



**We hope you enjoy this special holiday greeting edition
The New Year's paper will be delivered on Dec. 30
Please note: No Timberjay will be published on Jan. 8**

The Timberjay office will be closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 8

the **TIMBERJAY**

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LIFE COACH

Lonnie's lessons live on

Mentor touched lives of countless young people

by **MARSHALL HELMBERGER**
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— For Lon Lamma, known affectionately as “Lonnie” to his many friends, the memories of a lifetime spent coaching kids have largely faded away—except for in the minds of the countless young people whose lives he touched over the years.

Lonnie wasn't just a coach

to the many athletes he worked with beginning in the 1980s until his retirement in 2015. He was a mentor, a friend, and, to some, like a second father.

He had a different approach to coaching and sports that went well beyond imparting the knowledge and skills of the game, recalls Brian Larsen, who Lonnie coached in both baseball and basketball at Tower-Soudan. “It was a

different kind of relationship,” said Larsen, who years later still recognizes Lonnie’s influence and how it’s encouraged him to be more active in the lives of his own children and their own sports programs at school.

“Lonnie took a broader, maybe a more worldly view of sports,” said Larsen. “He

See...**LONNIE** pg. 11



Coaches from left, David Larsen, Frank Jamnick, and Lonnie Lamma, and members of the Eagles youth baseball team from the 1980s, back row, Jeb Kotzian, Justin Lamma, Alesia Jamnick, Brian Larsen, Paul Zobitz, and front row, John Templeton, David Berg, Skeeter Lamma, Patrick Klein, Brian Karney, and Jason Goulet. submitted photo

SEASONAL SING-ALONG

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



in the year
of **COVID-19**

Ely church hosts holiday tradition in a safe manner

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – Nearly two dozen carloads of Christmas carolers came together in the former Shopko parking lot here Sunday afternoon to participate in a yuletide tradition, COVID-style.

Grace Lutheran Church’s Pastor Eric

See...**CHRISTMAS** pg. 11

Debbie and Jay Mackie, above, lead Christmas carolling Sunday. Byron and Alice Moren, and daughter Peggy, stayed socially-distant in their vehicle. photos K. Vandervort



ELECTION 2021

Charting a path to new leadership in Ely

Filling mayoral seat will involve an unprecedented journey next year

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – This community will be looking for a new mayor on Jan. 5, and filling the city’s top elected position could be long and somewhat

complicated. City council members considered their next steps and a path forward at their final meeting of the year on Dec. 15.

“There are a number of issues when it comes to this really quite unprecedented

event in this city,” City Attorney Kelly Klun said.

City government was humming along under the leadership of Mayor Chuck Novak last summer when Ely resident Erik Urbas decided to throw his hat in

the ring and run for elected office for the first time in his life. Novak was re-elected two years ago when he ran unopposed.

In August, Urbas

See...**ELY** pg. 12

CORONAVIRUS

Restrictions eased for some but not for all

Social gathering limits increased while indoor food venues stay closed

by **DAVID COLBURN**
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The rate of new COVID-19 cases in the North Country has leveled off in the most recent data available, but an extension of the indoor service closures of restaurants and bars could make a difficult time even tougher for local business owners.

Numerous area establishments had already given up on making money via take-out sales and suspended operations during the initial closure, which began Nov. 20. Last Thursday, the day after Gov. Tim Walz extended the restrictions through Jan.

See...**COVID** pg. 8



POLITICS

Stauber responds to criticism over election lawsuit

by **KEITH VANDERVORT**
Ely Editor

ELY – Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber, in a letter sent to a number of constituents, says that he now plans to attend the Jan. 20 inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

That statement comes in the wake of a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to reject a lawsuit filed by the Texas Attorney General that sought to prevent four states won by Biden in the Nov. 3 election from casting their electoral college votes for the former Vice President.

See...**STAUBER** pg. 12



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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Soudan Skating Rink opening soon

New safety rules in effect; skaters asked to put skates on outdoors

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

BREITUNG- Skaters will see changes and will have to follow new rules at the Soudan Skating Rink due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The warming shack will be restricted to six occupants plus the attendant so skaters should plan to put on their skates on outside, in their cars, or at home if possible. Masks will be required in the shack at all times, and skaters must remain at least six feet apart unless they are in the same household. Temperatures will be taken upon entering and the rink attendant will administer a short health-screening questionnaire. Rink sticks and skates must be disinfected after each use.

Supervisor Greg Dostert said he would like to add more rubber conveyor belting around the entrance of the rink to protect skates' blades and asked community members to donate belting if they had any.

Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorsma will be moving more outdoor seating adjacent to the rink to make more room for skaters.

The board will meet again on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at noon to review the rules and ensure they are in compliance with governor's orders.

Filings

The terms for Supervisor Chuck Tekautz and Treasurer Jorgine Gornick will be expiring. The supervisor seat is a three-year term and the treasurer seat is a two-year term. Filing runs from Tuesday, Dec. 29 to Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 5 p.m.; filing fee is \$2. To file, make an appointment with clerk Dianna Sundahl by calling the township office at 218-753-6020 or visit the Breitung website, www.breitungtownship.org, for forms and mail them and the filing fee to Breitung Township, PO Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782. Tekautz



said that he is undecided whether or not he will run again. Gornick will seek another term.

Other news

In other news at their Dec. 16 meeting, the town board:

- Directed Sundahl to post an Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging notice about resources available to seniors to the Breitung website.

- Heard from Police Chief Dan Nylund that eight children from two area families will soon receive hand-picked presents from the Shop with a Cop outreach program. The program wouldn't have been possible this year without the many generous donations from the community. "Thank you to everyone who donated," said Nylund.

- Heard that additional roofing above the Soudan Post Office backdoor is nearly completed.

- Learned that the in-town deer hunt boundaries will change for next year to keep hunters further away from residential areas. The boundary will be pushed further away from McKinley Park Acres Road. The Breitung Town Board will confer

with the wastewater board about limiting hunting access near the wastewater ponds as well and will report changes back to the DNR.

- Heard that until the maintenance assistant Keith Mattila receives an air-brake endorsement on his CDL license Mattila must stay within township boundaries while driving the dump truck/snowplow.

- Signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Local 49 for the maintenance workers contract.

- Voted 3-0 in favor of signing an agreement with Susie Chiabotti for one year of management at McKinley Park.

- Received tax apportionment of \$219,345 from St. Louis County.

- Transferred \$38,000 in town hall rehab funds to the equipment replacement fund.

- Set a special meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at noon to discuss police working 12-hour or eight-hour days, and looking at possible changes in township operations to comply with the governor's COVID-19 orders.

- The next regular meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 26 at noon.

Christmas Services at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower

TOWER- This year as we continue to live in the midst of the pandemic, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tower will not be holding Christmas Eve in-person worship. You can find Christmas Eve worship on the Facebook page Immanuel

Lutheran Church of Tower or you can email ielctower@gmail.com to request that a link to the worship be emailed to you.

Pastor Liz will be offering communion and a Christmas blessing on Christmas Eve from 4-6 p.m.

and on Christmas morning from 9-11 a.m. Drive up to the front steps of Immanuel and she will greet you at your car. COVID precautions will be in place. All are welcome to come by.

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COMMUNITY

Helping for the holidays

Ely students connect through community projects

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY –Just in time for the holidays, Memorial High School is giving back to the Ely community through a variety of service projects involving school staff teamed with students.

The idea developed as a way to bring students together while distance-learning protocols remain in place because of COVID-19.

“We are supplementing our distance-learning, and the mental health challenges of feeling isolated, with activities in mind to support our community,” said 6-12 Principal Megan Anderson. “We are working on all kinds of community projects. Our students had lots of great ideas.”

One cohort of students asked for donations of unused Christmas decorations and collected the extra holiday cheer last week to light up the school.

“We want to tell the community that we are still here and that our school still matters,” said junior Sidney Marshall as she cut out giant paper snowflakes to put in the windows over Memorial school’s main entrance.

Marshall was joined by Zoe Devine, Abbey Johnson, Drayke Hanninen, Ester Anderson, Sydney Durkin, Jakson Hegman and Logan Loe at various times during their project workshops. The students worked with Physical Ed teacher Chelsea Blomberg who admitted, “All this great work is done by these students, I’m just a door opener as they make their way around campus to decorate.”

Other groups worked on appreciation and thank-you cards for all essential workers in the community. Recipients range from clinic and hospital staff to those working in area grocery stores.



Ely high school students assemble food boxes destined for Ely Community Resource’s Christmas project. The boxes included items for a complete family meal, plus a game. photo by K. Vandervort

“Some of the kids are making Christmas cards with greetings for those residents in the nursing home and senior living places here in town,” Anderson said. “It is so nice to see that our students want to make sure everyone gets some kind of holiday greeting.”

The local Youth in Action group recently collected about 900 pounds of donated food and delivered it to the Ely Area Food Shelf, she added.

“Some students are working with Ely Community Resource and their annual Holiday Project and are assembling meal boxes for those families in our community in need,” Anderson said. “Each box includes food as well as a family game. They hope to assemble several dozen and distribute them in time for Christmas.”

An assembly line of students gathered in the school cafeteria Friday morning to complete more than 50 boxes of food. A family meal of lasagna, garlic bread, vegetables, cookie dough and a family game was put together.

“I am so glad to be part of this to help out our community,” said senior Madelyn Roderick as she helped gather items for each food box with classmate Gabby Motes and other students.

Donations were accepted to defray the costs of \$24 per box. To help, send funds to Holiday Projects, ISD 696, 600 Harvey Street, Ely, MN 55731.

“We have staff and students all involved in helping make our community a better place,” Anderson said. “That is so important as we work through this pandemic, especially now with Christmas time upon us.”

A few of the groups came together last week to make kindling wood bundles to be used as fireplace, wood stove and camp fire starters. These bundles are available free to anyone. There is a trailer of the fire starters available in the Memorial student parking lot. Feel free to stop by and grab a bundle for you or someone you know while supplies last.

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OPINION

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Editorial

Keep meetings accessible

The public's right to be informed is valid even in a pandemic

Open public meetings of governing bodies, from local school board to Congress, are a hallmark of the American brand of democracy.

Representatives of the people discuss, debate, and vote in full view of the people, save for select items such as confidential employee matters or sensitive negotiations that the public has agreed can be discussed privately, when warranted.

It's a system built not only for transparency but engagement. When members of the public know what's going on they can choose to contribute. Open deliberations allow the people to evaluate the effectiveness of their elected officials in representing their priorities, an essential element of having an informed electorate. Open meetings also are meant to reassure the public that the people hired to carry out governmental tasks are doing so thoughtfully, effectively, and in accord with the public's needs and desires.

That's how the system should ideally operate, but for it to function properly, meetings must be conducted in a manner that promote open deliberations and input directly from the public. When that doesn't happen, the public loses its ability to understand what's being done in their name. And that matters, even in a time of pandemic.

Conducting meetings via a streaming service helps provide access without the accompanying health risks, but if they're not conducted in a manner that's accessible to the general public, they provide little actual transparency.

The most recent meeting of the ISD 2142 school board offers a case in point.

Superintendent Reggie Engebretson gave a 60-second overview of the district's plan to transition to distance learning for the week immediately prior to and the week immediately following winter break.

Members of the board asked no questions, even though members of the public certainly might have had any number of them about the relative need for distance learning in the various ISD 2142 schools.

And what of the challenges of internet access that the board was familiar with from the district's encounter with distance learning in the spring? While needs have been surveyed and it's been mentioned that the district was trying to address them, wouldn't a question about the status of those connec-

tions seem reasonable when switching back to the model where they were a problem?

With no discussion, any public viewing the online meeting received little insight into the rationale for the decision, insight that was readily available had board members kept in mind that open meetings are meant to provide clarity.

There was more of the same to come.

Board Chairman Dan Manick then rolled through a series of agenda items in quick fashion, asking members if they'd reviewed the information in their packets, asking if there were any comments, and then taking the roll call votes. Each time there was no discussion from board members.

Even items that had prompted concerns at earlier meetings, such as Indian Policies and Procedures, received short shrift. Did the recommendations made to the board include revisions to address those concerns? There was no way for the public to know.

This isn't something unique to ISD 2142. Such rubber-stamping is far too common in other governmental bodies as well, and it's not all that surprising. Board and council members have the benefit of getting packets of materials ahead of meetings. Armed with that information, and barring anything controversial, it's easy to see how items can pass by without discussion or questions. Make a motion, vote, done, move on.

But such a process does a disservice to those who reasonably expect that actions by government bodies should be handled in such a way that the public has at least a basic understanding of what an issue is and the rationale behind recommendations and decisions.

One solution is for meeting agendas to include a summary paragraph describing more fully what each item is about. The city of Tower now routinely includes detailed summaries of most agenda items, including their financial impact, which has been a significant improvement both for council members as well as the public.

But it all begins with board members, councilors, commissioners, etc. remembering who they work for and making a commitment to conduct themselves in meetings in a manner that allows their constituents the information and insights they deserve. It is the people's business, after all.



Letters from Readers

Stauber's recent stunt endangers democracy

We might not like the result of an election, but the ability for Americans to come together afterward is fundamental toward our ability to self-govern. We've historically been able to do this after elections no matter how hotly contested. Unfortunately, President Trump and his supporters have chosen not to accept defeat and have worked to cast doubt on the election's legitimacy on social media, on cable news, and – quite unsuccessfully – in court.

I was extremely disappointed to see Congressman Pete Stauber sign an amicus brief seeking to overturn the election. The reasons Trump and allies have given to discard the results range from anecdotal accounts without evidence to nonsensical conspiracy theories. While the Trump legal strategy hasn't been persuasive in court, his most diehard defenders continue to create an aura of chaos. Some election officials have been threatened with violence. It's time for people like Congressman Stauber to say: "enough."

This year has been heart wrenching for our businesses, families, and communities. It's no secret we all have different approaches to navigate difficult situations and solve tough problems, but Americans are counting on us to work together. While disagreements and multiple perspectives are a healthy part of our democracy, efforts to blatantly subvert the will of voters is not. In fact, one could argue that Congressman Stauber joining these efforts violates his oath of office.

During our nation's founding, people died fighting for the right to help determine their own leadership. If elected officials intentionally work to delegitimize and erode trust within the very system people use to choose them, the collaboration required to get things done – that folks in northern Minnesota expect

and deserve – becomes much harder to achieve. This is the very reason most of us run for office in the first place—to improve people's lives and strengthen our communities.

I truly hope Congressman Stauber has the opportunity to reflect upon this shameful stunt, and he will realize Trump's attack on the election results isn't only misguided based on the facts, but, frankly, dangerous to our very foundation of government.

Rep. Rob Ecklund
International Falls

Bakk and Tomassoni should recognize the governor's leadership

This is an open letter to state senators Tom Bakk and David Tomassoni. This week you voted to end Governor Tim Walz's emergency authority regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm unsure of your motivation for such a vote, but the fact is that Governor Walz has demonstrated decisive, honest, and courageous leadership in his work against the virus – leadership that was and is sorely lacking on the national level and also with several other governors. Walz is fully aware that his principled stand may cost him re-election. It's a brand of leadership you should emulate. Instead, your vote is a clear demonstration of your weakness.

Peter M. Leschak
Side Lake

Stauber's post-election actions border on sedition

The election is over. Congressman Stauber campaigned "on protecting our way of life." Congressman Stauber actively supported the Texas lawsuit that would have eliminated the votes of millions of American voters.

The Texas suit may not be treasonable activity but it may come very close to sedition. The first and highest tenant of our way of life is the republican form of democracy that was in danger of being trashed or compromised.

The actions of Stauber and other "Constitutional conservatives" and "law and order" conservatives fly in strong contrast to their previously held views.

The actions of Stauber and other Republican conservatives have cast extreme doubt on the validity of our elections and the peaceful and orderly transfer of power from one election to the next. Is there any hope that Congressman Stauber can make a public statement that revokes his signing and endorsing the highly questionable Texas lawsuit? Once again, I fear for democracy that resulted in my letter a few months ago that decried the theft or destruction of campaign signs not supporting Republican office seekers.

Dan Kearney
Side Lake

The very Grinchy reason behind Bill Barr's early departure

In the spirit of these delusional times, in which many Americans believe that the election was stolen by a Venezuelan dictator who died seven years ago, and that Trump won an election he lost by seven million votes, I thought I would share my thoughts on the departure of Attorney General Bill Barr.

The media is all over the map on this one. FOX News says he wants to spend more time with the family. CNN claims that there was a falling out with Trump. MSNBC says he wants out before Trump does something really bad. OAN and Newsmax, well, that stuff is just too nutty to repeat. They all missed the obvious, and I cannot believe that none of them figured out why Barr would resign just before Christmas. It is obvious that he needs time to plan his raid on Whoville. I mean, there's a lot of gifts to steal before Cindy Lou Who wakes up. When the news breaks on Facebook, remember you heard it here first.

Kelly Dahl
Linden Grove

Holiday humor in our sabbatical COVID year

This sabbatical year is nearly over with just one more holiday ahead. I call it that because we are taking a year off from many events and practices that we do as part of our normal routines. I, like so many others, struggle to find balance in this time of pandemic, knowing I have so much to be thankful for as others



SCARLET STONE

are going without. I reflect deeper and many times need to draw on my sense of humor and pleasant memories to cope.

One fabulous thing about it being a sabbatical year and being isolated, is that I am FREE from answering the standard question that I generally get asked this

time of year because my birthday is December 24. "Did you always get gypped out of presents with a birthday at Christmas?" Then I generally sigh and answer, "No, I got my birthday gifts in the morning and opened Christmas gifts that night." While growing up, it never rested well with me that so many people would assume getting gypped out of gifts was the norm! "What cheapskate would do that to their kid?" I thought. I figure just because my parents had a wee babe at Christmas does not

excuse them from doing some financial planning and stepping up to the plate with that extra load at the holiday... "Come on mom and dad, let justice prevail!"

All of my Christmas memories do not revolve around being a selfish daddy's girl. We three kids did learn the true Christmas message in Methodist Church Sunday School back in Hoyt Lakes. Although my parents were not church-goers, we kids had to go to Sunday School.

This never made any sense to me...why would they care?

I pondered it for years, then I found out from mom when she was eighty-one, and her "starved-walls-of-appropriateness" had cracks and holes in them, that Sunday was their "sex-day," so they needed us out of the house.

I can now look back and thank the universe for sex drive, and them pushing me out the door for Sunday School. It was where I first learned about the Biblical message and

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

Letters from Readers

Stauber: Delusional or just a coward?

The House Republicans who joined in this pathetic charade of a lawsuit from Texas, intent on summarily overturning a valid election, a group which included our own Pete Stauber, proud veteran that he claims to be, can be put into one of two categories, and only two: either (1) they are just as delusional as Trump, or (2) they are just flat-out completely spineless. No matter how they try to spin it, there are no other possibilities. Either delusion or cowardice. No matter how long they manage to stay in Congress, their legacy is sealed - they are tainted for life, and history will not be kind to them.

Lynn Scott Soudan

A new way to “pay it forward” in the time of COVID

In this season of giving, I have noticed a lot of “paying it forward” going on. Recently, I was blessed with someone buying my lunch and the cashier asked me to pay it forward. I thought for a long time and decided to pay it forward to a funeral home. Having served 40 years in the funeral business I know there are those who, for whatever reason, are unable to cover the costs of a family funeral. I am no longer in the business so my gift does not affect me other than the thought of giving. I took a check to the funeral home and asked them to apply it to a bill that was outstanding and left it at that. In this time of COVID, deaths

seem to be hitting more and more families unexpectedly as well. Consider this option as a way to “pay it forward” anonymously.

God Bless
**Brian Carlson
Grand Rapids**

Remembering Christmas from back in the day

Baptist Minister Bert Stanaway was well known in Virginia in the 1940’s for his community involvement.

One example of his community acts was the Christmas Basket Fundraiser. The radio station was set up in the lobby of the Albert Coates Hotel. The lobby had beautiful decorations and many onlookers. Listeners could call in to request songs and/or Christmas carols to be played by artists such as Bobby Loukka. My mother, Iris Iverson, was the accompanying pianist for Bobby. They were twelve and thirteen years of age. Bobby was known as the “boy singer”.

Another event that Minister Bert organized was the Talent Hour. This was also a fundraiser for the needy in the community. My mother was the pianist at these events for other artists, Paul Ruud and Artis Hawkinson. They would sing popular Broadway songs. On my usual Sunday conversation on the phone with mom, she told me this story and I thought I should share it with everyone.

**Skip M. Dickinson
Britt**

The people DID prevail on Nov. 3

The recent letter (Dave Akerson, 12/18/20 edition) suggesting that socialism and

government control has taken over every aspect of our lives seems rather bizarre.

We went through four years of autocratic rule from a President who believed that every news outlet he didn’t approve of was “Fake News”.

It seems when the truth is reported even if it’s been taped showing him inserting his foot so plainly in his mouth, he deems it fake and calls out the reporters as poor reporters. Fact checking is a cottage industry with the many lies he’s told during his ramblings to his base. As far as the Constitution goes, I don’t think Trump has read it at all.

One thing he doesn’t understand is that we have three branches of government, not one. He knows about First Amendment rights because he believes he has the right to say whatever he wants to say and we don’t if we disagree. He loves to dangle the Second Amendment being taken away from you if you elect a Democrat even though there are many gun owners who are Democrats. Doubt if he’s researched that and by the way...I doubt if he’s ever used a gun. He had his chance but Daddy bought him a deferment for his bone spurs!

The letter writer talks about taking oaths. He’s taken oaths he says and makes the statement that it’s too bad that Marshall doesn’t take oaths to protect people. A person who is in law enforcement takes an oath. A person who is a health care provider takes an oath. A person who gets their citizenship takes an oath. But does a reporter take an oath? No they don’t. I guess I don’t know where the commenter is coming from on that point. When we were young and in school we said the pledge of allegiance every day. That was an oath every

citizen took.

The people did prevail. A new President will be sworn in come Jan. 20. And if you don’t like socialism, then don’t take your Social Security or Medicare when you become eligible. You’d be a Socialist if you did!

**Brian LaFrenier
Embarrass**

Stauber is aiding and abetting evil forces

So when do the shouts of voter fraud and Deep State conspiracies become sedition? Is it free speech, or is it shouting “Fire!” in a crowded theater, when there is no evidence of voter fraud or fire, or is it something darker? Even evil?

Rep. Stauber is aiding and abetting evil forces by aligning himself with Trump and his clown troop.

He seems to forget that a significant portion of voters in his district voted against Trump.

Rep. Stauber...Are you with us or against us?

Get a spine and lead.

**Tim McKenzie
Ely**

Keep expectations low with the new Biden administration

There’s an old gag line that a camel is a horse built by committee. And in terms of camels there are two types, dromedary (Camelus dromedarius) the single-humped variety and bactrian (Camelus bactrianus), the two-humped variety.

President elect Biden believes there exists in the American political body a dromedary form of government to be pursued. Yet the current divisiveness that exists suggests we are

more of a bactrian society, what a statistician would identify as a bimodal distribution, i.e. two humps. There is no Gaussian curve, no silent majority as Nixon framed it in his era.

It is as if Biden et al are counting on what is known as “regression to the mean”, an expression from the world of science. The idea being that just because two exceedingly tall people mate their offspring are not guaranteed to be anything but average height, likewise for the musically gifted, athletically talented or mechanically inclined. The most likely outcome of any progeny is just being average in any of those manifestations.

So since Biden is advocating an accommodating form of government from what is a bimodal society he is in effect gambling for naught but an average outcome. A society inheriting neither the perceived strengths of left or right, progressive or conservative. The most likely outcome here from a Biden administration is a regression to the mean.

The banks won’t be held accountable just as in 2003 and 2008, the Trump administration crimes will go unpunished just as Ford did for Nixon, the military industrial complex will continue to gobble up over 50 percent of our federal taxes, and the Chambers of Commerce will continue to dominate local politics. Money will still get what money wants.

Keep your horizon lines low in the next four years. Expect banality. Expect a horse built by committee.

**Jeff Wilfahrt
Ely**

HOLIDAYS...Continued from page 4

appreciation for Christmas music. Sunday School was held in the church basement with all the kids gathered tightly around the light blue painted piano singing carols and hymns. The edges and corners of this key piece of my music foundation were nearly rounded under the many coats of paint.

While holiday parties, concerts, fairs and tavern get-togethers are on the back burner this year, I have more time now to steep myself in Christmas reflection. I haven’t had the amount of time or undistracted self-space to do this in quite some time because I either had a spouse, kids, or many social events to attend to. Living alone with my three cats, we enjoy holiday music of every kind...nearly every day. The house is decorated inside and out. I put up two Christmas trees and nearly every night sit in the silent darkness with my glasses off, hugging a cat, relaxing and admiring the blurry tree lights. It’s a new thing for me to behave like this...and I question if all my faculties are still in order? Maybe I question

simply being able to finally allow myself to slow down. Stop and smell the balsams!

I have artificial Christmas trees now, but remember my younger brother Kurt and I going out into the woods every year to cut down a real tree for my bedroom. One year we were gone so long that my mother was angry because she thought we froze to death in the woods somewhere. As she was scolding us from back in the kitchen we were both shoving this balsam tree through the front door, carrying it quick through one end of the living room, scratching the painted doorways as we heaved it around the corner and down the hall into my bedroom. Now that was stressful, but it was worth it and Mother never noticed any scratches, or if she did, we did not heard about it.

My grandparents, who lived in International Falls, would usually drive down and spend Thanksgiving day with us. They would bring a box of wrapped Christmas presents that my mother would take upstairs and place in the attic for a

few weeks. This “set-up” for failure by my mother became my largest annual downfall of will power. I would last about two weeks, then sneak upstairs, find the gift and like a highly skilled surgeon begin the dissection. With pinkie fingers extended and eyebrows tense and arched like the Blatnik Bridge, I very carefully lifted the tape so that I could see the box inside, as those first waves of guilt wooshed over me...but I kept going. Consequences of getting caught were not grave. The tsunami of guilt hit when I’d opened the box to reveal its insides, repacked and rewrapped, it was slinking back downstairs to join my honorable family members not involved in covert yuletide activities. Delaying gratification has never been my strongest suit.

Grandma’s gifts were often a disappointment anyhow, and I never remember anything worth breaking the law over. The phrase, “It’s the thought that counts,” isn’t easily digested when you’re a kid. One year during these covert activities, the

vandalized gift revealed a stretchy, royal blue, white-dotted body suit with a snap crotch. “Oh no, I thought”...high maintenance peeing ahead... fighting with snaps meant less time at lunch with my boyfriend! “Oh man, and who wore royal blue? A size medium?” I made the best of it with my arms looking like big “draft-blockers” mom tucked on the floor next to the back door! The year prior had been perfume in a glass bottle shaped like a clunky old boot. Another year I was gifted a hat she had knit that was the color of runny-baby-endings with shiny sew-on metallic disks adorning it. Really, was it the thought that counted? Perfume excluded, the embarrassment of wearing stuff like that to school was really rough. With those gifts adding to humorous memories, grandmother also left us lovely knit afghans, needlework pieces and fancy beaded Christmas tree ornaments we admire to this day.

Like most families, we have a silly streak..or rather...a silly swath and


have always enjoyed doing gag gifts. One year, in my mid-twenties, I started crocheting a pair of white slippers for my sis-in-law. I had nearly completed one of the bottom soles when boredom, followed by the silly-swath, hit me and I decided to take the project in an alternate direction. The slipper sole looked like a pantliner. I dashed into the bathroom, emptied a box of Lightdays Pantliners to get the box, and went full steam ahead with my idea. After attaching a rough black Velcro strip all the way down one side and placing it in the box, I had created a “painfully” hysterical gag gift for sis.... Tightdays, the first crocheted pantliner with Velcro attachment strip....now washable. When sis took it out of the box we gals doubled over in laughter. Even mom chuckled through somewhat pursed lips. The guys...not so much, but you’ll have that with guys. It’s not their situation. We still re-gift it every few years just for the laugh. A family classic.

One fall I drove up to Russ’s Junk Store, north

of Nashwauk and found a set of ceramic raging bulls quietly biding their time on the dusty shelf. They had been somebody’s treasure from ceramics class back in the 1970s no doubt, and ended up in the junk store up in the woods, waiting to get back in the game. They were unrealistic and gaudy, having been painted in a blaze orange crackle glaze with explosions of gold and dark brown that was popular then. My younger brother was thrilled when he opened the package. His raging bulls were conversation pieces for years and sat on his coffee table.... bottom shelf.

I have found much enjoyment and unharnessed plenty of creativity during this sabbatical year. Through life’s hardships, I have become skilled at drawing on cherished memories and invoking humor in the everyday activities. There are still the few family members and co-workers I gather with, and always hope for the best in health for ALL as we venture into 2021. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL...
from **VERMILION PARK INN-SOUDAN**




Winning Artist • Bentley Crego
Grade 5

May The Peace Of The Season Be With You
from **VOYAGIRE LODGE & HOUSEBOATS**



Artist • WESTON QUAM
Grade 3

Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year!
from **WASCHKE FAMILY CHEVROLET**



Winning Artist • NORA ANDERSON
Grade 1

Week of Dec. 28

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

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 Jan. 19. **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.

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

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

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

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Decorating for the season...



Tower-Soudan pre-school students had some fun decorating graham cracker candy houses on their last day of school before the holiday break. Pictured (clockwise from top) Boone Bronen, Maurice Boshey, Vincent Vesel, and Kai'Lee Moyer.

photos by J. Summit

the TIMBERJAY

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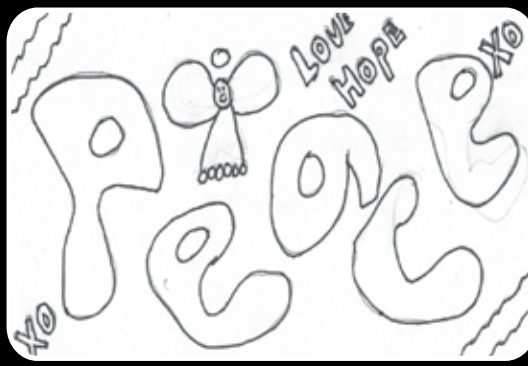
SEASON'S GREETINGS!
from BREITUNG TOWNSHIP



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Winning Artist • Dylan Crego
Grade 2

HAVE A SPARKLY, COZY CHRISTMAS
from Nordic Home North & The Marjo Motel



LOW HOPE

Winning Artist • Destiny Koivisto-Boshey
Grade 5

Wishing You Health & Happiness!
from ZUP'S GROCERY-TOWER



Merry Christmas!!!

Have a nice day!

Winning Artist • Brayden Warren
Grade 6

HO HO HO THIS HOLIDAY!
from Vermilion Mini Storage



Winning Artist • Kooper Dostert
Grade 4

Frosty Says... "Merry Christmas!"
from Scenic Rivers Medical & Dental-Tower



Artist • Nash Lenci
Grade 1

The Spirit of Christmas Surrounds Us
from Vermilion Senior Living



Happy Holidays

Winning Artist • Brendin Villebrun
Grade 1

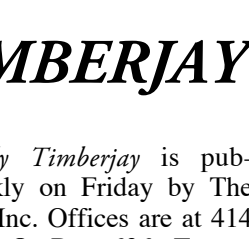
WINTER FUN AT GRANDMA'S HOUSE



Jayden and Lindi Zemke, of Ely, spent a recent weekend at Grandma's house (Patty Niskala) overlooking Shagawa Lake. They shoveled the snow off a big portion of ice for a hockey and skating rink. They played a little hockey and went ice skating too. Later Jayden went ice fishing and pulled up a 33-inch Northern Pike. submitted photos



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OUR COMMUNITY

New manager for Veterans on the Lake

ELY – Andy D. Berkenpas is the new general manager at Veterans on the Lake Resort (VOTLR) here as announced last week by the organization's Board of Directors.

He and his wife Lara will soon begin their new life in the Ely area community and the VOTLR family. They will be

living in a home on-site on Fall Lake. Berkenpas will assume his new duties at VOTLR on April 1, 2021, following two months of on the job training and the retirement of current manager Neil Weisinger.

The new general manager is no stranger to the local organization as he has been instrumental in fundraising, organizing, and executing trips of disabled and paralyzed

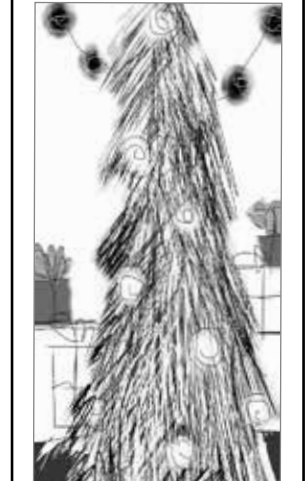
veterans to VOTLR for the last 14 years, including the "Castaways" group from Iowa, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) chapters in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

The executive director of the Iowa PVA, Kimberly Gould, said in a letter of support, "In all my experiences as the executive director of this chapter and chapters

around the country, this event (2019 PVA Fishing trip to VOTLR), the amount of money raised, and the entire experience of being involved with Andy and Lara Berkenpas, and the 'All Hands on Deck' group has surpassed any individual chapter or regional collaborations ever sponsored or hosted by a PVA chapter."

Breathing Out

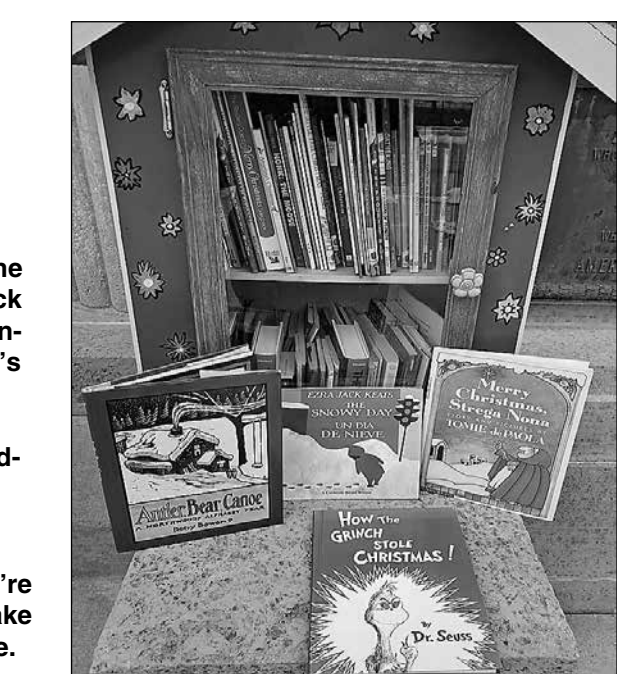
by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



bright lights, presents all the regular trimmings this year - reflection

Books for Christmas

The Ely Community Resource updated their Little Library book inventory to celebrate the Christmas season. Check out their selection of winter and holiday children's books and get into the holiday spirit with your little ones. Just a reminder: this particular Little Library is for children, youth, and young adult literature only, so if you're dropping off a book, make sure it's age-appropriate. submitted photo



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COOK CITY COUNCIL

Cook council approves five-percent levy hike

Deliberations on housing authority PILT payment dilemma continue with no resolution

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK – With no members of the public showing up for the City of Cook’s truth-in-taxation meeting last Thursday, council members made quick work of approving a five-percent increase in the property tax levy for the next fiscal year.

The council has held multiple budget sessions since August to review each department, and there were no changes since the final proposal was presented to the council last month.

The new levy is projected to generate \$445,248 in revenue for 2021, \$20,202 more than in 2020. When total projected general revenues are factored against projected expenses, the budget will support a 1.5-percent cost-of-living adjustment for employees and still remain in the black by \$229, City Administrator Theresa Martinson said.

There was no additional discussion before the truth-in-taxation meeting was adjourned, and the council unanimously approved the levy and budget during the regular meeting that followed.

HRA PILT

A months-old disagreement between the Cook City Council and the Cook Housing and Redevelopment Authority over the HRA’s annual payment in lieu of tax-

es (PILT) appears little closer to resolution as the year comes to a close, as the council again took up the issue at last Thursday’s meeting.

HRA Executive Director Reed Erickson has met with the council twice, in September and October, to discuss what the HRA’s PILT payment should be now that a three-year special reduction granted by the council is expiring.

Having reduced the HRA’s PILT percentage to five percent, the city wants the HRA to go back to paying the ten percent it historically paid, which would be approximately \$16,000. However, Erickson has argued that the 40-year-old contract specifies that state law is the determining factor, which would keep the PILT at five percent, and the next annual payment at approximately \$8,000. Attorneys for both sides have expressed opinions supporting their clients.

The council and Erickson agreed at the October meeting to refer the matter to their respective attorneys to negotiate a new agreement. The intent of the negotiations was made clear in an exchange between Erickson and Mayor Harold Johnston in a recording of the meeting made by the *Timberjay*.

“Are you willing to have our attorneys talk?” Johnston asked.

“Of course, I’m willing to have the two attor-

neys talk and at the same time come up with some mutual agreement that’s going to be satisfactory to both parties, not just to the attorneys but to the city and the HRA. Absolutely,” Erickson responded.

“You understand though, that the only point to them talking is if we come to some agreement between the two figures that we’re talking about. There’s no point otherwise,” Johnston said.

“I agree, but then it has to be something that’s going to be concrete moving forward,” Erickson said.

The council then approved a motion by Jody Bixby, seconded by Liz Storm, to have the city and HRA attorneys discuss the contract issue and present a new agreement to the respective boards.

Two months later, City Administrator Theresa Martinson had little progress to report at Thursday’s meeting.

“Our attorney has reached out to the HRA’s attorney and they were going to consult with their client, and I don’t think that has happened,” Martinson said.

The city’s attorney, Lara Whiteside of Vermilion Law, was present as council members reviewed the issue and prior discussions about the rates. After several minutes of discussion, Whiteside summarized

the issue needing to be resolved.

“Their attorney referenced a clause in the contract for whichever is lesser, it’s up to interpretation,” Whiteside said. “So, they have an argument that it should be interpreted one way, and I have an argument that it should be interpreted one way.”

Whiteside said that if the city wanted to stay with its initial decision of ten percent, litigation would be necessary unless the HRA agreed to the hike. She said the council needed to address whether they were willing to go through the time and expense of litigating or if they were open to negotiating a lesser amount if the HRA was “willing to come up.” Whiteside said

she would need to know what that would be. She concluded her comments with a suggestion that the discussion could continue in a closed meeting.

“And this is often something (unintelligible) considering possible litigation it might need to be closed, a closed meeting in order to discuss that,” she said.

At that point, councilors voted to table the discussion.

In other business, the council:

►Agreed to prorate the cost of license renewals for the Old Muni and Cook VFW to reflect the hardships created by the coronavirus pandemic. Martinson estimated that the establishments would have been involuntarily

closed for 116 days by the end of the year. The prorated amounts represented a \$795 benefit for the Old Muni and \$95 for the VFW.

►Acknowledged St. Louis County Sheriff’s Deputy John Barrett, who recently retired, for his service to the Cook community.

►Approved updated social media policies.

►Adjourned to a special closed meeting for attorney-client privilege for preliminary consideration of allegations or charges against an individual subject to the council’s authority. No actions were taken after the meeting.

LAKE VERMILION TRAIL



Tim Johnson, right, accepts a \$500 donation last Thursday from Cook Lions Club President Steve Kajala, center, and Treasurer Jody Refsdahl for the Friends of the Lake Vermilion Trail.

photo by D. Colburn

JOLLY OLD ELF VISITS COOK



Left: Riding in a festive carriage driven by Mike and Kathie Hanson, Santa Claus parades in downtown Cook on Thursday.

Above: Santa waves to children who came to deliver their Christmas wish lists.

photos by D. Colburn

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SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL from Pelican Bay Foods



Winning Artist • NOVA RUTCHASKI
Grade 1

Have a Very Merry Christmas! from LUMBER ORR HARDWARE



Winning Artist • Carsyn Burnett
Grade 5

Jingle All The Way This Christmas from Scenic Rivers Medical & Dental-Cook



Winning Artist • Connor Anderson
Grade 2

BE MERRY THIS SEASON! from Zup's of Cook



Winning Artist • Bailey Brunner
Grade 1

HOLIDAY GIVING

End of the year giving more important than ever this year

REGIONAL- In a typical year, I'd be writing a column about the benefits of end-of-the-year donations for your tax purposes, but this isn't a typical year.

Donations to United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) are 100-percent tax deductible like always, and I still encourage you to consider donating to UWNEMN if you are interested in making donations to reach the \$300 mark (new this year due to the CARES Act) needed to receive tax benefits.

But this year, due to COVID-19, my year-end appeal to you is possibly more urgent than any UWNEMN president's column has ever been.

The pandemic has increased needs for UWNEMN programs and the agencies UWNEMN supports. Meanwhile, it's also limited UWNEMN's ability to visit workplaces to fundraise, limited local individuals' ability to donate through workplace campaigns, and limited the capabilities UWNEMN has for holding events to raise funds. These limits will have detrimental impacts on the ability of UWNEMN to do its community work, while undoubtedly needs will only continue to rise.

The words—"Your donation



ERIC CLEMENT

is needed now more than ever"—could not be truer than in 2020. We know times are tough. We know the future is uncertain. But we also know that our communities will suffer if the programs and relief efforts provided by UWNEMN are not financially supported this year.

There is no easy way to say it, we need your help. We need your pledged workplace contributions for 2021. We need your end-of-the-year donations. We need your planned gifts and your donor advised fund gifts. We need you to unite your gift with others from across our great region to ensure support for UWNEMN this year.

If we can unite and come together during this season of giving, UWNEMN will be able to continue to feed hungry children through Buddy Backpacks, help local families hardest hit by COVID-19, provide holiday meals to veterans in financial need, and provide critically needed preventive and restorative dental care to uninsured and underinsured individuals. Your donations go far and do so much when you contribute to UWNEMN. Plus, the money

stays local and has a direct impact on the lives of our families, friends, coworkers and neighbors.

UWNEMN is a cornerstone of the community, remaining strong and true in its support of our people. Its ability to be flexible is one of the organization's greatest strengths, especially in times like these. If you are someone who is struggling at this time and unable to give, please remember that UWNEMN is here to help and is able to provide some relief to local families financially impacted by COVID-19.

If you are able to give, though, I'd like to encourage you to donate in 2020 to support UWNEMN, its agencies, and programs. UWNEMN is committed to our communities during these trying, unprecedented times. If you can, please send your donation to UWNEMN at 608 East Dr., Chisholm, MN 55719 or donate online at www.unitedwaynemn.org.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you. UWNEMN is grateful for each and every donation received, and as Board President, so am I.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) Board President Eric Clement

MnDOT launches "Name a Snowplow" contest

REGIONAL- The Minnesota Department of Transportation is seeking creative, witty and fun names as part of a new effort to name eight snowplows in the agency's fleet—one snowplow for each MnDOT district in the state.

Name ideas can be submitted on the MnDOT website at [www.dot.state.mn.us/nameasnow-](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/nameasnow)

plow. The submission form will be open until Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, and all Minnesotans are invited to participate. The link will also be shared on MnDOT's social media channels.

In February, MnDOT plans to share some of the best name ideas and invite the public to vote on their favorites. The eight names that get the most votes

will then make their way onto a snowplow in each district.

Follow @mndot on Instagram and Facebook, and @MnDOT on Twitter.

Holiday Books

The Streeel, A Deadwood Mystery

Mary Logue
University of Minnesota Press

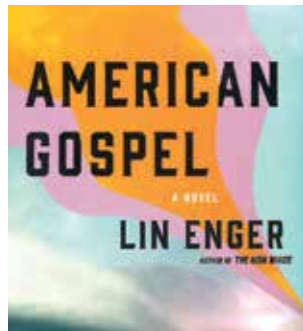


Set in 1880, *The Streeel* follows a young brother and sister, Irish immigrants, who end up in Deadwood, S.D., during the gold rush. Brigid follows her brother Seamus to Deadwood, but the day after she arrives, a woman is found dead, and Seamus is suspected of the murder. Seamus flees, and Brigid is left to clear his name, as well as manage his mining claim. The book brings to life the frontier town, and the everyday realities of

a young immigrant surviving on her own. Mary Logue is the author of the popular Claire Watkins mysteries. She has taught at Hamline University.

American Gospel

Lin Eger
University of Minnesota Press



American Gospel vividly uses the fantastic chimera of the Rapture to tell a complex family and rural community story. In small town Minnesota, Enoch, a fundamentalist, survives a near-death experience and decides he's been spared by the hand of God to announce that the Rapture will take place in two weeks.

As Richard Nixon resigns in disgrace after the Watergate scandal and leaves Washington, D.C., never to return, Enoch calls his 32-year-old son Peter, a struggling journalist, home from Washington, and local-girl-made-good Melanie, a troubled actress in spiritual debt to Enoch who shares an intimate past with Peter, back from Hollywood, to witness the end of history.

Will Enoch, whose death is sure to come, either through divine intervention or the ravages of mortality, pass on his apocalyptic religious beliefs to his son and the motley cult of relatives, local denizens, true believers and media schlock-meisters who converge at his farm, *The Last Days Ranch*? Do Peter and Melanie have a future?

The book's memorable final image resonates, sticks in the head, and forces the reader to revisit the story in search of an answer to life's most urgent questions:

Who are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going? And, perhaps most importantly, do we have a home and, if so, where might we find it?

Lin Eger, who earned an MFA in Creative Writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa, has found a home in Moorhead and teaches at Minnesota State University.

Have A Safe, Blessed Season!
from BIC Realty



Winning Artist • Collin Grahn
Grade 6

May Your Holidays Be Merry & Bright!
from BAYVIEW BAR & GRILL



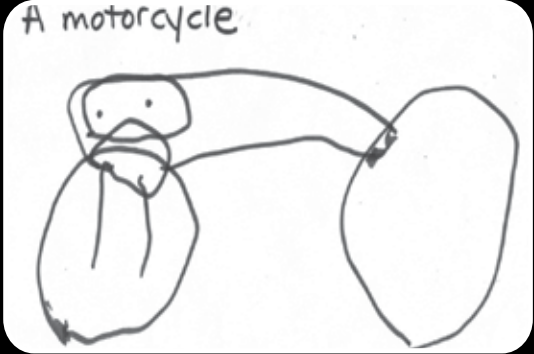
Winning Artist • VINCENT CHOSA
Grade 1

A Very Happy Christmas to You!
from Arrowhead Paint & Repair



Winning Artist • Jack Udovich
Grade 2

We Send Holiday Wishes To You
from BOB'S SERVICE & TOWING



Artist • Vincent Vesel
Pre-Kindergarten

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
from Embarrass Vermillion Credit Union



Winning Artist • Thomas Aldrich
Grade 6

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!
from GOOD 'OL DAYS BAR & GRILL



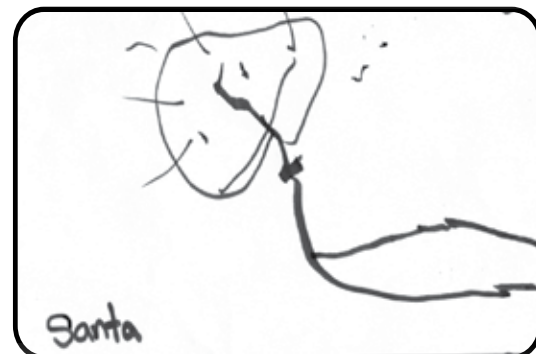
Artist • Kellin Pratt
Grade 6

HO HO HO THIS HOLIDAY!
from Glenmore Resort



Winning Artist • Trevor Zaitz
Grade 6

SANTA says... "Have A Merry Christmas"
from Broten Construction



Artist • Boone Broten
Pre-Kindergarten

Simply...Have a Happy Holiday!
from Rolando Noyes Construction



Winning Artist • Cora Goodbird
Grade 2

COVID...Continued from page 1

11, the Montana Café in Cook succumbed, at least in part to the news.

A post on the café's social media page indicated the eatery would be closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 4, while noting take-out and special holiday pre-orders would continue through Wednesday, Dec 23.

"This may change based on the next update, but things are so slow right now that this is what we find necessary to do," the post read. "THANK YOU again to this great community that we are a part of. Stay home, mask up, and stay safe so we can open again and have a better year in 2021!"

Restaurants, coffee shops, bars, and other indoor entertainment venues were the ones most adversely affected by Walz's extension of the restrictions, although food establishments did get permission to resume outdoor dining at 50 percent capacity up to 100 diners.

Gyms, fitness centers, and health clubs are allowed to reopen for individual workouts at 25 percent capacity, up to 100 people, provided patrons are always masked and remain 12 feet apart.

Social gatherings outside of family households had been barred under Walz's previous order, but as of last week's revision, up to 10 people from two households can gather together indoors if they follow COVID-19 precautions for masking and social distancing. Outdoors, a total of 15 people from three house-



Al Schroeter, Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital technician, gets the first coronavirus vaccine in Ely on Monday afternoon. The vaccine was administered by Becky Holmstrom, EBCH chief nursing officer. Thirty vaccines were administered on Monday to hospital employees and ambulance service crews in Ely and Tower, Another 25 vaccines were scheduled to be administered on Wednesday. photo courtesy of EBCH

holds can assemble if following precautions.

In the biggest shift away from old guidance, Walz said that elementary schools can resume in-person learning beginning Jan. 18, provided they are following prescribed mitigation strategies. Walz noted that the change is in response to evolving understanding about how COVID-19 spreads in school settings.

"What we do know is our youngest children are less susceptible to serious complications," Walz said. "I don't want to minimize that - one child getting COVID is too many. But what we've learned is how to reduce that spread."

Middle and high schools will still be subject

to existing guidelines and evaluation of local data to determine whether in-person, hybrid, or distance learning is most appropriate.

Walz also gave a green light for winter youth sports to begin practicing on Jan. 4, but he did not set a date for when competition could resume. His November order calling a premature halt to school football and volleyball seasons also scuttled previous plans to start winter sport practices in mid-November.

A group of over 200 businesses affiliated with the ReOpen Minnesota Coalition planned to defy Walz's order and resume indoor services on Friday, and Minnesota Attorney

General Keith Ellison responded by filing actions against three of them by Monday, adding to two additional cases filed during the initial closure period.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Court of Minnesota Judge John Tunheim rejected on Friday a case filed by Let Them Play MN to challenge Walz's authority to put limitations on youth sports. The group of primarily parents said it would appeal the decision. Let Them Play MN was instrumental in applying pressure to get the Minnesota State High School League to bring back football and volleyball for fall seasons after they had previously shifted them to spring seasons due

to COVID-19.

Area numbers

The Cook zip code once again led the region in new cases with 16, according to figures reported by the state Health Department last Thursday. While significant, the number was markedly lower than the 24 and 25 new cases identified the two prior weeks. Soudan was the second-largest gainer with seven cases, bringing its cumulative total to 16. New cases in other locations included Orr with six, Embarrass with five, Ely with three, and Tower with two.

After hitting a pandemic-high in the 7-day rolling average of cases per 100,000 people at 76.1 on Nov. 19, the northern portion of the county has had a fitful but steady decline, dropping by more than half to 31 as of Dec. 14, the most recent date reported. The rate for the county has also dropped significantly from a high of 129.2 on Nov. 23 to 47.2 on Dec. 14. An anticipated surge related to the

Thanksgiving holiday has not been reflected in the data, and Walz gave credit for that to Minnesotans who volunteered to comply with the tight gathering restrictions.

State and county health officials have been quick in recent press conferences to point out that while the overall case number rates have been declining, the rates are still well above the threshold for unchecked community spread, and hospitalization and death rates have been slower to respond.

Walz warned on Thursday that if Minnesotans don't remain vigilant in following standard protocols for masking and social distancing in addition to adhering to the new gathering guidance, a holiday-driven resurgence of infections could seriously threaten hospital capacity and result in mounting deaths just as the state ramps up vaccine administration for healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents.

Happy Holidays to all Northerners!
from ReMax Lake Country

Artist • RYLIE GIBSON
Grade 3

YaY! It's Christmas & New Year's!
from North Star Credit Union

Winning Artist • Audree Palmer
Grade 2

Dance Around The Christmas Tree!
from Vermilion Fuel & Food

Winning Artist • Shaye Isham
Grade 5

Wishes For A Very Merry Christmas
from Northern Pine Embroidery

Winning Artist • Brady Swanson
Grade 4

Be Ready For Santa!
from ORR MUNI

Winning Artist • Brock Long
Grade 3

Wishing You Peace, Joy & Happiness
from Northwoods True Value

Winning Artist • Ellie Sherman
Grade 3

The Greatest of Holiday Wishes!
from Tim Johnson-State Farm Agency

Winning Artist • Silas Budreau
Grade 3

Bright Holiday Wishes to You!
from ReMax Lake Country

Winning Artist • Josie Gibson
Grade 4

Warm Wishes This Festive Season!
from Vermilion Land Office

Winning Artist • Maleah Boshey
GRADE 1

Have A Happy Season!
from The Cook Hospital

Winning Artist • Augustine Jacobson
Grade 6

COUNTY SCHOOLS

ISD 2142 school board OKs two-percent levy increase

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- No members of the public contacted the ISD 2142 School Board about its proposed 2021 pay levy prior to its Dec. 8 truth-in-taxation meeting, and none appeared viz Zoom to comment, either, letting board members make quick work of approving a 2.03 percent increase in the levy.

District business manager Kim Johnson said that there had been no changes since she presented the proposed increase at a prior meeting and gave an abbreviated review of the changes. She noted that the district's payment for debt

Superintendent gets three-year, \$468,000 contract renewal

service related to major construction and renovation projects would be approximately \$3.8 million, up about \$368,000 from 2020.

An increase of \$124,785 in taconite replacement funds from the Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board is essentially an offset for district taxpayers, Johnson said. The community education programs and services are paid completely by taconite replacement funds, she said.

Overall, the final pay levy increase will net the district an additional \$138,902 for 2021, making the total amount

raised approximately \$6.97 million. The district's overall budget is supplemented by multiple state and federal revenue streams.

The board did not describe or discuss the terms of a contract renewal for Superintendent Reggie Engebritson before unanimously approving a three-year deal that runs through the 2023-24 school year.

A copy of the approved agreement included in the board packet reveals that Engebritson's salary for 2021-22 will be \$152,000 and will increase annually by \$4,000 to \$156,000 and \$160,000 in years two and

three of the contract.

The contract notes that these amounts apply specifically to Engebritson's work for ISD 2142. Engebritson also has been serving as superintendent for Mt. Iron-Buhl, and is eligible for additional compensation in accordance with a shared services agreement.

Board members had little to say about agenda items related to school board election locations and dates, school board and 2021-22 school calendars, Indian education policies and procedures, and a final copy of a two-year bus drivers contract,

passing nearly all without comment or questions on unanimous votes.

Engebritson gave a one-minute overview of the district's plan to switch to full distance education for the week before and the week following the two-week winter break. Board members had no questions.

Board Chairman Dan Manick expressed thanks on behalf of the board and district to outgoing board member Christine Taylor, who was attending her final board meeting after having lost a bid for re-election in November.

"It was great having you on the board," Manick

said. "You provided a lot of good insight."

Taylor responded that she had learned a lot while serving in a role she took on at the encouragement of others. As someone who has always been "very heavily pro-labor" she said that the contract negotiation process gave her new understanding of the priorities and arguments on both sides.

In other business, the board accepted the resignation of Tower-Soudan community education coordinator Amy Banks.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Two men charged in Ely break-in and assault incident

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Two felony counts of burglary and assault were filed last week following a recent incident at Zenith Apartments involving two men, one from Ely and the other from Brooklyn Center. Justin Charles McNulty, 24, of Ely, and Ashton, Jeremiah Swanson, 23, Brooklyn Center, were arrested and charged in St. Louis County District Court with two counts of first-degree burglary and fifth-degree assault following a Dec. 10 incident at the city's Camp Street apartment complex.

According to the criminal complaint filed by the Ely Police Department and

obtained by the Timberjay, police officers were dispatched to an apartment at the Zenith complex shortly after midnight on Thursday, Dec. 10. Police found broken glass, suggesting a window was broken from the outside, and upon entering the apartment found a male occupant on his hands and knees between the bed and the wall with multiple scratches on his back, bruises on his face and a bloody mouth.

The alleged victim, according to police, said he was attacked by both Swanson and McNulty.

In a statement, the alleged victim said he woke up to someone shaking his foot and observed both Swanson and McNulty in

his apartment. They told him he "needed to quit threatening people." Swanson and McNulty were told to leave, and later the alleged victim said he heard pounding on the door, and that Swanson soon came in through the window and unlocked the door.

According to the criminal complaint, the alleged victim said he was tackled to the ground by Swanson, who allegedly cut his back.

He tried to fight back, and McNulty tried to get him off Swanson and later attempted to throw a punch.

Ely police officers later located both McNulty and Swanson and placed them under arrest. Both were questioned and, according to the report, both admitted to police to being at the apartment. McNulty told police they were at the apartment to

discuss alleged threats made by the alleged victim.

McNulty told police they returned to the apartment 45 minutes after leaving and that Swanson broke the apartment window with his head, went inside and attacked "the living shit" out of the alleged victim.

Swanson told police of "hanging out" at the alleged victim's residence and said he got into "a little

tussle" with the alleged victim.

The burglary charges each carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and/or a \$35,000 fine. The misdemeanor assault charges carry a maximum penalty of 90 days incarceration and/or \$1,000 fine.

May Your Holidays Be Merry & Bright!
from The Y-Store

Winning Artist • Caitlynn Goodbird
Grade 4

Merry Christmas to Creatures Great & Small
from Benchwarmer Grille

Winning Artist • River Carter
Kindergarten

We Wish You A Very Merry Christmas!
from SUNRISE RIVER BOATWORKS

Winning Artist • Shenze Chavez
Grade 2

Season's Greetings To You All
from THE TIMBERJAY

Winning Artist • Mattias Boshey
Grade 5

Rudolph Says... "Merry Christmas!"
from Ryan's Rustic Railings

Winning Artist • Nevaeh Wipf
Grade 5

Have a Twinkling, Happy Christmas!
from GRUBEN'S MARINA

Winning Artist • Emmett Flood
Kindergarten

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HAVE A MAGICAL HOLIDAY SEASON!
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Winning Artist • Leah Las
Grade 2

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'TIS THE SEASON

There's nothing like gnomes for the holidays

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Susan Thomas of Cook has made hundreds of gnomes in the last several months.
photo by D. Colburn

COOK - Susan Thomas, of Cook, says she's never considered herself an artist, and when friends have tried to cajole her into group crafting projects she's claimed a very specific role.

"I am not crafty," Thomas declared. "When my girlfriends would get together and have craft days around this time of year, I always claimed my craft was mixology. So, I would just be the bartender because I did not craft."

But there are around 200 cute, fuzzy reasons to be skeptical of Thomas's claim of not being crafty, as she's been swamped for the past couple of months turning out fanciful gnome figurines that folks have been snapping up almost faster than she can make them.

Thomas had collected a few gnomes over the years, so she was a little more amenable to a friend's suggestion in the fall of 2019 that she give gnome-making a try. Rather than work from a standard pattern, Thomas turned to YouTube looking for ideas. But the common techniques and styles she discovered weren't quite what she had in mind.

"I did a little bit of research on them, and I kind of modeled mine more after those Norwegian gnomes -- they're more of a they're more of like a nature spirit," Thomas said. "They're guardians and protectors of lake farms in Norway. So, I wanted them to be more nature-themed and that's why they kind of changed."

With that particular focus, working on her unique gnomes also provides moments for Thomas to feel close to her husband, Scott, again. The pair reconnected at their 10-year high school reunion and married in 1993. A lover of the outdoors, Scott passed away unexpectedly five years ago as the result of a logging accident, so working with nature always in mind gives rise to many fond memories of their years together, Thomas said.

She made about 40 what she termed as "simple" gnomes in 2019 and put all of her crafting materials away after the



holidays. But between the enjoyment she found and ideas she wanted to try, like adding arms to her creations, it was virtually a given that she would be gnoming again this year.

A paraprofessional at North Woods School for many years, Thomas got a little extra incentive and time to pursue her hobby

when the school cut down the work hours for paraprofessionals at the start of the school year. That freed up Wednesdays and provided a reason to use gnomes to supplement her income.

"I was going to try making gnomes and selling them for some Christmas gift money, and it's just gotten out of hand," she

laughed.

She headed off to craft stores in Virginia and Duluth, stocking up on "more expensive" furs and fabrics because that's what she would want, she said, and collected all sorts of items for decorative accessories. Rice and silica stuffed into cloth tubes form the basic structure around which Thomas creates gnomes with unique styles and personalities. Most average around a foot in height, but she's made some as tall as 20 inches.

She started in on her first batch of new gnomes this year on Oct. 1, with a plan to end production on Dec. 18.

"The Halloween ones were kind of like a refresher course for me to get my feet wet again, because I hadn't touched it all year," Thomas said. "People were interested so I made a few and sold them. But my goal from the very beginning was to do crafts shows at Christmas time."

COVID-19 made that plan challenging, as

long-standing shows were being canceled right and left. But Thomas helped organize one held at the Cook VFW, and participated in the one at St. Mary's Catholic Church, and found one more to attend.

Toward the end of November, she added another marketing channel, a page on Facebook titled "Northern Gnomology," and began receiving requests from customers as far away as Minneapolis as well as from locals. Thomas was able to handle the unexpected demand, but admitted that there was a short time when she was doing multiple special orders that it became less fun and more of a chore.

But she kept churning away, creating gnomes at a pace of about one every two hours, and the need to quarantine for two weeks due to being exposed to COVID-19 set the stage for her to spend up to 60 hours per week making gnomes.

Given that Thomas uses more expensive materials, her gnomes are a little more pricey than others, costing around \$35 for a standard size up to \$55 for large ones. Since that's the case, the holiday touch on many of her gnomes is subtle, or even nonexistent, with the idea that buyers would be able to display them during other times of the year.

Last Friday, Dec. 18, was the day Thomas intended to pack up all of her supplies and stop making gnomes for this year, but the overwhelming response has her considering the possibility of keeping it up on a limited basis, particularly given the response she's received.

"It's been amazing," she said. "People have just fallen in love with them and it tickles me because, you know, I like them, but I can be a little eccentric at times. I've been thrilled that I've been able to make them the way I like them and that people are really accepting and really loving my version of what I want them to be. It's been a big boost to my ego to have so much positive feedback. I just can't believe how supportive everyone has been."



Merry Christmas, neighbors.

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Enjoy Nature This Christmas!
from Russ Hyppa Accounting




Winning Artist • Beau Fabish
Grade 4

Season's Greetings To You All!
from REMAX LAKE COUNTRY



Winning Artist • Emarie Gibson
Grade 6

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!
from Tower-Soudan Insurance Agency




Winning Artist • Bennett Mosher
Kindergarten

WHAT ELSE BUT...MERRY CHRISTMAS!
from The Vermilion Club



Artist • Sterling Carter
Grade 3

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to You!
from Ubetcha Antiques



Winning Artist • LaNara Guenther
Grade 3

HAVE A FUN CHRISTMAS!
from Lamppa Manufacturing



Winning Artist • Kija Chosa
Grade 3

LONNIE...Continued from page 1

saw it as about improving the lives of the people involved. And he built a real community.”

Lonnie and his wife Ann both played a role in building that community, which included opening their house to players and their families. “It was like my second home,” remembers Larsen, who spent hours at the Lamppa’s house in Tower, hanging out with the Lamppa’s three boys, all of whom, like Larsen, excelled in sports.

Ann Lamppa said it wasn’t an accident that when she and Lonnie decided to move from a lake place into town, they bought a large, newer house right across the street from the Tower-Soudan School’s athletic fields. Before and after practices or games, the students and their families naturally gathered at the Lamppa’s, where the garage was usually open and the beer and other snacks were in the cooler.

“My dad and mom were very conscious of having people at the house, before and after the games,” remembers Justin Lamppa, Ann and Lonnie’s oldest son. “For my dad, it wasn’t a job, it was a lifestyle. He understood that a lot of kids needed a place to belong and he opened up our house to everyone.”

While Lonnie recognized the importance of building character in those he coached, he also liked to win and took steps to attract the kind of talent that could make that happen. Paul McDonald, the son of Bob McDonald, the winningest coach in Minnesota high school sports, remembers getting a call from Lonnie back in the 1980s about a coaching and athletic director position open in Tower. McDonald, who is now a St. Louis County Commissioner, applied and got the job and Lonnie spent years as an assistant coach working under McDonald.

“I always said we were the perfect pair,” recalls McDonald. “I would get after him, and he would put his arm around them to bring them back. He was a genuine, caring person.

Whether you were the best player or a benchwarmer, you were the same to Lonnie.

He always stressed the

importance of developing quality relationships with everyone.”

When McDonald was later hired to coach basketball at Vermilion Community College, Lonnie found a role to play there as well, mostly using his skills as a physical therapist, only later as an assistant coach. “He would come up to the college, and work with students who had injuries,” recalls McDonald. “He would come after work or over the noon hour. He didn’t have to, but he just loved the kids. He could see if an injury was causing them anxiety and he would calmly explain how they would get better. He could really calm them down.”

Steve Svatos was one of those athletes, who first got to know Lonnie well when Svatos underwent knee surgery in ninth grade. Lonnie, who worked at the Ely hospital, would pick Svatos up in Tower to bring him to his therapy. “He’s always been so willing to help,” said Svatos. “He volunteered thousands of hours to do whatever he could to help the athletes, in both boys and girls sports. Whether it was Little League or high school, his approach was the same, said Svatos. “He was very humble about it all. He never looked for any recognition. It was just who he was.”

Lonnie grew up in the Finnish enclave of Embarrass, where his parents Ernie and Lyna Lamppa helped operate Lamppa’s Store with his uncle Alvin. As a young man, Lonnie also worked at times at the store, which sold groceries, household goods and appliances to residents of the community.

While Ann Lamppa said she’s not sure what about his upbringing made Lonnie the person he became, she said it was obvious from the beginning that he saw the value in mentoring young people.

“We went to college to be a teacher, first at VCC, then at Bemidji,” said Ann. After receiving his teaching certificate he got his first job at the Cherry School, where he taught at the high school level and head coached football and basketball. “He came home every night and said he didn’t think he could do



Lonnie Lamppa coached varsity basketball at Tower-Soudan in the 1990s. submitted photo

it,” recalls Ann. “He loved the coaching but didn’t like all the drama in the classroom. I told him if he didn’t like it, he had to change now.”

He left that job and spent a few months working at his parents’ store before deciding to go back to school to learn physical therapy, which eventually became his career. He would never serve as a head coach again, which is just the way that he liked it, according to Svatos. Lonnie preferred to leave the politics and the headlines to others.

Lonnie’s humble nature made it hard bestow recognition in any form. Greg “Dusty” Dostert said he had planned to retire Lonnie’s jersey during a Little League ceremony this past summer that was ultimately canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. There was another hitch as well. “We couldn’t figure out what number jersey he wore,” said Dostert. In fact, as old photos attest, Lonnie wore various numbers over the years, most likely wearing whatever jerseys were available at the time.

Quietly influential

For so many of the young people who came up under Lonnie’s mentoring, the lessons he taught them keep making a difference in their own lives. Jeb Kotzian, a Tower-Soudan alum who played with both Brian Larsen and Justin Lamppa, recalls how Lonnie’s methods

stood out from most other coaches and teachers of that era. “He knew how to motivate and inspire people in a way that was very calming,” said Kotzian. “At a time when some other adults could seem threatening at times or use harsh language, he never yelled. He just talked about how we owed our best to our team.”

Kotzian is a member of the Army Reserve, who recently returned from a year-long stint commanding a mobile surgical team in Afghanistan. And he said he regularly tries to utilize the lessons and methods that Lonnie taught him as he leads his own team under the challenging conditions of a war zone.

For Svatos, who lives in Grand Rapids, his relationship with Lonnie has remained tight through the years. Lonnie even served as best man at his and his wife Jennifer’s wedding in 2003. “We’ve had a lifelong bond,” said Svatos. “He’s been a big influence in a lot of things that I’ve done.”

McDonald said one of the surest signs of Lonnie’s influence was during a high school baseball game in Tower. “I was the coach and John Kemppainen was the umpire. John called our runner out at first base and it was very apparent he was safe. Lonnie, who was normally so quiet, said something this time, and he was pretty exercised about it. He said something to

Kemppainen about it, who decided that if Lonnie was complaining about it, it must be legitimate, so he reversed himself. I don’t think I’ve ever seen that before or since. It showed the quiet influence that Lonnie had with everybody.”

Memories fades

Signs of trouble arrived shortly after Lonnie retired. He was 2015, and with extra time on their hands, Lonnie and Ann spent a summer upgrading the family hunting shack, which was second only to sports as a family pastime. At first it was small things, like Lonnie forgetting measurements, that caught Ann’s attention. Others who came to help with the work, also made note to Ann that Lonnie seemed to be slipping, even though he was still in his mid-60s at the time. His loss of memory accelerated and eventually they visited the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, where Lonnie was diagnosed with dementia due to Alzheimer’s, even though scans of his brain did not show the usual signs of Alzheimer’s. After returning for more tests in late 2017, they learned that the left side of Lonnie’s brain was not getting the glucose it needs to function. It was a mystery to the doctors, who have since enrolled Lonnie in a research program. Two years later, in June 2019, when they tested Lonnie again, Ann said they were stunned at how fast he had

deteriorated. “They said it was totally new.”

The good news, said Ann, is the doctors don’t believe Lonnie’s impairment is genetic, so it’s not likely to plague their children in the future. Ann has a theory of her own. “None of the doctors will say it, but I believe it could be due to head injuries that Lonnie experienced in football,” said Ann. “In those days, you could get a concussion and they’d put you right back in.”

Now just 71, Lonnie should be enjoying an active retirement with family and friends. Instead, last April, after his care needs eventually became too much, he was moved into a small memory care facility in Eveleth. “He does fine there,” said Ann. “He gets a lot of individual attention.”

Despite all that he has lost, Lonnie has never complained, according to Ann. While he now shies away from groups, even in family settings, signs of the old Lonnie, still emerge at times, although more and more it’s the lessons that he taught so many young people over the years that linger. “I find that the older I get, the more I find myself asking ‘what would my dad do?’” said Justin.

Larsen agrees, noting that, after his parents, Lonnie was the most influential person in his life.

“I can never repay all that he did for me,” he said.

CHRISTMAS...Continued from page 1

Thiele expanded on the age of coronavirus fellowship for his church community, started in August with weekly Sunday services, in the expansive parking lot of the former Shopko retail shopping center.

“We wanted to gather together to celebrate the Christmas season with a sing-along,” Thiele said as he greeted participants and directed them to drive their cars into orderly rows facing the storefront.

Participants were asked to tune their car radios to 88.1 FM and sing along with Debbie and Jay Mackie and Dean Dewberry, who were stationed at the store entrance with simulcast audio broadcasting equipment. Song sheets were available on the church’s website to print out.

Byron and Alice Moren, of Ely, were in



Ele-area residents sat in the vehicles in the former Shopko store parking lot Sunday afternoon and sang Christmas carols. photo by K. Vandervort

the front row in their hybrid vehicle, along with their daughter, Peggy Stolley, who recently moved back home from New Hampshire.

“It is such a nice day and what a beautiful way to celebrate Christmas during

these times,” Alice said. Byron was decked out in his “Merry Christmas” hat for the event.

“This is a nice way to gather together for Christmas and still stay safe during this pandemic,” Alice added.

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ELY...Continued from page 1

decided that, in light of an ongoing health issue, he was not up to the job and chose to withdraw from the race. His name remained on the ballot, however, because it was too late to make the change in time for the Nov. 3 election.

Ely voters decided to give Urbas the job anyway, voting him in 925 to 800 over Novak. Urbas took some time to consider his options while sitting in a deer stand during hunting season. On Nov. 18, mayor-elect Urbas notified the clerk's office in writing that he could not accept the will of the voters and would refuse to take the mayor's chair on Jan. 5.

Klun, along with the city clerk's office, the St. Louis County auditor's office, the Minnesota Secretary of State, the League of Minnesota Cities, and the Ely Charter Commission have been working through several issues since then.

"Furthermore, we have reviewed the election guide, State Statutes, City Code and our Charter concerning vacancies," Klun said.

Novak's term expires at the end of the year. The council will be required to declare the mayor's seat as vacant at their Jan. 5 meeting, and will likely pass a resolution to that effect.

Since Novak's term will already have expired, and the mayor-elect is declining to be seated, who is in charge of the city?

Acting mayor Jerome Debeltz will be Ely's top dog and will control the gavel on Jan. 5. His length of term of office is yet to be determined.

"Our City Charter declares that if there is a vacancy of one year or more, we need to have a special election," Klun said. "Our City Code makes way for a primary election and a general election."

If three or more candidates vie for the office, a primary election would be held on April 13 and a general election would be held on Aug. 10. If no primary election is needed, the general election would be April 13. Klun noted that the City Charter assumes a special election would be

held within 90 days of a vacancy.

"This is not possible given new (State) election laws regarding time allotments for elections," she said.

State statutes allow for the appointment of an interim or temporary mayor to be seated from Jan. 5 until a new mayor is elected, according to Klun.

"Given that our City Code is silent on this issue and given the length of time we are considering before a mayor is sat, it seems most prudent that we consider appointing an interim mayor until the next election," she said. "There seems to be no objections from our Charter Commission."

The city council could call for applications from city residents and hold interviews to appoint an interim mayor.

A council member could, on Jan. 5, make a motion calling for a resident to be appointed, and with a second and majority vote, an interim mayor could take the gavel immediately.

Timeline for 2021 Ely Mayoral Special Election

- Jan. 5 – Ely City Council declares vacancy and orders Special Election
- Jan. 29 – City of Ely notifies St. Louis County of Special Election dates (at least 74 days before an election)
- Jan. 9 to Jan. 18 – Notice of candidate filing (publish at least two weeks before first day to file)
- Jan. 19 – Candidate filing period begins
- Jan. 2 – Candidate filing period closes
- Feb. 4 – Close of withdrawal period (two days after close of filing period)
- Feb. 26 – Open absentee voting period begins
- April 13 – Special Primary Election (if necessary) or Special General Election
- June 25 – Open absentee voting period begins
- Aug. 10 – Special General Election (if necessary)
- Aug. 12 – Canvass election results at special council meeting

The council could select one of its own members to fill the seat of mayor, but with that comes the risk of giving up the council seat because no one can hold both the position of mayor and council member at the same time.

"If you take the appointment, then you are vacating your seat," Klun said.

Council members are not required to name an interim mayor on Jan. 5, Klun advised.

"The statutes call for 'as soon as possible' to fill the temporary mayoral appointment," she said. "You could vote on a

motion that night, or take interviews and elongate the process. I would not delay more than a week or so. I would move the process along."

Novak has mostly remained mum on his reaction to being defeated on Nov. 3. He expressed great surprise on election night, and his comments at the end of the Dec. 15 council meeting were retrospective.

"Well, this is it for me folks," he said. "This is my last official meeting of this term as mayor. It has been a privilege to serve this community for 10 years on this council. We got a lot

accomplished. I appreciate the council. We worked as a team."

He said his main goal as an elected official was to "debate the issue and not the person. Conversations solve the issues."

He listed many successful projects accomplished during his six years as mayor, including many streets improvements and the trailhead project, and took great pride in helping to maintain an affordable city budget for taxpayers.

"I hope our success continues, and on that note, I bid adieu," he said.

BREAKOUT

STAUBER...Continued from page 1

Staubersaidheaccepts that court decision. "We raised our concerns, the court did not side with us, the matter is closed, and I accept the ruling," stated Stauber in his Dec. 18 letter to an Ely constituent. Many other constituents received similar letters from Stauber after voicing concerns about his decision to join the Texas suit.

Staubersaidheaccepts that court decision. "We raised our concerns, the court did not side with us, the matter is closed, and I accept the ruling," stated Stauber in his Dec. 18 letter to an Ely constituent. Many other constituents received similar letters from Stauber after voicing concerns about his decision to join the Texas suit. Stauber has been roundly criticized by many constituents in recent days after supporting the failed attempt to overturn Biden's victory over Donald Trump. Biden won the election with 306 electoral votes to 232 for Trump, but had the high court agreed to overturn the elections in the four states named in the suit, including Wisconsin, Michigan, Georgia, and Pennsylvania, it would have left both Biden and Trump short of the 270 electoral votes necessary to become president. That would have thrown the decision to the U.S. House of Representatives, where each state would have received one vote, determined by which party controls the majority of seats in the state's delegation. While Democrats control a majority of House seats overall, Republicans control the majority of state delegations, a fact which would likely have allowed President Trump to be reinstated for four more years.

Staubers letter to constituents appears to mislead regarding the potential significance of his action. "This is in no way an attempt to overturn the results of the election," wrote Stauber. "This was done openly and publicly within the bounds of the judicial system because our goal is transparency and integrity, not to subvert results or disenfranchise legitimate votes."

That claim, however, does not appear to be true. The Texas lawsuit backed by Stauber and 125 other GOP members of the House, asked the Supreme Court to invalidate every vote in the four states named in the filing, leaving the decision to legislatures controlled by Republicans in each case. At the time the case was filed, all

four states had certified their election results. That means had the case been

successful, it would have overturned the certified results of the election in

those states.

The Timberjaysought comment from Rep.

Staubers office regarding the misleading statements in his letter to constituents.

The congressman's office did not respond prior to press time.



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DEVELOPMENT

RV park construction underway

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— Work on a controversial RV park here is now underway even as the developer faces continued uncertainty over sewage disposal, the status of a former dump, and possible legal action from neighbors.

It's been a long time coming for Dave Rose, who

purchased a nine-acre parcel along the East Two River back in 2015 with the intent of building what he's dubbed an RV resort.

He's faced a myriad of delays as city officials grappled with zoning questions and Rose's occasional reluctance to follow rules to the letter. Rose has also faced anger from neighbors who worry that his commercial

development will upset the quiet nature of the Mill Point neighborhood, home to some of the city's most expensive homes and highest property taxes.

While his plans have undergone multiple revisions, Rose is now developing a final plan that includes 32 RV slots that he hopes to sell as part of a cooperative. Buyers would purchase a

share in the co-op, which would give them rights to an RV site as well as a docking slip that would provide renters with direct access to Lake Vermilion. He said he hopes to have the project substantially completed by next June, although the prospects for attaining that goal are unclear.

See **RV PARK...**pg. 2B



A backhoe operator was on the site of the Rose RV park last week. Tree clearing and road work is underway. photo by M. HelMBERGER



PUBLIC SERVICE

Remembering the CCC

Does the Depression-era program offer solutions for our latest crisis?

by MARJORY WOOD
Timberjay contributor

REGIONAL—The current pandemic has left most of us with plenty of time to spend at home, and I've used some of that time recently to sort through old storage boxes, a few of which haven't been opened since my mother passed away in 1993.

In one of those boxes, I discovered my father's Memories of the Civilian Conservation Corps (1937) yearbook and it has provided a small but meaningful window into some of the history and positive effects of the CCC program, created by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Great Depression. I wonder whether such a New Deal experiment might be relevant to our current national and global crisis, which echoes the human, governmental, social, and economic impacts of the Great Depression.

To understand how the CCC affected my family, it helps to have a bit of history. My paternal Swedish grandparents, Minde and Nels Johnson, and their three daughters emigrated to Tower, Minnesota, in 1903. Reports from early Swedish emigrants painted the American Midwest as an earthly paradise and praised American religious and political freedom and undreamed-of opportunities to better one's condition. Nels worked for the railroad in Tower until 1904 when the family moved to their 100-acre homestead in Orr. My father, William Johnson, was born at the homestead on Oct. 12, 1912. He was the youngest of the eight Johnson children. The homestead remains in the family today.

During his youth, my father served as a patrol member of the CCC from 1933 to 1937, serving



Top: A group shot of members of CCC Company 725, based in Cusson.

Above: A view of Cusson Camp in the 1930s. The camp was housed in the former facilities of the Rainy Lake Lumber Company.

Right: CCC workers paint a patrolman's residence in Crane Lake.

photos courtesy MNHS

Below: Marjory Wood's father, William Johnson, during his stint with the CCC. submitted photo



as a state toolman with CCC Company 725. Company 725 was organized at Fort Snelling on June 2, 1933, and opened its first camp, in Cusson, later that month. Company 725 also built two side camps, Angora (F29)



and Vermilion River (S94).

Cusson was a company town platted by the Virginia Rainy Lake Lumber Company in 1909 and it operated as the company's headquarters until 1929, after which it was sold in its entirety to Nick Ofstad.

Company 725 operated Cusson Camp, serving a work area designated as the Kabetogama State Forest, until it closed on Oct. 30, 1941. Enrollees also worked at the game food nursery at Gheen and, from 1935 to 1938, built the Orr roadside parking area on Pelican Lake, designed by landscape architect Arthur R. Nichols under the direction of a stonemason from International Falls. This roadside area is still active today, an example of a project that beautifies the roadside, a major conservation goal of the CCC.

Shortly before closing, officials described Cusson as an "outstanding CCC camp, rated by Army inspectors as the best camp in Minnesota during the past year." Years after closure, on March 2, 1989, the four remaining shop buildings from the camp were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

At the beginning, ten "local experienced men" (LEM's) were hired to train the new enrollees as woodsmen and workers. Initial work for the company was the construction of eight miles of new road. Work was frequently delayed that first summer by emergency calls for firefighters. The first few calls brought plenty of volunteers, but thereafter there had to be a draft each time a new fire call came

See **CCC...**pg. 2B

COVID-19

School sports set to resume Jan. 4

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

REGIONAL—Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, in an executive order signed last week, cleared the way for youth sports to resume after the holiday break. The Minnesota State High School League followed suit immediately and announced that in-person practices for all winter high school sports would begin on that date.

The first date of competition under the new directive has not yet been determined. Practices for winter sports were to begin in mid-to-late November, but Walz put the brakes on that amid rising COVID-19 case counts, hospitalizations and deaths.

"We need to get kids playing again," Walz said last Wednesday during his press conference.

ISD 696 Athletic Director Tom Coombe said last week that varsity competition could likely begin about two weeks following the start of organized team activities and practices.

"Details had not yet been finalized related to practice plans for our winter sports teams, including boys and girls basketball, boys and girls Nordic skiing and boys hockey," he said. The Ely school district also participates in a girls hockey cooperative with Eveleth-Gilbert. The dance team season may also resume in-person practice sessions on Jan. 4.

Member schools of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) have the option to begin in-person participation at a later date if it best aligns with their district's COVID-19 response plan.

The MSHSL indicated it plans to hold both section and state tournaments for winter sports. Fall activities were limited to section competitions only. Winter sports will operate with a modified calendar and shortened season, along with public health protocols for each activity.

"While we recognize that

See **SPORTS...**pg. 2B

CCC...Continued from page 1B

in. The initial romance of "smoke eating" became an exhausting monotony as the duty, which included working on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, repeated through the summer. With the waning of the summer heat, the fires gradually died out and the enrollees resumed a more normal weekly work schedule.

My father enrolled in the CCC in December 1933 and arrived at Vermilion River Camp S94 on Jan. 4, 1934. While in service he performed many assignments including: Company Shoemaker, Tool Ensign, Leader, Saw Machine Operator, Tractor Operations Leader, Tool Supply Sergeant, and State Toolman.

Camp life for my father and the other enrollees was far different from anything they had previously experienced. Many were away from home for the first time and were holding their first steady jobs. In the early years there were five applicants for every opening. Each candidate first was interviewed by the local selecting agency to determine his capacity to benefit from the CCC program. Next was passing the physical examination and two weeks of training at Fort Snelling. Then my father and other successful candidates took the oath of enrollment.

The enrollees worked under experienced foremen (LEM's) and received on-the-job training. The basic cash allowance for all enrolled men was \$30 a month. Almost every man sent \$25 home each month to his family.

Life in a camp involved a close association with 200 other men of diverse backgrounds, skills and temperaments. It included good meals, hard work, a good sleep every night and a regular schedule. It had a profound effect on the millions of men who experienced it as their health and attitudes improved from the work, the activity and the camaraderie. The



Marjory Wood

country benefited from their conservation work, their increased skills, and from their strengthened outlook on life and living.

CCC camps looked and operated like military bases, not surprising since they were run by the U.S. Army. Each camp was composed of one company of approximately 200 men. Each camp was a self-contained unit, a village. Enrollees quickly found nicknames for almost everything, including each other. They soon dubbed the army "Mother," because it fed, clothed, disciplined and sheltered them. In many ways, this valuable training of so many young American men was a big factor in helping the United States fight and win World War II.

When enrollees came down with communicable illnesses such as strep throat, measles, or chicken pox, there were few ways to stop the disease from spreading. Often the best option was to quarantine the infected camp until the disease had run its course. Most CCC camps were quarantined at least once, and quarantine signs were posted telling outsiders not to enter.

In April 1934, Company 725 received orders to move to the fairgrounds in New Caledonia, in far southern Minnesota. They moved south and tented down some 400 miles from the northwoods they had called home.

Field work at the new camp was spent in rock quarries, building dams, terracing farms, and planting trees. The men lived in tents and in

October they put in smoky Sibley tent stoves (from the Civil War). The men withstood the smoke and cold of those primitive stoves somehow.

On Nov. 1, 1934 Company 725 was on the move again. My father and his company embarked on another 400-mile ride from New Caledonia back to Orr in a convoy of 30 trucks. In my Dad's yearbook it says, "There is not a man who took the 400-mile ride from New Caledonia to Orr in that convoy who will ever forget the extreme discomfort of riding open trucks that distance in the November weather we were blessed with."

In January 1935, a new contingent of 135 rookies arrived in Orr by train. From Orr, in the midst of a 20 below winter night, they were then transported 21 miles to Camp 725 in trucks. It was a tough initiation to the northern camp for them. This new influx put the camp at 295 and men were sleeping all over the place. The schoolhouse and large recreation hall were crowded with cots. After the additional men arrived, a side camp was opened at Crane Lake on King William's Narrows and 50 men volunteered to isolate themselves 24 miles from the main camp for two months. According to my father's CCC yearbook the camp was a beautiful spot and the enrollees seemed to enjoy their isolation.

On April 15, 1935, another 36 new enrollees joined the ranks and they stepped into what they thought was a sportsman's paradise. The men began preparing fishing paraphernalia. Their hopes were short lived, though, since orders soon came to move again.

On May 1, 1935 the camp's equipment was all loaded on a special train at Orr. They embarked for their new destination in Lewiston, 350 miles to the south. On May 2, the enrollees and their

camp's equipment arrived in Lewiston in the middle of a wet spring snowstorm and a muddy plowed field.

In October 1935, Company 725 moved again. This time the new location was about two blocks away to a new permanent camp that was under construction. The enrollees waded in deep mud at the new camp during the construction. The wiring was not completed for a month. The enrollees worked on their camp newspaper, read books and played pool illuminated by tallow candles. Said one of the men, "When the lights finally came we spent some weary hours scraping tallow off everything that a candle could possibly stand on." With the coming of colder weather the coal burning stoves were a welcome change from the Sibley stoves and old wood burners previously used for heat in the barracks.

For holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, enrollees got special meals. Camp newspapers sometimes described them nostalgically as being like "mother used to prepare." The Thanksgiving dinner in 1936 consisted of roast turkey and dressing, giblet gravy, candied sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, asparagus tips, lettuce salad with French dressing, Parker House rolls with butter, bananas, grapes, apples, nuts, candy, mince pie, pumpkin pie, Neapolitan ice cream, mints, wafers, fruit punch, olives, dill pickles, and coffee. Liquor was not allowed in camps, though enrollees often got a bottle of beer with a holiday meal.

My father was discharged from Company 725 and the CCC on Sept. 13, 1937, while working in Lewiston. His yearbook provided me with a deeper knowledge regarding the period of the Great Depression and how the President and his admin-

istration acted boldly to create a New Deal for the citizens of our country. It was a unique time in our nation's history when the President, Congress, and the agencies of the federal government cooperatively created the programs of the New Deal, programs which benefited all to rebuild the economy, natural environment, spirit and, perhaps most importantly, hope.

A total of 4,500 CCC camps were built in every state and some territories. Business recovery stimulus of more than \$707 million was spent across the country for manufactured goods, food stuffs, automotive equipment, construction materials and other articles needed in operation of the camps.

More than one hundred types of projects were undertaken by the CCC enrollees, including operations for forest regeneration and protection, flood control, irrigation and drainage, landscape, recreation, roadside beautification, wildlife and range conservation, soil erosion control and others.

Some specific work items completed by the enrollees were the following:

► 650,000,000 trees planted

► 45,000 miles of telephone lines built into national forest and park fire detection systems

► 40,000 miles of fire breaks opened in forest areas

► 2,202,000 check dams built in gullies to prevent erosion

► 32,500 acres of public campgrounds for recreational purposes, and many others.

In addition to new construction work, they also maintained 91,000 miles of telephone lines, 30,000 miles of fire breaks and 163,000 miles of trails and roads.

An average of 51 camps a year were operating during this period in Minnesota. Accomplishments in Minnesota included tree

planting, firefighting, lookout tower construction, recreational development, fish stocking in thousands of lakes, and more. Over 86,000 men were enrolled in Minnesota camps during the era of the New Deal.

Each camp had their own newspaper. The national paper for the national CCC program was Happy Days, published weekly in Washington, D.C.

As there are echoes of the Great Depression in this year's pandemic, there could be valuable approaches found for current times in the programs of the New Deal and the CCC. Here is an excerpt from David Brooks, a well-known opinion columnist for the *New York Times*:

We Need National Service. Now.

May 7, 2020

"There is now a vast army of young people ready and yearning to serve their country. There are college graduates emerging into a workplace that has few jobs for them. There are more high school graduates who suddenly can't afford college. There are college students who don't want to return to a college experience. This is a passionate, idealistic generation that sees the emergency, wants to serve those around them and groans to live up to this moment."

"Suddenly there is a wealth of work for them to do: contact tracing, sanitizing public places, bringing food to the hungry, supporting the elderly, taking temperature at public gathering spots, supporting local government agencies, tutoring elementary school students so they can make up for lost time."

Perhaps it is time for the government of our country to use the tools of democracy to once again keep its social contract with its citizens.

SPORTS...Continued from page 1B

our students, coaches and families are anxious to return to activities and athletics, the Jan. 4, 2021, date aligns well with many member schools' calendars as they return from extended breaks," said League Executive Director Erich Martens. "This opportunity to par-

ticipate in athletics and activities also comes with great responsibility. It is critical that all students, coaches, directors and officials maintain the highest standard of health and safety, both in and outside of school. Everyone must actively share the responsibility of reducing the

spread of COVID-19 and keeping themselves and others safe and healthy."

The Minnesota State High School League will continue to work with the Minnesota Department of Health and the League's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to review and update the Sports and

Activities Guidance and Information that will further clarify, reinforce and implement the commitment to providing the safest environment for all involved.

"The League appreciates the hard work of Gov. Walz and state departments in recognizing the signif-

icance and importance of these activities and athletics for our students," Martens said. "Through participation in League activities and athletics, our students have enhanced physical and mental health and well-being. And, when they participate under the leadership and mentor-

ship of League-trained and certified coaches and directors, implementing League provided protocols and guidance, they can enjoy the safest possible experiences."

RV PARK...Continued from page 1B

Rose doesn't have final approval for full construction, but the city's zoning administrator, Mary Shedd, said she has given Rose permission to begin road construction and site clearing, as well as undertake some corrective actions that he's been ordered to do. He can also remove piles of slash and bring in gravel to begin site leveling. Shedd noted that Rose does have some key permits in place that allow that preliminary work under the city's zoning ordinance.

Rose does not have permission to begin digging trenches for water or sewer, at least at this point, according to Shedd.

That's because Rose does not yet have a permit to connect to the municipal sewage treatment system operated by the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board. Sewage treatment has been a sticking point for the project

since the city of Tower connected its Hoodoo Point Campground to the municipal system in 2018. That decision by the city effectively used up the remaining treatment capacity and uncertainty over the amount of remaining capacity prompted the joint wastewater board to deny Rose's recent request to connect.

"Right now, we're pushing our luck," said Matt Tichel, who manages the joint water and wastewater system for both Tower and Soudan. Rose says the state's Pollution Control Agency, which oversees municipal wastewater treatment facilities, has indicated there is sufficient capacity in the Tower-Breitung system for his RV operation. Tichel doesn't dispute that claim but said the system's current flow does not account for anticipated new flows potentially coming soon. That includes about 6,600

gallons per day for an already permitted development at the city's harbor and another 1,820 gallons of daily backwash from a planned new water plant.

Rose is continuing to push for the right to connect to the municipal system, but he said he has a backup plan, albeit a more expensive one, to use holding tanks in the event he isn't allowed to hook up.

Adding complexity to the whole project is the fact that the RV park is being developed adjacent to a former city dump. The city took steps to remove the dump's contents as part of a clean-up effort back in the 1990s, but the MPCA is requiring an array of testing to determine whether there's remaining contamination that might be released if the area is disturbed. That's a requirement of the MPCA's Brownfield Program, to which Rose has applied

to take part. Rose has completed some of that work, but the investigation into the matter continues, according to the MPCA's Mark Koplitz, who works with the program. MPCA officials note, however, that only a small portion of the former dump site overlaps with Rose's property. According to Shedd, it appears that only two of the 32 sites Rose has proposed would be considered part of the former dump site. According to Koplitz, the MPCA has no objection to Rose moving forward with any road clearing or tree removal on those portions of the site that aren't within the borders of the former dump.

Rose is also facing a potential legal challenge from nearby residents of his property over his proposal to build an RV lot directly on top of a long-standing easement granted to some residents of the Mill Point neighborhood.

"We have a lawyer and we'll keep fighting it," said Joan Broten, the unofficial spokesperson for residents of the neighborhood. "He's illegally going to build on an easement, that you can't block. We're not just going to sit by while our rights are violated."

Rose has acknowledged that his property includes an easement that allows some nearby neighbors the right to access the river through his property. But the current site plan places at least one of the lots directly within the easement, said Shedd, effectively blocking that

access point.

Broten cites other concerns as well. She argues that the site is a poor one for Rose's intended use and she points, as well, to Rose's somewhat checkered financial history and predicts the project won't be completed in a way that will be an asset to the community.

Rose disputes that and says he's planning an attractive facility that will bring considerable numbers of seasonal residents to town, where they will likely contribute to the Main Street economy.

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Alice R. Niemi

Alice Ruth Lamppa Niemi was born on June 22, 1928, in Embarrass, Minn., and died 92 years, and 23 miles farther, on Dec. 19, 2020, in Virginia, Minn. A celebration of life will take place in her garden during the spring of 2021, and when we can all be together again. Memorials may be directed to Virgie Hegg Hospice Partners, PO Box 244, Cook, MN 55723. Funeral arrangements are by Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert.

The family is forever grateful to the staff of Edgewood Vista, Essentia Hospice, Dr. Keith Peterson, and all of Alice's nurses and caregivers these last few months. They were there when COVID wouldn't let us be there. Christmas will be harder this year without the hand-knitted mittens, scarves, afghans, and quilted blankets she always gave for gifts. While Alice claimed there were too many things left unfinished, nothing about the love she gave her family was ever incomplete.

Alice lived in Embarrass for the first 72 years of her life, marrying her husband Leonard Niemi at the age of 19, and having three daughters, Berta, Barbie and Becky.

She was part owner in Lamppa's Store where she worked alongside her siblings, Ernie Lamppa, Alvin Lamppa and Bertha Niemi. Once she was at home, she could be found in her garden, watching and waiting to can all of the string beans, pickles, beets, and jams that her grandchildren, Tricia Shuck, Jeff Pike, Jason and AJ Hegg could stand to eat. She shared her love of gardening as an active member of the Embarrass Garden Club. Alice and Leonard moved to Virginia at the turn of the century, and she immediately planted apple trees, raspberry bushes, and vegetables in the backyard.

Alice enjoyed visiting with her great-grandchildren, Carissa Kurtti, Noah Shuck, Carter Hegg, Shaylene Pike, Anders and Levi Hegg. They never left without a knitted gift in their hands or a warm slice of Finnish biscuit in their belly.

After Leonard died in 2005, Alice remained an active member in Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Priscilla Circle, and the Fiber Arts Guild. She could be found on many early mornings with a magnifying glass and her beloved Hardanger, or packing up her latest quilt for Mission Sewing. Alice was a tough liberal Finn and proud of it. No discussion of politics, tarts, biscuit, or bread will ever be the same without her having the last word and sending you home with a jar of jam.

Alice is survived by her daughters, Berta and Barbie; grandchildren, Tricia, Jeff, Jason and AJ; great-grandchildren, Carissa Kurtti, Noah

Shuck, Carter Hegg, Shaylene Pike, Anders and Levi Hegg; "in-laws" and handymen, David Pike and David Hegg, Scott Shuck, Angie Pike and Cara Hegg.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Becky; husband, Leonard; parents, Axel and Minnie; and siblings, Ernie Lamppa, Alvin Lamppa and Bertha Niemi.

they settled in Balsam. They later moved to Orr with their three children. Bob worked for many years in the construction industry. He and his wife later purchased the Orr Café in 1986. They sold the restaurant and retired in 2005.

Bob was an avid hunter, fisherman, trapper, and generally loved the outdoors. His greatest passions were blueberry picking and spending time with family. He and his wife celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on July 12, 2020.

Surviving are his wife, Loretta Beckers Ahola; son, Jon William Ahola; daughter, Wendy (Jeff) Purdy; daughter-in-law, Barbara Ahola Young; 10 grandchildren, Kevin Dall, Michael (Chrissy) Ahola, William Purdy, Tiffany (Jethro) Davis, Heather (Tucker) Dally, Jaime (Matt) Finstad, Patrick Ahola, Kate Ahola, Michael Young and Richard Young; numerous great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends; and last but not least, "Izzy" his four-legged best friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Bruce William Ahola; and son, Michael Robert Ahola.

Stanley J. Bezek Jr., MD

Stanley J. Bezek Jr., MD, 73, of Ely, and Oro Valley, Ariz., formerly of Virginia, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020, at home, with family by his side after two years of treatment for pancreatic cancer. A celebration of life will be held in Minnesota in the summer of 2021 post COVID-19.

Memorial contributions in Stan's name may be sent to AEOA Senior Services Program, 702 3rd Ave. South, Virginia, MN 55792 or directly via phone at 218-735-6899.

He is survived by his loving and caring spouse, Carrie McDermott Bezek; children, Sarah (Jamal Dhaini) Bezek and grandchildren Laila and Leith of Houston, Texas, Sam (Laury) Bezek and grandchildren Elliana and Kaycee of Fairfield, Conn., Maggie (Charles) Spivey and grandchildren Clayton, Sienna and Samuel of Norfolk, Va., Emily (Nick) Andrisevic and grandchildren Isaac and Abigail of Scottsdale, Ariz., Hannah Bezek of Saint Paul and Molly Bezek of Dillon, Colo.; sister, Janice (Steve) Malin; uncles, Edward (Marian) Skalko and Bill Skalko; and many cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Darrell L. Anderson

Darrell Lee Anderson, 74, originally of Tower, died on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, in New Brighton. As per the immediate family's wishes, there will be no funeral services.

He is survived by his wife, Gail; daughter, Kimberly; stepdaughter, Jenny; four grandchildren; sister, Jill; and brother, Terry.

William R. Lamppa

William R. Lamppa, 92, of Embarrass, died on Friday, Dec. 12, 2020, at Essentia-St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Funeral arrangements are pending with Bauman-Vermilion, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Tower.



Faye G. Sundeen

It is with sadness that our family announces the passing of our sister, Faye Gallyn Sundeen, 70, of Sun City West, Ariz. We will miss you Faye and will remember you with a smile. Always in our hearts.

Faye was born to Lila (Huhta) and Gerald Sundeen on Sept. 27, 1950, in Soudan. She was a 1968 graduate of Tower-Soudan High School. Following high school, Faye attended Ely Junior College. She worked at Moose Lake State Hospital and later joined the U.S. Army. Following the Army, Faye went to nursing school where she received her RN degree in 1979.

Faye led a colorful life, full of fun with her nieces and nephews; Faye was just a big kid at heart. She did hand work, liked watching football and reading, and enjoyed a daily cruise in her golf cart. Faye loved Arizona.

Faye is survived by her siblings, Sarah and Charles Young, Amy Berglund, Lori and Tim Tomsich, Tom and Jayne Sundeen and Mindy Sandstrom; as well as nieces and nephews.

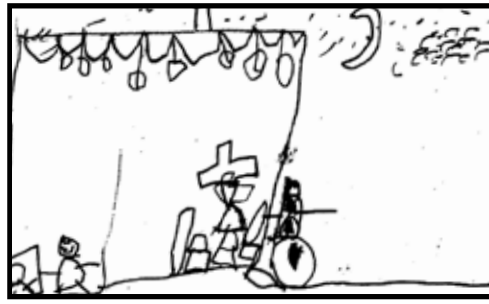
She was preceded in death by her parents; lifetime friend and companion, Edna Coffey; brother-in-law, Roger Berglund; and infant sister, Ann Marie.

Merry Christmas to Creatures Great & Small
from Norman's One Stop



Winning Artist • Nella Goodsky
Grade 4

Have A Moonlit Christmas!
from LAKES GAS



Winning Artist • Mark Dutton
Grade 1

Jingle All The Way This Christmas
from TECH ELECTRIC



Winning Artist • JOSIE FEATHER
Grade 2

Share A Loving Spirit This Christmas!
from KGM CONTRACTORS



Winning Artist • Tessa Burnett
Grade 4

Wishing You A Cozy Christmas!
from Melgeorge's Elephant Lake Resort



Artist • SARAH KOCH
GRADE 3

Have A Happy Christmas!
from McDonald's of Cook



Winning Artist • Piper Bundy
Grade 2

We Wish You Happy Holidays!
from GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP



Winning Artist • Lorenzo Stella
Grade 1

CORGI All The Way!
from HANDBERG'S MARINE



Winning Artist • ALICE SOPOCI
GRADE 5

Enjoy a Fun, Family-Filled Christmas!
from KARL'S BREAD



Winning Artist • CLAIRE JONAS
Grade 5

RANGE JEWELRY & GIFTS

..Adding a special touch to your holiday memories

218-827-2515
33 Central Blvd, Suite 200
Babbitt Shopping Center

Merry Christmas

& HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from these fine local businesses

Northern Frontiers



Northern Frontiers would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. We hope you stay safe & healthy throughout the Holiday Season

31 Central Blvd, Suite 400 • Babbitt, MN 55706
218-827-0777



MODERN & VINTAGE KITCHENWARE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

101 E Chapman • Downtown Ely
218-365-6135



Season's Greetings

from the Crew at Gracie's!

Gracie's Plant Works-Botanical Treasures
22 W Sheridan St., Ely • 218-365-7644



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
218-235-0372 • Babbitt, MN

• Serving Northern Minnesota •

"The only garage door guy you will ever need."



January 28-February 27, 2021

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays

The Boundary Waters College
1900 E Camp St, Ely • 218.235.2100

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US!
ELY AUTO SERVICES



1614 E. Harvey St, Ely • 218-365-5994

Joe's Marine & Repair

Merry Christmas To You!

25 W. Chapman St., Ely
365-6264

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CREW AT STEGER MUKLUKS
CURBSIDE PICKUP IS AVAILABLE AT OUR FACTORY ON MINERS DR
OPEN DAILY 9AM TO 5PM
CALL OR ORDER ONLINE AT MUKLUKS.COM
CALL 218-365-6634 FOR INSTRUCTIONS
OUR STORE IS CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

On the Snowmobile Trail System!

Vermilion Park Inn

Season's Greetings from Us to You!
West of Ely at 30 Center St, Soudan • 218-753-2333
WINTER RATES • SPECIAL EVENTS

Season's Greetings from...



JERRY FINK

218-343-1318 • 203 E Sheridan St., Ely

HEARTHSE CORNER



We Wish You A Merry Christmas And A Joyful New Year

1203 East Sheridan St, Ely, MN
(218) 365-5013

MEALEY'S



Gift & Sauna Shop
124 N. Central Ave., Ely • 365-3639
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

WISHING YOU Abundant Health & Happiness Now & In The Coming Year



145 W Camp St, Ely • 218-365-6555



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sheridan St, Ely • 365-3216

Closed Christmas Day

Mike & Kathy Brandau & the Crew from Brandau Plumbing & Heating
....wish all our customers, old & new, a "Very Blessed Christmas."

1111 Hwy. 169
Ely, MN
218-365-3985



D&D

ACCOUNTING
365-4853

747 E. Sheridan on the Avenue
Ely, MN

RANGE COOP CENEX



Ely • 365-6765
Babbitt • 827-3618
Virginia • 741-7393

Merry Christmas from all of us!



WISHING YOU Safe & Healthy Holidays!

Boundary Waters Care Center

200 W Conan St, Ely • 218-365-8045

Wintergreen NORTHERN WEAR

Happy Holidays from all of us.

205 E Sheridan St, Ely
M-Sat 9AM-5PM, Sun 10AM-4PM
218-365-6602



SEASON'S GREETINGS!
705 Main Street • Tower, MN
vermilionculturalcenter.org



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

105 N. Central Ave., Ely
218-365-6745 • 800-223-6565



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

218-365-4000 • 240 W Sheridan St, Ely



Lossing's Power Sports
Lossing Building Center
www.lossings.com
Babbitt, MN

Wishing your family a Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Us to You



31 Central Blvd, Babbitt
218-827-3561

Merry Christmas

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from these fine local businesses

HAPPY HOLIDAYS GO WILD AT
WILDLIFE LIQUOR

ELY + MINNESOTA
25 N 1st AVE, ELY • 218-365-4051


Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from all of us here at Kell's Kitchen
31 Central Blvd, Suite 500 • Babbitt, MN 55706
218-827-3565


HAPPY HOLIDAYS
218-235-0372 • Babbitt, MN
• Serving Northern Minnesota •
"The only garage door guy you will ever need."


January 28-February 27, 2021

**R&R
TRANSFER**
420 N 15th Avenue E, Ely
(218) 365-3196
Wishes You a Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!

EST. 1951
ELY SURPLUS
and Outdoor
We Wish You A
Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year!
129 N Central Ave., Ely
365-4653

**Joe's Marine &
Repair**
Merry Christmas
To You!
25 W. Chapman St., Ely
365-6264

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE CREW AT
STEGER MUKLUKS
CURBSIDE PICKUP IS AVAILABLE
AT OUR FACTORY ON MINERS DR
OPEN DAILY 9AM TO 5PM
CALL OR ORDER ONLINE AT MUKLUKS.COM
CALL 218-365-6634 FOR INSTRUCTIONS
OUR STORE IS CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19



Season's
Greetings
from Us
to You!
218.365.4855
145 E. SHERIDAN ST, ELY MN


MIKE'S LIQUOR

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays
from all of us at Mike's Liquor
128 E. Chapman St., Ely • 365-5087

**HEARTH-SIDE
CORNER**

We Wish You A Merry Christmas
And A Joyful New Year
1203 East Sheridan St, Ely, MN
(218) 365-5013

MEALEY'S

Gift & Sauna Shop
124 N. Central Ave., Ely • 365-3639
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

DOCKSONWHEELS

Wishing you a healthy, happy
Christmas & New Year
Highway 169 West of Ely
218-365-6210

365-3896
Hours:
M-Sat 11-Close
Sun Noon-7

Have A Merry
Little Christmas &
Happy New Year!

Mike & Kathy Brandau
& the Crew from
Brandau Plumbing & Heating
....wish all our customers, old & new,
a "Very Blessed Christmas."
1111 Hwy. 169
Ely, MN
218-365-3985


D&D
ACCOUNTING
365-4853
747 E. Sheridan on the Avenue
Ely, MN

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!
**Ely Garage Door
Service & Repair**
Keith Siens • 235-3568


Happy Holidays!
www.netitle.com
612 13th St. S., Virginia 218-741-1515 545 E. Sheridan St., Ely 218-365-5256

Wintergreen
NORTHERN WEAR
Happy Holidays
from all of us.
205 E Sheridan St, Ely
M-Sat 9AM-5PM, Sun 10AM-4PM
218-365-6602


SEASON'S GREETINGS!
705 Main Street • Tower, MN
vermilionculturalcenter.org

Seasons
Greetings

GRAND ELY LODGE
RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
400 North Pioneer Rd • Ely

Happy Holidays!
ACE Happy Holidays!
Merhar's Ace
Hardware
48 E. Chapman St, Ely
365-3129



Lossing's Power Sports
Lossing Building Center
www.lossings.com
Babbitt, MN
Wishing your family a
Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from Us to You

31 Central Blvd, Babbitt
218-827-3561

We Wish You
A Very
Merry Christmas
&
A Happy
New Year!

943 E. Sheridan St, Ely • 218-365-2800
www.bearislandland.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

45 E. Chapman St, Ely
218-365-3132

PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
SIXTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Court File No.
69VI-PR-20-174

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 27, 2021, at 8:40 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at the St. Louis County Courthouse-Virginia, 300 South Fifth Avenue, Virginia, Minnesota, 55792, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated February 21, 2018, and for the appointment of Jerry Snell, whose address is 1518 10th Street South, Virginia, Minnesota, 55792, as Personal Representatives of the Estate in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate.

Dated December 10, 2020

BY THE COURT
Andrew Peterson
Judge of District Court
Amy Turnquist/ Chelsea Opdahl, as Deputy Court Administrator

Attorney for the Petitioner
Angela E. Sipila
412 First St. So, Suite #1
Virginia, MN 55792
Attorney License No: 024501X
Telephone: 218-741-5000
Fax: 218-749-2623
Email: ange@sipilaw.com

Published in the Timberjay,
Dec. 18 & 25, 2020

Notice is also given that subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801 all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no

In Re: ESTATE OF
Dorothy Marlene Johnson,
also known as Dorothy M.
Johnson, and Marlene
Johnson
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF
HEARING ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF
WILL AND APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS



CITY OF TOWER OPENINGS

Forestry Board
Gundersen Trust
Planning/Zoning Commission
Airport Commission
Tower Economic Development Authority (TEDA)
Zoning Administrator

Apply at:
<https://cityoftower.com/positions-available>

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 25, 2020

MORCOM TOWNSHIP Notice of Filing for Town Offices to be Elected

Notice is hereby given that a town election will be held in the Township of Morcom, St. Louis County, Minnesota, on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

The first day for filing affidavits of candidacy will be Tuesday, December 29, 2020. The last day will be Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Filings may be made with the Clerk, Sasha Lehto. You can either make an appointment by calling Sasha Lehto at 218-969-5812 or by email to morcomtownshipmn@gmail.com. You may file without an appointment by coming to the home of the clerk located at 12059 Hwy. 22, Cook, MN, 55723 on Tuesday, January 12 between the hours of 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The following terms will be expiring:
1 Supervisor Seat – for a term of 3 years
1 Treasurer -for a term of 2 years

The filing fee is \$2.00

Sasha Lehto, Clerk, 218-969-5812

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 18 & 25, 2020

KUGLER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Reorganizational Meeting

The Kugler Town Board will hold their Reorganizational Meeting on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall. Social distancing rules will be followed.

Regular Board Meeting

The Kugler Town Board will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 at 6 p.m. at the Kugler Town Hall. Social distancing rules will be followed.

Julie Suihkonen, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Dec. 25, 2020

EMPLOYMENT

Victim-Witness Services Coordinator

Victim-Witness Services Coordinator position in the St. Louis County Attorney's Office, Hibbing. Duties will include, but are not limited to, working with crime victims and witnesses of crimes to assist with prosecution, assisting legal staff with trial preparation, and administering diversion programming. Applicant should be skilled in public speaking to assist in Community Crime Awareness Programs and training initiatives. Candidate will be responsible for enhancing outreach to underserved populations and engagement with community partners. Qualified candidates from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Experience in victim services, criminal justice and/or social services preferred.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Wade Backstrom, St. Louis County Attorney's Office, 100 N. 5th Avenue West, #501, Duluth, MN 55802; backstromw@stlouiscountymn.gov Resumes will be accepted if emailed or postmarked by December 31, 2020. 12/25



Planning Manager On-Site Wastewater

Apply by 01/08/2021

Court Bailiff - Court Security (Hibbing & Virginia)

Apply by 12/31/20

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 12/25

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Manhandle
- 5 Kimono sash
- 8 Hollywood clashers
- 12 Otherwise
- 13 Paid athlete
- 14 Swindle
- 15 Glass made of lava
- 17 Small song-bird
- 18 Series of battles
- 19 Individual
- 20 Too thin
- 21 Prompt
- 22 Evergreen type
- 23 Happen
- 26 Andean vultures
- 30 Courts
- 31 Email alternative
- 32 Pedestal occupant
- 33 Panacea
- 35 Golfer's aid
- 36 Rowing need
- 37 Junior
- 38 Suspicious
- 41 Pal
- 42 Hot tub
- 45 Stereo hook-up
- 46 — bacon
- 48 Pod vegetable
- 49 Plant bristle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31			32			
33				34			35			
			36			37				
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

- 50 Fairy tale side
- 28 Scepter
- 7 Charged bit
- 29 Like 22-Down
- 51 Lowly worker
- 8 Early era in England's
- 31 Bear hair
- 52 Thickness
- 20th century
- 34 Shaft of light
- 53 Chew like a chipmunk
- 9 Mentor
- 35 Last few notes
- 10 File command
- 37 Optimistic
- 11 Transmitted
- 16 Gloomy
- 38 Buy stuff
- 20 Card player's call
- 40 Frizzy 'do
- 21 Janitor
- 41 Cry loudly
- 22 Hounds' prey
- 42 Portent
- 23 Possess
- 43 Law firm aide, for short
- 24 Bill's partner
- 44 From the beginning
- 25 Trig ratio
- 26 Rotating part
- 46 Upper limit
- 27 Peculiar
- 47 Mut

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EMPLOYMENT



OPEN POSITIONS

10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

Care Center

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

Environmental Services

Casual Laundry Aide
Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

Activities

PT Activities Assistant

Dietary

Casual Dietary Aide/Cook

Occupational Therapy

FT Occupational Therapist

Excellent Wages! Ask about our sign on bonus!

TO APPLY:

www.cookhospital.org/join-our-team/

More Info? Contact Human Resources

218-666-6220

humanresources@cookhospital.org

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Super Crossword

Answers

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

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!

Bent WEAKS

Pop TRUBS

Defend DELISH

Bottom NDURE



"I can't cook, but my husband says I'm the best little _____ in the world."

TODAY'S WORD

TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

HAIR CARE

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

HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Askew 2. Burst; 3. Shield; 4. Under

Today's Word
THAWER

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Super Crossword

EMCEE RIVALRY

ACROSS

1 Moves like a dog's tail
5 Sicilian erupter
9 Not too swift
16 Slack-jawed feeling
19 Question to an unknown caller
21 Portable grill
22 See 38-Down
23 Start of a riddle
25 In favor of
26 Downhillers, e.g.
27 "— haw!" (rodeo yell)
28 Magazine agent's success
30 Total failure
32 Riddle, part 2
36 Run — (buy drinks on credit)
37 Title for Lancelot
39 Sleep study acronym
40 Big vases
41 Riddle, part 3
49 Cab Calloway catchphrase
50 Lovingly, to a musician

51 Common folks
55 Similar to
57 Actor Kilmer
58 Peppery
59 Boxer Clay, later
60 Riddle, part 4
69 PC combo key
70 Water, in Vichy
71 A, in Italy
72 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
73 Riddle, part 5
81 Author Rand
82 Fall Classic mo.
83 12, on a sundial
84 Small kid
85 Clorox, e.g.
87 Having no 131-Across
91 Sarajevo locale
96 Riddle, part 6
99 Some vipers
102 — -pah-pah
103 Gen. Lee's side: Abbr.
104 Half-pint
105 End of the riddle
111 — Stone (hieroglyphic discovery)

114 Gretel's brother
115 Metal source
116 Painter's undercoat
117 A Gershwin brother
118 Riddle's answer
125 Sci-fi author Stanislaw
126 Email, e.g.
127 Some overcrowded houses
128 Historic span
129 Smiled villainously
130 See 74-Down
131 Top of a car

DOWN

1 It follows "/" in a URL
2 "Feels so nice!"
3 Loses one's hair
4 Not guaranteed only to float
5 Merman of song
6 British prime minister May
7 Small peeves
8 Enzyme-name suffix
9 Transparent
10 Dwells

11 Shikoku sash
12 Is no longer
13 Here, in Le Havre
14 Sandbar
15 Indian language
16 Public scandal
17 Like Afghans
18 Act of exiting
20 Clic — (Bic brand)
24 Drain-clearing stuff
29 Shocks
30 Quick race
31 Sewing case
32 Baby buggy, to Brits
33 Tolkien meanies
34 Fish in a Pixar title
35 Doctors' gp.
38 With 22-Across, spaced out
42 "If — a Hammer"
43 Mouselike animal
44 1970s Chevy
45 "Curses!"
46 Shed skin or feathers
47 Doctors' gps.
48 Curse
52 Resident of Riyadh

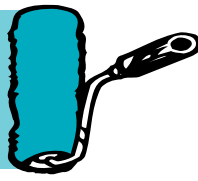
53 Page of "Juno"
54 Album's first half
56 Make — in (begin working on)
58 "Grand" hotel
60 1983 comedy with Mr. T
61 Gasoline additive
62 Wading bird
63 Sickly
64 Label
65 Color shade
66 "Say again?"
67 Rock's Brian
68 Boat mover
74 With 130-Across, home of a Scottish "monster"
75 Say again
76 Old lovers
77 "Say it — so!"
78 — Field (Mets' home)
79 Drifting sort
80 English prep school
86 Aides: Abbr.
87 "Hmm, I guess so"
88 Grandiosity
89 In the past
90 Magazine or book divs.

92 Wall — (financial district employee)
93 Nearly massless particle
94 Lacks entity
95 "— boy!"
97 Vie for the love of
98 Lurches from side to side
99 For a spell
100 Generous type
101 It's west of Colombia
106 Bursts (with)
107 Of the past
108 Ski cottage
109 Like pop flies
110 Co.'s top dog
112 Hall's pop partner
113 Slightly built
116 Admiral Graf — (German warship)
119 Mao — -tung
120 Sugar-name suffix
121 Big rabbit feature
122 Peak: Abbr.
123 Siouan tribe member
124 Abbr. on a bounced check

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19			20					21								22		
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114								115				116						
117						118	119	120	121			122					123	124
125						126						127						
128						129									130			131



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