

Holiday Deadlines

Dec. 18 issue... Dec. 16 at 10 a.m.

Dec. 25 issue... Dec. 21 at noon

Jan. 1 issue... Dec. 23 at noon

No paper published on Jan. 8

Get out your skates...
See page 1B

The TIMBERJAY

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COVID-19

Walz unveils state vaccination plans

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

State health commissioner revises quarantine rules

STATEWIDE- As Gov. Tim Walz and state health officials unveiled the first details of the state's plan for COVID-19 vaccinations on Tuesday, a common plea was echoed repeatedly: Trust the process. Trust the science.

With two COVID-19 vaccines expected to win Food and

Drug Administration approval in upcoming days, Walz walked a fine line as he embraced the hope vaccines provide while being pragmatic about how long the process will take for all Minnesotans who want to get one.

"We're expecting something in the next week or so,"



Walz said. "This day is real. It is happening, it is ready."

And while the vaccine is almost ready for distribution,

Walz appeared to realize not all of the public is ready to accept a vaccine.

"You need to be comfortable with the safety around the vaccine," he said. "No corners were cut to get this."

Walz said the state has been planning for months and that a distribution plan based on

regional hubs has already been tested and necessary ultra-cooling storage freezers for the vaccines are ready for the first shipments.

"It's complex, it's hard, but that work has been done," he said.

At the same time, Walz said that the 183,400 doses of vaccines expected in the first month

See...COVID pg. 10

'TIS THE SEASON



A COVID Christmas

Despite pandemic, Ely still finds a way to celebrate the season

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - As the days grow shorter and Christmas grows near, Ely-area residents are determined to find ways to celebrate the season despite shutdowns and cancellations due to

More in Orr
Orr Center holiday event set for Saturday, Dec. 12 Page 8

COVID-19.

A Christmas decorating contest, outdoor

See...ELY pg. 9

Mealey's Gift and Sauna, above, took first place in a business decorating contest in Ely. Local accordion player Bernie Palcher, right, will be included in a locally-produced television Christmas special.

photos by K. Vandervort



ISD 696

Ely distance learning in place until January 11

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - School buildings here will stay mostly empty through the holidays and at least through Jan. 11, 2021, as ISD 696 again shifted to full-time distance learning for all students last week. This marks the second time in 2020 that Ely students were sent home due to public health concerns over the continuing and expanding coronavirus pandemic.

"The decision to move to distance learning has been a difficult one as we recognize that most students learn best with in-person instruction and that our teachers are most effective at engaging students when we provide in-person learning," said Superintendent Erik Erie.

The school district's Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ESLPAC) gathered in a mostly virtual setting late last week and reviewed the current northern St. Louis County COVID-19 case rate data dashboard that showed another increase, 67.5 positive coronavirus cases per 10,000 people, up from 58.2 the previous week and 60.1 two weeks ago.

"Given the most recent COVID-19 case rate data from St. Louis County and the increase of cases in the Ely area, we felt the move was necessary," he said. "The administration does not make this important decision in isolation, which affects so many in our school and

See...ISD 696 pg. 2

THE CORONAVIRUS

Tiny homes give Bois Forte new COVID isolation options

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

NETT LAKE- As the Bois Forte Band has battled back against COVID-19, a valuable asset unavailable to most communities has

been the Bois Forte Housing Department, which has offered up vacant units for individuals to isolate and quarantine.

Now the department is about to step up in a new way with the recent acquisition of

The Bois Forte Housing Department has offered two vacant units for COVID isolation use. submitted

three "tiny houses" that are currently being installed at Nett Lake, Vermilion, and Indian Point.

"They are one-bedroom, 432-square-foot housing

See...HOMES pg. 2



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ISD 696...Continued from page 1

community.”
 The central portion of St. Louis County indicated a positive rate of 138.5 cases, a gigantic spike from 72.92 just in the last week. The Duluth area also showed a positive case rate increase from 105.02 to 169.7 in the last week. All schools in St. Louis County indicated a positive case rate increase from 91.1 to 151.7.
 “We had the smallest increase, compared to the other case rates. If you look at the dramatic increases of those areas, we are only at 67.5, certainly not as significant as these others, but still over the 50 threshold mark” Erie said.
 According to the school district’s “Restart Blueprint,” approved in August, the COVID-19 positive-rate data chart indicated that distance

learning would be in place for any report of 50-plus.
 “Even Lake County, part of the ISD 696 school district, just reported their first deaths of the year due to COVID-19,” he added. “They now have six deaths. And St. Louis County is now at 122 deaths, among 9,625 cases. There is not a county in the state that is below 50.”
 Erie reported that the Ely school community had zero positive cases as of late last week, with 11 cumulative positive cases for the school year.
 Child care for Ely students began on Dec. 3
 “If you need child care, both parents must fill out the Verification of Employment Form and submit it to the elementary office,” Erie said. “Early release on Wednesdays will continue through the

distance learning period to provide teachers additional prep time,” he added.
 School lunch meals will be served on school days during distance learning. Curbside pickup will occur between noon and 12:30 p.m. at the South Door of the Memorial building (near the cafeteria). Each student will be provided a free hot lunch pack out, as well as a bagged breakfast for the following day.
 “If lunch delivery is required for your family, a bagged, cold lunch will be provided,” Erie said. Call Kim Puzel at 218-365-1735 to reserve your student’s lunch.
Return to school?
 After the holiday break, classes will resume as scheduled on Monday, Jan. 4, in the distance learning model.

“At this time, we are hoping to return to (in-person) school on Monday, Jan. 11, pending county, school, and local case rate data review, along with consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health,” Erie said.
 “We hear parents loud and clear that they would like to see us safely have their students back in school,” he said. “We will be looking for guidance on how and when we bring students back in.”
 Ely school board member Tom Omerza inquired how school officials will track the number of school community positive cases while under the distance-learning protocols.
 “How will you know who is sick and is there machinery in place to track that until they are set to come back?” he asked.
 Erie responded, “We still want families to call the school nurse if they are positive and have (coronavirus) transmission. We are trying to find a way to track that.”
 The school nurse continues to track any positive or negative test results.
 Tom Omerza added, “We put great emphasis on the school being a safe place. That has proven out since September. It is probably the safest place for kids to be. It is not just the school’s respon-

sibility to maintain a safe environment. It is parents’ responsibility, too. When you have groups of kids at the same house doing distance learning, that defeats the purpose of staying safe. I feel there is too much of a reliance on the school to keep everything under control. The sooner we can get the kids back into school, I’m all for.”
 Memorial building school teacher Tim Omerza said the first couple of days of distance learning last week were largely uneventful.
 “We have the same concerns as we did in the spring that a small percentage of kids are just not showing up and doing much. Personally, out of 106 kids I have, just four were missing on the second day,” he said.
 Erie said that staff and teachers have the option of working from home or their classroom during the distance-learning period. “The majority of our faculty are here teaching in the building,” he said.
School sports
 ISD 696 Athletic Director Tom Coombe reviewed the Minnesota State High School League’s approval of a flexible plan for the restart of winter activities when clearance is provided by state governmental leaders.
 “We are waiting for

the four-week pause to come to an end,” he said. That is scheduled to expire on Dec. 18. “We’re just waiting on the governor right now and waiting to get back.”
 Should athletics be able to restart practice on Dec. 21, competitions could take place beginning on or after Jan. 4.
 “We know that the state and our schools are facing extremely high case counts and that adjustments in the models may need to take place, and if so, we are ready to make those adjustments in our calendar,” said Erich Martens, Executive Director of the Minnesota State High School League. “Should the winter season restart get pushed later, we may see shorter seasons and fewer games.”
 Moderate adjustments in the winter season are accounted for and are likely to result in minimal disruption to the spring sports seasons. Included in the scheduling models are weeks designated for section play and a potential state tournament.
 The scheduling models also include a projected view of spring activities to maintain a traditional number of spring season contests and an end date of no later than June 19, 2021.

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HOMES...Continued from page 1

units,” housing director Theresa Morrison said. “They’re initially set up to be isolation or quarantine units. You don’t want to get family members ill, so they’ll isolate or quarantine in that unit. Hopefully, we won’t have a lot of use for them.”
 The original plan was to have the homes in place in October, but the date had to be pushed back when the manufacturer of the prefabricated units had its own outbreak of COVID-19 cases.
 “Supply chains across the nation were disrupted,” Morrison said. “They just got set up the first week of December.”
 A contractor was able to set the foundations for the homes in about two weeks, and the units were trucked in and lifted into place by a large crane.
 A few more things need to be completed before the tiny homes are ready to use, Morrison said. Kitchen appliances are on order, and some furnishings will be transferred from other housing units. Other necessary items, such as cooking utensils, also are being procured.
 Front porches also need to be constructed, but Morrison said she anticipates the houses will be ready soon for occupancy if needed.
 “I’m anticipating that process would take another week or two,” she said. “Having them ready before Christmas is what I’m shooting for.”
 The tribe endured a period where there were 16 active cases roughly split between Nett Lake and Vermilion, and Morrison said that through good coordination with tribal health services they were able to meet isolation and quarantine needs then. An important element of success came from families who were able to accommodate their isolation needs in their own homes while receiving additional supports.
 “A lot of times families help each other out to make things work themselves,” she said. “We do coordinate anyone who will need to be isolated with health services.”
 That coordination will involve extensive COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting protocols after a temporary resident moves out and before another moves in, Morrison said.
 With just one bedroom, a bathroom, and living room and kitchen areas, the units are small, but sufficiently big for an individual or a couple, Morrison said, and they should serve a purpose beyond the present pandemic.
 “Hopefully, when this goes away, they will revert to our regular housing stock,” she said.

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SCAMS

Don't fall for financial scams

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

REGIONAL- Financial scams targeting seniors have become so prevalent that they're now considered "the crime of the 21st century," according to the National Council on Aging (NCOA). Why? Because seniors are thought to have a significant amount of money sitting in their accounts.

Delores Hujanen, of Cook, considers herself lucky after almost falling for a very convincing scam a few weeks ago. She got a call from her television provider telling her they needed to update her equipment. They needed her to turn on her television and press some buttons on the remote.

"When I didn't see anything, they had me unplug my television and do some other things," she said. The caller sounded professional and gave Hujanen a name and phone number with an extension, if a call-back was needed.

"They sounded really legitimate," she said. But then, things got a little suspicious.

"They really wanted my credit card number," she said, "and they also wanted to know how much my monthly bill was."

Hujanen started to think that her provider, DirectTV, would have her billing information, and would know her monthly charges.

"Then, they asked me for a one-time up-front \$120 fee," she said, "while offering me a \$10/month discount on my bill for the next 12 months. And they were still pressing for my credit card information."

This was not going to be a good deal, she realized, even if it were legitimate. At that point,

Hujanen told them she would call her provider and talk to them, which she did.

"They told me they never call customers like that," Hujanen said.

Hujanen said she is sharing her story so that other seniors will not be taken advantage of. Her husband, who has passed away, had dementia, and he once gave out the couple's bank account information over the phone.

Sunday Young, branch manager at the Embarrass-Vermillion Federal Credit Union in Tower says they see all kinds of scams, especially those targeting seniors. Local financial institutions are a good resource for getting information on possible scams, as well as finding out if there is a possible solution if someone has fallen for a scam.

NCOA said that financial scams often go unreported or can be difficult to prosecute, so they're considered a "low-risk" crime. However, they're devastating to many older adults and can leave them in a very vulnerable position with little time to recoup their losses.

The top scams targeting seniors include Medicare/health insurance scams, counterfeit prescription drugs, telemarketing and phone scams, internet fraud, investment schemes, reverse mortgage, lottery scams, and the classic grandparent scam.

If you suspect you've been the victim of a scam, don't be afraid or embarrassed to talk about it with someone you trust. You are not alone, and there are people who can help. Doing nothing could only make it worse. Keep handy the phone numbers and resources you can turn to, including the local police and your bank (if money has been taken from your accounts).

NCOA's top tips to protect yourself from financial scams:

1. Be aware that you are at risk from strangers—and from those closest to you.

Over 90 percent of all reported elder abuse is committed by the older person's own family members, most often their adult children, followed by grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and others. Common tactics include depleting a joint checking account, promising but not delivering care in exchange for money or property, outright theft, and other forms of abuse, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, and neglect of basic care needs.

2. Don't isolate yourself—stay involved.

Isolation is a huge risk factor for elder abuse. Most family violence only occurs behind closed doors, and elder abuse is no exception. Some older people self-isolate by withdrawing from the larger community. Others are isolated because they lose the ability to drive, see, or walk about on their own.

3. Always tell solicitors: "I never buy from (or give to) anyone who calls or visits me unannounced. Send me something in writing."

Don't buy from an unfamiliar company and always ask for and wait until you receive written material about any offer or charity. Neighborhood children you know who are selling Girl Scout cookies or school fundraising items may be an exception, but a good rule of thumb is to never donate if it requires you to write your credit card information on any forms.

It's also good practice to obtain a salesperson's name, business identity, telephone

number, street address, mailing address, and business license number before you transact business. And always take your time in making a decision.

4. Shred all receipts with your credit card number.

Identity theft is a huge business. To protect yourself, invest in—and use—a paper shredder. Monitor your bank and credit card statements and never give out personal information over the phone to someone who initiates the contact with you.

5. Sign up for the "Do Not Call" list and take yourself off multiple mailing lists.

Visit Do Not Call (<https://www.donotcall.gov/>) to stop telemarketers from contacting you.

6. Be careful with your mail. Do not let incoming mail sit in your mailbox for a long time. When sending out sensitive mail, consider dropping it off at a secure collection box or directly at the post office. You also can regularly monitor your credit ratings and check on any unusual or incorrect information at www.AnnualCreditReport.com.

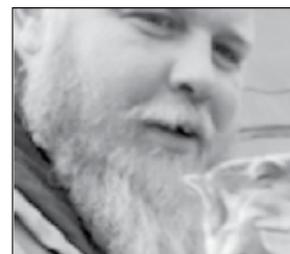
7. Use direct deposit for benefit checks to prevent checks from being stolen from the mailbox. Using direct deposit ensures that checks go right into your accounts and are protected. Clever scammers or even unscrupulous loved ones have been known to steal benefit checks right out of mailboxes or from seniors' homes if they are laying around.

8. Never give your credit card, banking, Social Security, Medicare, or other personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call. Misuse of Medicare dollars is one of the largest scams involv-

See SCAMS...pg. 5

Briefly

Missing Ely man found safe



ELY - A 37-year-old man from Ely, missing since Thursday, Dec. 3, was located safe, the Ely Police Department reported on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Michael Ray Jacobson, 37, was last seen at his place of employment in Ely on Thursday Dec 3 around 7 a.m. Jacobson, who works at a bait and tackle store, told his wife that he was going to check on the thickness of ice on several area lakes. Jacobson was last heard from over the phone around 5 p.m. that day and told his wife he was on his way home.

"Mr. Jacobson has been located safe, and the Ely Police Department would like to thank the media and members of the public for their assistance," said Ely Police Chief Chad Houde.

Jacobson was reported to be driving a gray 2008 Dodge Ram, and, according to police, community members checked area lakes and boat ramps all weekend.

"Many members of our community went out of their way to help find Mr. Jacobson, and we appreciate all of their efforts," Houde told the *Timberjay*.

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OPINION

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Editorial

Misinformation overload

The flood of internet falsehoods is hurting America

In the midst of a press conference last week, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz was asked by a reporter about a flood of false claims that have circulated on the internet in recent weeks, regarding the governor and his purported vast wealth. He had to take time out of a substantive press conference, that was supposed to be focused on the state's coronavirus crisis, to address nonsense that has caught fire on social media.

We've received such claims in our office as well, from readers upset that we're not republishing these internet falsehoods in our newspaper.

Let's be clear. The job of a newspaper is to seek out the truth, even when that work is difficult and time consuming. It is not to spread falsehoods put out by lazy, dishonest people who wish to deceive others for some political objective. So, no, we haven't reported that Gov. Walz, a former schoolteacher who served six terms in the U.S. House before becoming Minnesota's governor, is worth \$400 million. All members of Congress are required to file financial disclosure forms and in Walz's case, the most recent filing shows his net worth as well under half a million dollars. And no, we aren't going to report that the governor spent Thanksgiving on his supposed yacht in Florida, named "Liberty," as the internet trolls would like you to believe.

We're not reporting these things, because there is absolutely no evidence for any of it. And it completely defies common sense and what information is available publicly about the governor. The sad truth, however, is that anyone can make up anything about any public figure they wish to tarnish and there will be more than enough reckless people to spread it from here to Timbuktu by the afternoon.

It's difficult to fight this misinformation. How do you prove you don't have \$400 million or a yacht docked in Florida? And even if you could, more lies would be bouncing around the internet before you could even get the proof out. It's a hopeless task.

Unfortunately, as Gov. Walz noted, these false attacks undermine faith in our institutions at a critical time when we need everyone pulling in the same direction. It's actually worse than that. The increasing tendency of Americans to seek out only that information which reaffirms what they already want to believe is tearing this country apart. It's the same ten-

dency that has large majorities of the GOP believing in election fraud, despite a total lack of credible evidence.

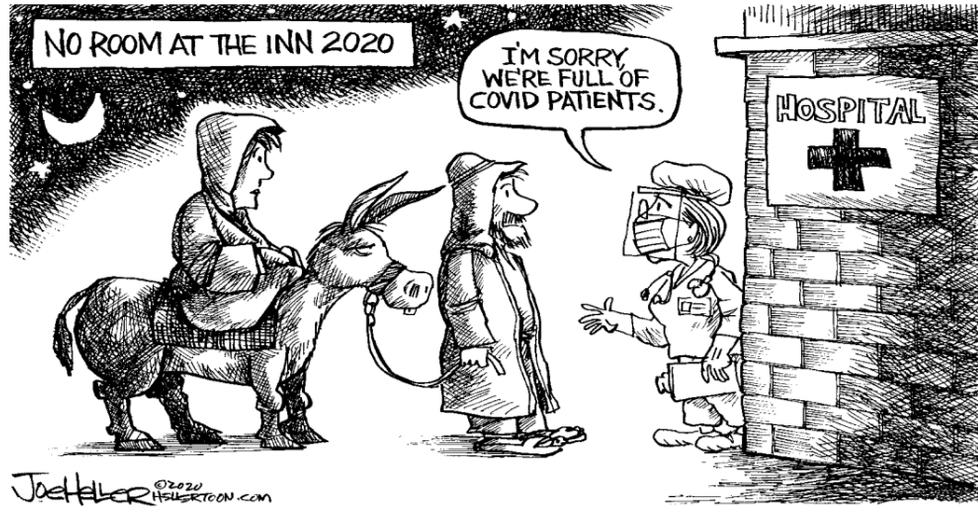
We've urged our readers in the past, and we'll do it again: Use your head when it comes to claims you read on the internet. Just because some chain email claims something, doesn't make it true. Just because someone posted something on Facebook, and scores of people commented favorably, doesn't mean it has any connection to reality.

We recognize that we all want to believe some of the juicy tidbits that make their way around social media and email, especially when they confirm our own biases. But before you hit share or forward, show your actual patriotism by taking time to check sources. We mean credible sources, like well-recognized newspaper websites or mainstream broadcast news stations, or a well-established fact-checking website, like Politifact. By credible, we don't mean those sources with clearly established biases, like Fox News or MSNBC, much less the "news" sources that are truly on the fringes.

Keep in mind, Google is not a credible news source. You can google almost any ridiculous claim and you'll probably find it on any number of blogs or other dubious sources. The fact that a lie shows up in many places doesn't make it any less false.

Just because these bogus reports don't make their way into the newspaper, or onto the nightly news, isn't evidence of a media conspiracy to keep everyone in the dark. It's evidence that credible news sources wish to maintain their credibility by not publishing nonsense.

Here's the reality. If any real reporters had evidence that Gov. Walz misreported his net worth on official documents, we wouldn't be keeping it under wraps. We'd be trying to beat the other guy to the scoop. People who suggest that legitimate news organizations are trying to bury real stories simply have no concept of what actually motivates those of us who report the news. So, if any conspiracy theorists out there have any actual evidence (and, no, your chain email from your crazy uncle does not qualify) to provide us about Gov. Walz's finances or any other hot tips, please send it along. Just be aware... we won't be holding our breath.



Letters from Readers

The pandemic will end, so why take needless risk?

The pandemic will end, so why take needless risk?

We are finally seeing some light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. The tunnel before us may be dark, but vaccines are the light we can see. New cases and deaths are still before us, but we are already in a better place.

Traveling about without a mask and getting close to friends and neighbors made an important political statement for many. For others it helped prove they were tough and courageous. For still more, it seemed that getting COVID was almost inevitable, so why make a big effort to delay it?

Suddenly, though, not wearing a mask and not distancing yourself from others is different. It is needlessly sticking your head out of a fox hole when the end of the war is in sight. Why needlessly jeopardize yourself, your family, and those who would take care of you?

Now is the time to make sure you mask up and physically distance. If you get sick (unless you are an essential worker) near the end of the pandemic, folks will wonder whether you were rewarded for your selfish behavior. If you are seen maskless in public near the end of the pandemic, you

will not be viewed as politically savvy or courageous. Rather, you will be viewed as a fool.

Tom Legg
Palisade

Spirituality, not materialism, brings real connection

A few thoughts as we head into the holidays.

SPIRIT-BEING, an adventure arising from within, not without.

Spirituality is not synonymous with religion, often it is the opposite. Spirit-being finds deeper meaning in conscience and consciousness than from imagined existence of supernatural external spirits.

A JOURNEY of freedom and love, not fear nor command.

As the caterpillar undergoes metamorphosis into a butterfly, serving the status quo matures into social change. Not-racist emerges as anti-racism, caring and charity blossom into justice, and sympathy becomes empathy and love. Social conscience reaches beyond family and friends to include all "others."

A QUEST to connect with matters beyond ourselves.

Beyond ego's need for fun, pleasure, comfort and ease is a larger world for enrichment, enthusiasm and joy. Not to be confused with religion or faith but in understanding social being connecting with self,

humanity, planet Earth and the cosmos beyond.

UNBOUND by imposed doctrine, dogma, ritual, or rule.

Spirituality opens us to an exciting world, dynamic and evolving. Religion tends to shut out questioning and doubt in favoring the fixed and static. Dogma invites exclusion, spirituality welcomes inclusion in a social structure endowed for development of human potential and well-being.

SEEKS NO COMFORT from certainty through magic or belief.

The spirit of science values fact over fiction, evidence over authority and reason over faith. Science avoids absolutes and is undisturbed by ambiguity. Conscience fiercely rejects "the chosen," "us against them" religious bigotry and magical thinking as solution to thorny complexity.

AT HOME with awe and wonder in uncharted wholeness. On being and becoming is a life force of one in presence of wholeness for unfolding growth toward fulfillment. Curiosity becomes inquiry: to discover, to know and to understand. Spirituality dignifies, not with materialism for show, but in what we become. Happy Holidays!

Harold Honkola
Roseville

The pandemic lays bare our information problems

When the history of this era is written, special attention should be reserved for the prominent U.S. politicians who dismissed or misrepresented the COVID-19 pandemic for political purposes.

The coronavirus has wreaked untold suffering and damage to this country through the deaths it's caused, the illness it's



LEE HAMILTON

produced, the strain it has placed on the lives and well-being of health care workers, and the incredible damage it's done to the livelihoods and prospects of millions of Americans. It has been able to do this because we had a major failure of government.

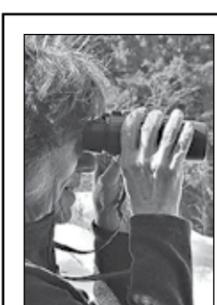
To be sure, at the state level, many governors have

conducted themselves with forthright attention to the risks to their populations and have done their best to translate scientific and medical advice into policies designed to save lives while trying to undergird their economies. But at the federal level—with the notable exception of the effort to fast-track research and production of a vaccine—we mostly failed to mobilize resources and take the measures necessary to combat the virus, starting early this year

See **INFO...pg. 5**

We're never too old to try new things

With December upon us, by now our thoughts have shifted toward Christmas, Hannukah, Solstice, Eid, or Kwanza, some of the names for holidays that honor the season of diminishing light and enfolding darkness. It's the time for hunkering down and going inward. And this year, the pandemic has all but sealed the deal. For me, however, the fun



KATHLEEN MCQUILLAN

has just begun.

My story begins with Thanksgiving and continues right on through today. As is true for so many of us, the pandemic has turned traditions upside down or done away with them altogether. There is just no denying the distress of giving up familiar ways to celebrate the holidays. To comfort myself, I try to remember that sometimes when

thwarted, the true essence and meaning of something emerges more clearly. Thanksgiving 2020 may indeed be one of those holidays never to be forgotten.

This year, John and I celebrated with a scaled-down version of the traditional Thanksgiving feast. John's mother was the quintessential cook. Her turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie were always blue-ribbon ventures. With our dearly beloved host no longer with us, her offspring (no longer religiously committed to showing up at mom's) are scattered hither and yon, left to

our own holiday "devices". As our Governor and state health officials strictly advised, John and I agreed to stay home and discourage our family from traveling north so that we all could strictly abide by the COVID safety protocol this year.

As tradition would call for, we planned for a close facsimile of a holiday feast. This month's shopping trip to the Iron Range would include "Thanksgiving Fixin's". I knew better than to try to replicate Harriet's famous turkey and dressing, but I would try my own version with "one

whole roasting chicken", a bag of seasoned croutons specifically labeled "perfect for turkey stuffing", and the annual must-have, "Cool Whip". (Don't ask me why, but I just love that super creamy "original" version.) These would be my "starters" to go with home grown red potatoes (mashed, of course), a couple of our winter squash, and... dessert! No, not pumpkin pie, but apple crisp made with the delicious apples we'd received from a very generous neighbor

See **HOLIDAYS...pg. 5**

Letters from Readers

Compromise doesn't always lead to good policy

This letter is part of a larger paper that addresses what I view as the current state of political chaos in this country, some of its origins and a possible solution.

Part of the solution I propose is an increase in tolerance levels of political leaders and the public alike, with an inclination for give-and-take negotiation rather than stubborn partisanship that whip-saws policy formation from one extreme to the other without the promise of continuity or longevity. Compromise solutions have been a part of the political process from the beginning, starting with our Constitution. But are they sustainable? This letter will focus on a couple of

those compromises.

Our Continental government that was established under the 'Articles' during our Revolution consisted of a one-house legislature with equal state representation that reflected equal state sovereignty. The drafting of our replacement Constitution to establish a more perfect Union was nearly derailed on the representation issue, with a compromise solution finally emerging in the form of a two-house legislature. The Senate would continue to reflect equal state sovereignty, with all states having equal say, irrespective of size, but House representation would be based on population size reflecting the sovereignty of the people. And the Senate would be the upper house having dominion.

A similar compromise solution was used to establish the

Electoral College that again serves to give small states more voting power, reflecting a continuation of the sovereignty bias of states over the people. And again, the electoral vote holds dominion over the popular vote.

The substance of a democracy is majority rule. But which majority is to rule? The states, as if they're living beings instead of geo-political entities, or the people who are living entities? Compromises may well get you through the day, allowing for a consensus to conclude the day's business. But do they lead to conflicts down the road that must eventually be resolved anew? Common sense suggests they could well be unsatisfactory and therefore temporary solutions. Consider this: A room in your house needs painting and you opt for red or maybe burgundy whereas your significant other

wants it white. So maybe you paint it pink as a compromise, knowing or suspecting neither of you can live with it for very long because it's not what either of you want.

We have managed with Constitutional compromises for quite a while but maybe our growing intolerance suggests we take a fresh look at them since they may not be satisfying anybody. That's what happened with the great compromise that was finally rejected and then resolved via our Civil War. Will it take another Civil War to resolve and replace the other compromise solutions? Or can we continue to live with them for a while longer? The popular v. electoral vote system has come under increased pressure following the 2016 presidential election. And the representation of and power residing in the

Senate reflecting equal state sovereignty, strikes me as contrary to the focus and intent of the document it is part of. Do these compromise solutions really represent enlightened thought or merely a pragmatic resolve to finalize the document so that a new government could be formed to address the day's more pressing problems? Our Constitution is first and foremost for the people, as in 'We the people' of the Preamble. It was drafted by state delegates but ratified by the sovereign people through conventions in lieu of the states. Why have states been given dominion over the people in spite of this?

**Jerry Brown
Buyck**

INFO...Continued from page 4

when the virus first emerged on the West Coast.

In particular, we failed to provide a comprehensive, federally-led nationwide strategy providing clear guidance on mask-wearing, offering resources for contact tracing, and helping states develop their approaches to quarantining for those exposed to the virus—the three legs vital for early containment.

Instead, President Trump repudiated and disregarded the advice of experts and health officials and offered a misleading narrative about the spread of the virus abating in the spring. His misinformation was picked up and amplified by news outlets and by politicians who alleged that concern about the pandemic was just a hoax

peddled by President Trump's opponents and would disappear as soon as the election was over. Or, even worse, whomisled Americans about hydroxychloroquine and other drugs. In other words, many Americans were fed bad information at a time when high-quality information was necessary to stem the spread of the virus and limit the number of deaths.

The result has been devastating, and not just to our public health efforts. For many decades, the U.S. has been the leader of the international order, the undisputed power, with vast wealth, economic and military power, and global reach. But our image has been tarnished badly because of the mishandling of this outbreak, made worse over the last four years

by our willingness to step away from alliances and international organizations. We are weaker on the world stage than we were a few years ago, and especially since the start of the pandemic.

The problem with reaching this point was summed up cogently back in October by John Halpin of the Center for American Progress, as part of a study looking at the alarming rise in Americans' willingness to believe conspiracy theories, unfounded rumors, and already-disproven claims. "American society faces a genuine crisis in public trust in government, corporations, and the media, exacerbated by wide partisan divides about who and what to believe," he said. "If we cannot agree on basic facts about what is going on in our

country, there is little hope of generating consensus on what needs to be done to control the pandemic and fix our economy. Rebuilding public trust in major institutions, and the information they provide the public, is now a national priority."

I agree. In many ways, the world of information has improved from the days when just a handful of news sources provided Americans with what we needed to know, but there was also a benefit to those times: we might have disagreed about how to tackle national problems, but we all understood what those problems were. Today, people stick to the news sources they agree with, creating a muddle of American public opinion and making it extremely difficult for policy makers to find

the common ground needed to accomplish difficult and ambitious policy goals.

This is a significant challenge for the United States, and we have got to get on top of it sooner rather than later.

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.

HOLIDAYS...Continued from page 4

who, yes literally, lives over the river and through the woods! The perfect something to complement the "Cool Whip".

So, there you have it. Our version of a lovely quiet holiday together, just the two of us. We found a televised football game, part of the extended family's annual tradition. It would serve as an audio backdrop while we prepared Thanksgiving dinner. (Only much quieter without the usual hollering from my sister-in-law's football-loving brothers.) It didn't really matter who was playing as long as we had a little background noise to help us through any gaps that were likely to occur in the full day of conversation normally provided by a houseful of raucous relatives. Surprisingly, we found ourselves enjoying our holiday alone together with no real hitches other than the

momentary waves of missing "the boys", the grandchildren and the usual loved ones who weren't hovering about and regularly bumping into one another.

So, this ends Part I of our Thanksgiving Holi-palooza. Part II began the Monday after when the Fed Ex truck pulled into the driveway and delivered a great big box with my name on it. It lacked a return address besides that of the warehouse from whence it came. Inside, neatly packed, was a "6-Piece Combo" of Makita Power Tools. My first thought was, "There must be some mistake?" But soon thereafter, I received a text from one of my sons. "Mom, we're getting a jump on Christmas. Thought these might come in handy. Let us know when the box arrives. Love you!" Surprised and overwhelmed, my singular utterance? "Oh, those guys!"

Here, they'd been watching me for the past year as I worked, slowly bringing our log house back to life. They were listening to my reports of hacking and hand-sawing my way through twenty years of raspberry brush, popple saplings, and dead limbs that blocked my way to the front door. It wasn't long before the "first installment" arrived — a battery-powered chain saw. Now, many months later, after hand-sawing and nailing boards together wherever necessary to revive the old outhouse, reinforce the sagging woodshed, and repair other remaining structures, they'd heard enough. "It was time", they'd decided, "to introduce Mom to the world of power tools!"

At a recent zoom meeting, someone raised a round-robin question. "What challenges are you anticipating for the coming

year?" All I could think of was the up and coming learning curve of picking up, then turning on, and ultimately mastering the use of drills, saws, and wrenches — tools I'd often seen other people use but seldom tried myself! Just thinking about it thrilled me, a sensation I recalled from my youth when I seldom shrunk from a challenge — before any semblance of "fear of failure" — a time when I welcomed discovering that I could do extraordinary things if I just gave it a try. The real thrill came when I'd succeed, proving that I actually could!

In the second half of my life, I've often deferred to others who seemingly have had more experience or ability. I'd step aside letting others move in and take over. Probably well-intentioned, they chose expediency over coaching, or the guise of

"helping" me over the patience necessary to let me learn by trial and error. Now I know what a mistake that can be!

The kids knew long before I did, that we're never too old to learn new tricks. That with practice, we can master a lot more than we think. Thanks to their perceptive and unadulterated love and support, I am on my way! — excited to tackle a list of projects I'd postponed until finding someone to help. Now it's time to start searching YouTube videos. My new motto is fast becoming, "Wait no more!"

SCAMS...Continued from page 3

ing seniors. Common schemes include billing for services never delivered and selling unneeded devices or services to beneficiaries. Protect your Medicare number as you do your credit card, banking, and Social Security numbers and do

not allow anyone else to use it. Be wary of salespeople trying to sell you something they claim will be paid for by Medicare.

Review your Medicare statements to be sure you have in fact received the services billed, and report suspicious activities to

1-800-MEDICARE.

9. Be skeptical of all unsolicited offers and thoroughly do your research.

Be an informed consumer. Take the time to call and shop around before making a purchase. Take a friend with you who may

offer some perspective to help you make difficult decisions.

Also, carefully read all contracts and purchasing agreements before signing and make certain that all of your requirements have been put in writing.

Understand all contract cancellation and refund terms. As a general rule governing all of your interactions as a consumer, do not allow yourself to be pressured into

making purchases, signing contracts, or committing funds. These decisions are yours and yours alone.

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m MINNESOTA **STAY SAFE MN**

Week of Dec. 14

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

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

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Dec. 15. Please note change in hours.

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 8. Dial-in meeting, contact clerk's office for details.

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.

Gift a Resident now underway at Vermilion Senior Living

TOWER- Area residents have the chance to make the holidays brighter for residents at the assisted living facility in Tower. Vermilion Senior Living has created "wish lists" for each of its residents. Residents are looking for simple everyday items such as personal care items, slippers, body wash, lotion, shampoo, new socks and under-shirts, snacks and beverages. There are also specific wish lists posted in the entryway of the building, and anyone interested is welcome to stop by to shop for a specific resident, or can call to request the information.

Items can be dropped off at Vermilion Senior Living, 1232 Birch St. N, or call 218-753-7791 with any questions.

TSHS begins aluminum can drive fundraiser

TOWER-SOUDAN- The Tower-Soudan Historical Society is starting an ongoing "Aluminum Can" collection drive. Funds from the cans donated will go toward projects and the work of the Historical Society.

A fenced-in trailer is behind the Historic Fire Hall located next to the Tower Post Office on Main St. Please place your aluminum cans inside of a garbage bag and place them in the fenced trailer. Other donations or memberships can be sent to TSHS, PO Box 465, Tower, MN, 55790.

GRANTS FOR THE OUTDOORS MTN DEW awards \$100,000 in grants to outdoor nonprofits

REGIONAL- MTN DEW has announced the recipients of the MTN DEW Outdoor Grants program, which awards \$100,000 in grant funds to 20 Heartland-based outdoor organizations. Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters was one winning organization, and received a \$5,000 grant.

Founded in 2015, Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters was established as a hunting and angling voice for protecting the BWCA from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining in its watershed. Since its inception, Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters has worked to protect the land, water and wildlife that makes the BWCA an iconic place to hunt, fish, camp and explore.

"MTN DEWs long-term goal is to assist these Heartland-based organizations in commemorating the lands we love and promoting safe outdoor participation for years to come."

"In this unexpected year, MTN DEW has made it our mission to show DEW Nation that we're out here with them," said Ju-



Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters was awarded a \$5,000 grant from MTN DEW. submitted photo

lie Raheja-Perera, MTN DEW. "We're excited to give back to our Heartland community through the MTN DEW Outdoor Grants program and celebrate the people behind these nonprofit organizations and the selfless work they do to fuel the outdoor experience for all of us." To learn more about the MTN DEW Outdoor Grants program, visit www.DEWOutdoors.com/Grants.

MN Dept of Education to add additional gender options; comments welcomed

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Education will be revising data collection systems to allow public school districts and charter schools greater flexibility in reporting students' gender identity, including the option to designate a gender other than male or female.

View the Gender Identity Data Collection and Reporting document to learn more about this decision. The public is invited to comment on the implementation process between 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30 and 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13. Go to https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6011370/Gender-Identity-Public-Comment to submit comments.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

If you prefer not to submit your comments online, you may submit them via email to mde.datafeedback@state.mn.us.

Minnesotans invited to partake in paid survey about intersections

REGIONAL- Share your thoughts about Minnesota roadways! University of MN researchers are seeking volunteers to participate in an online research study about Minnesota roadway designs. Share your knowledge and perceptions of high-risk intersection roadway designs, and watch informational footage to learn how they work, and share your feedback. To be eligible, you must have a valid driver's license, regularly drive on Minnesota roadways, and have no hearing loss that inhibits everyday conversation. If you complete the

study, you will receive \$10 via mailed check. This study is expected to take 20 minutes to complete and can be found at https://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_afaskqGC1imvihD.

LCP members to benefit from \$3.9 million credit retirement in December

REGIONAL- Lake Country Power members will see a credit printed on their December billing statement this month after Lake Country Power's board of directors authorized a retirement of \$3.9 million in member equity. Capital credits are a core benefit of co-op membership.

Active members will see a credit on their December 2020 billing statement. Inactive members will be mailed a check to their last known mailing address.



the TIMBERJAY

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Ely Editor: Keith Vandervort
Staff Writer: Stephanie Ukkola
Office Manager: M. M. White
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BREITUNG POLICE DEPARTMENT

October 2020
Calls: 201
Citations/formal charges: 3
Monthly mileage: 1,471 (Tahoe: 876, Explorer: 595)
Squads: End of the month mileage for the Gold 2012 Chevy Tahoe (Tower) is 102,412. End of the month mileage for the 2017 Ford Explorer is



October Police Report

Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund

32,110. Additional shifts: The Breitung police did not work any additional shifts. Training: All officers completed yearly mandatory training.

Miscellaneous: The Breitung Police are delivering groceries every Tuesday. Contact Tower Zup's to have the Breitung Police assist you with contactless necessity delivery.

Call summary: 1 possession of drug paraphernalia - citation
1 DWI - citation
1 Speed - citation

HOLIDAY GIVING

Last day for donations is Monday, Dec. 14

TOWER- Just one more week to shop for Operation Santa. We are expecting to need gifts for more children than last year, and already have 150 children from 46 area families on our list.

Operation Santa is a local fundraiser which purchases Christmas gifts (toys, gift cards, and warm winter items) for children whose families use the Tower Food Shelf. Last year we served over 170 area children. This year we are on track to exceed that number.

Cash donations are welcome; checks should be made out to Operation Santa and delivered or mailed to The Timberjay, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790.

The effort is organized by the Timberjay and the Tower Soudan Civic Club, with help from many area groups, businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals.

We are looking at donations of toys, games, art supplies, and sporting equipment for children, and gift cards to either Target or

Walmart for our teenagers (\$10 or \$15). Stocking stuffer type gifts and holiday candy are also appreciated.

We are always in need of gifts for infants and babies (must be labeled as safe for children under three). Gift ideas for children include games, action figures, building toys, dolls with accessories, craft sets, art supplies (including crayons and markers), sporting goods (basketballs, footballs, playground balls, sleds), puzzles, cars and trucks, and science kits.

Please don't worry about picking out the right gift; I promise there will be a child on our list who will love whatever you pick out!

If you purchase a toy that uses batteries, please also send a spare set! Donations of batteries (especially AA and AAA) are also appreciated.

We also accept gently-used holiday decorations and gifts for the adults who use the food shelf. Donations can be dropped off



at the Timberjay in Tower, and will be distributed at the food shelf on Dec. 15. Families who use the Tower Food Shelf and have not yet signed up, should call Jodi at the Timberjay at 218-753-2950, or can email editor@timberjay.com.

Libraries

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

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

Support groups

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

In Brief

Women Who Care to benefit Ely daycare

ELY - At the virtual Ely Women Who Care fundraising event this year, Happy Days Preschool was selected as the recipient to help provide early literacy opportunities to children and support young families in the Ely community. For those would like to support the effort, checks can be made out to "Happy Days Preschool" and sent to 100+Ely Women Who Care, PO Box 216, Ely, MN 55731.

Timberjay turkey winner

ELY - The winner of the Timberjay Turkey give-away for Ely Auto Service was Faith Verlund.

Breathing Out



OUR COMMUNITY
Ely Key Club sends Thanksgiving cheer

ELY - 2020 kind of sucks. It has been a hard year for all of us. As high school students, we haven't been able to all go to school together, have a normal sports season, or participate in a concert or play. If you asked us last winter, we'd say all we want is for school to be canceled. Now all we want is to go to school.

As hard as it has been on us, it has been harder for our elders. They have had visitor restrictions put on them and are worried about getting sick. I may go to school on ZOOM, but at least I can go get a cup of coffee with my friends. They haven't had the same opportunities.

The Ely Key Club, a student service outreach group sponsored by Ely Kiwanis, wanted to make their lives a



Grace Erickson and Laura Holmstrom, and other members of the Ely Memorial High School Key Club, made pine cone turkey decorations for senior living residents. submitted photo

little brighter. During this time, it's been difficult to raise money, therefore as a group, we were thinking of ideas. Annikka Mattson, Key Club vice-president, showed us how to make

pine cone turkeys. As a group, we decided to make pine cone turkeys as table decorations for the residents at Boundary Waters Care Center and Carefree Living. "It's just a great way

to give back to the community and brighten the lives of the residents in a time like this." said Key Club president, Abbie Rehbein.

Using pipe cleaners, googly eyes, pompoms, and construction paper, we decorated over 65 pine cones. Key Club currently has ten active members in grades eight through twelve and we meet weekly in the ECR office with advisor Jill Swanson. Key Club members include: Grade 12: Amelia Pluth, Grace Erickson, Jon Hakala, Margaret Renner, Sophia Kurnava; Grade 11: Abigail Rehbein, Annikka Mattson, Laura Holmstrom; Grade 8: Carena Debeltz and Lauren Rehbein.

Laura Holmstrom, Ely High School Key Club editor

Ely Area Food Shelf to offer pick-up

ELY - Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and public health restrictions, the Ely Food Shelf will only offer curbside boxed food pick-up in Ely and Babbitt and delivery to the Ely senior apartments.

Ely curbside pick-up - Wednesday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please approach the food shelf from the west end of Conan Street following the signs and volunteer directions. A volunteer will approach the driver's side of the

car to obtain your name, address, phone number, family size and their ages. Please have a designated area (trunk or seat) clear and ready for groceries. Remain in the car and a volunteer will load your groceries.

Babbitt curbside pick-up - Saturday Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Babbitt Municipal Building. Please call 218-235-8912 by Friday, Dec. 11 to request a food pick-up in Babbitt. The same directions above will apply to

Babbitt except follow the directional signs in the Municipal parking lot.

Ely apartment delivery to Grahek, Zenith, Pioneer and Sibley facilities will be made on Thursday, Dec. 17, between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon in the following order: Zenith 10-10:30, Pioneer 10:30-11, Sibley 11-11:30 and Grahek 11:30-12.

Volunteers will not be delivering directly to each apartment except for Zenith apartments

which have outdoor access. Pioneer, Sibley and Grahek apartment boxes will be labeled with each apartment number and placed in the apartment building's community room for pick up. Please pick-up your boxes or arrange for someone to assist you. Boxes should be picked up within 30 minutes of delivery to avoid spoiling.

Call 218-235-8912 by Wednesday, Dec. 16 to reserve a delivery.

the TIMBERJAY

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Ely Police Report - Oct. 1-15, 2020

Arrests/Citations

- Domestic Assault- Individual was arrested for Domestic Assault and 5th Degree Assault.
- Unwanted Person- Individual was issued a citation for Trespassing.
- Robbery- Juvenile arrested for 2nd Degree Aggravated Robbery.
- Vehicle Information- Individual issued a citation for driving without a Minnesota Drivers License.
- Motor Vehicle Crash- Officers issued an individual a citation for no insurance.
- Drug Incident- Individual charged with 5th Degree Possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Hit and Run- Individual issued a citation for failure to report a crash and driving after revocation.
- Domestic Assault- Individual arrested for Domestic Assault with Strangulation and Domestic Assault.
- Burglary In Progress- Individual arrested for Burglary, Theft, and Criminal damage to property.
- Traffic Stop- Individual issued a citation for failure to obey a traffic control device.

Complaints

- Callback- Officers were contacted about questions regarding juveniles.
- Damage to Property- Officers were contacted about property damage. This case is under investigation.
- Motor Vehicle

- Crash- Officers responded to a vehicle crash. Two vehicles received minimal damage.
- Open Door- Officers were contacted about an open door. Officers walked through the residence and did not locate anything out of place.
- Neighbor Trouble- Officers mediated a dispute between two neighbors.
- Check Welfare- Officers were contacted to check on an individual's living arrangement. Officers referred the individual to a community care team.
- Trespass- Officers were contacted about an individual that was at a residence unwanted. Officers gave the individual a ride home.
- Intoxicated Person- Officers were contacted by an individual that was requesting to get medical treatment. Officers set up the resources to assist the individual.
- Trouble Customer- Officers were contacted about a customer disagreeing with an employee. The customer wished to have the incident on record.
- Suspicious Activity- Officers were contacted about a suspicious note left on a vehicle. This case is under investigation.
- Indecent Exposure- Officers were contacted about an individual that was exposing themselves to others. This case is under investigation.
- Call Back- Officers were contacted about resources for substance abuse. Officers assisted the individual set up a plan and obtain resources.
- Sound of Shots-

- Officers were contacted about a loud boom. Officers were not able to locate the source of the boom.
- Loud Music- Officers were contacted about music that was being played too loud. The individual agreed to turn the music down for the night.
- Unknown Trouble- Officers were contacted by an individual that was looking to talk with an officer about evicting another individual from their property. Officers provided the individual with the information.
- Theft- Officers were contacted about a theft of a purse. This case is under investigation.
- Mental Health- Officers were contacted by an individual experiencing a mental health situation. Officers referred the individual to a care team.
- Check Welfare- Officers located an individual that was walking around not dressed for the cold weather and was confused. Individual was given a ride back to their residence.
- Intoxicated Person- Officers were contacted by an individual that requested a ride to the hospital due to intoxication. Officers transported the individual to the hospital.
- Drug Incident- Officers were contacted by an individual that located illegal drugs. This case is under investigation.
- Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual locked out of their residence.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about people yelling

- outside. Officers determined that it was coyotes.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about two individuals in a verbal altercation. Officers mediated the situation.
- Fire- Officers assisted the Ely Fire Department with a reported fire outside of a local business.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about two individuals that were having a verbal altercation. Officers mediated the situation.
- Disturbance- Officers were contacted about two individuals fighting. Officers determined the individuals were not fighting.
- Attempt To Locate- Officers were contacted to locate a driver of a vehicle that had not returned home. The individual returned home safe.
- Loud Party- Officers located a party that was causing a noise disturbance. Individuals agreed to call it a night.
- Public Assist- Officers assisted an individual locked out of their residence.
- Harassment- Officers were contacted by an individual that requested a report be made that they were being harassed by another individual.
- Burglary- Officers were contacted about items being stolen from a residence. This case is under investigation.
- Line Problems- Officers were contacted about a phone line that was knocked down by a vehicle. Officers contacted Ely Public Works to assist with the line.

ORR Center offers sleigh and treats on Saturday

New Christmas room addition to thrift store stocked full of goodies for savvy season shoppers

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- It's unknown if Santa is limiting his pre-Christmas visits this year by social distancing to make sure his Christmas Eve trip around the world is COVID-free. But folks in the Orr area who still want to get a taste of the holiday spirit will have the opportunity to do so this Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the ORR Center.

Nothing suggests Santa quite like a festive sleigh, and center director Wendy Purdy has arranged for a dandy to be on display outdoors for people to come and take holiday pictures in.

"We've never done it before," Purdy said. "The sleigh belongs to my son and his girlfriend and we are storing it for them, so he said we could use it. It's actually two full seats."

She said it would take a little work to get it out of storage and fully decorated on Saturday, but anticipated it would likely be ready to go when the center opens at 10 a.m.

Purdy said she hadn't been in direct contact with Santa to get specific

decorating instructions, but said she was hoping it would be "kind of close."

"We thought it would be kind of cool to have it all decorated, and with a nice cozy blanket in there the kids can crawl up in it and the families can take pictures. I think as long as there are packages around it will be fine. It's a nice-sized sleigh and it's really, really, really cool."

There's a lot more Christmas awaiting inside the center. Purdy has dedicated an entire room of the thrift shop to donated Christmas items, and she said people have been so generous with their donations that there's a huge amount to choose from.

"It's really full right now," she said, "even though we've been selling it by the cartload out of there. There's everything from ornaments to wreaths to tree skirts to ugly Christmas sweaters. There's anything you would need, bows and wrapping paper and all that stuff is in there."

She said that with the thrift store portion of the center now spread out across multiple rooms and with the art gallery hallway, that there is



A big cuddly bear, silly creatures, decorations and more fill just one corner of an entire room at the Orr Center that is dedicated to anything and everything Christmas. D. Colburn photo

plenty of room for people to social distance and follow COVID safety protocols.

And there will also be treats.

"We will have wrapped cookies and we'll have coffee and hot

chocolate so that people can come in and take those," Purdy said.

While Purdy hopes many people will come inside to check out the center, people are welcome to sample any or all of the activities.

"Maybe they'll just do the sleigh thing and just not come inside, which is fine," she said. "We're good with whatever anybody's comfortable with. Hopefully people will come and enjoy it, and we'll be here."

No information was available as to whether Purdy and her helpers would complement the festivities by dressing up as Santa's elves or snow people or Rudolph or any of his reindeer friends.

Library offers grant for art installation

COOK - The Cook Public Library, in conjunction with the Arrowhead Library System, is seeking applications from artists to create a public artwork to be placed at the library.

One artist will receive up to \$3,000 to create a work celebrating one or more of Cook's key artistic, cultural, and/or historical attributes. The funds are inclusive of artist fees, travel, research, design, materials, fabrication, transportation, installation/construction and documentation.

The intention of this public art-

work is to create art that honors the community and reinforces the perception of the library as a place to experience arts, culture and history through a variety of media. It may also incorporate the reflection of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected Northeastern Minnesota and our community.

Artwork intended to be located outdoors should be cost-effective and durable due to exposure to outside elements. Design considerations could include functional pieces such as seating, bike racks, solar lighting if applicable, and

multi-sensory features.

The deadline for applications is Thursday, Dec. 31, and the project will be awarded Jan. 22. The project is expected to be completed by June 30. Applicants must be at least 18 years old.

A link to the complete Request for Qualifications, including directions for how to apply, can be found on the library website at <https://www.cookpubliclibrary.org/>, in the Call to Artists item. Contact Library Director Crystal Phillips at 218-666-2210 for additional information.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Adapting to changing needs

FIELD TWP.- Today, as I write, it is Pearl Harbor Day. I think about how our world view has changed in the last six months because of the COVID pandemic and how it ties to the drastic changes in the world view a person would have had back in 1941.

Anyone who has been in my office at North Woods has probably noticed the model ship on my desk. It is a scale model of the famous battleship USS Missouri, and it was a gift from a former student. The Missouri, launched in 1944, still remains the fastest battleship in the U.S. Navy. Do you know why? The streamlined hull of the Missouri was made narrower to fit through the Panama Canal, and it gave the ship a speed advantage over its wider-bodied counterparts.

It is also still the newest battleship in the Navy, because after World War II the "dreadnought," as it was once called, became obsolete, relegated to obscurity by the aircraft carrier.

Although the "Mighty Mo" was too new to have been at Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Japanese sur-

rendered on her decks in 1945. The signing of the documents to end the war



JOHN
VUKMANICH

in the Pacific Theatre was done on an enlisted man's lunch table that was hastily hauled to the deck when it was discovered that the ceremonial table that was to be used was not large enough to hold the documents!

Just as ships and tables were adapted to the needs of the times, our schools have been prepared to adapt as needed while keeping our eyes focused on the best educational experiences possible for our students.

North Woods School is one of a handful of schools still open for "in-person" learning in Minnesota. As of today, Dec. 7, there are 43 out of 537 schools remaining open for PreK-12 grades.

Our staff has worked to its maximum capacity in order to remain open, and I cannot thank them enough.

But the time has come to adapt. Our model for school is changing beginning Monday, Dec. 14. As suggested by the St. Louis County Health Department, our district has decided to change to a "distance learning" model for the weeks of Dec. 14-18 and Jan. 4-8. Dec. 11 is a teacher in-service day to prepare for the model change, and Dec. 21-Jan. 1 is winter break.

With the holiday season upon us, the Health Department suggested that with the rising number of cases in Northeastern Minnesota it would be best for our school community to take a break from in-person learning in the hope that once we return our students and staff will be healthy and able to continue for the remainder of the school year with that model.

We will provide day-care for Tier 1 families as needed during the school day, along with before and after school care. Meals will be available for families if requested. Deliveries will still be made on Wednesday, Dec. 16 and

Jan. 6. Students who are currently distance learning will remain with their current teachers. Communication is being sent regarding teacher contact information. There are informational videos for the A/B Day model and the distance learning expectation on our school website under the COVID-19 tab. Attendance will be taken during live Zoom sessions. Students need to attend Zoom sessions during their "Instructional Periods," which on A-day are Periods 1,3,5, and 7. On B-day, Instruction will be Periods 2,4, and 6. Students are expected to participate and do their schoolwork just as they would in-person.

We appreciate our communities' support of us staying open through this. We are doing our best to get our kids through the pandemic to the other side.

Read It
HERE

Read us online at
www.timberjay.com



the **TIMBERJAY**

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ELY...Continued from page 1

holiday party, re-formatted Mrs. Claus Party, virtual musical holiday concert and other events are planned for a COVID Christmas in Ely.

This year's Shine Bright Ely Contest, sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, brought out the Christmas spirit as many area businesses decorated for Christmas all over the community. Winners were announced this week.

"This event is being held this year with the idea that we want to shine bright here in Ely in these times of darkness," said Ellen Cashman, Chamber events coordinator. "We want everyone to instill the holiday spirit and light up our town."

The winners of the Shine Bright Contest are: first place, Mealey's Gift and Sauna; second place, Pengals Basswood Trading Co.; third place, the Boathouse Brew Pub and Restaurant; and fourth place, Northern Grounds.

"Judging this proved very difficult," Cashman said. "Everyone did such a great job and they all deserve to win."

"There are also many residents who took it upon themselves to put up some extra decorations this year to share the Christmas spirit," Cashman said. "The Ely Chamber of Commerce thanks all the participating businesses for helping make the community Shine Bright, and don't forget to shop local for everyone on your Christmas list. We also thank the many residents who have their homes lit up for the holidays. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season."

Virtual Christmas Concert on T.V.

This week, Todd Crego, of Ely Area Television, is putting the final touches on a virtual Christmas concert that will air on the local public access television channels next week and run through the holiday season.

"I am putting together a volunteer socially-distant Christmas concert for the community," he said Monday as he prepared a recording session at the Cyko Arts studio in the NAPA Building. "It is something I can do to try and bring some joy and cheer for this year when we can't all be together."

Crego said the show will be about an hour in length and will feature traditional and modern renditions of Christmas music. He plans to have it ready next week to air on local cable channels 11 and 98.

"It's a small show where performers are being scheduled to be recorded or some are sending in a recording," he said. "I reached out to many in-town musicians, and Billie Rouse, with her contacts through the Boundary Waters Choral Festival, also provided for recordings from Mathew Olsen, Monroe Crossing, and Carrie Newcomer."

The show will also feature local talent, including Barb Cary Hall, Bernie Palcher, Hannah Littler, Tom Just, and the Accidental Ensemble.

Mrs. Claus Party

In past years, the Mrs. Claus Party was held indoors with loads of activities and youth in one central location. To minimize the possible spread of COVID-19, the event is taking on a

new format on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Ely Chamber of Commerce parking lot.

Event planners are asking youth and adults to drive in on the 16th Avenue side (Subway side) of the lot. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be positioned outside the Chamber building to wave and share holiday greetings.

As visitors remain in their vehicles, helper elves will deliver goody bags, contact-free, to each youth in the vehicle. This year's goody bags will include holiday craft kits along with small gifts and candy.

"The Ely Chamber of Commerce is deeply grateful to Santa and Mrs. Claus for taking time out of their very busy schedule to visit our many Ely

area youth," Cashman said. "Thank you to the many businesses that have donated candy, gifts, and craft kits."

Ely Folk School hosting Zoom cooking classes

Many area holiday events are canceled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, including the folk school's outdoor holiday party.

Instead the folk school is sponsoring two free online cooking classes on Dec. 11 and 12 with Lacey Squier. Seats were filling up quickly, so check www.elyfolk-school.org to see if there are any available spots to learn how to make pasties and mulled wine.

The folk school is also putting together a

class lineup for the Ely Winterfest, Feb. 4-14.

"In these challenging times, 'resilience' has been our catchword," Ely Folk School Program Coordinated Betty Firth added. "We're pleased with the generous community response to our fall fundraising campaign and the interest in our classes."

Reservations for Christmas Masses

As St. Anthony Catholic Church plans their Christmas Mass schedule, keeping in mind the COVID-19 precautions, they ask that families call the parish office at 218-365-4017 to let staff know which Mass and how many will be attending for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

St. Anthony will offer a 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve and a 10 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

Radio show, dance showcase called off

The Northern Lakes Arts Association planned to produce "It's A Wonderful Life... A Live Radio Show," but the event was canceled because of COVID-19. Live performances were set for last weekend and online streaming of the performances were also planned for the holiday season.

"We are so disappointed that we had to suspend this wonderful holiday celebration," said Sara Skelton, NLA board member. "In similar fashion, the Winter Dance Showcase scheduled for

Saturday at the Ely State Theater was called off due to the new coronavirus public health restrictions.

USFS Christmas tree permits

The Superior National Forest has an unlimited supply of Christmas trees, and permits are available to purchase online.

This year the Forest Service decided to move permit sales to Recreation.gov as an added convenience for visitors, and to provide an alternative to in-person transactions at offices that may remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Details about designated cutting areas, dates and types of trees that may be cut can be found at www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/superior.

FORD OF HIBBING MAKES HOLIDAY SHOPPING EASY WITH OVER 100 TRUCKS AND SUV'S TO CHOOSE FROM!

PRESIDENTS AWARD WINNER!

FORD OF HIBBING HAS RECEIVED FORD MOTOR'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SALES PERFORMANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICE! ONE OF ONLY SEVEN WINNERS IN MINNESOTA!

<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> 2020 RANGER XLT CREW CAB 4X4 </div> <p>\$38,775 MSRP -1,250 CUSTOMER CASH -3,274 FOH DISCOUNT -500 SELECT INVENTORY CASH</p> <p>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$33,501</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">-1,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV \$32,501 CONDITIONAL PRICE #24599</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">SPORT APPEARANCE PKG, REMOTE START, TRAILER TOW PKG</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> 2020 RANGER STX 4X4 SUPERCAB </div> <p>\$32,695 MSRP -1,250 CUSTOMER CASH -2,120 FOH DISCOUNT</p> <p>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$29,325</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">-1,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV \$28,325 CONDITIONAL PRICE #24668</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">TRAILER TOW PKG, STX APPEARANCE PKG, SLIDING REAR WINDOW W/DEFROST</p>
<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> 2020 ESCAPE SE AWD </div> <p>\$29,850 MSRP -1,750 CUSTOMER CASH -2,182 FOH DISCOUNT -500 SELECT INVENTORY CASH</p> <p>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$25,418</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">-2,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV -750 COMPETITIVE CONQUEST CASH-MUST CURRENTLY OWN/LEASE A 1995 OR NEWER NON-FORD/LINCOLN/MERCURY CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV \$22,668 CONDITIONAL PRICE #24608</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">HEATED SEATS, ECOBOOST, FORD PASS</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> 2020 F150 XLT SPORT CREW CAB 4X4 </div> <p>\$51,920 MSRP -2,000 CHROME PKG DISC -2,500 Customer Cash -750 SELECT INVENTORY CASH -1,500 BONUS CASH -4,172 FOH DISCOUNT</p> <p>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$40,998</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">-1,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV \$38,356 CONDITIONAL PRICE #24395</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">HEATED SEATS, ECOBOOST, REMOTE START</p>
<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> 2020 EDGE SEL AWD </div> <p>\$40,295 MSRP -7,500 CUSTOMER CASH -2,250 BONUS CASH -2,361 FOH DISCOUNT -500 SELECT INVENTORY CASH</p> <p>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$33,934</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">-2,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV \$31,934 CONDITIONAL PRICE #24650</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">HEATED SEATS/STEERING WHEEL, HANDS FREE LIFTGATE, TRAILER TOW PKG</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> 2020 EXPLORER XLT 4WD </div> <p>\$47,330 MSRP -1,000 SPECIAL DISCOUNT -500 CUSTOMER CASH -2,500 BONUS CASH -750 SELECT INVENTORY CASH -2,590 FOH DISCOUNT</p> <p>EVERYONE'S PRICE \$39,999</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">-2,000 TRADE IN ASSISTANCE-MUST TRADE IN A 1995 OR NEWER CAR, TRUCK, OR SUV \$37,990 CONDITIONAL PRICE #24571</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">HEATED SEATS/STEERING WHEEL, TRAILER TOW PKG, SLIDING REAR WINDOW W/DEFROST</p>

*Must Finance with Ford Motor Credit, APR's as low as 5.9% for Qualified Buyers, OAC. ***Must Trade in 1995 or Newer Car, Truck or SUV.

SPECIAL PURCHASE!

<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2016 EDGE SEL AWD </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$16,403 #7618</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2019 GRAND CARAVAN SXT </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$15,400 #7588</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2018 FOCUS SEL ONLY 40K MI </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$11,390 #7583</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2019 FUSION AWD TITANIUM MOONROOF, ADAPT. CRUISE </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$19,480 #7619</p>
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TONS & TONS OF PRE-OWNED VEHICLES!

<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2013 ESCAPE SE 2.0 T. TOW </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$9,980 #24542A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2013 EXPLORER XLT </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$10,980 #7607A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2014 MKS AWD w/Pan Roof </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$14,980 #7596</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2011 NAVIGATOR L </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$14,980 #24602B</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2013 EXPEDITION XLT EL </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$15,980 #23967A</p>
<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2016 TRAVERSE LT AWD </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$15,980 #24537A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2015 MURANO SV AWD Only 43K Miles </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$17,980 #7592A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2018 F150 XLT CREW MAX TOW </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$34,980 #24642A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2014 FOCUS SE </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$3,900 #7579A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2014 TAURUS SEL AWD </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$9,980 #24601A</p>
<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 1999 F150 XLT S/C </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$2,980 #24673A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2014 FUSION SE W/ LEATHER </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$9,500 #24422B</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2017 REGAL TURBO 45K MI </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$15,980 #24592A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2014 MAZDA 6 GRAND TOURING </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$11,980 #24027B</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2012 RAPTOR 85K MILES </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$34,978 #23961B</p>
<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2014 TERRAIN SLT AWD Leather, Roof </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$11,975 #24247A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2011 SILVERADO LT Z71 </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$9,871 #24182B</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2015 EXPEDITION LIMITED EL </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$23,940 #7627</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2019 EQUINOX LT AWD 17K MILES </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$21,900 #8335</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2014 EXPLORER LIMITED </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$10,980 #7586A</p>
<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2010 F150 XLT </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$8,980 #24151A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2014 MINI COOPER S COUNTRYMAN AWD </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$13,980 #24260B</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2015 ESCAPE S 60K MILES </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$11,980 #24071A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2012 FOCUS SEL </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$2,900 #7632A</p>	<div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;"> 2013 FUSION SE </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: x-small;">\$10,980 #7628A</p>

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COVID...Continued from page 1

of distribution won't cover all the needs for the priority groups of healthcare workers and long-term care residents.

State Infectious Disease Director Kris Ehresmann emphasized that the first phase of vaccine distribution, which they hope can begin next week if the Pfizer vaccine is approved on Saturday, will not be available to the general public. She outlined a multitiered decision process that prioritizes healthcare workers whose work directly involves COVID-19 patients in hospitals and urgent care, emergency services personnel, COVID testers and vaccinators, and residents in skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes.

Vaccinations involve two doses separated by approximately a month, Ehresmann said, and with the time needed for the body to build resistance it should take about six weeks from the first shot to develop immunity.

Ehresmann also stressed the safety of the vaccines.

"Both these vaccines

have had to meet strict safety guidance," she said. "These vaccines have gone through the same rigorous trials we expect from all vaccines in the United States."

After the news conference, Walz was expected to appear with a bipartisan group of Minnesota legislators in a rare show of unity around the vaccination process. Republicans have long been at odds with Walz over his emergency powers and executive orders to combat the coronavirus pandemic, but there has been less friction between them in recent weeks as the COVID situation has worsened and vaccine approval has neared. Republican and DFL legislators have been working on a possible state relief package that they hope to consider at a special legislative session next week.

New quarantine rules

While repeatedly emphasizing that the most effective period for isolation and quarantine for COVID-19 exposure

and infection is 14 days, state health officials announced 10-day and seven-day options for quarantine on Monday that are in line with recently revised guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control.

State Health Commissioner Jan Malcom prefaced the announcement by reinforcing the current high caseloads in the state, combining Saturday and Sunday's positive cases with those reported Monday.

"That's more than 17,200 confirmed in the last three days," she said.

Cases have continued to rise in the north as well, with the Cook area adding 24 new cases in weekly data reported on Dec. 3. Ely's case growth slowed slightly, dropping to 16 additional cases as compared to 24 the previous week. Tower, Soudan, Orr, and Embarrass all recorded smaller numbers of additional cases.

Malcom credited Minnesotans for slight

improvements in recent weeks but warned that this is the week officials expect to start seeing the effects of interactions over the Thanksgiving holiday, including an uptick in cases, followed by increased hospitalizations and deaths.

State Infectious Disease Director Kris Ehresmann noted that the recommendation for isolation, the term used when a person receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, remains at the standard 14 days.

Quarantine is the term used when people who have come into close contact with a positive COVID-19 case and who may have been exposed are asked to confine themselves. People in quarantine haven't been diagnosed with COVID-19, Ehresmann said, but are confined to see if they develop symptoms of an infection and to prevent possible asymptomatic spread.

A quarantine can be

shortened from 14 days to ten days, Ehresmann said, if the following criteria are met:

- ▶ If a person has not tested positive.
- ▶ If a person doesn't have any COVID-19 symptoms.
- ▶ If a person will commit to continue masking, keep monitoring for symptoms, and to isolate immediately if they develop any small symptom of COVID-19.

A quarantine can be shortened to seven days if all the above applies and the person has a negative nasal swab or saliva test conducted five days after exposure, Ehresmann said.

"People can return to regular activities if they have no symptoms," she said. Ehresmann was clear that the point of shortening quarantine times is to get more people to actually follow through on quarantining. "The hope here is that

by trimming off the last few days it will help with compliance," she said. "Our goal is to increase compliance at the point where people are most infectious."

However, healthcare workers and those working or living in congregate care facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living, and group homes will still have to abide by the 14-day quarantine period if they are exposed, Ehresmann said.

The 14-day quarantine also still applies to those living in the same household as someone who has tested positive, she said.

When questioned, Walz agreed that the new guidelines could be confusing.

"Absolutely," he said. "That's our biggest concern. It would be our hope that you would quarantine for the full 14 days if you are able to."



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CITY OF ELY

Pocket park plan part of downtown development

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The city of Ely is developing a pocket park on a vacant lot previously occupied by the former Pamida building near the corner of 1st Avenue East and Chapman Street.

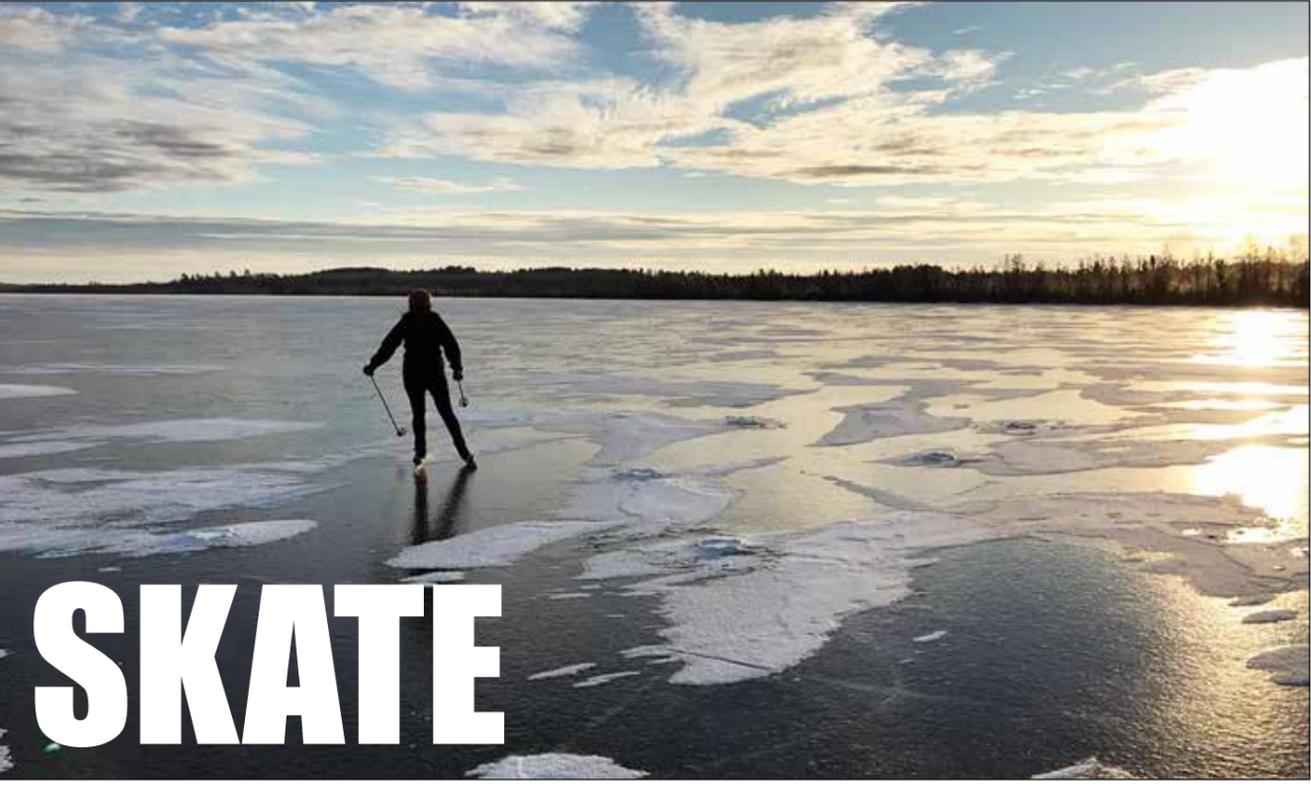
The project entails upgrading lighting, seating, landscaping, ADA sidewalks, a small stage for music events, a playground climbing feature and public WiFi. The lot is owned by the Ott family, who is partnering with the city to develop the new public community space on Ely's main street.

The Department of Iron Range Resources Rehabilitation recently awarded the city a \$50,000 Downtown Streetscapes grant to support the project.

Total project investment is \$146,000. Other funding partners include Alley A Realty/The Ott Family, Incredible Ely and the Ely Utilities Commission. Completion is scheduled for June 2021.

"The Downtown Streetscapes grant is part of our agency's commitment to the livelihood and stability of our rural communities," said IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips. "Business corridors and main streets with attractive public spaces and amenities can play a significant role

See PARK...pg. 3B



SKATE

When the conditions are right, take advantage

After 35 years of living in the North Country, I've come to the conclusion that when it comes to spending time outdoors in winter, it pays to follow the iconic motto of the Boy Scouts: Be Prepared.

For me, that means having just the right equipment on hand to enjoy whatever conditions Mother Nature throws our way. This year, thanks to weeks of little or no precipitation, some lakes in the area are in prime condition for skating, and I'm ready.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

Above: A skater glides across the surface of Lost Lake, near Tower on a recent late afternoon. The lake had about nine inches of clear ice as of this week.

Right: Nordic skate blades clip to the bottom of cross-country ski boots.

photos by M. Helmberger

A few years ago, I bought a pair of 20-inch blades that attach to my cross-country ski boots, and they're a blast. They're called Nordic skates and they use the same type of binding as Nordic skis, which is affixed to the top of the blade. You attach them to your boots and off you go, with a motion that's identical to skate skiing. In fact, most Nordic skaters use their ski poles to help

See SKATING...pg. 2B



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- OUTL 1245 Leave No Trace Trainer Certification Begins 3/15
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VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

VNP designated as International Dark Sky Park

REGIONAL— Voyageurs National Park is being recognized for its exceptionally dark night skies. The 218,000-acre park, located along the Minnesota-Ontario border in far northwestern St. Louis County, was recently named an International Dark Sky Park by the International Dark-Sky Association.

“Voyageurs National Park has some of the darkest skies in the Midwest,” stated Park Superintendent, Bob DeGross. “We invite visitors to experience our spectacular night sky resource for themselves, winter or summer.”

With the increasing spread of human activity and nighttime lights across ever more of the planet’s surface, places where dark skies remain are increasingly rare. This certification recognizes Voyageurs

National Park for the exceptional quality of its dark night skies as well as for the park’s commitment to preserving darkness and educating the public about this outstanding resource.

To qualify as an International Dark Sky Park, Voyageurs staff developed a comprehensive Lighting Management Plan which identifies how park staff will minimize impacts to the natural night by retrofitting existing exterior lighting at park facilities. Additionally, staff from the park, in cooperation with Voyageurs Conservancy, will conduct annual meter readings and educational opportunities to monitor the park’s ongoing dark sky quality and to encourage others to minimize impacts by taking simple steps.

Park staff will celebrate the

certification achievement with programs at the park once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The certification does not carry any legal or regulatory authority. The certification demonstrates a commitment by parks to improve night skies through the use of more energy efficient, sustainable lighting. Certification also reaffirms the park’s commitment to educate the public and gateway communities about the importance of park-friendly outdoor lighting and opportunities to work together toward common goals.

Right: An island in Voyageurs National Park, illuminated by flashlight with the Milky Way shining brightly above. E. Fremstad



SKATING...Continued from page 1B

propel themselves across the ice. Not surprisingly, you can go really fast, so fast, in fact, that I’ve taken to wearing a crash helmet.

For use on lakes, Nordic skates have traditional skates beat hands-down. Lake ice rarely has that Zamboni-like quality we associate with a hockey rink, yet the long Nordic blades allow you to glide right over ice imperfections that might otherwise leave your teeth rattling. That allows you to skate even when the ice conditions are far from ideal, such as in the early spring, when the snow finally melts off the lake ice, but rarely leaves a smooth surface in its wake.

For me, the other big appeal is comfort. From the time I was a little kid, I always associated skating with two things— pain and frozen toes, which eventually led to more pain when the toes started to thaw. I knew kids whose fathers shelled out big money for new, custom-fitted skates. I had to make do with the cheapest used skates they sold at the local rec store, skates that hurt from the moment you put them on.

My skate ski boots, by contrast, are exceedingly comfortable and warm. Attach a set of blades to the bottom and I have the most comfortable skates I’ve ever owned.

The biggest draw, of course, is setting yourself free on a giant sheet of ice, the clearer the better. I still remember an epic skate on Lake Vermilion, probably 15 years ago now. It was a December reminiscent of this year, with about five inches of ice stretching from McKinley Park out to Big Bay. It was clear, black ice, with no snow and the temperature was a few degrees above freezing. We had just had a couple tenths of an inch of rain, which sat, unfrozen, on top of the ice, and even made little ripples when the wind blew. Looking down, with the water on top, you couldn’t even tell there was ice below. It was as close as you could get to walking (or in this case, skating) on water. With a couple friends, we skated for miles.

We haven’t enjoyed those conditions so far this winter, but I’ve been skating almost daily now for about three weeks. Lost Lake is my regular go-to right now, since it’s just down the road. As of Monday, Lost Lake had about eight inches of good

clear ice, which is thick enough to support a car, so there are no worries about falling through.

But I know others are skating elsewhere and the quest for new ice is always there, at least for me. The lure of Boundary Waters ice is particularly strong with skating enthusiasts up

here. Being able to skate an entire chain of lakes is so enticing, it’s hard to resist. Such conditions are exceedingly rare, of course. The ice has to form when it’s calm and you have to avoid any significant snowfall. Even a couple inches of snow can ruin the skating. Our

dry late November and early December has set us up for good skating on shallower lakes that are already frozen. But we still haven’t had the sub-zero temperatures necessary to put some real ice on the deeper lakes. Burntside is a fantastic skate when it has clear black ice, and some

folks have been taking advantage of adequate ice along the shore. Just avoid the deeper portions of the lake, at least for now.

It’s the rarity of good skating conditions that creates that desire to take advantage when the conditions arrive. Most years, the skating blades sit in the

closet. Decent skating conditions arrive maybe once every three years. Truly epic skating conditions maybe once in eight years. When they arrive, those of us who skate make the time to get out there. We also make sure to be prepared.

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CITY OF ELY

Ely considers moving designated polling place

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – As the city of Ely contemplates conducting a special election early next year to fill an empty mayor’s seat, city council members are considering a move of the city’s lone polling place from the Senior Center to City Hall.

At their Dec. 1 meeting, council members agreed to postpone approving Ely’s official designated polling place until their Dec. 15 meeting.

The council officially received a written notice from Erik Urbas that he is declining to accept the mayoral position he won in the November general election. Urbas had pulled out of the race in August, citing health concerns, but his name remained on the ballot. He beat incumbent mayor Chuck Novak, 924-800 votes.

A vacant mayor seat will be officially in place on Jan. 5, 2021, and at that time council members are expected to name an acting mayor and open a filing period for candidates for the city’s top job. If more than two candidates file their candidacy, a primary

election would be needed prior to a special election in the early months of the new year.

In preparing for additional electoral responsibilities, City Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski got the ball rolling last week by recommending that the city continue to use the Ely Senior Center for election activities.

Council member Al Forsman asked for more time to consider the issue and indicated that it may be time to move voting to City Hall, a main reason why the landmark city building was renovated and made ADA-compliant several years ago. Recent attempts to change the voting venue received swift backlash from a dedicated lobby of supporters of Senior Center voting.

Forsman previously favored the Senior Center as the city’s voting place but appears to have changed his mind. “I’m willing to relook at my stance because voting has significantly changed (due to COVID-19) and it might be more appropriate to have voting closer to (city) offices so I’m open for that,” he said.

Mayor Chuck Novak reminded council members that the decision to change the polling place location for next year must be made by the end of this year.

Langowski noted that relocating the city’s polling place has been discussed “quite a bit over the years, especially since City Hall was renovated. “It would be great if we could have all of our elections here in council chambers, I think with all of the others things we have to do for social distancing and the set-up we have at the Senior Center, at least for 2021, I’m comfortable with the

status quo, at least for 2021.” He added, “I like the direction Councilman Forsman is going on this.”

City staff worked through two elections this year with mandated public health protocols in place for social distancing, sanitizing and mask wearing because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The renovation and modernization to City Hall six years ago, especially with adding an elevator, provided for the possibility for voting in the second-floor chambers, a logical and convenient and secure move for city staff.

All absentee voting is held in City Hall.

Previous attempts to move city voting out of the Senior Center was met with opposition by some long-time election judges and others in the community.

The city council is set to discuss and vote on the resolution on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Truth in taxation

Council members were set to host a Truth in Taxation hearing, on Tuesday, Dec. 8 in City Hall on the 2021 budget and proposed property tax levy for city residents.

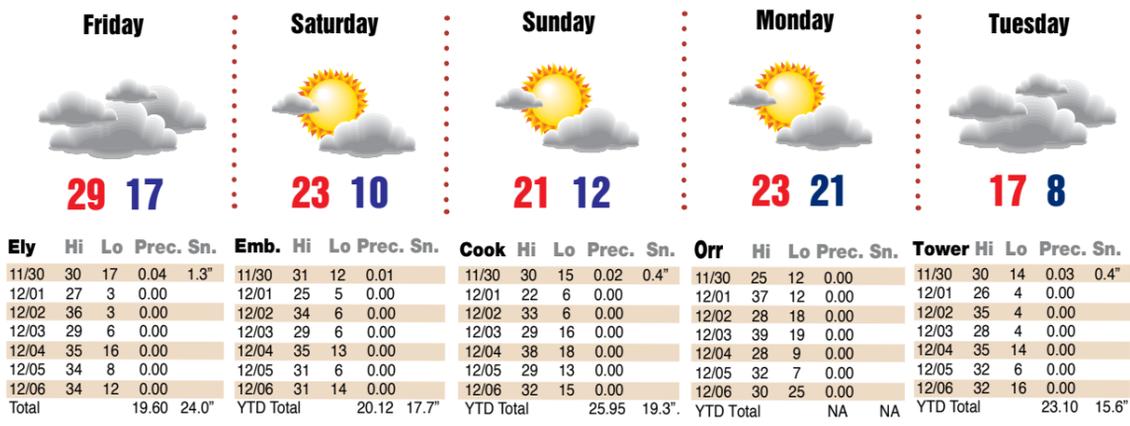
Information obtained by the *Timberjay* prior to the hearing indicated a proposed city tax of \$1,892,300, a seven-percent increase (\$123,800) over 2020.

Estimated taxable market value remained steady at \$149,724,357 in 2021, compared to \$149,464,152 in 2020. Local Government Aid increased by \$84,000 (3.14 percent) to \$2,448,500 in 2021, compared to \$2,364,000 in 2020.

More information on the public hearing will appear in the Dec. 18 issue of the *Timberjay*.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



THE NIGHT SKY

“Christmas Star” set to appear later this month

Phenomenon should be visible in the area if clouds cooperate and you know where to look

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The solar system is looking to make up for a pretty dismal 2020 with a light show not seen from Earth in nearly 800 years, and it will be briefly visible in northern Minnesota assuming clouds don’t get in the way.

The solar system’s two largest planets, Jupiter and Saturn, will make the closest approach in centuries on the winter solstice, Dec. 21. The rare planetary conjunction, which hasn’t been this close since 1226, is being called a Christmas star, because it will be unusually bright and the planets will appear so close that they will seem nearly one to the

naked eye. A similar conjunction of Venus, Jupiter, and the bright star Regulus in 2 B.C. is believed to have created the Nativity star as described in the Bible.

The planets will increasingly align by the middle of the month and will be worth watching nightly from Dec. 16-23, with Dec. 20-21 being the best nights should the skies be clear. The planets will be visible just after sunset, low in the southwest sky, so find a location with a clear view in that direction to see this rare event. On Dec. 16, a very thin sliver of the moon will also be visible above the horizon, just below the two planets, creating a spectacular scene.

The two planets will still remain hundreds of millions of miles apart during their conjunc-

tion, as Saturn is located much farther away than Jupiter. The planets only appear to align from our vantage point here on Earth. Jupiter, as usual, will appear much brighter, both because it is the largest planet in our solar system and because it is significantly closer to Earth.

A small telescope or a good pair of binoculars will help you get a better look at the two planets, and you can even see a few of Jupiter’s moons with just binoculars.

Just be sure to look before Christmas. By then, the two planets will slip too low in the late afternoon sky to be visible. They’ll soon make their appearance once again in our morning sky as they continue on their paths around the sun.



Outdoors in brief

DNR seeks comment on forest management plan

REGIONAL— ADNR forest management plan for much of northern St. Louis County and a vast stretch of north central Minnesota is currently under development, and the public has a chance to weigh in on the plan through Dec. 18.

Known as the Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands Section Forest Resource Management Plan, the document will guide DNR managers as they manage vegetation on state-managed lands across far northern Minnesota, stretching from Lake Vermilion to Roseau. The plan also identifies management opportunity areas, such as ruffed grouse

management areas and old forest management complexes, and guides management within them.

According to the DNR, these broad scale plans assist the agency in the long-term sustainable management of timber lands in the state. The Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands is one of seven forest sections in the state. Natural boundaries for the coverage area of each plan are based on the state’s Ecological Classification System which classifies Minnesota’s landscape into geographic units based on local geology and ecology. Plans are not prescriptive and do not indicate how, when, or where any specific management action

will occur. Rather, they provide broad general direction and strategies for achieving landscape-scale goals through stand-level management, according to a DNR press statement.

Anyone interested in reviewing the 134-page plan can view or download a copy of the draft at the DNR’s website at dnr.state.mn.us. Type Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands Section Forest Resource Management Plan into the site’s search box to find the plan as well as other helpful information.

Comments can be submitted to: FOR.planners.DNR@state.mn.us.

Ice anglers making unusual number of “butt dials”

REGIONAL—It appears that ice fisherman have been making an unusually large number of “butt dials” to law enforcement officials in recent days, according to the Beltrami County Sheriff’s Office.

With ice anglers now out in force on many area lakes, particularly Upper Red Lake, the sheriff’s office noted that when ice anglers crouch over a hole in the ice with a phone in their pocket, it can

press the magic 911 buttons and send an emergency alert to local dispatchers. And who wants law enforcement around when the fish are biting?

PARK...Continued from page 1B

in attracting private sector investment, new residents and patrons.”

The Ely pocket park is part of a larger downtown beautification initiative that began in 2016 to complement ongoing storefront and building investments being made by Ely’s business owners,

according to Clerk-Treasurer Harold Langowski.

“Our streetscape improvements include LED decorative lighting, banners, hanging baskets and planters for flowers, new trash receptacles, sidewalk renovations, bike racks, information kiosks and

benches,” he said.

Grants from IRRR are funded through taxes paid by Minnesota’s mining industry. For Downtown Streetscapes grant information, email Whitney Ridlon at whitney.ridlon@state.mn.us, or call her at 218-735-3004.

CO REPORTS

DNR officers pinch hopeless hunters

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

less tag.

REGIONAL— How many ways can two people screw up?

That’s the question after two local conservation officers recently encountered a hunter and their partner who seemed to have broken about every law or regulation they could think of, and paid for it.

CO Shane Zavodnik, of Cook, along with two other conservation officers, was responding to a complaint that a party had taken a deer on private property, without permission.

While interviewing the hunter who had shot the doe, the hunter’s partner drove up in the pickup suspected of transporting the illegally shot deer. The officers discovered that the driver was operating the vehicle with a canceled driver’s license and had a noticeable smell of alcohol on his breath. He was later found to be operating under the influence.

The enforcement action included a DWI arrest, along with seizure of the rifle, the deer, and the pickup used in the incident.

After further investigation, the officers determined that the hunter retrieving the deer had shot the animal, a doe, without an antlerless permit. The hunter then failed to validate and attach the harvest tag and went on to register the deer as a buck, knowing that a doe wasn’t legal game without an antler-



Obituaries and Death Notices



Kathryn A. Fuson

Kathryn A. "Kathy" Fuson, 73, of Soudan, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home of Virginia.

Kathy was born on August 26, 1947, in Moose Lake, the daughter of Clarence and Helen (Wills) Folstad. When she was young, her family moved to Tower, where she attended the Tower-Soudan Schools until the 11th grade. The family then moved to Aurora, where Kathy graduated from Aurora-Hoyt Lakes High School in 1965. In 1966, Kathy enlisted in the United States Air Force, where she met her future husband, Harold Fuson. They were united in marriage on Feb. 29, 1968, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan.

Kathy served as a human resource supervisor in Omaha, Neb., Guam, and Grand Forks, N.D. She and Harold moved to the Duluth area where she completed her Associate of Arts Degree and worked for the Environmental Protection Agency as a contracting officer. In 2002, they moved to Soudan, where she had since resided.

Kathy was a lifeguard

at the Tower Schools for several years. She enjoyed swimming, fishing, gardening, and spending time with her family and her fur baby, Annie. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower, where she was president of the church council. She was also a former member of Nelson-Jackson Post 245 of the American Legion of Tower-Soudan.

Kathy is survived by her daughters, Lorrie (Robert) Verplaetse of Iowa City, Iowa, Julie Wilkerson of Platte City, Mo., and Tammie (Tamera) Fuson-Schafer of Mayville, N.D.; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; twin brother, Kenneth Folstad of Soudan; brother, Lawrence (Linda) Folstad of Soudan; sister, Lynell (Michael) Yancy of Tower; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Helen Folstad; husband, Harold; and grand-niece, Kendra Folstad.

Harvey N. Koski

Harvey Nicholas Koski, 80, of Vermilion Lake Township, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020, from complications of the COVID-19 virus. The family expresses sincere appreciation to the staff at Heritage Manor in Chisholm for their compassionate care during his final days. A graveside service is planned for early spring at the Vermilion Lake Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6959 Highway 169, Virginia, MN 55792. Arrangements are with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

numerous great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Mary Ann Franz

Mary Ann Larson Franz, 75, longtime resident of Babbitt, passed away on Friday, Nov. 27, 2020, at Fairview Range Medical Center in Hibbing. A private family service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing.

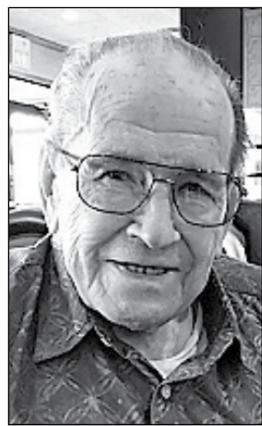
She is survived by her children, Thomas "Tom" Franz and Lisa (Jeffrey) Graves, both of Keewatin; grandchildren, Mason Graves of Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Zeb Graves of Keewatin; brothers, Carl (Doreen) Larson, of Crosby and Doug (Joni) Larson of Emily; numerous nieces and nephews.

Joyce I. Saisa

Joyce Irene Jarvi Saisa, 80, of Virginia, originally of Ely, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020, from complications of pneumonia at Essentia Health - Virginia. Services will be held at a later date at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years,

He is survived by his daughter, Cynthia (Kurt) Peterson of Kenosha, Wis.; brother, Michael (Susan) Koski of Embarrass; sisters, Kathryn (Bruce) Carlson of Tower and Lois (David) Lahti of Hermantown; grandchildren, Taran and Tasha; six great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.



Edward F. Tausk

Anything worth doing is worth doing well. That is the story of Edward F. "Ed" Tausk, 90, of Downers Grove, Ill., who died on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, at The Springs at Monarch Landing in Naperville, just seven days after his birthday and three and a-half months after losing his wife of 64 years, Ellen. All are welcome at a Funeral Mass to be held at noon on Saturday, Dec. 12 at St. Mary's of Gostyn Church in Downers Grove, Ill. Interment will follow at Assumption Catholic Cemetery in Wheaton, Ill. Memorial donations can be made to The Ellen Tausk Kindness Foundation, established to help a family or student in need. Donations can be mailed to The Ellen Tausk Kindness Foundation, Chase Bank, 1 South Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL

Jerry; sons, Jim (Tammy) of Connecticut and Steve (Dena) of Las Vegas; grandson, James (Megan) and great-grandson, Liam of New York City; sisters, Donna (Bob) Gerchman of New Brighton and Merdie Merrill of Ely; sister-in-law, Judith (Richard) Fields of Duluth; cousins, nephews and nieces.

Karen A. Schmidt

Karen Anita Waisanen Schmidt, 81, of Embarrass, passed away on Friday, Nov. 27, 2020, at New Journey Residence in Biwabik. There will be a private graveside service at the Embarrass Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Steven Schmidt, James (Rana) Schmidt, Jo Ann (Jerry) Flansburg and Brian (Kris) Schmidt; grandchildren, Jennifer Burke, Jesse Schmidt, Eric Flansburg, Emily Slater, Emma Schmidt, Andrew Schmidt, Isaiah Schmidt, Zachery Schmidt, Tyler Tyssedal, Brandon Schmidt, Jeremiah Schmidt and Parker Schmidt; and numerous great-grandchildren.

60068, or sent electronically via zellepay.com at Tauskkindness@gmail.com. Arrangements are with Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale, Ill.

Ed was born on Nov. 22, 1930, to Emil and Teresa Tausk in Chicago, Ill. He grew up in Chicago with his surviving siblings, brother, Jerry (Carol), sister, Vera and sister, Mary Jane (George) Yoos.

Ed worked as a mechanical engineer and met his wife Ellen at work. They married shortly after and had three children, Teri (Chuck) Goudie, Ed Tausk Jr. (fiancée Wendy Jurek) and Colleen (Steve) Gebavi. Ed was a role model to his grandchildren and was instrumental in providing a foundation of wisdom and life lessons. They all called him "Papa". They are Caylen (Joe) Bufalino, Brittany (Chase) Davidson, Chas (Julie) Goudie, Keegan Goudie, Grace Goudie, Austin Tausk, Danny Tausk, Carley Tausk, Kyle Gebavi, Braden Gebavi, Ethan Gebavi and Garrett Gebavi. His great-grandchildren brought Ed incredible happiness in recent years. They are Henry Bufalino, Leo Bufalino, Brooks Davidson, Walker Davidson and Claire Goudie. The great-grandchildren all called Ed "Big Papa".

Ed was known for many things, including the numerous patents he received as an engineer and the fact that he designed and built the Tausk family home in Downers Grove. He was fun-loving and liked to perform his own version of a magic show. Fishing was his passion and the family spent many happy vacations on the lake in Wisconsin, Minnesota

and Canada. When Ed retired from Navistar, he bought a fishing boat and ran salmon charters. He also mentored high school students in the First Robotics program.

Ed always stood up for doing the right thing and doing everything to the best of your ability. If someone had a flat tire, he would be the one to pull over to help. In that regard, he taught his family the importance of "paying it forward" long before the phrase became popular. His family asks everyone to consider doing an act of kindness this holiday season to honor that mission.

Ed is survived by his three children; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and siblings, Jerry, Vera and Mary Jane.



Marilyn H. Skare

Marilyn H. Skare, 88, of Tower, formerly of Golden Valley, passed away peacefully, with her husband Robert by her side, on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020. Due to Covid restrictions, there was a private, family-only funeral service on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel. Memorials are preferred to The Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements were with Washburn-McReavy of

Edina.

Besides successfully raising four rambunctious boys, Marilyn co-founded Emergency Food Shelves back in 1971 and ran Westhaven Lodge on Lake Vermilion for nearly 25 years. In the 1950s, she was a synchronized swimmer at the University of Minnesota and was a performer with the famed Aqua Follies in Minneapolis. She was an active member of Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, teaching Choir School and Sunday School in the 1960s and 70s. She did everything joyfully and always had a positive outlook on life that she freely shared with her family and friends.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Robert; sons, Randolph (Debra), Rodger (Karin) and Richard (Kristin); grandchildren, Katherine, Michael, Eric and Kylie Skare, Lauren (Brian) Ferry, Anna, Charleena, Samuel and Martin Skare; brother, Marshall Lawrence (Constance) Hutchinson; and many nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarissa and Marshall Hutchinson; and son, Robertson.

Wilfred A. Leinonen

Wilfred Allen Leinonen, 74, of Aurora, originally of Cook, died on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, in his home. A graveside service will be held in the Alango Cemetery at a later date. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by caring family and friends.

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Donald C. Fink

Donald Charles "Don" Fink, 72, of Ely, passed away peacefully in the company of his family on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020, at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

He was a beloved father, husband, and friend to so many. He is survived by his daughters, Kallie and Lacey Fink.

Cleo M. Dombrowski

Cleo Marguerite Moorefield Dombrowski, 83, longtime resident of Eveleth, died on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020, in the compassionate care of her loving family. Graveside services will be held at a later date in the Eveleth Cemetery. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her children, Cindy Dombrowski of Mesa, Ariz., Dale (Christine) Dombrowski of Narragansett R.I., Terry (Todd) Grantham of Hutter and Brian Dombrowski of Embarrass; siblings, Bill (Norma Jean) Moorefield of Mesa, Ariz., and Lois Thompson of Farmington; eleven grandchildren;

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ATTENTION GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

The Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors is working with CTC communications to bring high-speed internet and phone services to the township with Fiber Optic cable.

Currently interest is at a low level of 14% of households.

We need to show CTC there is an interest for these services.

Please go to the websites below and complete the surveys
 CTC Survey: https://join.connectctc.com/front_end/zones
 Speed Test: <http://mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com/speedtest>

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
 Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors

Vermilion Lake Township Notice of Filings

Filings for the following offices will open on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 and close on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Supervisor 3-year term
 Supervisor 3-year term
 Treasurer 2-year term

Filing fee: \$2.00

Candidates: File Affidavit of Candidacy by appointment only at the CLERK'S OFFICE, 6703 Wahlsten Rd. Call 218-749-2902 and leave a message.

Election will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Crystal Alaspa, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 11 & 18, 2020

FIELD TOWNSHIP FILING NOTICE

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the Field Town Clerk at 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora from Tuesday, December 29, 2020, through Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5 p.m. for the offices of:

1 Supervisor - 3-year term
 1 Treasurer- 2-year term

Filing Fee \$2.00.

Please call the clerk to make an appointment to file your application, 218-780-7012. The clerk's office will be also be open Jan. 12 from 1-5 p.m. for filing.

Pat Chapman, Clerk, Field Township

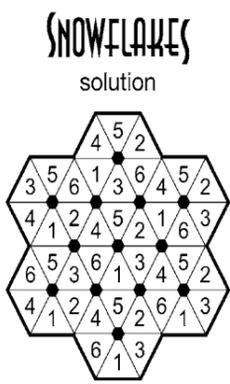
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KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall. Social distancing will be practiced.

Julie Suihkonen, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 11, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE – Lake County

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has received applications for permits to install and operate aeration systems for shoreline/structure protection in the following lakes in Lake County:

- White Iron Lake (T63N-R11W-S32) Permit 2020-3137
- Birch Lake (T61N-R11W-S17) Permit 2020-3356

Interested parties may forward their comments to:
 MNDNR Aeration Program
 500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 651-259-5678
 MPARS.dnr@state.mn.us

Comments will be accepted for two weeks from the date of this publication.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 11, 2020

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Payroll, Benefits and Finance Coordinator

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Payroll, Benefits and Finance Coordinator. This is a full-time permanent position with competitive salary and fringe benefits. A background check is required. Job description available at www.ely.k12.mn.us

Qualifications include:
 > Two-year Associate Degree or commensurate experience in Accounting required.
 > Four-year Bachelor's Degree in Accounting desired.
 > Payroll experience desired.
 > Experience working in the public sector is favored.
 > Proficient in the technology of spreadsheets, electronic documents, and other office software and hardware.

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Non-Licensed Application
 > Resume
 > Copy of 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

Application deadline: December 21, 2020.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 11 & 18, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Indian Education Home/School Liaison

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Indian Education Home/School Liaison. A background check is required.

Qualifications include:
 > AA Degree or 2 years of college preferred
 > Indian preference
 > 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:
 > Non-Licensed District Application
 > Resume
 > 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

Rate of Pay: \$17.00/hour

Hours: 6 hours/day

Application review to begin: Monday, December 21, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 11 & 18, 2020



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Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

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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!

Entice: PARENT

Fable: GLEEND

Entering: DARWIN

Impede: HERDIN

TODAY'S WORD

"I hate the idea of _____ my wife would never let me take this many coffee breaks."

Super Crossword

Answers

STASH ISAK LADD FARES
 HIPPODROME ARIA IVANA
 UNSOLVEDMYSTERY RAITT
 TOOTED OSAKA OPENSEA
 SAN BESTWESTERN
 PRANK LITHE ALOT
 RECOILINHORROR NOMADS
 ODENSE ORR BOT RENEW
 MODESTO ONLINEROMANCE
 TUTU WEE SAD NIKE
 TAG PUTINTOACTION ESP
 OTRA CONNSA DRAB
 DOUBLEFANTASY SIDETWO
 ANERANOSEMI ZITHER
 DELANO GREATADVENTURE
 KNEE MSNBC EASES
 TRAGICDRAMA ERR
 BURUNDI CITES ATOMIC
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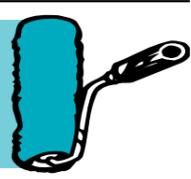
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