosophy fuels division, which is toxic to a democracy. As Abraham Lincoln once famously stated, "A house against itself divided cannot stand." There are many problems with the Democratic Party. I do not agree with the party's stances on various issues. However, to fix those problems, and address serious issues in this country, we must start from a foundation. That foundation is that we are all in this together, that we are not just a collection of individuals only obligated to please ourselves, no matter the cost to others. You cannot repair a house that has crumbling foundation. You cannot expect to thrive and persevere through a crisis without collective action through a functioning government. The only way to do so is reject the Republican Party in its entirety and vote for Biden/Harris.

**Kelly Dahl
Cook**

Giving grades to the Trump presidency

This election presents a good opportunity to take pause, take a seat in front of the fire, bring out a pipe, glass of wine, a shot of brandy, or whatever helps you contemplate what, exactly, do we expect from our government. To do that, I thought I would list the things most important to me and, having been a teacher before financial planner, grade the government over the last four years.

#1...The most important to me is, and I imagine for many of you, family. Has the president and the party now aligned with him kept my family safe? GRADE: F-

WHY? Most obvious is the president's, and by association the Republican Party's, delayed response and withholding of information regarding the pandemic. This put me, but most infuriatingly my family, in extreme danger. On top of this the disunity, fear, and hatred that's been perpetrated, and the permission given to violent fringe groups like white nationalists, Nazis, QAnon and so forth to be considered mainstream, is a

danger to open-minded, maybe naively friendly, people like my family.

Also, the deep-seated need for the Republicans, at all cost, to repeal the ACA without a replacement is a huge health danger to all of us. No, they don't have a replacement plan. Even the president has said they "will" have a plan. In the meantime?

#2...Education. Education is the answer...to poverty, crime, equality, hunger, the economy, and self-fulfillment. Many people might argue with that but take a sip of that wine and think critically for a second. GRADE: F-

Why? Easy answer. Who is our Secretary of Education? A big donor who has no experience or apparent interest in education. A good president does not act alone. He or she surrounds themselves with the brightest, most qualified cabinet members and advisors. Not big donors and puppets who swear loyalty to a king-wannabe. The president has self-destructed because he has taken on too much himself. He has no advisers, only "yes-men." He's lost, wandering in his own ego.

#3...The environment. Maybe I should just say "the earth." That which must sustain our species, which includes my grand and great-grandchildren... as well as yours. GRADE: F-

Why? I'm sure, as the president sits on his solid gold throne, the farthest things from his mind are sky blue waters, a hike in the mountains, a campfire, but what the next grunt might produce. Sorry for being a bit vulgar, but I believe it's very vulgar what this administration is doing to the future by ignoring science and the climate crisis. The solid gold toilet exposes the president's values.

#4...Financial security. Thought I wasn't going to bring that up? After teaching the Arts, I started my own financial planning company which was successful, and I handed off to my son and his (business) partner. So, financial security, which is directly related to education (I still lecture on financial literacy at colleges and universities), is very important to me and was my livelihood. GRADE: F

Why? When the current administration inherited a recovering economy and stock market, the momentum continued. I held my breath because I was worried the president, in his rashness and impulsiveness, might do something to unravel the growth spurt. Little did I know it would be something he didn't do. He thought acknowledging the pandemic would hurt his re-election chances. Yet the pandemic has

caused havoc with the millions of minions struggling to get by. So, the financially secure are still financially secure, but the economy is treacherous and likely to get worse before it gets better. More people are financially insecure now, than are secure.

So, as you can see, I've failed the president and the Republican party. Let's give another administration a chance before it gets worse.

P.S. I keep hearing this election is a choice between democracy and socialism. Sorry, but where would we be without Social Security, Medicare, public schools, the police and fire departments...all useful instruments of socialism? It's more a choice between democracy or oligarchy (power in the hands of a few).

**Tim Munkeby
Lake Vermilion**

An election plea in verse

The potus
Sits on high
And doesn't seem to notice
While deaths accrue
Because of his denial
Of things that are true
And, too often final.

"It will magically go away
With bleach or ultraviolet"
Just go to a beach
Or move to an islet.

"We are rounding the curve"
But the cases just graph
higher
It hits a nerve...
He's such a liar.

I've had the Chinese virus
I'm glad I was infected
I just KNOW it's gonna'
get me elected.

I don't care that my wife
got sick.
I'm pretty as a carrot...
I'll buy a new chick.

If you believe what he
spouts,
I have pity for you
For all that he touts...
You really don't have a clue.

I'll end my rant
With this important
precedent,
Lord, please grant us
A new White House
resident!

**W.C. Pohl
Cook**

THE CORONAVIRUS

Multiple schools in region hit by COVID-19 cases

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Three area schools have reported new positive COVID-19 cases as rising case rates threaten increased restrictions in districts across the state.

Tower-Soudan Elementary is the school most affected by the virus, as two positive cases among staff members have caused the school to shift from in-person learning to distance learning until Tuesday, Nov. 3.

“The last day the two positive cases were in school was on Monday, Oct. 19,” ISD 2142 Superintendent Reggie Engebritson said. “Two weeks from that day brings us to Tuesday, Nov. 3.”

Ely schools tallied three more COVID-19 cases last week as reported on Friday by Superintendent Erik Erie. The district continues to monitor local data and may shift to a complete hybrid learning model if bi-weekly case rates remain high.

North Woods School reported its first case of COVID-19 on Monday, the sixth case in the district since the start of

school, Engebritson said. The school did not identify whether the infected person was a student or staff member.

However, on the same day the school announced the cancellation of Tuesday’s home volleyball match against Eveleth-Gilbert, and the Arrowhead League website showed on Monday that all home and away matches for the Lady Grizzlies have been canceled through Thursday, Nov. 5, with their next match scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 10. That period of time is consistent with the typical 14-day quarantine period for COVID-19 exposure.

And while not tied to a particular school, the Bois Forte Band Health Services announced via social media on Monday that a child age ten or under in the Vermilion sector tested positive for COVID-19, the youngest case to date at either Vermilion or Nett Lake.

Bi-weekly case rates per 10,000, the measure used to determine recommended school learning models, have risen to the point that 19 counties in the state, including neighboring Itasca

County, are at a point where districts should consider going completely to a distance learning model. The rate for greater St. Louis County (excluding Duluth) had its largest one-week jump ever last week, moving from 18.2 to 25.5, solidly in the range where a full hybrid model is recommended. Ely schools have already implemented hybrid learning for upper grades, while ISD 2142 is continuing with in-person learning.

State health commissioner Jan Malcom said on Monday that 27 percent of Minnesota schools have had at least one case of COVID-19 since school started, and that 33 schools currently have five or more active cases.

Other impacts

The Bois Forte Reservation had been free of active COVID cases for a short period of time after a recent outbreak, but after several announcements this past week they now have three active cases, all at Vermilion, according to a website announcement on Wednesday.

Fortune Bay Resort Casino and Resort also announced Monday via social media that two more

of their employees have tested positive, and that three additional employees who were in close contact with them are in quarantine. The release did not specify the date when Fortune Bay learned of the test results.

Concern increases

Gov. Tim Walz joined the regular Department of Health press conference on Monday to emphasize that the continuing rise in cases represents a serious threat, and urged people to comply with masking, social distancing, and small gatherings guidance to head off the explosive growth being seen now in bordering states.

“We’re talking about high spikes here of 2,200 cases. Wisconsin is reporting 6,000 cases, hospitals overflowing, and temporary beds being set up at the fairgrounds,” Walz said. “That is the crystal ball of our future. All of those things will end up happening [here] if we don’t make some of these changes. The next six to 12 weeks are going to be critical in this fight on COVID,” Walz said.

Pushed about rumors suggesting statewide business and school clo-

sures could be coming by mid-November, Walz responded that none of those kinds of measures had even been talked about. The emphasis, he said, has been on trying to get buy-in among citizens to follow the guidance.

“It’s just a matter of using the tools we have in place,” he said. “If we can get 95 percent social distancing and mask compliance, it’s dramatic what would happen. It appears like there’s pretty good reason to believe that we’re wearing masks less than the national average. I usually expect Minnesotans to be above average. Mask-wearing is free and it allows our businesses to stay open.”

As of Tuesday, the state has seen 20 consecutive days where the daily new case counts have been above 1,000, including multiple days with over 2,000 cases. Commissioner Malcom said on Monday that the increase in the rate of new cases is greater than the increase in testing, demonstrating that the virus continues to spread, primarily through community contacts in smaller gatherings.

Hospitalization rates, another measure of the severity of spread, are up 115 percent since mid-September, Malcom said.

The rapid increase in COVID cases is being driven by community spread, Malcom said, particularly in ceremonies, parties, and smaller groups.

“We’ve had more than 70 wedding-related outbreaks since June which have led to more than 650 primary cases,” Malcom said.

Walz was also asked about a Trump campaign event Monday in Hibbing featuring Vice President Mike Pence, who had several key staff members test positive in recent days. Walz said both presidential campaigns have been informed of Minnesota’s guidelines and asked to comply. When told that broadcast video of the Pence rally showed no social distancing and minimal mask-wearing, he was asked if the state would take any action against the Trump campaign. Walz’s response was resigned.

“No, I’m just disappointed to hear that,” he said.

KAREN...Continued from page 1

“I remember it like yesterday,” Karen said. “I said to her, ‘You see something.’ She said, ‘You know, I can’t tell you, Karen.’”

Another tech came in, and they rescanned Karen’s left breast. The next question caught her off guard.

“So, it comes back and they said, ‘Did you drive here by yourself?’” she said. “And I said, ‘Yeah, I always do you know?’”

“Well, we’re going to do a biopsy.”

Karen called her husband, Scott.

“He said, ‘Oh, my God,’” Karen said. She told him not to drive down, there was nothing he could do. They did the biopsy and she drove home.

“We were both scared,” she said. “It was a long couple of days because you know they saw something.”

It was Labor Day weekend, and when Karen was back at work at Disability Specialists that next Tuesday she received the news she didn’t want to hear – she had breast cancer. She wanted to stay at work, but a colleague convinced her to go home. It was about 12:30 p.m.

“What are you doing home?” Scott asked when she arrived.

“I just started crying, and I said ‘I have breast cancer,’” Karen said.

While she sat on the couch and cried, Scott reacted just the way she knew he would, a few minutes of shouting and swearing, and then gathering himself together, he said, “Okay, what are we gonna do? We got this.”

The next step was to call their daughter Angela and son Matthew, who were 17 and 15 at the time, and tell them to come home alone. When they arrived, Karen told them the bad news.

“They both started crying. My son got up, went in his room and slammed the door,” Karen said. “My daughter got up, went in

her room and slammed her door. I remember Matthew saying ‘You’re going to die.’”

Karen went to talk to both individually, giving them both the same message – we’ll get through this and “I will kick cancer’s ass.” But the conversations weren’t easy.

“To tell Scott was hard, but to tell our kids, that killed me. It absolutely killed me,” Karen said.

Treatment

What Karen experienced next was something common among many breast cancer patients.

“Then came the part where everybody wants to tell you what to do with your body,” she said.

Her doctor in Hibbing wanted Karen to have a lumpectomy; Karen had something else in mind. She researched options extensively and talked with Scott.

“What he had in mind and what I had in mind were two different things,” Karen said.

When Karen went back to Hibbing and told her doctor she wanted to have a double mastectomy, she told Karen that she was overreacting. Karen disagreed and said she wanted to get a second opinion. “I remember leaving there as mad as can be,” she said.

Karen went to St. Mary’s Medical Center in Duluth, and her experience with Dr. Audrey Park-Skinner was far different. Park-Skinner walked her through all of the possible treatment options.

“I still have her drawings,” Karen said. “She said, ‘This is your decision. This is your body.’” Karen talked things over with Scott, and when they went back to see Park-Skinner, all three were in agreement on a double mastectomy.

Karen’s surgery was on Nov. 4, and Scott was there for the 16-hour ordeal. Karen had elected to have a TRAM flap procedure in which a plastic surgeon

makes a bikini-line incision to take abdominal skin, fat, and muscle to use for reconstruction after the mastectomy is performed.

When Karen came out of recovery, she told Scott to go home. “I told him not to come back because it was almost deer hunting opener,” she said. She spent the next five days in the hospital largely alone, although her daughter and her boyfriend skipped school one day to come see her, and a family friend who was on the Hibbing Fire Department, Brian Warner, stopped in when he was at the hospital on an ambulance run. Karen said she was constantly getting phone calls and texts from Scott and the kids.

“I could’ve come home the 8th, but it was the opening of deer season,” Karen said. “So, I came home the 9th. They always went hunting with dad opening weekend, and I didn’t want to disturb that. I wanted to try to keep things as normal as we could.”

Homecoming

The Schultz family hadn’t lived in Cook very long but had a connection there because Scott had graduated from Cook High School. Once Karen was back home, the family got the full experience of the helping nature of Cook.

“It was like the whole community,” Karen said. “People were dropping off food, from sports parents to neighbors to people that just knew us. These were people that I didn’t really know. To have people stop over, to send cards in the mail saying they’re thinking about you, that means a lot to people who are going through stuff.”

Karen came home with drain tubes and bulbs hanging on her chest and abdomen to collect the fluids from her surgical wounds as they healed. Scott cleverly figured out that they could loop a hockey shoelace around her neck and could pin the bulbs to it so they wouldn’t

get dislodged when Karen took a shower. She was sore, tired, and the abdominal incision didn’t heal as fast as she expected. She had to depend on Scott and Angela to provide taxi service for her for weeks until she could drive on her own again. She had applied for a position with the Cook Ambulance crew but withdrew it because she didn’t have the strength for lifting.

But Karen was determined not to miss any of her children’s sporting events, even if she couldn’t stay for an entire football game or volleyball match.

And, in turn, the North Woods athletes demonstrated their respect and support of her.

Karen was startled when, at a volleyball match in Babbitt, the loudspeaker blared an announcement about her, and Angela and her teammates marched onto the court wearing pink headbands with her name and a white ribbon on them.

“I lost it,” Karen said.

And at a home football game, Karen watched from the top of the bleachers as the team marched from the school to the field.

“As they rounded the corner, I could see they were all in pink,” Karen said. “Gary and Ginger Abramson from KGM Construction bought the whole football team pink socks. Then they all stopped, and Travis Hooper said, ‘Hey, Mama K, this one’s for you.’”

Karen found yet another source of support when she returned to work at Disability Specialists. She said her boss, Jim Nyhus, had a brother who had died from breast cancer, and he did everything he could to accommodate her needs. “He was very understanding,” she said.

Karen didn’t have a physical therapy regimen for rehabilitation, but she and Scott “did a lot of walking,” sometimes three times a day, to rebuild her stamina and strength.

Karen eventually achieved her goal of working for the Cook Ambulance, but attaining her goal led to another serious health issue this past March. Coming home from a run on a snowy night, Karen watched in horror as her partner drove through a stop sign at a T intersection south of Hibbing and slammed into the opposite ditch. The impact bent the ambulance frame, but even worse, it broke Karen’s back. It took more than four months for her to recuperate, but she’s once again up and making runs.

Challenges

The type of breast cancer she had was “estrogen-driven,” Karen said, which means that she could have a reoccurrence of cancer in other areas estrogen affects. She was on a regimen of anti-cancer pills and follow-up visits for several years, but she didn’t take the last year’s worth of pills and hasn’t been back to see her oncologist in quite a while.

The reason? The Schultzes can’t afford health insurance.

They had good coverage when Scott worked at Minntac, but he was forced to retire several years ago with a medical condition, just six months shy of qualifying for coverage available to long-term employees. Between his pension and Karen’s earnings from ambulance work, the couple makes too much money to qualify for public assistance but the cost of premiums on the state’s health care exchange is too high, Karen said. “I can’t afford it,” she said. “So that fear of cancer coming back? That’s pretty real.”

Reflections

Karen said she was raised to be independent and strong, but as she looks back on her experience, that’s one thing she would change a little bit.

“I do want people to know it’s okay to be afraid,” she said. “It’s

okay to say you need help. I never did. I wanted to be strong for my kids and for Scott because I knew if something were to happen to me, they’d be devastated. But, you know, I wish I would have asked for more help. I do.”

But she’s thankful for the way her husband and children have stood with her through it all, and for the perspective her battle against cancer has given her.

“It changes you, it truly changes you,” Karen said. “It makes you look at things. You don’t take things for granted. Life’s too short to have any regrets. Life’s too short to hold grudges.”

Karen said that every woman should get regularly-scheduled mammograms, even if they don’t have insurance and think that they can’t afford it. She said Scenic Rivers Clinic in Cook participates in a state program that pays for screening and diagnostic services for breast cancer. The Scenic Rivers Clinic in Tower and Essentia Health Clinic in Ely are also listed as participants in the SAGE program. A description of the SAGE program, a full list of providers and eligibility criteria are available online at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/cancer/sage/index.html>.

And while many breast cancer survivors channel their experiences into outspoken advocacy efforts, Karen said she doesn’t see herself doing that. As a more private person, she prefers to find opportunities to provide one-on-one support, like she’s been doing recently for an ex-sister-in-law who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She said she welcomes anyone who needs a listening ear to look her up.

“If you’re going through it and you need somebody to talk to, get ahold of me,” she said.

Political signs reported stolen in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The Police Department here received numerous reports of stolen political signs early this week. It appears just one political party was targeted - signs supporting Democratic candidates.

Local resident Emily Brown contacted the *Timberjay* on Tuesday about her concerns. "I think this is a story that should be told," she wrote

in an email. "It's a crime to steal political signs." She indicated that materials from one political party were targeted. "Have any Trump signs been stolen?" she asked. "What are the police doing?"

Ely Police Chief Chad Houde said his department received as many as four reports by Wednesday morning of signs taken from neighborhood yards on both Monday and Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, this

seems to happen every couple of years during election season," Houde said. "We patrol as much as possible but it is difficult to catch thieves in the act. I have been telling people to take their signs in overnight if they can. They shouldn't have to, but that is the day and age that we live in."

Ely resident Valerie Nesteruck said a political sign was removed from her yard at White Street and Third Avenue sometime

Monday night. "And three were taken near Third and Conan Street," she wrote in an email. She said her neighbor reportedly saw the sign in her yard at 10:30 p.m. on Monday. "It was gone by 5:30 a.m. (Tuesday)," she said.

Brown also noted that she heard from others that political signs in support of Joe Biden were removed late Monday from a residence near James Street and Central Avenue. "Corie McKibben report-

ed that a truck entered their remote access road and stole Biden signs," she said.

Nancy Powers added to an email, "My big Biden Harris sign was stolen from 2nd and White Street last night." She also reported that another city resident reported a similar incident.

Chief Houde confirmed that the reports his office received were for Biden/Harris sign thefts.

He added that the misdemeanor theft charge

does carry a fine as punishment. "If one individual is guilty of multiple infractions, the punishment could be more serious," he said.

"We take this very seriously in our community. It does not look good for either side of the political spectrum. If you see someone stealing personal property, call 911. There are many more surveillance cameras out there now that could help to identify perpetrators."

St. Louis County officials facing flood of absentee ballots

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL - Election officials in St. Louis County are working to process a flood of absentee ballots as thousands of county residents are turning to the early voting option in response to the current coronavirus pandemic.

"So far, we've sent out 57,627 absentee ballots," said St. Louis County elections coordinator Phil Chapman. Of those, just over 42,000 have been returned as of this Wednesday, with six

days to go until the Nov. 3 election.

By contrast, the county processed a total of 16,302 absentee ballots in 2016. "So, we're approaching triple the numbers of 2016," noted Chapman.

The deluge has added to the workload for both county and local election officials, since absentee balloting involves more hands-on processing to verify each ballot. Chapman said the county auditor's office, which oversees elections, has brought in additional staff to help with the workload. "We pulled in staff from

other departments that normally wouldn't help with the election," said Chapman. "We brought back some retirees and our regular staff is working lots of overtime. It's a manual process, and it takes time."

Chapman acknowledged that the big jump in absentee balloting will increase the county's cost of conducting the election. Besides the cost of mailing tens of thousands of absentee ballot packets (the county pays for both delivery and return postage) there is considerable cost for printing the different pieces of that packet, notes

Chapman. "But we want to be sure that people feel comfortable in exercising their right to vote," he added.

While many more county residents are voting absentee than ever before, it appears that most voters are still planning to show up on Tuesday to cast their ballots. In 2016, residents cast a total of 129,000 ballots in St. Louis County, so polling locations are still likely to see plenty of voters on Nov. 3. While county officials expect that Tuesday's voting will come off without major incidents, they have been

making contingency plans in the event of disruptions. President Donald Trump has suggested that his supporters turn out at polling locations, ostensibly to provide a check on illegal voting, but his call has raised concerns among election officials across the country.

"We've been in contact with the Secretary of State and have met with law enforcement," said Chapman. While election officials are trained to address most issues that crop up on Election Day, Chapman said they've discussed when officials

might have to escalate their response by bringing in law enforcement. "We're keeping the lines of communication open. We're trying to make sure we're all on the same page."

Chapman said he understands this election has been a particular challenge for election officials in every jurisdiction of the county. "I want to thank all the election judges for helping us out. It's a huge job that sometimes goes unrecognized," he said. "Trying to run an election in a pandemic is difficult."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Workers leaving job market behind drop in state unemployment

REGIONAL - Unemployment in Minnesota dropped in September from 7.4 percent to 6 percent, but Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Groves told an online audience last week that the picture wasn't as rosy as it appeared.

"The big news really is

that almost all of that drop we attribute to a decrease in the labor force participation rate," Groves said. "That represents about 56,000 people who have dropped out of the labor force."

Groves said the labor force participation rate of 68.4 percent in September was the lowest the rate has been in more than 40 years.

"This is not an encouraging sign," Groves said. "It means there are folks who are for whatever reason getting discouraged about their job search. We as a state have always had a high labor force participation rate, one of the highest in the country. It's a concerning trend to see that number trend downward."

Nationally, about 80 percent of the people who have dropped out of the labor market during the course of the coronavirus pandemic aren't actively seeking work have been women, but in Minnesota the number is about evenly split between men and women, Groves said.

The two age groups with the highest repre-

sentation of job market dropouts in September were teens and adults ages 25-34.

The northeast region of the state and the Twin Cities continue to be the areas hardest hit by the economic downturn, Groves said, although the September unemployment rate in St. Louis County of 5.8 percent was slightly

lower than the state as a whole. Groves said that the health care and hospitality sectors suffered the most losses in the northeast.

St. Louis County unemployment peaked in May at 11.4 percent, and remains above the 3.3 percent level in September of 2019. Labor force participation rates for the county were not available.

ELY...Continued from page 1

"Range cities are going to be targeted and Ely was among them," she said.

State and federal law enforcement and election officials are focusing preparations for the presidential elections amid calls for military veterans to combine with volunteers to form an "Army for Trump" to descend on polling places around the state. President Trump, who is trailing in Minnesota and other battleground states, recently called on his supporters to "go into the polls and watch very carefully, because that's what has to happen."

According to a recent report in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, Minnesota GOP officials say as many as 3,000 people have signed up and will get training on state election laws which forbid campaign workers to directly interact with voters. State Attorney General Keith Ellison said he believes the prospect of armed guards at the polls could be a voter suppression tactic.

"We feel that your commitment as a council and Ely law enforcement will send a good strong message to the public that you are aware that there have been threats and that you are prepared to protect each citizen's right to vote and ensure that all votes are counted, Firth said.

"We are not concerned that the clerk or city of Ely will not count votes fairly. We are more con-

cerned about other kinds disruptions in the actual election process," Orban added. "We would like to know if the city has a plan in case strangers come in or even people from our city show up to perhaps intimidate voters and that sort of thing."

Novak responded, "The answer to your question is 'yes.'"

When asked by council member Paul Kess if the resolution would be addressed at that point or later in the meeting, Novak said the resolution was not "proper" in the way it was prepared.

"Resolutions come to the council in writing in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order," Novak said. "There must be a resolution number attached to it and must follow the sequence that our clerk's office handles. Going with a last-minute resolution and not knowing what all the details were and the

reason, has caused this council in the past to get in a sticky wicket."

Kess suggested that the council consider a motion to accomplish the same idea of supporting free and fair elections in the city. His motion was supported by council member Albert Forsman.

Forsman said, "I don't feel there is a need for this other than to comfort those who are maybe questioning it. We have an outstanding (city) staff and our volunteers who work the polls are well trained and take an oath to ensure a fair election. Our community as a whole wants that. Because there are people out there questioning what's going on in our world right now, I will back this."

Novak added, "From my perspective, we are passing a motion that restates what we are already doing." He noted that he has not seen any

documentation indicating "any possible shenanigans" going on. "I wasn't really worried about it."

Minnesota law does not permit poll watchers, instead allowing for challengers to be at polling places. Only one challenger is permitted on behalf of each political party per precinct (Ely and surrounding communities have just one voting precinct), and the challenger must be a registered voter and state resident.

In addition, state law prohibits anyone from

campaigning within 100 feet of a polling place. Law enforcement of any kind cannot be stationed near polling places unless called by election workers for help.

Novak praised the training of the city's election officials in preparing for the elections. "We have a right and a duty to vote and it should not be interfered with," Novak said. The motion passed unanimously by the members present.

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski said

by late last week as many as 550 absentee ballots had been accepted so far. All absentee ballots received by the clerk's office by election day (perhaps 700-800 in total) will be fed into the ballot machine and counted after polls close at 8 p.m. on Tuesday Nov. 3.

"We will likely be counting ballots until midnight," he said. "It will be a long day." City officials last week conducted accuracy testing of the city's vote counting machine.



AFFILIATE OF 2 RIVERS AUCTIONS

Abrahamson Auction

Closes
Nov. 2
7 PM

Lots of cars,
RV, Cube van
and more.



1307 E. Sheridan St, Ely • 651-260-4228
Jay Greeney • jmgreen40@earthlink.net

ONLINE AUCTION ONLY

2riversauction.com





COVID-19 Testing Available

Curbside COVID-19 testing available Mon-Fri at our Cook and Tower Clinics. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 through someone with a known positive test result, please call to schedule a testing appointment.

Testing will not be completed without an appointment.
Scenic Rivers will not bill patients for testing.
Insurance coverage will be processed when available.

Cook Medical and Behavioral Health

20 5th St SE
Open Monday - Saturday
(218) 666-5941

Tower Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health

415 N 2nd St, Suite 2
Former High School Building
Open Monday - Friday

Cook Dental

12 S River Street
Open Monday - Friday
(218) 666-5958

Medical/BH: (218) 753-2405
Dental: (218) 753-6061




1-877-541-2817

24 Hour Emergency Care
Available Through
Cook Hospital

www.ScenicRiversHealth.org

CITY OF ELY

New Ely police officer takes oath of office

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Ely’s new police chief introduced a new tradition last week by presenting the city’s newest law enforcement officer to the city council.

“As we hire new officers we are going to conduct a swearing-in ceremony to administer the oath of office,” said Police Chief Chad Houde. “And I would like to introduce Officer Maxwell Brewer.”

The newest recruit to join the Ely Police Department comes from Morristown in southern Minnesota and graduated from Waterville Senior High School (a class of 60 graduates). Brewer attended Riverland Community College in Austin where he majored in law enforcement and corrections. He completed law enforcement skills training at Rochester Community College, graduating last spring.

“Max stood out over 20 other applicants in our competitive hiring process,” Houde said. “Max was a candidate for other agencies and he told me Ely was his first choice because of the location and

Community Center goes back on the market



Maxwell Brewer is Ely’s newest police officer. photo by K. Vandervort

strong outdoor recreation opportunities. He is very active in the outdoors, including hunting and fishing, and said he looks forward to our small-town atmosphere. He will be a great addition to our department.”

Brewer, 22, was sworn in to his first law enforcement job by Mayor Chuck Novak. Brewer’s mother, Shannon, pinned the badge on her son’s uniform during the ceremony at the beginning of the city council meeting.

Community Center

Council members approved an asking price of \$79,000 for the former Community Center building, an Ely landmark that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The building is back on the market following a failed attempt by the K America Foundation to develop a Korean cultural center at the facility. The Twin Cities-based group bought the building for just \$30,000 in 2018, and said

they planned to raise funds for a \$3 million renovation to the building.

The new asking price for the vacant building was recommended by the Heritage Preservation Commission. Council member Angela Campbell, who had previously developed her own plan to purchase and reuse the building, made the motion for the council to set the asking price, but she abstained from voting on the measure after the city attorney suggested that it would be inappropriate for any council members who may be interested in purchasing the building to be on record as supporting the action.

When pressed by Mayor Novak on how the asking price was arrived at, Campbell responded, “It was a fair decision between those who voted.”

Council member Al Forsman, who supported the motion, noted that the original asking price for the building was \$79,000. “It was for economic development and we reduced the cost. We could certainly

consider something like that in the future.”

Novak added, “That’s consistency from the past. It depends on who the purchaser is and what their plan is for what the ultimate price will be.”

Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langoski said a recent appraisal valued the building at close to the proposed asking price. “We have started to advertise it locally and with trade organizations,” he said.

Campbell’s first offer to buy the building two years ago included a plan for a convention center and hotel.

Later in the meeting, Langoski updated the council on the need for soil testing around the Community Center building.

“With the building being 80 years old and numerous buried tanks for that building and other businesses in the area, like the service station across the road, there was some contamination found, not surprisingly, and there is some additional work required,” he said.

The cost of any necessary work would be 90-percent reimbursed by the state, according to Langowski

“We do have an obligation to clean this up or at least monitor it,” he said. The council approved the soil testing work.

Other business

In other business, the council:

► Rescheduled the first council meeting in November from Nov. 3, Election Day, to Tuesday, Nov. 10, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

► Was reminded by Police Chief Houde that winter calendar parking restrictions go into effect on Sunday, Nov. 1, and warning tickets will be issued temporarily while residents get used to the restrictions.

► Approved a note and mortgage for a residential rehab loan for Dean Hanninen for 417 E. Pattison St. for \$6,000 for a new propane furnace.

► Approved a note and mortgage for a commercial renovation loan for East Chapman Properties LLC for \$17,500 for work on the new city pocket park project.

TOWER...

Continued from page 1

through Nov. 2, with in-person learning resuming on Nov. 3.

Teachers and students have been preparing for this possibility since the start of school. Students have worked with their teachers to become familiar with the distance learning format and applications they need to use while learning at home.

The school will not be offering meal delivery or in-school childcare during this time because there were positive cases in the building. The school is being thoroughly cleaned so it will be ready to resume classes on Nov. 3.

The bi-weekly case rate per 10,000 in St. Louis County (excluding the Duluth-area) was at 25.5 as of Oct. 22. This rate is updated every two weeks. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends that schools move to a hybrid teaching model at that level. The hybrid model calls for reducing the number of students in classrooms to half capacity. Tower-Soudan Elementary is small enough that it can meet the guidelines for hybrid learning while still teaching in-person, since classrooms can hold at least twice as many students as are currently doing in-school learning.

The community transmission rates in greater St. Louis County have been rising steadily, moving from 35 percent in mid-September to 53 percent on Oct. 10, which means that over half the current positive cases are linked to transmission in the community, not from contact with an individual who is known to have tested positive. The Tower zip code, as of Oct. 22, has recorded a cumulative 20 COVID-19 cases, and Soudan has recorded between one and five cases.

Vermilion Country School was closed for a period of time earlier this month after a staffer tested positive for COVID-19. No other positive cases have been linked to that exposure.

Working together for your best health.



Pang
UCare de-complicator

Dr. Carlson
Family Doctor,
Essentia Health

EssentiaCare
Essentia Health + UCare

EssentiaCare Medicare Advantage plans
Quality care from doctors you know and trust. Plan premiums start at \$0 a month.

Shop, compare and enroll
ucare.org/essentiacare05 or 1-866-253-8608 (TTY 1-800-688-2534)

EssentiaCare is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in EssentiaCare depends on contract renewal. Y0121_8783_10133_102020_M

ucare
people powered health plans

EDUCATION

Ely school district facility project coming together

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

New site plans show traffic flow, parking improvements

ELY – Design plans for the ISD 696 facility expansion project continue to come together as bid documents and design plans come into focus.

The district's architect, Architectural Resources Inc., returned this week to continue meeting with teachers, staff and administration to gather feedback and ideas, Superintendent Erik Erie told school board members Monday night, "They are concentrating on both the Memorial and Washington buildings and how we can repurpose some of those areas and what we will need there," he said.

The district's construction manager, Kraus Anderson, is planning a site visit next week to determine how the two buildings will be tied together.

"This is certainly a lot different than just constructing a new building," he said. The Memorial and Washington buildings, along with part of the Industrial Arts building,

will become one structure when the project is complete.

Erie presented a concept drawing Monday during the school board's study session that shows a revised traffic and parking layout on the northeast portion of the campus.

"It is really important how we get people into our building," Erie said. "We have the secure entrance but we are looking at how traffic and busing flows and how visitors get in and out."

He described two traffic loops that enter and exit on Harvey Street.

One loop, near the former entrance to Washington school, will be used exclusively for school buses. Another traffic loop will facilitate parent drop off and pick-up and will include visitor parking near the new school building entrance. That loop is also connected to the students and employee parking areas on the east side of the campus. The traffic concept plan was set

to be reviewed this week.

The recent snowfall and seemingly early arrival of winter may have delayed the Memorial building roof project.

"We were hoping to get that done this fall, but I believe the roofers will at least be here to button things up for the winter," Erie said.

District Facilities Director Tim Leeson said a recent email from the roofer indicated that warmer temperatures predicted for this fall yet may allow roof replacement work to be done before winter really sets in.

Child care

Contingency plans were updated for child care procedures for critical care workers during hybrid and distance-learning. Under state executive orders, the school district is mandated to provide care for school-age children at no cost during the time those children are not receiving instruction in school during school hours.

Erie said child care

during COVID-19 "creates some angst because it is another thing we have to prepare for." Due to the hybrid learning model currently in place in the Memorial building, the district is providing child care for sixth-grade students (age 12 and under) on the days when they are in distance learning.

The Minnesota Department of Education requires child care be made available to parents/guardians identified as Tier 1 Critical Care Workers, including, healthcare and public health, law enforcement, public safety and first responders, food and agriculture, Judicial Branch, National Guard, educators and school staff, and child care providers. With only one parent/guardian serving as a Tier 1 worker, child care is not required.

"We really need to stick with this, because that is all the capacity that we have," said K-5 Principal Anne Oelke. "It is kind of a tricky balance. We can't do

more than what is required as of now."

Erie added, "We have to stick with that strict interpretation of the orders." Due to space limitations on the school campus, he and the Community Education coordinator reached out to the Ely community for additional spaces.

"We had some meetings with Grace Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church, and they have agreed to be a (child care) site," Erie said. "We have to make sure we can take care of those Tier 1 critical workers."

One-to-one Initiative

Erie also updated the school board on the progress of the one-to-one initiative to supply distance-learning technology for all students in the district. ISD 696 was promised an end-of-September delivery date for about 540 Google Chromebook devices.

He said their vendor has more than 23,000

devices on backorder. "They are a hot commodity and it has been frustrating," Erie said. "I'm told that (delays) are with both the vendors and the manufacturers."

With the possibility of changes in the learning models because of increasing coronavirus cases, the district is taking stop-gap steps to provide other devices to as many as 15 teachers in the Memorial building.

"We are looking at purchasing Surface Pro (Microsoft-dedicated) devices at about \$1,000 each," Erie said. "That would at least give those teachers devices that have a camera and microphone to take home for teaching."

He also indicated that Chromebook training for teachers and staff is still under development.

Oelke added, "The scary part of switching (learning) models is that we will not have enough devices to give to our students if we have to send them home."

SURVEY...Continued from page 1

In some cases, owners of property in Canada, where access has been restricted in the wake of the pandemic, have opted to look at northern Minnesota properties instead.

Realtors also cited the region's growing reputation for outdoor recreation, noting that many buyers wanted readier access to the Boundary Waters. Many cited clean air and water, and the growing number of recreational trails, as amenities that prompted them to strongly consider the region.

While the demand for homes in the region is higher than at any time in recent memory, the supply is not keeping pace, according to the survey. "One hundred percent of the realtors said they were in short supply of housing. Comments ranged from very low to a historic low," Glowacki noted in his report of his conversations.

In-town homes in the \$125,000-\$225,000 price range are the most in demand, while lake homes are most popular in the \$250,000-\$400,000 range. On larger lakes, homes in the \$400,000-plus range are currently in short supply. "Two of the realtors in the survey said that there is strong demand for lake condos or townhomes in the \$500,000 range for the retiree market," according to the survey.

Demographics

The types of buyers do vary considerably depending on location, noted the survey. "More recently, younger buyers from the Twin Cities are driving a large percentage of sales in the Ely market," states the report. "Most buyers have a strong connection to the BWCA and to the wilderness. A lot of younger people are buying remote properties to 'get off the grid.'"

The survey found that buyers in the Lake Vermilion area and points north are similar to buyers around Ely, with "a strong orientation toward the lakes, wilderness, and hunting and fishing."

On the Mesabi Range, workers in the taconite mining and support indus-

tries, continue to drive most of the sales. Many are first-time home buyers or are retirees looking to downsize.

Retirees or early retirees, married couples, ages 30-40 with children, and professionals, ages 30-50, looking to work remotely, were the groups most frequently searching for homes in the region overall. Younger, local buyers, ages 25-40, are also in the market for lower-priced properties.

Disincentives

While outdoor amenities are a huge driver of interest in the region, the lack of broadband capacity continues to discourage some would-be buyers from taking the plunge. When asked about the biggest drawbacks, 17 of the 20 realtors surveyed put poor internet service at or near the top of the list — and they urged the IRRR to continue its investments in community infrastructure, particularly improving broadband capacity. The lack of broadband capacity was a particular factor discouraging sales in the

Lake Vermilion and Ely areas, where service is often limited to no more than basic DSL. "Ely certainly has all of the right amenities to attract people to work remotely, except the internet and cell phone service is a big limitation to attract more people," noted Glowacki in his report.

Tower-based real estate broker and appraiser Steve Abrahamson agrees that broadband has become a much more important issue, particularly with buyers hoping to permanently relocate to the area. "It's definitely a common question," he said. "I would say that more and more people would like to work from home, so that's become a bigger issue."

Other concerns are also playing into the decisions of potential new residents. "A lot of potential buyers in the Ely area are very concerned about copper mining," notes the report. Glowacki states that one local realtor was advised by legal counsel to add "Future Copper Mining" in the disclosure section of the company's purchase agreements.

That view is consistent with other surveys in the area. A 2014 University of Minnesota survey of existing residents in Ely area townships identified copper-nickel mining as the single biggest factor that would cause them to leave the area. The potential loss of new real estate investment in the Ely area was one of the reasons that

a 2017 analysis by two Harvard economists concluded that copper-nickel mining in the Ely area would lead to a net loss of local income within 5-10 years of the opening of a mine.

The IRRR also found that the region's reputation for long, cold winters is a disincentive for some prospective new residents,

as is a perceived lack of good shopping opportunities and limited medical services.

All of the real estate professionals who took part in the survey were supportive of a campaign to encourage more remote workers to consider relocating to northeastern Minnesota.



Ely-Winton Historical Society

❧ WINTER SCHEDULE ❧

Beginning November 3, the office and museum will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday from that date until the end of April 2021.

Office staff will be in on those days.
E-mail the office at: ewhsmuseum@gmail.com
or call the manager at 218-827-2386.
Messages may be left on the office answering machine at 218-365-3226.
The bookkeeper may be reached at 218-742-7488.
All phone calls and messages will be answered.

JOIN US!!!

ARTS Virtual Community Meetup

Facilitated by Springboard for the Arts




A three-part conversation series (via Zoom) to help connect and inspire artists, arts organizations and arts supporters during the pandemic, brainstorm possibilities for community collaboration, and dream about long-term ideas and efforts in the arts community.

Thursday, Nov. 12 from 12 noon-1:30pm
Thursday, Dec. 10 from 12 noon-1:30pm
Thursday, Jan. 14 from 12 noon-1:30pm

REGISTER on Facebook or at www.gardnertrust.org

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



VOTE

Rob Ecklund



Nov. 3


Rob is a Marine, longtime Boise paper mill worker, hunter and fisherman and family man.

Rob is standing up for our values and solving problems:

- Keeping Greater Minnesota Competitive
- Defending Workers
- Getting Veterans to Work

ENDORSED BY:




ECKLUND

YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

He's the leader that Northern Minnesota can ALWAYS count on!

Paid for by the committee to re-elect Rob Ecklund.
Treasurer Dave Peterson 2823 Crescent Drive, International Falls, MN 56649

Enter the Great Turkey Give-Away!

Last Day to enter is Wed., Nov. 18



Enter to win each time
you visit any of
these businesses.

A FREE Turkey*
will be given away at each store.

39 chances to win!
Enter each time you visit.

Certificate for a FREE TURKEY
will be given to each winner.

Sponsored by the businesses below and The Timberjay.

Catching a Turkey has never been so easy!

ORR

Orr Municipal Liquor Store

4521 Hwy. 53, Orr • (218)757-3935

Pelican Bay Foods

Your handy grocery store on Hwy. 53

Lumber Orr Hardware

Full-service hardware and lumber

American Bank

4539 Hwy. 53, Orr • (218)757-0121

COOK

Cook VFW

Post 1757 • (218)666-0500

American Bank

128 Hwy. 53, Cook • (218)666-0393

Waschke Family Chevrolet

Sales & Service

Cook Building Center

We're at your service

Zup's Grocery

(218)666-0205

1st National Bank

Our specialty: money

Subway of Cook

Variety-the spice of life

TOWER/SOUDAN

Benchwarmer Grille

701 Hwy. 169, Tower • (218)753-7770

Soudan Store

Open daily

Tower-Soudan Agency

Your Independent Agent

UBetcha Antiques & Uniques

601 Main St., Tower • (218)753-3422

Frandsen Bank-Tower

415 Main St., Tower • (218)753-6100

Zup's Tower Grocery

Open 7 days a week • (218)753-2725

Good Ol' Days

Stop by for great food & drinks • (218)753-6097

Vermilion Fuel & Food

Open daily in Tower

D'Erick's

On & Off Sale Liquor • (218)753-4071

ELY

Ely Area Credit Union

2 E Chapman St, Ely • (218)365-3131

Potluck Kitchenware

101 E Chapman St, Ely • (218)235-6135

Zup's in Ely

Open 7 days a week • (218)365-3188

Frandsen Bank & Trust-Ely

102 E Sheridan St., Ely • (218)365-6121

Wintergreen Northern Wear LLC

205 Sheridan St., Ely • (218)365-6602

Piragis

105 N Central Ave., Ely • (218)365-6745

Dee's Bar

17 E Sheridan St., Ely • (218)365-3896

Ely Auto Service

1614 E Harvey St., Ely • (218)365-5994

M-Fri: 8 AM-5 PM

Grand Ely Lodge

Come visit us at the Evergreen Restaurant

Open daily 7 AM-9 PM • (218)365-6565

Ely Flower & Seed

Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias

Feed for all your indoor and outdoor friends

Ely Surplus

Quality goods, Affordable prices

Hours: M-Sat: 9-5; Sun: 10-4

Mealey's Gift & Sauna Shop

When in Ely, Shop at Mealey's

Hours: M-Sat: 10-5; Sun: 10-4

Front Porch Coffee & Tea

Homemade pumpkin pie, ice cream and
great coffee!

Ely Northland Market

Groceries, meat, deli and produce

Merhar's Ace Hardware

Your local hardware headquarters

BABBITT

Babbitt Branch-Ely Area

Credit Union

24 Commerce Rd, Babbitt • (218)827-3121

Zup's Grocery

Shop for all your holiday needs • (218)827-3561

Lossing Building Center

& Lossing's Cat Shack

(218)827-2522



*Happy Thanksgiving
to all our customers!*

Drive through open

6 AM-11 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day

Highway 53, Cook, MN

218-666-0077

Have A Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!



SPORTS

Serving northern
St. Louis County
since 1989

VOLLEYBALL

Two more sweeps for the Timberwolves

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

SILVERBAY—An increasingly impressive Ely volleyball squad made short work of Silver Bay here on Tuesday, downing the Mariners in straight sets, 25-7, 25-12, 25-13.

“The girls played well tonight and were able to keep the momentum on our side most of the night,” said Ely

Head Coach Andrea Thomas. “Our serving was very effective.” Junior Kellen Thomas led the charge in the first set, serving points seven through 19 to give the Timberwolves a commanding lead. Sophomore Rachel Coughlin and her sister McKenna, a senior, had extended serving runs of their own in the second set.

Rachel added eight kills and four ace serves on the

night, while McKenna tallied seven kills and six digs. Junior setter Katrina Seliskar added 18 assists, and Raven Sainio posted three kills.

Tuesday’s win came on the heels of another straight set victory for Ely against Cherry last Thursday. It was a win that the Wolves had to work for. “As usual, it was a hard-fought battle against Cherry,” said Thomas. “We had to come from behind

in set three to win.”

Ely took set one 25-17, edged the Tigers 25-20 in set two, then rallied in the final stanza to win 26-24. “The girls showed their ability to focus on the point at hand and work their way back into the game,” said Thomas.

Several players had big nights for Ely. McKenna Coughlin topped the kill chart with ten and added four block shots to her stat total. Sophomore

Kate Coughlin posted seven kills, six digs, and six ace serves for one of the strongest performances of her young career. Sophomore Madeline Kallberg added seven kills and six digs, while Rachel Coughlin tallied six kills and as many digs. Seliskar posted 30 assists.

The Wolves were set to host Mesabi East on Thursday. The Broncos of International Falls come to town on Monday.

VOLLEYBALL

Grizzlies push Giants to the limit

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP – North Woods knew they faced a challenge as they hit the road last Thursday for a match against Mesabi East in Aurora. Their opponents weren’t merely named the Giants – they had a tall, aggressive front line with a formidable blocking attack.

“They were going to put up a very tall wall in front of us and we were going to have to figure out how to get around that,” Grizzlies Head Coach Kandi Olson said. “It took a few minutes to figure it out, but our kids realized they could also put up as effective a wall.”

The result was a hotly contested, five set match won 3-2 (12-25, 25-13, 25-16, 16-25, 12-15) by Mesabi East, but the Grizzlies had no intention of going down quietly.

Defense was key to the Grizzlies finding their balance, and Skylar Yernatich, Morgan Burnett, and Tori Olson made sure the team had opportunities to flip to offense by getting 16, 13, and 15 digs respectively. Addy Hartway, Hannah Kinsey and Zoe Trip created obstacles for the Giants’ hitters and “really played tough at the net,” Olson said.

“We had some outstand-

See NW GIRLS...pg. 2B

SWIMMING

NER/Ely swimmers bring home four medals

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

AURORA— In keeping with unprecedented and unexpected developments of high school sports this fall, the Section 7A girls swimming meet last weekend did not disappoint.

“The meet ended in truly 2020 fashion,” said Nighthawks Coach Cheri DeBeltz. “We lost power right before the last event and we ended up swimming that 400 Freestyle Relay using cellphone lights and

See SWIM...pg. 2B



FOOTBALL

Grizzlies bomb Bombers

Expected tough contest turns into 46-0 smackdown of Braham

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

AURORA- What looked to be a brawl turned into a beatdown as the North Woods Grizzlies football team put their feet on the gas in the second quarter and never looked back, crushing Braham 46-0 on Friday in Aurora.

The contest was supposed to be a home game for the Grizzlies, but the game was moved to Mesabi East’s artificial turf field because the North Woods field was snowed in.

Despite perfect field conditions, neither offense could get on track in the first quarter. Two North Woods drives started deep in Bombers territory, the second after a Cole Thiel fumble recovery, but failed to score.

Erik Aune gave the Grizzlies another shot when he intercepted a long Braham pass at the Bombers 49, but as the quarter ended North Woods was stalled at their own 48 facing fourth-and-11.

When the Grizzlies came back on the field, quarterback Ty Fabish lined up under center, took the snap, and fired a pass down the left side to Aune. He made the grab with two defenders in his face and outraced everyone to the end zone for the Grizzlies’ first score. Fabish passed to Jared Chiabotti for the two-point conversion, putting North Woods up 8-0.

“Braham had a lot of guys up at the line of scrimmage and they were committed to making sure we couldn’t run through them,” Head Coach Joel Anderson said. “I knew with any sort of play action that they would bite up a little bit and we could get somebody behind him. The big

“ They were committed to making sure we couldn’t run through them, so we just had to keep going over the top and it really opened a lot of stuff up.

North Woods Head
Coach Joel Anderson

thing was making sure we had the right protection on to give Ty enough time to drop back and throw the football.”

The Grizzlies’ backs were up against the wall moments later after a long run and roughing penalty set the Bombers up on the North Woods 18-yard line. But a group of North Woods defenders jarred the ball



loose on the next play and Aune recovered, snuffing out the best opportunity the Bombers would see all game.

Fans of grind-it-out football couldn’t have asked for better on the ensuing Grizzlies drive. Mixing runs and passes, North Woods put together a

See FOOTBALL...pg. 2B

Top: North Woods quarterback Ty Fabish looks downfield as he did many times during their contest with Braham last week.

Above: North Woods linebacker Jake Panichi wraps up a Braham rusher.

photos by D. Colburn

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Homeowners can get help with weatherization

REGIONAL—The heating season is definitely underway across the North Country, and there's help available for families who would like to reduce their energy bills.

The Weatherization Assistance Program provides eligible households a free energy audit, which may lead to free furnace repairs or in some cases installation of free upgrades such as a high-efficiency furnace, water heater, air sealing, attic or wall insulation, refrigerator replacement, LED light bulbs, smoke alarm, or a carbon monoxide detector.

More than 2,000 Minnesota households received weather-

ization services last year and were able to reduce their energy bills. To raise awareness of this important program, Governor Tim Walz has proclaimed Oct. 30 as Weatherization Day in Minnesota.

"Weatherization assistance saves money by conserving energy, while also helping Minnesotans stay safe and warm in their homes," said Minnesota Department of Commerce Interim Commissioner Grace Arnold, whose agency administers the program in cooperation with a network of 23 local service providers across Minnesota.

Households can find their local service provider

and check their eligibility by calling 800-657-3710 or visiting the Commerce Department's Weatherization Assistance Program webpage. Find your local service provider by county.

Directed by the U.S. Department of Energy, Minnesota's Weatherization Assistance Program serves households at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines (\$50,400 for a family of four). It provides free home energy upgrades to income-eligible homeowners and renters to help save energy and make sure their homes are healthy and safe. Priority is given to households

with seniors, disabled family members, children or high-energy consumption.

The state's weatherization program has served about 37,000 Minnesotans over the past decade. Weatherization recipients save an average of \$283 on utility bills each year, according to the U.S. Energy Department.

Last year 1,604 homes received whole-dwelling weatherization including free home upgrades such as a high-efficiency furnace, air sealing, attic or wall insulation, Energy Star refrigerator replacement and LED light bulbs. An additional 472 homes were served with stand-alone work on mechani-

cal systems, which focused on repairing or replacing furnaces and boilers.

How to apply

Eligible Minnesotans can apply for weatherization assistance through a combined application with the state's Energy Assistance Program which helps homeowners and renters pay their heating bills.

To get help or to apply, call 800-657-3710 and press 1, visit the Commerce Department's Weatherization Assistance Program webpage or search for "weatherization" at mn.gov/commerce.

FOOTBALL...Continued from page 1B

relentless 20-play drive that consumed over seven minutes, culminating with a T.J. Chiabotti two-yard touchdown plunge. Zach Cheney hauled in a Fabish pass for the conversion, putting the Grizzlies on top 16-0 at the half.

"That was an offensive set that is designed to be quick hitting," Anderson said. "That was really just my way of settling them back down into roles that they're very comfortable with. It was stuff that we had seen on film that we knew was going to be open, and our guys made big plays in that drive."

Neither team could get

rolling in the third quarter, and the Grizzlies set up at their own 20 for their first possession of the fourth.

Fabish dropped back and hit Olin Nelson in full stride at the 39, and the Grizzlies wideout looked like he might score until being tripped up from behind at the Bombers 3. T.J. Chiabotti carried it in from there and ran in the conversion as well for a 24-0 advantage.

Cheney stopped another Bombers drive with a fumble recovery at the North Woods 35, and T.J. Chiabotti galloped 20 yards to the Bombers 45. On second-and-9 at the 44,

Fabish connected down the right side with Nelson, who shed two would-be tacklers to score.

With just over five minutes remaining and North Woods leading 30-0, both teams put their reserves on the field, and it was time for the Grizzlies' Jake Swanson to shine. The sophomore back twisted out of a tackle and scored on a 22-yard run and also scored the PAT, extending the lead to 38-0.

After a North Woods facemask penalty on the ensuing kickoff, the Bombers set up their offense at the Grizzlies

46. But the ball came loose on Barnum's second play and Swanson was there to scoop it up, racing 56 yards for the Grizzlies' final touchdown. Carter Holman carried it in for the PAT for the 46-0 final.

"Jake is a great running back in his own right," Anderson said. "It's been the goal all year to try and work those guys in, and Jake showed just how deep we are as a team and how dynamic we can be. He performed extremely well."

Anderson had more good things to say about quarterback Fabish.

"He was 11 of 19,

and after we broke down the film that very easily could have been 15," he said. "He put the ball where it needed to be, he found the open guy, and he did a fantastic job of dropping back, stepping up and making the throws. They were committed to making sure we couldn't run through them, so we just had to keep going over the top and it really opened a lot of stuff up."

Fabish showed more confidence in throwing medium and long-distance balls, Anderson said, and it showed in his stats, throwing for 231 yards, two touchdowns and two

PATs.

Aune was the team's leading receiver with five catches for 71 yards and a touchdown. Cheney scored a touchdown and gained 62 yards on three catches, and Nelson snagged two passes for 90 yards.

T.J. Chiabotti racked up 99 yards two touchdowns, and two PATs on 23 carries.

The Grizzlies will be on the road for their next game, squaring off Friday at 7 p.m. against Chisholm.

NW GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

ing defensive play," Olson said. "Our offense can't happen without that."

Counted on from the first of the season to be a team leader, Burnett stepped up on offense, too, collecting nine set assists and eight kills. Olivia

Udovich had a strong outing getting the ball to her teammates, chalking up a team-high 16 set assists.

"She was pretty critical to our offense," Olson said.

Trip led the Grizzlies

in kills with seven, followed by Kinsey with five and Hartway with four.

"Our serving was outstanding yet again," Olson said. "It's so critical to momentum to make sure you get that serve over and our serving has been just

great this year."

While two matches on their schedule were canceled last week, Olson said the progress of her young team in finding their roles and learning how to play different positions and in changing lineups

has been remarkable, and their performance against Mesabi East was evidence of that.

"To see our girls go five matches and stay super competitive and focused all five matches was exciting to watch,"

Olson said. "They knew at any moment they had the tools to win that match. I think anyone who came to that game left there saying 'Wow.' They're really starting to work together in a great way."

Need a *Wedding DJ*?

Eric
the DJ



www.ericthedj.net

SWIM...Continued from page 1B

the emergency lights in the pool area. The girls will never forget this meet or this season, that's for sure."

The Nighthawks brought home four medals for the day and finished in tenth place out of 11 teams. Medalists included:

►Morgan McClelland took seventh place in the

200 Freestyle with a time of 2:11.01.

►Lily Tedrick finished the 200 Individual Medley in eighth place with a time of 2:30.32.

►In the 200 Freestyle Relay, the NER/Ely team of Tedrick, McClelland, Anna Larson and Kelly Thompson took eighth

place time of 1:51.64.

►Tedrick, McClelland, Cedar Ohlhauser and Thompson finished eighth in the 400 Freestyle Relay with a time of 4:07.61.

"We are so proud of the girls and the way they handled themselves and the way they swam,"

DeBeltz said. "We had some absolutely great times. Almost all of the times we swam were personal lifetime bests. Those who did not get lifetime-best at least (posted) season-best times."

SAVE BIG • BUY LOCAL

2020 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT AWD



MSRP \$49,160
Waschke Discount -\$1,768
Customer Cash -\$2,250
Sale Price \$45,142

SAVE \$4,018 and 3.29% APR up to 72 MONTHS and NO PAYMENTS for 120 DAYS!*

2020 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT

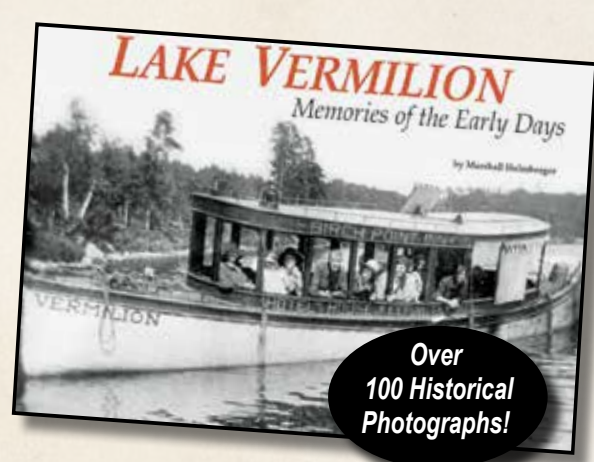


MSRP \$34,360
Waschke Discount -\$838
Customer Cash -\$2,000
Sale Price \$31,522

SAVE \$2,838 and 3.29% APR up to 72 MONTHS and NO PAYMENTS for 120 DAYS!*

DISCLOSURES: *On approved credit with GM Financial. 3.29% APR available up to 72 months AND 120 day payment deferral on new vehicle purchase and approved credit. Not compatible with some other offers. Tax and title extra. Restrictions apply see dealer for details. Must take delivery from dealer stock by 11/2/2020.

Memories of the Early Days
A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area
Written by Marshall Helmberger • Published by the Timberjay



Back By Popular Demand!

A Regional Favorite
STOP IN TODAY OR CALL...
Just \$29.95 + Tax
Don't miss your chance to own Lake Vermilion's most definitive history!

Pick up book(s) at Timberjay office in Tower or have book(s) mailed, for \$39.95 each.

BOOK ORDER FORM

The Timberjay
P.O. Box 636, 414 Main St
Tower, MN 55790 • 218-753-2950

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____ Tel. # _____
Credit Card Information VISA MC DISCOVER
Exp. Date ____/____/____ CVV _____
Billing address if different from above _____

Quantity of Books _____

Book Total - Pick Up \$29.95 + tax (\$32.16) **Book Total - Mail \$39.95**

Total charged to credit card \$ _____ Paid by check \$ _____ Check # _____

Pick Up Mail

PREOWNED DEALS!

2020 CHEVROLET IMPALA PREMIER...Loaded!.....\$26,990
2019 DODGE CARAVAN SXT...Remaining Warranty.....\$20,990
2019 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE PLUS 4X4...Only 16K Miles.....\$27,990
2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT DBL CAB 4x4...Just In.....\$35,990
2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT AWD...GM Certified.....\$21,990
2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LTD...Legendary Quality.....\$29,990
2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT...Heated Seats!.....\$16,990
2015 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS LIMITED...Only 11K Miles.....\$15,990
2014 CHEVROLET MALIBU LS...Just Reduced!.....\$10,990
2013 CHEVROLET IMPALA LTZ...Nicely Equipped!.....\$ 8,990
2012 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE...Stow-N-Go Seating!.....\$10,990
2010 BUICK LUCERNE CXL...Fresh Trade!.....\$ 6,990

WASCHKE FAMILY CHEVROLET • COOK






Les Hujanen Lorn Koski Calvin Jolly

HOURS: M-F 8am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
126 N Hwy. 53, Cook, MN • 218-666-5901 • 1-800-238-4545

Community notices

MNsure's open enrollment runs Nov. 1 through Dec. 22; apply to see if you qualify for financial assistance

REGIONAL- Mnsure's open enrollment period starts Sunday, Nov. 1. If you need help with the application process, 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.

St. Martin's Christmas Bazaar

TOWER- St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower is happy to announce that they will host a Christmas Bazaar.

The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 in the church social hall. They are in the early planning of the event and are now looking for local crafters to participate. The cost for a table is \$20. If you are interested, please contact Maryann at the rectory at 218-753-4310. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The bazaar will look different this year - tables will be more spread out. Masks will be required; masks and hand sanitizers will be available at the door.

During the bazaar, the St. Martin's Quilt Ministry will raffle off a Christmas-themed, hand-embroidered quilt, made and donated by Liz Villnow. The quilt is currently on display at Jeanne's Card & Gift shop. Tickets are \$5, with only 200 tickets being sold. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets may also be purchased from Maryann at the rectory office.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

COVID cases won't change overall in-person learning plan for ISD 2142

by David Colburn
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL - Superintendent Reggie Engebritson told school board members on Tuesday that the district would stay the course with its current learning plan for now. That's despite the fact that the bi-weekly COVID case rate in greater St. Louis County, which is supposed to guide schools during the current pandemic, took its largest one-week jump ever and multiple ISD 2142 schools have reported positive COVID-19 cases.

"We are continuing with our in-person learning plan," Engebritson said. "We have had positive cases, as you know, in Tower. We had to close them. We did have a positive case at North Woods yesterday and one positive case in Cherry today. We're at six for the district since the beginning of the school year, so we continue to monitor," she said. "Reminders are coming out for greater St. Louis County to watch social distancing and wear your masks and follow the guidelines. But hopefully the numbers will, at some point, turn a corner here. But we'll monitor using the data from the community and also what's happening in our schools."

Engebritson didn't mention the bi-weekly case rate surge in her brief comments, which jumped from 18.2 to 25.5, a level at which health department guidelines suggest all students should be in a hybrid learning model with educational time being spent partly in-school and partly in distance learning. The guideline is not an automatic trigger for a change in learning models. Instead, it is an indicator that schools

District projects two-percent increase in tax levy

should work closely with health and education officials to determine if a change in learning plans is warranted based on local data.

The North Woods case was announced on the same day that the volleyball team canceled a Tuesday night home match with Eveleth-Gilbert. While the district is limited in the information it can release due to confidentiality issues, the Arrowhead League website schedules showed Monday that all Grizzlies volleyball matches, both home and away, were canceled for two weeks. It is unknown what connection the North Woods case may have with the volleyball team, and also unknown how many students and staff may be in quarantine for 14 days.

Board members were apparently satisfied with Engebritson's report as they asked no questions about the COVID situation when given the opportunity to do so. During member comments at the end of the meeting, board member Troy Swanson shared his thoughts about Tower-Soudan Elementary switching to distance learning.

"I'm sad, but it's also good," he said. "I was getting a lot of communication from the school about closing. I think Reggie made the right decision. I was getting a lot of information from the staff that was really worrying. So, I think it was a good move to close the Tower school."

2021 levy

District business manager Kim Johnson had an update for board members about the proposed 2021

pay levy.

"We finally got final numbers on our levy and this is what we're going to ask you to approve," she said.

Johnson stepped through the 15 different components that factor into computing the levy and noted some positive news for taxpayers related to taconite replacement money.

"The increase of \$128,785 is related to the fact that we're getting more money from the IRRRB (Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board) now to offset taxes," she said. "That's a good thing. That's reducing people's taxes by \$128,785. And for community service, that's 100 percent taconite replacement, so taxpayers never pay on that component."

Johnson said that the final increase in the 2021 pay levy would be 2.03 percent, generating \$6,965,836 overall with a net gain of \$138,902.

Board members had no questions for Johnson during or after her presentation. The board will formalize the levy increase at a future meeting.

Other business

In other business, the board:

▶ Heard a school overview report from South Ridge Principal Andrew Bernard.

▶ Approved without discussion revised district policies for tobacco-free environments, student medication, and curriculum and instruction goals.

▶ Approved an application to the Minnesota State High School League for a cooperative girls ice

hockey team comprised of North Woods, Chisholm, and Hibbing, with Hibbing serving as the host school.

▶ Hired Jacqueline Hannine and Drayke Snidarich as part-time paraprofessionals at North Woods and Naomi Hess and Vickie Miller as part-time paraprofessionals at Tower-Soudan; Michelle Plath as a part-time teacher assistant at North Woods; Emily Baraga as a part-time preschool teacher assistant at North Woods; Cynthia Drake as a full-time individualized education interventionist at North Woods; Stacy Palmer as a full-time individual education academic assistant; Caroline Roesch as a part-time Little Grizzlies adult aide (as needed); and Aundrea Hobson as a full-time assistant cook at Tower-Soudan.

▶ Hired the following coaching staff: Rebecca Lappi, volleyball assistant, North Woods (half stipend); Will Kleppe, boys basketball head coach, North Woods, and assistants Jerry Chiabotti, Dan Squires, and Tom Burnett; and Rob Goggleye, girls basketball head coach, North Woods, and assistants Liz Cheney and Rebecca Bundy.

▶ Approved retirement requests from Patricia Quick, Tower-Soudan paraprofessional, and Larry Barnes, North Woods bus driver.

▶ Accepted resignations from Kelly Lopac, Tower-Soudan paraprofessional, and Tracy Anderson, Tower-Soudan preschool teaching assistant.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Charles E. Morcom

Charles E. "Chuck" Morcom, 74, of Tower, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, at his Lake Vermilion home, surrounded by his family. At his request, no funeral service will be held.

Chuck was born on Dec. 21, 1945, in Soudan, to Ronald and Molly (Brula) Morcom. Chuck served in the National Guard and was retired from US Steel as an auto mechanic. He enjoyed spending winters in Florida, and his favorite activities were photography, video editing, painting Bob Ross style, and enjoying his summers at Lake Vermilion.

Chuck is survived by his three sons, Scott Morcom, Bryan Morcom and Christopher (Autumn) Jacobson; three grandsons, Dylan Morcom, Connor

Morcom and Jackson Jacobson; stepson, Adam Jacobson; two brothers, Jim Morcom of Glenwood Springs, Colo., and Ron Morcom of Tower; three nephews, Eric (Marcie) of Denver, Colo., Tom of Babbitt and Dan (Monica) of Rochester; and niece, Heather Morcom of Denver, Colo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ronald and Molly; and brother, Clifford.

Stephen Chiabotti

Stephen Chiabotti, 69, of Montgomery, Ala., originally of Soudan, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020. Given the current

COVID-19 pandemic, the family intends a memorial and interment at the U.S. Air Force Academy at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Montgomery Area Food Bank.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Gornick Chiabotti; wife, Nila Pearson Chiabotti; daughter, Teal and son, Matthew; grandson, Henry; sister, Rita; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Carl M. Pineo

Carl Marshall Pineo Jr., 91, of Virginia, died on Monday, Oct. 26, 2020. Private services will be held. The family would like to extend a sincere thank you for the outstand-

ing care that Carl received from Dr. Peterson and the Essentia East Range Hospice team. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-nine years, Rita Trenti Pineo; son, Gordon; daughters, Debra (Michael) Finn, Katherine (Paul) Belobaba, Mary (Wade) Thurman and Carol (Thomas) Farniok; grandchildren, Shannon (Cullen) Warren, Alex (Hannah) Finn, Christian (Charlotte) Belobaba, John (Carly) Pineo, Nick Pineo, Audra Thurman, Hannah (Reid) Thurman, Carl Farniok and Hale Farniok; four great-grand-

children; loyal friends; the very best neighbors; and extended family.

Imogene E. Butler

Imogene E. Fawkes Butler, 94, of Virginia, formerly of Iron Hub, died on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, at the Waterview Pines in Virginia. A graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery in Iron Hub. Funeral arrangements are with Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. She is survived by four

sons, James (Judy) Butler of Babbitt, Thomas Butler of Brooklyn Park, Daniel (Paula) Butler of Cohasset and Timothy Butler of Babbitt; two daughters, Debra (Bruce) Andersen of Hinckley and Julie Pelloquin of Virginia; three sisters, Arlis Stanich of Ironton, Maridee (Louis) Smilich of Deerwood and Glenda (Dewey) Nyberg of Lindstrom; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

PETERSEN DRILLING
Since 1948
Wells
Water Systems

- PUMPS
- WELLS
- HYDRO-FRACKING

1-800-662-5700
Spring Park Rd.
Mt. Iron, MN 55768

RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS
In-store jewelry & watch repair
Cash for Gold & Silver
218-827-2515
33 Central Blvd. Suite 200
Babbitt Shopping Center

PET FOOD
HIBBING
FEED and SEED
262-3049

Wear a mask in public spaces.

Get tested if you have any symptoms.

Answer if your health department calls.

m MINNESOTA STAY SAFE MN

NORTHERN COMMUNITY RADIO
KAXE 91.7 FM Grand Rapids
89.9 FM Brainerd
KBXE 90.5 FM Bagley/Bemidji

Independent, nonprofit community radio serving Northern Minnesota.

NOW BROADCASTING IN ELY
103.9 FM



Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

COMMENTARY

Legislators committed to stopping CWD spread

by ROB ECKLUND & RICK HANSON
State Representatives

The 2020 Minnesota firearms deer hunting season is approaching. About a half-million Minnesotans go deer hunting each fall and many of us wait in anticipation for the event all year. If just for a couple of weekends, it affords us the opportunity to forget about our difficulties, stressors and obligations, to get

outside and focus on the enjoyment that accompanies the hunt and the quality time spent with family and friends. As a pair of state lawmakers who deeply enjoy participating in this cherished part of our outdoor heritage — one from the suburbs and one from northern Minnesota — we wish you a safe and successful deer hunting season.

We also want to share how committed we are to ensuring

hunting traditions can be passed on to future generations by ensuring our deer population remains healthy and sustainable. Unfortunately, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) poses a grave threat to Minnesota's cervid population. While still rare in the state overall, CWD's prevalence is increasing — particularly in southeastern Minnesota — and we must take the threat seriously with an aggressive strategy of

testing, monitoring, and management policies developed in real time.

In 2019, lawmakers worked together to pass a series of bipartisan solutions to help stop CWD from spreading. We enacted several fencing requirements at cervid farms, including high tensile fencing for repairs, redundant gates for entry areas, and a strict 45-day window to repair deficiencies.

To help track an animal in case of escape, farmed cervid animals must carry distinct identification numbers. Inspections of deer farms are now required annually to ensure fencing, identification, and other inventory requirements are met. If an animal less than 12 months old at a deer farm dies, it must be tested for CWD and, as part of a significant policy

See CWD...pg. 5B



THE SEASONS

Is winter settling in?

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Winter appeared to settle into the North Country at least two weeks early this year as a series of early-season snowfalls, beginning Oct. 17, left the region covered in a blanket of white. At the same time, two weeks of below-normal temperatures prompted ice to begin forming on most area lakes and river.

Temperatures for the last half of October have averaged about ten degrees colder than average, according to Minnesota climate records. Overall, the month has trended about five degrees cooler than average.

The early turn to winter caught many who had hoped to have a couple more weekends to finish up leaf-raking or work on deer stands off guard. While somewhat milder temperatures, forecast for next week, are likely to diminish the snow somewhat, it remains to be seen whether the white stuff is slated to disappear entirely. The extended forecast suggests highs mostly in the thirties after topping out early next week in the mid-to-upper 40s. Colder weather makes a return in the extended forecast in time for the Nov. 7 deer opener.

The return of a dry pattern to the area after a week of snowy weather should increase the odds that the area could still lose its snowcover



before the permanent snowpack settles in come November. The National Climate Prediction Center is forecasting

near-average temperatures in the North Country this winter, with above-average snowfall.

Above: The view across Lost Lake Swamp the morning after the first of several snowfalls to blanket the area beginning on Oct. 17. Milder temperatures forecast for the next few days are likely to melt much of the snow, although many smaller lakes are probably locked in for the season.

Left: Lake Vermilion's Pike Bay was fully iced over as of this week as the area saw overnight lows as low as the single digits.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

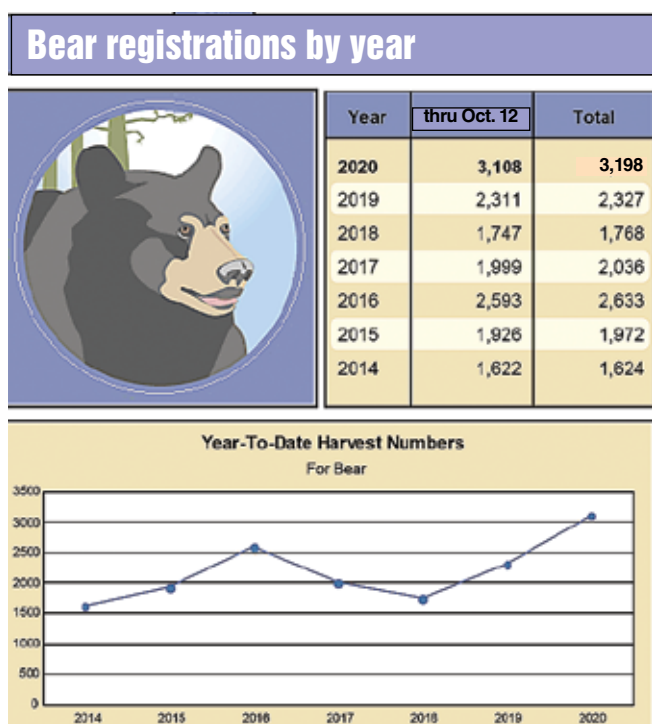
HUNTING

Bear registrations highest since 2006

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Bear hunters recently wrapped up their most successful season in more than a decade, with 3,198 bears registered as of Oct. 19, the day after the season ended. That's the most since 2006, when hunters registered 3,290 bears. More than 50 percent of hunters harvested a bear this year in the state's quota zone, an exceptionally high success rate, which was aided by poor natural foods this year.

The high harvest — which was up 50 percent over last year — along with an especially high take of female bears in many areas, is likely to slow efforts by the Department of Natural Resources to rebuild the state's black bear population. Overall, males made up 56 percent of bear registrations this year, while 44 percent were females. But in many areas, hunters shot more



females than males. In the DNR's Tower work area, for example, females made up 52.6 percent of the 475 bears harvested there.

"From a population growth perspective, that's not

what you want to see," said Tower Area DNR Wildlife Manager Tom Rusch.

The higher registrations of females are not a surprise. "The high harvest of females we are seeing is

exactly what happens during a year of food failure," said Andy Tri, a biologist with the DNR's bear research program. "When food production is poor, older reproductive females are far more likely than normal to come into baits."

According to Tri, the DNR has been using a lower number of permits in recent years to "build resiliency into the population" in anticipation of poor food years. "We know that food failures occur, and we've been planning for it," he said.

The impact of this year's hunt may be reflected in next year's permit numbers, although Tri said it's still too early to tell. "We still need to get all the sex-age structure information from the harvest analyzed for the full picture, so any decisions on the quota won't be made until the bear committee meeting in February or March," Tri added.



NORTHERN FINCHES

Pine grosbeaks appearing in area

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL — Based on a number of reports across northern St. Louis and Lake counties, it appears that pine grosbeaks are back in the area in greater numbers than last winter. That's good news for area birders, who missed these spectacular birds at winter feeders last year.

The annual finch forecast out of Canada, which had accurately predicted last year's pine grosbeak drought in locations to the south of their breeding territory, had

See GROSBEAKS...pg. 5B

COMMENTARY

We've built AIS success

by **CARRIE OHLY-CUSACK**
Burntside Lake AIS Manager

The Burntside Lake Association's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program, funded by St. Louis County, has just completed its fifth year of operation. Our AIS Task Force would like to thank the county for their support of our plan. We also thank all the partners that made the past five years a success in preventing the further spread of AIS into the Ely-area lakes.

In 2015, the BLA, with support from the late County Commissioner Tom Rukavina and Ely Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski, was awarded an AIS grant from SLC. St. Louis County is unique in giving the money through a grant program. According to Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lake and Rivers Advocates, "This has generated a lot of innovation, many partnerships, and provided a level of protection that is demonstrated in the low level of new infestations in the Arrowhead."

The grant was awarded to increase public awareness of AIS, build partnerships, begin a watercraft inspection program, provide watercraft decontamination stations, and build early detection capabilities. This effort began with a group of volunteers on Burntside, with the intention to grow to encompass more Ely-area lakes.

In 2017, North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District agreed to manage Burntside watercraft inspections. This provided a secure and professional management structure to the most labor-intensive part of the program. As the county funding became available, NSLSWCD expanded their AIS inspector program beyond Burntside and Vermilion to include Bear Island, Birch, Crane, Ely, Johnson, Kabetogama, One Pine, Pelican and Shagawa lakes, along with the Gilbert Pit. Through a partnership with Lake County Soil and Water (LCSW), NSLSWCD manages the inspectors on the Kawishwi River and Birch, Fall, Farm, Moose, Ojibwe, Snowbank, Tofte and White Iron lakes. In 2020, nearly 25,000 inspections were performed at these lakes.

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has pitched in each spring by distributing AIS education materials to their resort members. The materials were provided by Wildlife Forever, an organization dedicated to wildlife preservation, through a grant from St. Louis County.

We also worked to extend our AIS education programs to the younger members of our community. Ely Community

Resource (ECR), under the leadership of Julie Hignell, and with the support of BLA funding, offered her ECO Club students programs about the threats of AIS, in particular, studying the rusty crayfish and spiny waterflea.

Vermilion Community College, with the support and leadership of Provost Shawn Bina and Water Resources instructor Wade Klingsporn, have been great contributors. After the first year of operations on Burntside, we realized the inspectors would benefit from additional training to complement that provided by the DNR. Wade helped us to develop and present the annual Enhanced Inspector Training held at VCC each May. This program provides AIS information specific to the Ely area and additional customer service training. The BLA has also paid two VCC students to monitor high traffic areas on Burntside for potential new infestations. In addition, under the guidance of Darren Lilja, these VCC interns have continued the program begun by ECR student Ben Gustafson to collect data on the lake.

Building early detection capabilities has been centered on the creation and implementation of a Volunteer Sentry program. The Sentry training program is designed for residents on Ely area lakes to learn about AIS prevention and how to identify invasive vs. native species on their respective lakes.

The BLA wants to extend a huge THANK YOU to the community of Ely for the strong support of the AIS prevention program since its inception in 2016. The many partnerships we've formed within the community are invaluable to the success we have achieved.

A special thank you goes out to Jeff Lovgren, AIS Manager, Vermilion Lake Association. Jeff was the pioneer and leader in developing a comprehensive AIS Lake Association program.

Perhaps no better compliment to the entire Ely-area community is this quote from Dane Huinker, Wildlife Forever's Conservation Program Manager: "With more than 1,000 lakes, hundreds of miles of rivers, 169 trailer launches, it's not from lack of risk St. Louis County has one of the lowest rates of spread of AIS in the state. The county's strategic investment in AIS prevention has been paying off." Only one new infestation has been reported in St. Louis County's lakes and rivers in the last four years.

Carrie Ohly-Cusack is the AIS Task Force Manager for Burntside Lake.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
36 27					40 21					32 23					41 28					46 31				
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Sn.
10/19	29	15	0.00		10/19	28	21	0.00		10/19	27	20	0.00		10/19	30	19	0.00		10/19	28	19	0.00	
10/20	30	15	0.00		10/20	30	22	0.00		10/20	30	18	0.00		10/20	30	10	0.00		10/20	29	13	0.00	
10/21	31	17	0.17	3.8"	10/21	31	23	0.34	4.0"	10/21	30	18	0.29	4.0"	10/21	32	28	0.33	2.5"	10/21	30	17	0.32	3.4"
10/22	34	23	0.00		10/22	33	23	0.00		10/22	33	25	0.01	0.1"	10/22	34	23	0.01	tr	10/22	33	22	0.00	
10/23	34	27	0.14	2.4"	10/23	33	26	0.18	2.0"	10/23	33	27	0.03	0.5"	10/23	32	21	0.00		10/23	33	26	0.12	1.4"
10/24	33	19	0.01	tr	10/24	34	20	0.02	0.5"	10/24	32	19	0.01	0.2"	10/24	28	19	0.00		10/24	34	18	0.00	
10/25	31	8	0.00		10/25	31	7	0.00		10/25	29	20	0.00		10/25	28	19	0.00		10/25	31	7	0.00	
Total			17.66	9.3"	YTD Total			18.63	9.5"	YTD Total			25.50	7.0"	YTD Total			NA	4.5"	YTD Total			21.02	8.0"

GROSBEAKS...Continued from page 4B

predicted much the same this winter as a result of another abundant crop of mountain ash berries.

Pine grosbeaks typically spend five-to-six months of the year in northern Minnesota, where they frequent feeders that offer black sunflower seeds. They move just north of the border, into northwestern Ontario, beginning in March, then return to Minnesota by mid-October—unless abundant foods on their breeding range allow them to winter in their breeding range.

Pine grosbeaks, like most northern finches, are extremely hardy and can easily survive harsh weather as long as they have ready access to food.

While the annual finch fore-

cast is typically highly accurate, it is designed to predict broad movements of finches across all of Canada and the northern United States. Yet local food conditions can vary, notes Steve Wilson, of Tower, a longtime ornithologist. "The finch forecast did make note of that," he said. In the case of northern Minnesota, even minor movements of grosbeaks to the south would be enough to bring at least some into the region—as appears to be happening now.

Wilson notes that almost all the reports of pine grosbeaks hit the Ely Field Naturalists email list-serve last Saturday, which suggests the significant numbers of birds headed south based on some kind of phenological event. "I'd love to

know what drives those kinds of movements," said Wilson.

While the pine grosbeaks appear to be showing up more or less on time in the region, Wilson said that doesn't necessarily mean it will be a good year for grosbeak numbers. The grosbeak population, as is the case with most northern finches, can fluctuate significantly from year to year.

The birds are, however, showing up earlier than usual at feeders. They often spend a month or more eating natural foods in the forest, and don't start showing up at feeders until mid-to-late November. "It is interesting that they're showing up at feeders this early," said Wilson.

CWD...Continued from page 4B

change, if CWD is detected at a deer farm, it must be depopulated within a reasonable time. To help ensure proper disposal, we delivered a \$50,000 investment for the DNR to create an "adopt-a-dumpster" program for deer carcass disposal in CWD surveillance zones.

In 2021, the Legislature must enact an even stronger agenda as part of our comprehensive, proactive approach toward CWD, particularly regarding deer farms. If a farmed Cervidae escapes, the farm owner should be required to notify the DNR immediately. Further, hunters should be able to take an escaped deer without any payment or liability owed to the farmer, and after that, the carcass should be tested for CWD at the deer farmer's expense. Next, we need to enhance the white-tailed identification requirement to include a phone number or address.

Finally, it's time to prohibit all importation of cervid carcasses from outside the state of Minnesota, except for wrapped meat (the 2019 law prohibited hunter-harvested carcasses from being imported). To be clear, these are just a few of the baseline actions we are committed to enacting, and we will continue to work on other solutions to prevent CWD from spreading, including enhanced fencing requirements.

The multifaceted approach from our state government is important, but as hunters, we all have a role to play as well. Dispose of deer carcasses properly; a deceased deer can be a source of disease when left on a landscape. We encourage you to take advantage of the DNR's voluntary sampling stations within surveillance areas with both self-service systems and appointments available with DNR staff. Also, be sure to follow

the DNR's movement restrictions in disease management zones.

CWD continues to threaten our wild deer population and a comprehensive response is required to prevent widespread transmission. Unstopped, CWD also poses an economic and environmental threat, potentially jeopardizing deer hunting that generates over \$500 million in activity each year, as well as biodiversity. The adequacy of our government's action—coupled with the commitment to taking responsible steps as individuals—will determine our ability to defeat it.

Rep. Rob Ecklund, a DFLer from International Falls, represents District 3A covering Koochiching, Cook, and portions of St. Louis and Lake counties.

Rep. Rick Hansen, a DFLer from South St. Paul, chairs the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division.

**VOTE
TOM BAKK
Nov. 3**

A candidate everyone can agree on.



**Endorsed for re-election
by the state Chamber of Commerce,
AFL-CIO, the Minnesota
Police and Peace Officers Association &
Conservation Minnesota**

BAKK
YOUR STATE SENATOR

Paid for by Bakk for Senate; PO Box 444, Cook, MN 55723.



**Local arts and crafts
for viewing and sales**

210 S River St, Cook MN 55723
Open: Thur-Fri: 10 AM-4 PM, Sat: 9 AM-1 PM
nwfamn.org@gmail.com • www.nwfamn.org

Subscribe Today!

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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
KUGLER TOWNSHIP

The Public Accuracy Testing of the automatic ballot counter for Kugler Township will take place on Friday, October 30, 2020, at 10 a.m. at the Kugler Town Hall.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 30, 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
MORCOM TOWNSHIP

Public accuracy testing of the Automark for the upcoming election, in Morcom Township will be Sunday, November 1, at 5:00 pm at the Bear River School.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 30, 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
TOWN OF EMBARRASS

A public accuracy test for the Election Optical Scan Equipment and AutoMark will be held the Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd., on Thursday, October 29 at 1:30 P.M. All public is welcome.

Jennifer Boese, Embarrass Town Clerk

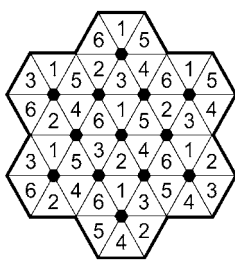
Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 30, 2020

The Timberjay classified ads reach readers of all three editions every week.



Call 753-2950 to place yours now!

SNOWFLAKES
 solution



EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING
Ely Public Schools
Paraprofessional

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

Qualifications include:
 > AA Degree or two years of college required
 > Preferred experience working with school age children
 > Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

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

A complete application must include the following:

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

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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.57/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: November 9, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 30 & Nov. 6, 2020



Solid Waste Worker
Intermediate/Solid
Waste Worker II
 Apply by 10/29/2020

Planner - Sheriff's Office -
Emergency Management
 Apply by 11/03/2020

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 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

Advertise Here!

Ads go in all
3 editions

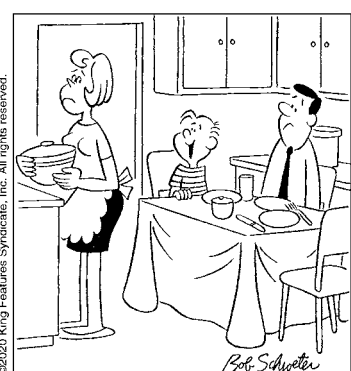
218-753-2950

Answers

S	H	O	P	A	T		L	O	V	E	G	A	M	E		F	E	L	L	A
H	I	L	A	R	Y		U	N	A	T	O	N	E	D		I	L	I	A	D
E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	A	L	C	O	N	D	U	C	T	A	N	C	E
B	L	O	S	S	O	M		S	E	G	U	E		O	B	S	E	S	S	
A	Y	R		A	S	P		T	O	A		S	P	I	T					
	E	C	L	E	C	T	I	C	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	S	
L	O	S	E	I	T		I	T	D		A	G	A		C	L	A	P		
C	H	I	C	K	E	N	C	A	C	C	I	A	T	O	R	E		I	D	A
D	O	N	E	E		O	K	S		O	N	M	E		R	O	V	E	R	
			A	N	I		O	N	C	E		R	A	I	D	E	R	S		
			C	H	A	N	C	E	O	C	C	U	R	R	E	N	C	E	S	
P	A	R	O	L	E	E		G	E	E	R	E	L	Y					5	
E	D	U	C	E		A	L	A	I		S	D	I		D	I	E	T	S	
P	O	I		C	O	N	C	E	N	T	R	I	C	C	I	R	C	L	E	S
U	R	S	A		V	A	R		E	E	O		N	E	A	L	O	N		
P	N	E	U	M	O	C	O	C	C	A	L	V	A	C	C	I	N	E		
			R	O	I	L		H	A	T		E	T	H		D	A	M		
M	I	S	A	D		T	A	R	T	S		I	S	R	A	E	L	I		
E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A	S	T	I	C	A	L	C	O	U	N	C	I	L
D	E	T	E	R		S	T	E	E	R	A	G	E		U	N	D	O	C	K
S	E	V	E	N		M	A	D	D	E	N	E	D		S	T	A	R	E	S

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!



"If I promise to leave room, can I have

first?"

Rude

DINES

Dissect

SPEAR

Baby

BUCHER

Emphasize

TREATIE

TODAY'S WORD

EMPLOYMENT



OPEN POSITIONS 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Care Center
 FT & PT Nursing Assistant (wage starting at \$15.88/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus)

Environmental Services
 Casual Laundry Aide

Activities
 PT Activities Assistant

Dietary
 FT Certified Dietary Manager
 PT & Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

Excellent Wages!
Ask about our sign on bonus!

TO APPLY:
www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/
 More Info? Contact Human Resources
218-666-6220
humanresources@cookhospital.org

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

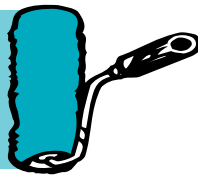
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



YOU CALL, WE HAUL!

Cement Trucks, Building Materials
Septic-pumping Trucks, Dirt
Well-drilling Equipment
Propane Delivery

Carl Anderson

Anderson Barging, Inc.

Cell 218-780-4955

www.andersonbarging.com

Covering all of Lake Vermilion

Licensed Septic Design & Installation



- ◆ Complete Site & Building Preparation
- ◆ Road Building, Land Clearing, Basement, Demolition
- ◆ Digging, Dozing, Hauling
- ◆ Sand, Gravel, Crushed Rock, Black Dirt

Call for an estimate • 218-365-4220
2408 Hwy. 169, PO Box 608, Ely, MN 55731
jschulze.excavating2@gmail.com



Real Estate
Closing Services,
Title Insurance
& Abstracting

Northeast Title Company has competitive rates and professional services assuring peace of mind for our customers before and after closing. We take pride in our service and have a proven history of being a leader in the industry. Customers can expect quality services and products along with a professional staff that takes pride in every closing. Our warm, friendly, and professional approach in all of our transactions ensures our customers a level of comfort that is unmatched in the industry.

ELY OFFICE
545 E Sheridan St • Ely, MN 55731
Phone (218)365-5256
Angie Mikulich
Licensed Closing Agent

VIRGINIA OFFICE
612 13 St S • Virginia MN 55792
Phone (218)741-1515
Jodee Micheletti
Owner/Licensed Closing Agent

COOK/SURROUNDING AREAS
Phone (218)666-3174
Sharon Maronick
Licensed Closing Agent

www.netitle.com

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



Delivered Redi-Mix Concrete Septic Tanks

We have: Concrete Steps & Sidewalk Pavers, Crushed & Washed Rock, Sand, Garden Soil, Crushed & Screened Gravel, Different Types of Concrete Blocks. **FREE ESTIMATES** for site development, roads, fill and excavations.

Celebrating Over 47 Years!

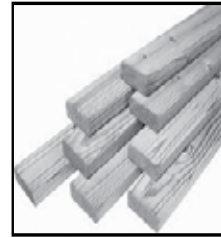
From Ely to Tower-Soudan and Virginia, using local gravel pits to support all your needs.

FOREST CONCRETE PRODUCTS



1715 E. Sheridan, Ely, MN 55731
office 218-365-6161 • plant 218-365-4030
fax 218-365-6985 • cell 218-341-3197

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!!!



2x4-8'
#2 Special Buy
\$4.99 ea.
while supplies last



Phone/Fax: 218.666.5344
Hours: Mon. Fri: 7-5, Sat: 8-12
eric@cookbuildingcenter.com

BEAR RIVER ELECTRIC

12896 Hwy. 1, Cook, MN Lic EA756990
Shawn & Diane 507-272-3882

Custom made by DOW
Building Heavy Duty Docks in Ely for 42 years

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM!
Quality Shorefront Products

Factory Dealer of DAKA & Shoremaster Products
www.docksonwheels.com

2195 Twin Lakes Road
5 miles west of Ely on Hwy 169
Call Bob for a FREE ESTIMATE
218.365.6210

Get Results!

Advertise in the Timberjay!

DEER CANDY AT HOMESTEAD MILLS!

2nd, 3rd and 4th Crop Alfalfa

Available starting Nov. 3

Call 218.666.5233 or 218.410.3601

ALUMACRAFT

Check Out Our New Products!

Quality & reliable marine sales & service

Duane's Marine

YAMAHA

EVINRUDE

Open: Mon-Fri, 9-5
Sat. 9-Noon
8327 Unity Dr., Virginia / Mt. Iron
218-741-8532

Ely Auction SERVICE, LLC

AFFILIATE OF 2 RIVERS AUCTIONS

2005 Buick LeSabre
with 183,000 miles,
new rear brakes and shocks.

\$2,495

1307 E. Sheridan St, Ely • 651-260-4228
Jay Greeney • jmgreen40@earthlink.net

Hours: M-F 1 to 5, Sat 10-2

2 RIVERS AUCTIONS

Call 753-2950 to subscribe to the Timberjay!

Don't Let Winter Get You Down!

60 lb. TUBE SAND

• Fits along side rear axle or above wheel wells
• Traction and vehicle weight for winter
• Tube-shaped, weather resistant bag
• Kiln dried sand

\$5.89

We are a UPS Shipping Drop-Off

VERMILION LUMBER
HOME OF THE PROFESSIONALS
218-753-2230
302 Main St., Tower, MN
M-F: 8 AM-5 PM; Sat: 8 AM-Noon

833-314-1217

BOGO 40% OFF

Renewal by Andersen
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company
The Better Way to a Better Window

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

DONATE YOUR CAR

1-844-220-9501

FREE TOWING
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Heritage for the Blind

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually

WE ARE YOUR COMPLETE... REMODELING HEADQUARTERS!

Happy Halloween To You!

Tile • Flooring • Cabinets
Storage Systems • Countertops
Bathrooms • Window Treatments
Sauna Stoves • Accessories
and MORE!

OUR SPOOKTACULAR STAFF WILL HELP YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

BIG Enough to Serve you; small Enough to Know You

FLOOR to CEILING
INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOM

8401 Enterprise Drive N., Virginia/Mt. Iron
(1/2 Mile West on Highway 169) • 741-6690

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

HOURS: 9-5 M-F

Find us on facebook.

floortoceiling.com/virginia