

In the doghouse...

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The TIMBERJAY



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SULFIDE MINING

High court reverses on PolyMet air permit

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

Sends portion of case back to Court of Appeals for further proceedings

REGIONAL— The state's Supreme Court has reversed a lower court ruling from last year that had sent a PolyMet air emissions permit back to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for further review. It's a partial victory for both PolyMet

Mining and the MPCA, both of which had appealed the lower court ruling, issued in March 2020. PolyMet hopes to open the state's first copper-nickel mine, near Hoyt Lakes, but has run into a series of legal challenges to that effort.

At the same time, this week's

ruling remands a related issue back to the Court of Appeals for additional review.

The decision, written by Justice Paul Thissen, concludes that the MPCA was not required under federal law to investigate claims by environmental groups and the Fond du Lac Band that

PolyMet was engaging in "sham permitting" by seeking permission for an operation that was far smaller than what the company actually intended to build.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals had largely agreed with the claims of environmentalists and the tribe, and

had sent the case back to the MPCA for new information, particularly a 43-101 technical report. That report, created by an independent consultant on behalf of PolyMet in March of 2018, included updated financial

See...POLYMET pg. 10

2021 WOLFTRACK CLASSIC

Repeat winner

Eight-dog race musher improves on last year's time by 30 minutes

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY — Michael Bestgen repeated as winner of the 2021 WolfTrack Classic eight-dog race this year with a faster time than his 2020 victory.

The veteran WolfTrack Classic musher and his team were the first ones out of the chute, by way of a random drawing of



starting positions, on Sunday morning and took advantage of the fast track for the 13th annual event.

See...RACE pg. 12



The 2021 WolfTrack Classic eight-dog race winner was Michael Bestgen, above right. He also won the 50-mile event in 2020. Volunteers, below right, kept Highway 21 open for mushers as they headed to Bear Head Lake State Park. photos by K. Vandervort



WINTER EXTREMES

Winton wrestles without water

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

WINTON—Sustained below-zero temperatures and limited snow cover contributed to frozen water lines and water main breaks here last week. It was so cold that even the Winton water tower froze up.

The entire city of Winton was without water for an extended period of time due to multiple water main breaks. The village's main street was dug up multiple times by Low Impact Excavators in a Herculean effort to get the water flowing again. City officials declared an emergency and initiated efforts to help residents obtain water and to keep them safe.

A 70-degree upswing from 35 degrees below zero to 35 degrees above zero early this week was a welcome sign as city officials worked to get the water tower thawed out and the water flowing again.

Residents are required to boil their drinking water for the time being as the entire system is chlorinated, flushed out and inspected by the state Department of Health before deemed safe.

The problems started early Monday, Feb. 15 when Winton

See...WATER pg. 11

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Orr Council awards Bog Walk replacement contract

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

Modifications needed to meet budget constraints

ORR- The Orr City Council stepped out on faith at a special meeting on Monday to select a contractor for the Mickey Elverum Bog Walk replacement project, electing to proceed with a low

bid that was \$29,000 more than they have to spend.

Pember Companies, Inc., of Menominee, Wis., was the low bid among the four received, and was awarded a contract for \$421,360. Other con-

tractors that submitted bids included Solutions 101, of Hortonville, Wis., \$462,125, Northland, of Duluth, \$529,100, and Veit, of Duluth, \$814,930. A fifth bid was received after the formal Feb. 17

bid opening and was automatically eliminated from consideration.

In an email to Benchmark Engineering President Alan Johnson,

See...WALK pg. 12



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Community notices

Scholarships available at Mesabi Range College

REGIONAL- The Mesabi Range College Foundation and Alumni Scholarship applications are open and will remain open until Thursday, April 1. Go to www.mesabirange.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/ for a list of all available scholarships. For questions, contact Holly Duchene at 218-404-9333, hollyduchene@mesabirange.edu or Brenda Kochevar at 218-749-0314, b.kochevar@mesabirange.edu.

Franciscan Friars will visit Catholic churches Feb. 28 – March 3

REGIONAL- Two religious priests who follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi are coming to the parishes of Holy Cross in Orr, St. Mary's in Cook and St. Martin's in Tower. Friar Roch Grenier and Friar Juan Diego will give a series of talks about Jesus and God. Their preaching will focus on mercy and healing. They have unique experiences being missionaries and serving the poor throughout the world.

Everyone is welcome to attend, Catholic, Christian or no faith at all. Come check out what these two Franciscan Friars have to say. Come for one or more sessions. No need to register, just show up.

Talks will be held on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. at Holy Cross; Monday, March 1 at 9:45 a.m. at St. Martin's then at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's; Tuesday, March 2 at 9:45am at St. Mary's then at 6 p.m. at St. Martin's; Wednesday, March 3 at 9:45 at St. Martin's then at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's.

For more information, please visit stmmch.com or call 218-666-5334.

Free Medicare Fraud Awareness and Prevention presentation on March 10.

REGIONAL- The Senior LinkAge Line® will offer two Medicare Fraud Awareness and Prevention presentations on Wednesday, March 10 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Participants will learn about Medicare fraud and potential COVID-19 fraud, scams targeting seniors, how to read the Medicare Summary Notice, gain tips to help protect Medicare beneficiary numbers and acquire skills to protect, detect and report Medicare scams and fraud. This is a remote session using Microsoft Teams meeting platform.

To register, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/arrowheadaaa/events> or call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 800-333-2433.

The Senior LinkAge Line® is a service of Minnesota Board on Aging in partnership with Minnesota's area agencies on aging. Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging is a division of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission.

8th District MN Horticultural Society scholarships available

REGIONAL- Several scholarships are available from the 8th District MN State Horticultural Society for 2021. An applicant must be a graduating senior residing or attending school in the 8th District or a non-traditional student, college student or second-time winner who will be attending a college or technical school within one calendar year; there are no restrictions as to course or school. Counties in the 8th District include Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis.

The applicant must provide evidence of an interest and participation in horticultural or gardening activities such as a home garden, organized group such as 4-H, Scouts, church or community gardens.

Applications must be received by Monday, March 15. The winning recipients will be invited to the 8th District MSHS Spring Meeting to be held in May in Floodwood (tentative, depending on COVID-19 restrictions).

For an application and more information, contact Jan Dzwonkowski, 6317 Heritage Trail, Gilbert, MN 55741, 218-865-6018 or email jan_dz@q.com.

HOCKEY DAY

Tower upends Soudan in annual hockey game



Photo by T. Trucano

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

SOUDAN- There wasn't a food tent, nor was there the traditional raffle or skills competition, and it wasn't even the "right" weekend, two weeks after the Super Bowl instead of one. Snow was falling, heavy at times, and the rosters were depleted compared to past years.

However, none of that mattered on Sunday in Soudan. It was time for hockey, the annual fun-but-ferocious joust for bragging rights between Tower and Soudan.

At least eight people took turns clearing snow from the rink while some players warmed up, others chatted with each other, and most gathered for a pre-game group photo. By the time well-known and animated area musician Steve Solkela strode onto the ice with his accordion for a resonant performance of the National Anthem, about 50 spectators were there to roar their approval.

Postponing the game by a week may have been the reason both teams were thinner in numbers than last year – Soudan had around a dozen skaters, Tower just eight or nine.

"The weekend after the Super Bowl is when the game's supposed to be, but last weekend with 40-below, it was impossible," referee Harry Homer said. "We had some big shots that didn't show up."

But there were plenty of big shots for Tower fans to cheer, as Tower scored fast and often, increasing its 5-2 first-period lead to 10-3 at the end of the second.

Soudan launched a spirited rally to start the third, scoring two quick goals as a deepening layer of snow often obscured the puck. But the Tower side responded in force, closing out the contest with five consecutive scores for a 15-5 win and avenging last year's loss.

Tower Coach Bryan Morcom was anything but shy in victory, all too happy



Photos by D. Colburn



to provide Soudan with bulletin board material to stew over for a year.

"How epic is this?" Morcom crowed. "People from Soudan couldn't even count as high as we scored."

Homer said a few players would be going home with tender and perhaps painful reminders of the game.

"We were playing with a hard puck," Homer said. "Normally we would play with a soft puck, but it was a choice of both teams. Some guys did not have regular hockey shin pads – they just sucked it up and said they'd play with it. Right at

the end of the third period there were three people within 30 seconds that got hit in the ankle with a hard puck – it'll leave a bruise for a couple of weeks. That's something you've got to take when you're a hockey player."

The snow was something else the players had to take, and some adapted more easily than others.

"We weren't going to re-shovel because it would've taken forever," Homer said. "But it was equal. You could definitely see who had the ability to fight the snow and make the passes and score."



Skaters Ben Johnson, Gavin Bialke and Travis Benck vie for the puck. photo by D. Colburn



Soudan goalie Nate Dostert defends his net. photo by D. Colburn

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BREITUNG TOWNSHIP

Breitung Police Department faces uncertain future

Police chief Nylund resigns, leaving department without any full-time officers

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN - The Breitung Board accepted, with regrets, the resignation of Breitung Police Chief Dan Nylund at its meeting Tuesday. Nylund's last day will be Friday, March 5. The department's lieutenant resigned just a month earlier, which leaves the department without any full-time officers. Nylund was attending a training and not present at the board meeting. He has accepted a job with the Virginia Police Department.

The board will hold a special meeting with city of Tower officials on Wednesday, March 3 at noon to discuss what direction police coverage in the Tower-Soudan area

might go, whether it be outright cancellation of the contract between the governmental entities and closure of the department or a temporary suspension of the contract. It was also unclear whether or not the part-time Breitung officers could continue to work without a police chief. St. Louis County Sheriff's Department will respond to emergencies and 911 calls during this time.

Though no decisions were made, the Breitung board members' comments suggested they were in favor of keeping the department.

"I think people feel safer with seeing patrols," said Chairman Tim Tomsich.

"Not having a police department could put a red flag out that we're an easy

area," said supervisor Greg Dostert.

Tomsich said Nylund had posted an opening for a full-time officer (formerly Jason Sanderson's position) but hadn't received any applicants yet. Nylund had told Tomsich there are a lot of openings around the state, and the applicant pool would likely be limited.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Heard that water lines have been freezing up and Breitung residents should consider running their water to prevent freezing. Residents are asked to call the township if their water line freezes or for more information about water credits for people

who are running water to prevent freeze-up.

► Dostert reported that the ice rink was closed for a week due to bitter cold, and may shut down again for warmth, but that the ice is good for now. He said that hockey day was a success. Chimpy Tuominen is holding skating parties every Saturday and Jayne Sundeen is holding parties on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

► Heard that the township received two infrastructure grants, \$145,000 from IRRR and \$100,000 from CBDG. Among four separate projects, the top ones are replacing or repairing the sewer line from South Street going under Hwy. 169 and replacing or repairing manholes throughout town.

► The annual meeting

will be held in person on Tuesday, March 9 at 8:15 p.m. There will be no phone-in option for this meeting due to the confusion of residents voting over the phone. The Board of Canvass meeting will follow. Residents are asked to call the town hall if they plan to attend, so socially-distanced seating can be set up in advance.

► Received letters of support for the McKinley Park Bike Trail grant application from the city of Tower, Old Settlers, Greenwood Recreation, Penguins Snowmobile Club, Lake Vermilion Events Board, Vermilion Lake Association, Horse Club, Vermilion Housing, Prospectors Trail Alliance, St. Louis County Highways, and a walking club.



Police chief Nylund file photo

► The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will tentatively be Tuesday, May 18 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

► The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 23 at noon.

CITY OF TOWER

Residents invited to serve on Tower's new blight committee

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— New city council member Joe Morin is hoping to address the growing problem of blight here, and the council took action on Monday to form a committee to look at revisions to the city's blight ordinance and to develop a strategy to address the problem.

"Blight has a negative financial impact on our community in terms of property values, attraction of new residents and new

businesses to the city," said Morin. "Recent efforts have been successful in addressing a few blight issues, but many, many more exist."

Morin said it will take "a well-developed, comprehensive, achievable, and sustainable approach," something that the city has lacked for years.

The city had established an ad hoc blight committee last year, which sent blight letters to several residential and commercial property owners, which resulted in some

improvements. But Mayor Kringstad said he had "felt like a lone wolf" on that committee, although he never called for a meeting of the group.

Other members of the council voiced support for Morin's idea and they briefly discussed who to appoint to the committee. All agreed that some citizen representation would be valuable and the council directed clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua to advertise for openings on the new committee.

Ranua urged the

council to make some initial appointments to the committee, "to get the ball rolling." Kringstad then offered to serve on the committee and Morin also agreed.

"This won't be an easy one," said Kringstad. "It won't be fun, but it will be beneficial."

Rose RV park

The council also took up the process for approving a water and sewer connection for the Rose RV park, currently under

construction. Ranua said the city has received a request from Rose but when she researched the process for acting on his request, she found the city lacks both the appropriate application forms or a current ordinance.

Planning and zoning consultant Tony Jeffries noted that the city's water and sewer ordinances likely became moot with the creation of the joint Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board, which now appears to have the authority to provide con-

nections to the system. Even so, he said the city may need to approve an application for Rose in order for him to submit applications to the state Health Department and the Department of Labor and Industry, both of which have an oversight role over the installation and connection of sewer and water systems.

But that doesn't mean the city lacks an interest in how the connection is

See **TOWER...** pg. 5

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

Open Meeting Law

Varying approaches to COVID pandemic shows the need for clarity

Balancing public safety with the public's right to know has been a challenge for local units of government around the country over the past eleven months, including here in the North Country. Yet, with COVID infection rates falling and state guidelines loosening the rules for private business and schools, local officials, in some cases, need to re-examine the way they're handling public meetings. In some cases, by failing to balance the rights of the public to attend public meetings, they may be running afoul of state law.

The Open Meeting Law in Minnesota does provide an exception for declared public health emergencies, like the current pandemic, which allows governments to conduct meetings remotely. But that's only if they can meet certain conditions, including the condition that participants, such as the public, are able to access the meetings, participate in discussion, and hear all discussion and testimony on agenda items. We've sat through enough meetings on Zoom or GoToMeeting to know that these requirements are fully met only rarely.

What's more, governmental bodies can only utilize the pandemic exception to the Open Meeting Law when a designated official has determined that in-person meetings are "not practical or prudent." But that's intended to apply to *all people*, not just the public. In the case of the Tower City Council, for example, the city council has been meeting largely in-person, at the city's civic center, for months now. City staff have attended in person as well. Clearly, city officials have decided that in-person meetings are *practical and prudent*, since they are conducting them. And in a large facility, like a civic center or town hall, there is little reason that members of the media, and at least some members of the public, can't be accommodated. This newspaper made that point last week by having a reporter attend a council meeting at the civic center in-person. Two days later, the council amended its rule to allow members of the media. That's a step forward, but there's still no authority in state law that allows a governing body to only allow media, while keeping out the public at large.

It's the same story with the St. Louis County School District, where board members have had the choice of attending in person or electronically for months. If they can meet in-person, members of the

public should be allowed, too, as long as they wear masks and can socially distance. If the district's board room is too small to accommodate more than a handful of the public, the board could move their meetings to a larger venue, such as a school gymnasium. The Open Meeting Law doesn't allow governmental bodies to close to the public simply because it's more convenient that way. If a member of the public or media can attend a basketball game at a school gymnasium, there is no reason they can't attend a school board meeting there as well.

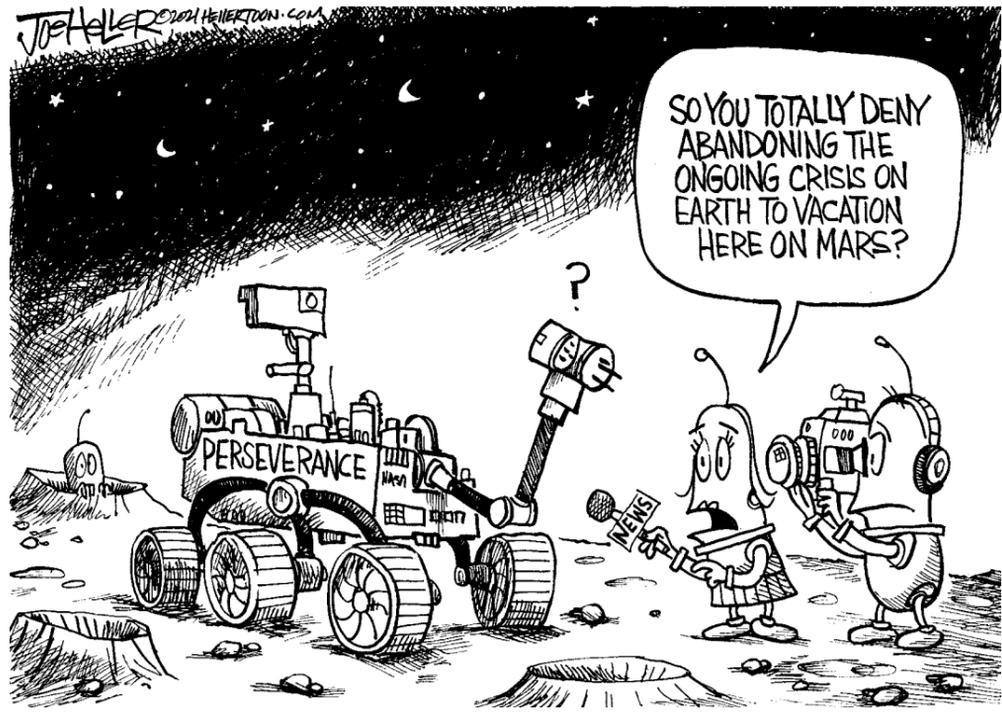
If limits on public attendance need to be set to maintain social distancing, that's fine. Requiring that attendees wear masks is obvious. But blanket prohibitions on the public's attendance, without any clear purpose, are going well beyond both the letter and the intent of the pandemic exception to the Open Meeting Law.

In neither case do we believe these two local governing bodies are violating the law intentionally. And to help clarify the issue, we've requested an advisory opinion on the matter from the Department of Administration.

Other local governing bodies have gotten it right. Vermilion Country School's board meetings are being held in person. Members of the public can also attend as long as they wear masks and socially distance, rules which apply to board members as well. The city council in Orr has been meeting in person and allowing the public to attend. At times, depending on risk levels, the Orr council has moved to larger venues to accommodate social distancing, but has always allowed the public to be present.

It's the same with the city of Cook, where the council has been meeting for months at their community center to allow for social distancing, with the public in attendance. That's consistent with the Open Meeting Law.

The Open Meeting Law is there for a reason—to ensure that the public has the right to hear and understand how governmental decisions are being made. While it allows governmental bodies to adjust in the event of pandemics, the rights of the public to attend public meetings need to be balanced with the risks posed by the pandemic. If a board or council finds it practical and prudent to meet in-person, it's tough to argue that the public can't be there as well.



Letters from Readers

Why third place is the best of all

Kudos to the *Timberjay!* As long-time subscribers and eager readers, we would like to congratulate all your staff for the many well-deserved Minnesota Newspaper Association awards for 2020. The first-place prizes put you at the top in those categories, but risk unrealistic expectations that you will always come out in first place. The second-place prizes, while almost as noteworthy, might engender some disappointment in not quite being first-place-worthy. It seems to us the third-place awards must be the most satisfying, since they are a simple recognition of a "job well-done" with no added expectations or disappointments.

**The Dragonfly Couple
David Smith and
Suzanne Winckler
Embarrass Twp.**

Editor's Note: A Timberjay story on the dragonfly couple was a third-place winner in the MNA's Better Newspaper Contest. Which may give the reader a bit more context into their high regard for third-place finishes.

Support candidates who support Greenwood EMS

Greenwood Township has enjoyed a few years of quiet, but it was not long ago that Greenwood Township was the brunt of frivolous lawsuits and challenges to the fire department and town board. We have even lost our Minnesota Association of Townships low-cost insurance because of the frivolous lawsuits. I know this because I was at the receiving end of many of the attacks. I worked with Rob Ecklund and Tom Rukavina to secure land for the

Vermilion Penguin Snowmobile Club. St. Louis County's plan was to pass the land on to the Snowmobile Club through the Greenwood Town Board. The previous chairman would not work with St. Louis County or the snowmobile club.

I also was confronted by one of the new candidates at the end of a board meeting because I would not divulge the names of the firefighters that entered Fortune Bay in self-contained breathing apparatus to clear rooms during a fire. I told the candidate that I did not want the firefighters to become part of their mean-spirited attacks. I was told that, "you have no idea how mean we can be."

None of this is hearsay. I was the brunt of many direct attacks and challenges. I am not sure why a group wants to take down our fire department and township. I have been told by one of the new candidates that the township would be better served by the Tower Fire Department. Greenwood Township's taxes are some of the lowest per value on Lake Vermilion, plus we enjoy a great EMS service that is close at hand.

Please support the current Greenwood Township board of officers when you vote on March 9. They are: Board members Larry Tahija and Byron Beihoffer, treasurer Belinda Fazio and Clerk Debby Spicer. They support Greenwood Township and our EMS service.

Please come out and vote. The town board has gone to great lengths to follow CDC guidelines and protocol for sanitization and social distancing.

**Michael Indihar
Greenwood Twp.**

Line 3 is a pipeline to economic recovery

2020 hit us hard. Small businesses were rocked, people were put out of work and that really hurt our local economies.

Thankfully, things have taken a turn. Main Street Minnesota is slowly opening back up, folks are getting back to work, and finally, construction on the Line 3 pipeline is underway.

I have long been a supporter of this important project to replace the Line 3 pipeline here in Minnesota. Not only is Enbridge projected to spend nearly \$3 billion on the replacement pipeline, but thousands of men and women are already back on the job and the ripple effect is evident.

To date, there are more than 5,000 people working on this process across 14 counties. This also means there are thousands of people stopping at our local gas stations, staying at our hotels, eating at our restaurants and wandering our hardware stores.

Northern Minnesota has been hurting, and because of this necessary construction on Line 3, these small towns and communities are seeing the sunshine once again. People are working, business is up, and the instant benefit is being realized.

We must also look at benefits yet to come in the future. Currently, Enbridge pays \$30 million annually in Minnesota property taxes. Following completion of this project, they will be paying more than double, bringing in an additional \$35 million in property taxes to the state of Minnesota.

This project provides real revenue that will be used to fund our schools, roads and other infrastructure. I am proud to see that this project is finally moving forward in a safe and sustainable way and look forward to continuing to see the amazing benefits to our communities and state as a whole.

**Steve Giorgi
Executive Director
Range Association of
Municipalities and Schools
Mountain Iron**

Henry James, Mardi Gras beads and skin tags

Last Sunday evening, I was convalescing in my green leather recliner after a busy day. I was hoping the subject for this week's column would drop into my lap. It seemed to be one of those stretches where there wasn't anything hilariously funny happening, obviously interesting, or even scandalous to write about.



**SCARLET
STONE**

I'd been thinking about being an empty-nester and the approach of my only son's twenty-fourth birthday at the end of the month. I was thinking that being an off-duty mom coasting towards the finish line is underwhelming, to say the least. Add to it being a single senior after

and loves in a life leaves me in a tizzy as if I am looking for the other shoe sometimes and can't find it. It is all a bit like having a one-way blood transfusion... all going out and nothing new coming in. In many ways, life has plunked me into a "time-out." I was ruminating about all of these cheery things and deciding on whether I would fix myself a salad or keep eating from the eternal kettle of boiled dinner that has gone into overtime in the fridge...when all of a sudden my iPhone went ding...someone had sent me a message. "Oh, maybe

it's my son wanting me to cook a birthday dinner or calling to tell me a funny story." It was a text message from an old "friend." She was more of a friend of another friend, who isn't even my friend anymore because I think she decided along the way that my occasional over-serving of alcohol to myself, and the subsequent effects, were much worse than her dancing on bar tables or being hauled out of bars when her legs wouldn't work. Well, here's what I have to say... "That's the spittoon calling the ashtray foul!"

So anyhow, this message I received from the "friend," was to inform me that a fellow attendee from a summer ladies cocktail group I had attended thirty years ago had recently died. Not the cheer I was hoping for, but I was empathetic none the less. I wanted to consider the deceased and have a brief exchange. After all, the "friend" had taken time to message me. I innocently replied, "Oh wow, she wasn't very old." I expected something like, "No she wasn't,

See **FRIEND...** pg. 5

Letters from Readers

Please vote in Greenwood on March 9

I am running for a supervisor position in Greenwood Township. Our current board has been operating and making decisions with little to no input from the citizens. Public comment, either via correspondence (that was read by the clerk for many years) or by being able to speak at the current monthly telephone meetings is not allowed. We are also unable to get on the agenda. We can listen but are not allowed to speak. That is not democracy. If citizens have an issue, or a complaint, it should be addressed, whether the board agrees or not. They have made everything "not public" information and the chair has established a burdensome, draconian system for accessing what information they choose to make available. Who on earth made him the decider? They contact the attorney frequently to see if they have to give us our public information.

A current board

member went to the former elected clerk's office the day after they drastically cut her pay. He told her "I didn't know they were going to do that," but he voted for her reduction in pay anyway.

The decisions seem to be made before the meetings, as there is little to no discussion at the meetings.

I would like to see citizen involvement made a priority again. Some current board members never return phone calls or respond to emails. I have heard from some that a board member has hung up on them rather than listen to what the caller has to say. Listening to the citizens is a large part of the duties of a supervisor.

I am a huge supporter of bringing high-speed (broadband) internet access to township residents. Last summer was an example of why our current limitations are not adequate. Many property owners came 'Up North' to escape the city due to the virus. Trying to work from Greenwood sent some down to the town hall to work, due to the high speed internet available there.

Frontier is at capacity and has been unable to take new customers for over two years. Working from home is definitely going to increase and we need to be able to meet the need.

Years ago I spent a lot of time at meetings trying to convince the board to get individual email addresses so we could contact them directly, in writing. At that time, all mail and emails went only to the clerk. After nearly two years, they finally agreed.

I would like to see more openness and transparency and have citizen involvement encouraged. The current board wants little to none. We have five board members now voting like bobbleheads. Five in favor is the norm on a vote, with little to no discussion, at least not at the board table.

Regarding Option 'B', which failed last year by approximately a 2-1 margin. Why on Earth would we give up our right to vote, ever? A board member stated that they "would have more control" with an appointed clerk/treasurer. They certainly would, and that is fright-

ening. The appointees would be at their beck and call, beyond their duties expressed by and limited by law. Separation in government is a wonderful thing.

Please vote on March 9 for Sue Drobac-Supervisor, Dr. JoAnn Bassing-Clerk and Barbara Lofquist-Supervisor.

Thank you,
**Barbara Lofquist
Greenwood Twp.**

Vote in support of broadband in Greenwood

As towns and townships all around Greenwood Township make rapid and substantial strides in advancing broadband within their communities, we see Greenwood all but stagnant. Reports on the progress made by the LTE (Laurentian Chamber, TEDA and Range Joint Powers Board) and other sources of information are not available to the community or the board from the two appointed Greenwood representatives due to lack of atten-

dance at those meetings or contact with other similar sources.

It's hard to inspire people within our community to get involved and help make broadband happen when they're not kept informed. I'd like to think the Greenwood Township reps at the very least possess the basic skills to access the local LTE meetings. From what we've been told by attendees at the LTE meetings they haven't been in "attendance" for quite some time. Attendance in this case is by telephone or online meetings, no travel or personal safety issues or concerns. If indeed that's the case, you certainly have to question the rationale for not only placing them in these significant positions but letting them remain there.

Examples of what we have been told by them is that there are people that are satisfied with the existing DSL system provided by Frontier. We've heard that broadband will be soon be obsolete, when in fact it's only just begun. The point is what we've been seeing isn't the

kind of information we're looking for, what we do need from them is what we need to do as a community to make broadband a part of Greenwood's infrastructure.

It's a fact that broadband becomes more essential by the day, even in communities such as Greenwood. At what point do the residents of Greenwood decide that it's time this poor performance hasn't been of any benefit to the township, a waste of time and is no longer satisfactory?

On March 9, we have the opportunity to make changes in the makeup of the board by removing ineffective incumbents and electing three experienced candidates who will take proactive roles in seeing broadband become a reality in Greenwood Township. I urge you to vote for Sue Drobac and Barb Lofquist for Township Supervisors and JoAnn Bassing for Township Clerk.

**Rick Stoehr
Greenwood Twp.**

TOWER...Continued from page 3

done, according to city engineer Matt Bolf. Bolf suggested that the city consider drafting a development agreement with Rose that spells out how the RV park utilities will be laid out and who will pay the various associated costs. "There's nothing like that in place now," said Bolf. He also recommended that the city require that the sewer lines be televised to detect any sags in the line that could cause backups.

During the discussion, Kringstad diverted the council to an unrelated issue about how Rose is advertising his RV park online. He said Rose's website was promising that

park residents could use a 300-foot boat channel to park boats during the open season, and he said there was no channel in the current plan and that the issue could prompt legal claims against Rose that might leave the project unfinished. "Does anyone on the council have concerns about that?" he asked.

Rose, who was attending the meeting virtually, spoke up and denied Kringstad's suggestion.

A review of the website for the Tower RV Resort shows that Rose is touting protected dockage along his 300 feet of riverfront, but it makes

no mention of a separate channel.

Councilor Dave Setterberg tried to rein the meeting back in, noting that the issue was off topic. "Maybe we should get more information before getting into this discussion," he suggested.

The council, then back on track, approved the creation of an application form so Rose can advance his project.

In other action, the council:

► Approved seeking quotes for the purchase of a sanitary sewer trash basket to intercept assorted trash that users of the Hoodoo Point Campground flush

at the campground. The debris has regularly plugged up the lift station, requiring regular servicing by city maintenance staff. Ranua said the use of signage at the campground to discourage users from flushing garbage have been ineffective. The city will also seek a quote for a lift station controller at the Mill Point lift station. The controller has been malfunctioning since a possible lightning strike. Initial estimates put the total cost for both items at \$5,700, which would be paid for out of the Hoodoo Point fund.

► Authorized the sale of a 1995 Polaris, six-

wheel ATV as surplus public works property. The council directed Ranua to advertise the vehicle, with bids to be due on March 21. Bids will be opened on March 22. Setterberg said the vehicle runs but has a number of maintenance issues and needs new tires.

► Authorized the city to apply for grant funds that might fund a portion of the purchase of a new police vehicle this year. The city is obligated under its contract with Breitung township to purchase the new vehicle this year. Ranua said the vehicle purchase is in the city's budget, but

that a grant could free up some of those dollars for other things.

► Tabled a request by Ranua to issue a letter to the Gunderson Trust board reminding them of their obligation to provide quarterly financial reports to the city council. The board hasn't submitted a financial report to the city in years. The trust board was set to meet later in the week and was planning to address the issue, so council members opted to give the board the chance to issue a financial report before approving a letter.

FRIEND...Continued from page 4

or she was only sixty-nine" or something and maybe learn the cause of death. The response was, "Dah." Now, what the heck was that for? It could have been COVID or a car accident or anything that caused her untimely death...right? Why toss me a bloody, snarky... "Dah"? I looked it up on google. "Dah," actually spelled "Duh," according to Dictionary.com is an interjection used to express annoyance or banality, obviousness, or stupidity.

Feeling a bit out of sorts anyhow, I now could feel another layer of outta-sortness being smeared over me like eighty-degree cream cheese at the end of a summer picnic. With lips in a twisted purse, and eyes fixed on my naked bunions ahead on the footrest, I wanted to say, "F-off!" But I shock-collared myself and asked, "What happened?" Now this wasn't too intellectual or insincere, and still I received a string of question marks as a response, "?????" Gee whiz, I thought, "what part of 'What happened?' don't you understand? I let out a sigh and considered a second self-administered shock-collar treatment, but I simply responded, "Take care." In other words... "I'm not a fly on that cream cheese, don't pull my wings off or bully me." I'm done dealing with bouts of rudeness from this "friend" and have decided to "cut her off like

a skin tag." I love being a "Pre-Golden!" It is a right of passage, born of age and insults to decide... no more, and to be continued on my merry way.... bunions and all! There is the saying, "Don't cast your pearls before swine." In my case it is more like, "Don't toss your colorful Mardi Gras beads to alligators." So many people just want to bite and snap.

So, these incidents involving human behavior are writing material for me, stirring my passion.... and that's a good thing. We can all relate to feeling insulted. I do remember, as a young person, being afraid to open my mouth for fear I'd sound stupid. We all go through that.... "Oh wait, I just went through it again!" The eternal leveling, then we pick ourselves up and continue to make sense of it all. I am sensitive and that most likely won't change.

My older brother, a college English professor, recently gifted me with a small, framed quote by writer Henry James that sits next to me on a small semi-circle wall shelf at one end of my floral love-seat in my living room. Other useful things are nearby too, such as my iPad, a pill strip of vitamins, toenail fungus oil, the cat's laser light toy and a couple of plastic toothpicks that follow me wherever I go in life. The James quote I have been digesting all week.

"We work in the dark.

We do what we can. We give what we have. Our doubt is our passion. Our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art."

This came out of a conversation with my brother about writing, but it speaks to life in general, I think. We both attended Bemidji State University and had the same English professor, but my brother had graduated a few years prior. The professor told me at one point that I had missed out on getting the writing skills and should stick to my art. Well....that did affect me. My brother is the Dr., but I do NOT believe I am the "Dah".

I eventually tossed it into the basket of bad advice given by puffheads who aren't being valued teachers but rather are busy feathering their own pompous hats. My interest in writing was born years before I ever attended college. It started in the sod-roof cabin in the woods near Delta Junction, Alaska where I lived with my first husband in 1980. There was no running water or electricity and we had no TV or phone to consume our time. We wrote letters or used a pay phone in town if we needed to make a call to loved ones down in the lower forty-eight. Add being homesick to the mix, and the interest in writing was born. I wrote long descriptive letters to my parents, sharing the details of the

experiences I was having up in the far north. My dad was a mechanical engineer at Eric Mining Company and would actually bring my letters to work to share with the department secretary.

Years later, a senior co-worker at a marketing firm also implied my writing rather "sucked." She was more starchy in her presentation, but the message got through when she gave me a writing assignment and then told me she had to rewrite the entire piece. That was kind of a "Dah" sort of thing too. At the time I was not employed as a writer, but was a secretary and wondered why she expected me to do more than answer phones and make coffee. I guess I am not a technical, follow-the-recipe kinda gal with writing or life, but I do what I can, I give what I have. At the *Timberjay*, I am not employed as a writer either. I am the graphic designer and have worked in sales but enjoy doing this column and an occasional story that doesn't restrict me to "who, what where, when and why." The most important task I have at the newspaper in my heart on many days is sharing my lunch with Loki, the sweet-spirited dog, and helping keep his water dish filled. There is nothing "Dah" about that.

the **TIMBERJAY**



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Week of March 1

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 March 16.

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.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Pickleball players needed

TOWER- Community Education pickleball is held at the Tower-Soudan School on Saturdays at 9 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. More players are needed, and beginners are welcome, and there are some paddles that beginners can borrow. The group plays as long as four players or more show up.

Pickleball is a paddle ball sport that combines the elements of badminton, table tennis, and tennis. Two or four players use solid paddles to hit a perforated plastic ball (like a wiffle ball) over a net.

COVID-19 guidelines are being followed, and currently that means masks are required during play.

Games will continue through May. There is a \$6 community education fee for the season. Registration online is encouraged, visit www.isd2142.net and click on the community education tab. You will need to create an account with your email, address, and phone, and then pay online. Questions, contact Community Ed Coordinator Cara Harksen at charksen@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

Skating parties set

SOUDAN- Chimpy's skating parties are now underway, with the next party set for Saturday, Feb. 27 (weather-permitting) from 12 noon - 2 p.m. There will be free food, including hot dogs, burgers, pizza, drinks, and snacks.

Rink attendant Jayne Sundeen will be offering food at the rink for skaters on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school, weather-permitting.

Sponsors this year include Paul and Judy Pishler and the Tower Firemen's Relief Association. Anyone interesting in donating money to help pay for the food should contact Chimpy at Zup's in Tower.

TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY

Learning a traditional craft

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

TOWER- Fifth- and sixth-grade students in Scott Chiabotti's class have spent the past few weeks getting comfortable with using a loom to make Native American style beadwork. The kids have been learning how to string the looms, how to design a pattern, how to thread and secure the tiny beads, and have been working with a partner to create keychains. The kids were enjoying having time to focus and create.

Amanda Koivisto, Indian Education Interventionist, said that the Tower Indian Ed program purchased 20 looms for the students to learn on. Northeast Range, where she shares her time, will also soon be getting looms for their fifth- and sixth-grade classroom.

Beading is a slow process that takes planning, concentration, and fine motor finesse. Students have worked about three hours to get their first few inches on their keychains. "They are working hard and are doing well, they're really getting the hang of it," said Koivisto. "I'd like to make this a regular activity."

It was also hat day, which is why the students were wearing an assortment of hat styles in the classroom!



Clockwise from top left: Students create a pattern on graph paper before creating the pattern with beads. Claire Jonas begins working on her keychain. Mathias Boshey (left) and Dane Pecchia work together. Shaye Isham starts working on her project. photos by S. Ukkola



GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP

Meet the candidates; election set for March 9

GREENWOOD TWP- Greenwood voters will have plenty to choose from on the ballot for the upcoming March 9 township election. *The Timberjay* has sent out candidate questionnaires to the four candidates running for the two open supervisor seats, and the two candidates running for clerk. There is only one candidate on the ballot for the open treasurer spot, interim treasurer Belinda Fazio, who was appointed to fill the vacancy left after Pam Rodgers resigned. For space considerations, it was not possible to run all the candidate responses at one time. We ran responses from Joann Bassing and Sue Drobac last week.

Township residents will also have the chance to vote for a second time on Option B, which gives the town board the authority to appoint a clerk and treasurer. In 2020, voters rejected Option B by a margin of 194 to 97.

Barb Lofquist for Supervisor 3 seat

(Lofquist is challenging incumbent Larry Tahija)

What is your short-term and longer-term vision for the township: I would like to get rid of the surveillance cameras. A decent security system, with an emergency button in case there is an emergency, is a good idea. Constantly spying on citizens, the elected clerk and treasurer is appalling. The town hall should be a warm, welcoming, inviting place for all.

I will encourage the participation of all property owners in the Township. About 70 percent of the taxpayers in Greenwood are seasonal and cannot vote, so they have no say on how their tax dollars are spent. They need to be encouraged to become involved, too. I would like to see the following done immediately: let us speak during the telephone game board meetings, get the town hall opened up for meetings safely as soon as possible; and allow taxpayers to be on the agenda when requested. The board meetings should be held with Zoom or another application where we can all speak

if we choose to.

Do you support Option B: why or why not? I strongly oppose taking away our voting rights for any reason. A board member publicly stated they want to appoint (nepotism/cronyism) a clerk and a treasurer so they can 'have more control'. That is unacceptable. Elected officials are chosen by the people, that is the way it should be. If the job they are doing is unacceptable to some, they will be voted out.

How essential do you feel broadband is, and how should the town board support it? This past summer proved how important fast, reliable internet service is! I saw a few people in the town hall this summer working from the township's computer because their home internet was slow and/or unreliable. Working from home is not going away soon. Many working from home would like to keep working remotely. Broadband would encourage more folks to move here, with their children. I have heard anecdotally that some won't relocate here because of our outdated technology.

Do you support the township's current data information request policy? I can think of no legitimate reason why most township records should not be available to the public. Personal health records for the first responders and their private data of course should not be released. Neither should personnel information. Everything else? Send it out. The fact that the data practices law does not apply to townships is irrelevant. Refusing to give our records to us is wrong. It also makes one wonder what they are hiding or are afraid of.

Do you think public comment should be added back to the town board meeting agenda? Public comment and correspondence should absolutely be brought back. If the writer wants their letter read, it should be. Many of us cannot make the meetings, due to distance or work obligations. If the board members do not want to hear criticism of their actions, perhaps they should find another

endeavor.

What former roles have you had in the township or volunteering? I was on the planning and zoning committee for a single meeting. They tossed a coin because they didn't want the other applicant or myself on the committee. I tried twice to be an election judge. They said no again. Anyone that is eligible should be able to serve the township, personal feelings should not be involved. I have attended dozens of meetings over many years. I am retired now, and have much more free time, when I'm not herding grandchildren.

What is your view of current/future township spending? Setting the levy at \$150,000 sounds good to me.

Anything else you would like voters to know? Board meetings need to be more welcoming and inclusive, regardless of one's point of view. Supervisors should represent everyone in the township.

Larry Tahija for Supervisor 3 seat

(Incumbent Tahija is being challenged by Barb Lofquist) These answers were taken from a telephone interview.

What is your short-term and longer-term vision for the township? We have to go ahead, if you don't go ahead, you go backwards. Really there is nothing I am against. I've always voted for everything we had. I have never voted against any progress.

Do you support Option B: why or why not? I am not really for or against it. It's up to the people to decide, I'm just a supervisor. If it's voted down again this time, I think it won't be brought up again.

How essential do you feel broadband is, and how should the town board support it? I've always been supportive of bringing in broadband service. Last year we tried to appropriate \$50,000 in the levy, but it was shot down. This year we are asking for \$25,000. It will be expensive to bring broadband to Greenwood because we are on

rock and you can't easily bury cable like you can in areas west of here. I also saw there weren't that many people who were in support of the broadband project. We don't have very many families with young children in the township anymore.

Do you support the township's current data information request policy? I don't know enough about it to answer this question, But I have been reading information from the Minnesota Association of Townships on the pros and cons of this issue.

Do you think public comment should be added back to the town board meeting agenda? I support adding public comment back on our agendas. I think the public should be able to sign up at the meeting, and then give comments to the board. That's the only way to go. If someone calls me about an issue, I will bring it up at a meeting. I didn't support it when they shut it down. This is the place to bring up township issues and concerns. How are the supervisors supposed to know what people want if they don't allow questions?

What former roles have you had in the township or volunteering? I moved to Greenwood in 1970, and am one of the founding members of the fire department, where I served for 25 years. I have served on planning and zoning, the board of adjustment, and have donated a lot of time to the township over the years.

What is your view of current/future township spending? Ideas for cutting spending? What would you like to see the levy set at? I am not sure \$150,000 will be enough to cover township spending this year, especially with added costs due to the pandemic, such as increased cleaning at the town hall once it reopens.

Anything else you would like voters to know? I am always willing to listen.

ELECTION 2021

Ely mayor candidates square off at voter forum

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Primary election absentee voting starts Feb. 26

ELY – Candidates for the city’s mayoral race gathered at City Hall last week for a voter’s forum to discuss a variety of issues facing the community.

Four current Ely city council members – Angela Campbell, Jerome Debeltz, Paul Kess and Heidi Omerza – and former Ely Mayor Roger Skraba attended the event, co-hosted by the American Association of University Women-Ely Branch and the Ely Rotary Club. First-time candidate Micca Leider did not participate.

A special primary election for the city’s top elected position will be held Tuesday, April 13. The top two vote-getters will face off in a special general election on Tuesday, Aug. 10.

Candidates were allowed to present opening and closing statements and were asked questions covering long-range vision, economic development, broadband, zoning, taxes, rental housing availability, mining, the Community Center, and the need for a city dog park.

Campbell started the evening with a to-do list of her vision for Ely in the next five years, including helping the community weather the coronavirus pandemic.

“We need to get our stores re-opened and out businesses up and running,” she said.

She praised the city’s budget process, and looked forward to providing more affordable housing in Ely as newly-appointed chair of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

“We have our trail-head and west-end development projects ahead of us,” she added. “And we need to build our community for new arrivals and families coming to our city.”

Similarly, Skraba praised the established businesses in the city, such as Steger Mukluks and Razors Edge, and stressed the importance of working with such businesses to help them expand and grow.

“Razors Edge could grow as big as Gerber Foods,” he said. “I am looking at Ely transitioning to a kind of retirement home.”

He called for more fiber optics development to attract a younger workforce.

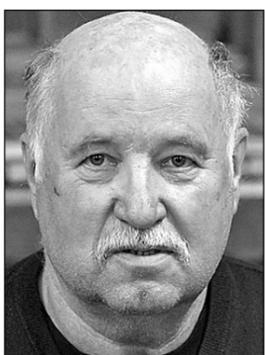
“The (COVID-19)



Angela Campbell



Jerome Debeltz



Paul Kess



Heidi Omerza



Roger Skraba

Don't forget to vote

Absentee voting for the Ely mayoral primary election begins on Friday, Feb. 26. Voters will need to complete an absentee ballot application, available in the Ely City Clerk’s office or the foyer in the entrance of City Hall. Voters can also call 218-365-3224, ext. 2, or email (deputyclerk@ely.mn.us) to have an application sent by mail.

The City Clerk’s office will be open Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., on Saturday, April 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and on Monday, April 12 from 8 a.m. - 5pm for early primary election voting.

Absentee voting for the Aug. 10 general election will begin on Friday, June 25. For the general election, absentee/early voting opens on Friday, June 25. The City Clerk’s office will be open Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and on Monday, Aug. 9 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for early general election voting.

pandemic has opened our eyes to more people working from their homes,” Skraba said. “And I see copper nickel mining as part of that solution to our 20-year vision.”

Omerza stressed the importance of broadband in Ely’s future.

“It continues to be on our radar,” she said. “It is the number one priority for EEDA (Ely Economic Development Authority). It is happening as we speak.”

As president of the city’s economic development arm, Omerza stressed that she has spoken with “nearly every state legislator” about the infrastructure needs here.

“It is the great equalizer,” she said. She also stressed the importance of outside funding for broadband growth in Ely.

Kess was asked about any specific niche Ely could lean on for its economic future, and he was quick to answer, “Ely has had a niche for a long time. We are the canoe capital of the world and millions of people know about Ely for that reason. We need to continue to develop that niche, but not necessarily for those people who go into the (Boundary Waters Canoe Area) wilderness, but those living here and around the wilderness because our quality of life is so high. That is our

niche.” Debeltz, a 28-year veteran city council member, said the mayor’s primary role in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic is to “be careful with our people. We don’t want to see anybody get sick. We need to survive this thing.”

He also called for more help for the community’s businesses as they struggle through closures and slow downs.

“We need to allow our community to help each other out,” he added. “Many people want to lend a hand but don’t know how to do it. Ely really cares about their community and want to make it a better place.”

Debeltz’s vision for the Community Center hits close to home.

“My uncle was on the council when they built it (back in the 1930s),” he said. “I grew up there. I remember all the good times we had there as kids. I would like to see something in there that will help create jobs for our community.”

He also called for a new owner to make the improvements necessary to re-open the building. “We have to find somebody who really wants to do something with the building,” he said.

Campbell reminded the panel that she was the one “who passionately

stood before the council and presented a business plan, later rejected, to save the Community Center.

“I have abstained from voting on the issue because I still have an interest in it. I see it as a focal point in the city. I see a bond development that would include a hotel, city center and other amenities,” she said.

Omerza waded into the ongoing “mining-no mining” debate in the city. She was asked what the city council can do to heal the divide so the two factions can work together for the betterment of the community.

“We have to agree to disagree,” she said. “We will never agree on that.”

She instead chooses to focus on the things that the community can agree on.

“There are more things we agree on than we don’t agree on. We all want to move Ely forward, but maybe in a different direction,” she said.

She quickly shifted to ideas that everyone agrees on and mentioned broadband, having an attractive downtown area, and improving recreational trails.

“We won’t all be BFFs (Best Friends Forever) but we can at least be congenial,” Omerza said. “This is a small community and we need to get along. We all represent Ely.”

Later, Omerza defended her opposition to “prove it first” mining legislation.

“(The Prove it First bill) is one more layer. We already have the MPCA. We already have the DNR, and this is just one more. We already have a lot of steps and regulations along the way.”

Kess, member of a multi-generational Ely family, noted that “Ely has always been a community of division and controversy” when referring to the wilderness or mining. “As a city council member and mayor, we try to lead by example. I grew up in a

time when people respected other’s opinions. We need to respect listen and encourage diverse points of view.”

Debeltz touted Ely has having the cleanest water in the state.

“We have had mining here for many, many years and we still have clean water. The people really care about the environment, and if we get that other mining up here, they will continue to care for the environment,” he said.

Skraba reminded the panel that he was mayor when Twin Metals came to Ely.

“I sat in the room with (anti-mining) folks,” he said. “Part of the issue is to deal with just facts. Let’s talk facts. And part of the problem is trusting the regulatory agencies. We need to figure out how to concede something and have collaboration.”

Campbell had one word in responding to the importance of pets in the Ely community. “Bingo,” she said. “A dog park is essential (in Ely). I have been to dog parks in major cities and I don’t own a dog. I go to socialize. I think our visitors and residents would advocate for a dog park.”

She called for rigorous dog licensing adherence, and seeking partners in developing and planning for a dog park.

“I will move the city from a small-town vision to a big-town vision,” Campbell added.

A couple of other candidates weighed in on the canine issue. Debeltz, who maintains the city’s softball field complex, referred to that area as the city’s largest dog park.

“I see as many as ten people there with their dogs every time I’m there. We really need a dog park,” he said. “We need to get somebody else interested in doing that.”

Skraba said he was curious as to how many people would be in favor

of raising taxes for a dog park.

“It is not in the budget now, so you would either have to raise taxes or cut something else in the budget,” he said.

A recording of the forum can be viewed on You Tube (search for Ely Mayoral Candidate Forum 2021).

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



a comfort the sun rays brighten the month's ending now looking forward

Libraries

Ely library

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

Babbitt library

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely.
ELY WOMEN’S OPEN AA - Every Monday at noon at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, 231 E. Camp St., Ely.
BABBITT AA - 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church
AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend.
BABBITT AL-ANON Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian.
CO-DEPENDENTS’ 12-step support group, noon Fridays, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Ely.
ELY FOOD SHELF - Third Wednesday each month, 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GED - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, 218-827-3232, or 1-800-662-5711.

ELY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Speech team competes in a COVID/virtual world

ELY - The Ely Memorial High School speech team continues to compete this year during COVID-19 precautions and are participating in “virtual” speech meets.

The Timberwolves brought home four medals from the meet with Cherry High School last weekend. Laura Holstrom, finished third in extemporaneous speaking. Maggie Dammann won fourth in extemporaneous reading. Harry Dammann took fourth in creative reading, and Esther Anderson, was fifth in extemporaneous reading.

“They continue to do well and are making their coach look good,” said Donna Kari, head speech coach. “Speaking in a room by yourself and speaking into your computer creates a whole different atmosphere and brings on challenges. The students have handled themselves admirably and shown just how talented they are.”

With virtual meets, the students lose a lot of personal contact, Kari said. “Competing in a virtual world is so different than in person. But it is the world we are in at the moment and grateful the students can still have a speech team.”



The Ely High School speech team includes, front row, from left, Laura Holstrom and Esther Anderson, and back row from left, Maggie Dammann and Harry Dammann. submitted photo

New Cook park gets boosts big and little

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

COOK- Thanks to two significant grant awards and the generosity of local donors, Friends of the Parks President Tammy Palmer can't wait for the spring thaw so that work can begin anew on completing Veterans Riverfront Park.

The idea to create a park that would also serve to honor military veterans past, present, and future became more than just an idea last year when Friends of the Parks started raising money for the project.

Donations started coming in both large and small. Cook V.F.W had an obvious tie-in with the project and threw its support and \$5,000 behind it. The Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club, B.I.C. Realty, Cook Lions, the Heiam family, and many, many more have donated to the project.

That support was critical, Palmer said, because without it FOTP would not have had the matching funds necessary to apply for a Culture and Tourism grant from Iron

Range Resources and Rehabilitation.

Culture and Tourism grants assist non-profits by supporting strong arts, culture, heritage and recreational activities that enhance the quality of life and economy in northeastern Minnesota. The IRRR funds its grants through taxes paid by Minnesota's taconite industry.

Palmer learned late last fall that because FOTP had sufficient matching funds, IRRR awarded the group \$16,500 for the park project.

"The agency was very pleased to support this project in Cook that enhances the community and honors our local military veterans," Palmer said. "Friends of the Parks appreciates the support shown by Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. It is with the help of grants and donations from individuals and local organizations that this project is able to move forward."

Yet another big boost came in December when Canadian National Railway informed Palmer



This drawing shows the location and general concept of the planned Veterans Riverfront Park in Cook. More has been added to the plans, and Cook Friends of the Parks is well on the way to raising the \$60,000 needed for the entire project.

that they were making a \$20,000 grant award for the park. The group is also applying to the Lake Country Power community grant program, but won't hear about that until at least March, Palmer said.

As the available funding has grown, so, too, have the plans for the little park on the north

end of Front Street nestling by the river and railroad tracks. Palmer said that as soon as the frost has lifted, volunteers will be descending on the park to get the ball rolling, with the intent that the park will be ready for a dedication ceremony by early June. While there are many people contributing time and effort to

this project, Palmer had special words for her fellow FOTP members.

"We have eight active members in Friends of the Parks, very dedicated individuals, hard-working, always looking out for what's best for our city, our youth, or adults, people of every age, always trying to make our community better than it

already is," Palmer said.

There will be more information to come, Palmer said the group is still welcoming donations. Anyone wishing to donate to this project, or Friends of the Parks in general, may do so by mailing your donation to: Friends of the Parks, PO Box 1141, Cook, MN 55723.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NWFA offers Zoom harmonica class

COOK- Creative learning sessions at Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook kick off in March with a Zoom class for participants to learn how to play the harmonica.

Well-known area musician Tom Kesanen will present a free "Harmonica Class" on con-

secutive Tuesday, March 16 and 23, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Participants in this online ZOOM class must have a C Major, 10-hole harmonica. NWFA will supply all other class materials you will need. This will be a free class with donations welcomed by NWFA.

Since childhood Tom Kesanen has played the

harmonica so much he was dubbed with a nickname, Harmonica Herman. "The Hutter Bunch" is one of the groups that Tom performs with.

Registration is necessary. Call Shawna at 218-780-6510 to sign up.

More harmonica classes may be offered in the future.

NWFA is the arts nonprofit organization in

the region of Cook, established ten years ago by community leaders and artists to inspire, nurture and celebrate all forms of art. The gallery is open three days a week on Thurs. and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sat. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 210 S River Street (in the Dream Weaver Salon complex). For further information see the website

at NWFAMN.ORG and on Facebook.

Readers and Rappers to meet on March 9

COOK- The next meeting of the 'Readers and Rappers' book club is Tuesday, March 9 at 1 p.m. and is being held virtually using Zoom.

The book to be dis-

cussed is The Dutch House by Ann Patchett. Shawna Kishel will host and also moderate the discussion.

An email with the Zoom link will be sent to current members prior to the meeting. For additional information or questions, call Shawna Kishel at 218-666-5096.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Principal provides potpourri of updates

FIELD TWP- It's hard to believe that in one week, our temperatures have made a nearly 80 (yes, 80) degree swing from -40 to +40. We would say, "Only in Minnesota," except that it looks like Texas may have experienced a similar swing in the opposite direction. Our weather seems to be a story of extremes lately.

of private property and each other. Those of us who ride have nearly all experienced "that guy" running down the trail too fast, on the wrong side, or generally in a fashion that is unsafe. I appreciate CO Zavodnik's help in working with our kids to be good stewards of the sport we love.

You may have heard that the MN State High School League has allowed an increase in capacity at sporting events to 25 percent or 250 fans, whichever is less. Our gym is nearly at 25 percent capacity with the current rules, so we aren't able to change our procedure of two (2) fans per player. We appreciate everyone's patience in getting through this. Believe me, we want more than anything to have a packed gym to cheer on our Grizzlies, but it just isn't in the cards yet.

Governor Tim Walz recently announced that schools statewide can reopen to in-person learning. Most of the new recommendations are not going to change our model as North Woods has remained open for the school year, along with several other schools in northern Minnesota. While some kids have thrived under distance learning, I believe that the majority of our kids function best in school with their peers. If you are concerned about your distance learning student,

please contact the school as we have been showing flexibility in instances when kids are struggling with distance learning.

Back in December, the North Woods Student Council assisted at Ruby's Pantry. During that event, I connected with another local community member and mom of a North Woods graduate regarding the possibility of some additional community support to feed those in need. Through this partnership, North Woods School has been hosting Food Drops through the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA). Our large parking lot and ease of access from the highway has made our school an ideal spot to host this event. We are glad to help our school families and communities during a time when food availability is affected by other circumstances.

COVID has limited our ability to host guests in our building, and for that reason, "Mystery Readers" for our "I Love to Read" event have been limited to in-building guests. Many staff and students have stepped up to the plate to become Mystery Readers in our elementary classes. Remember being a youngster in school and looking up to those big high schoolers? We have enlisted some of our older students to help read to our kids and it has been

exciting for the readers and the listeners.

Snow Week will be happening at North Woods March 8-12. Even though certain activities will be limited, there will be dress-up days and special activities. Students will participate in "Kahoots" at lunch time. A "Kahoot" is an interactive

quiz/trivia platform that tracks student answers and scores them on questions based on how fast they can answer. We tried this in the Fall for Homecoming, and it was a big hit! Also, new this year, will be a six-on-six coed dodgeball tourney. We will crown a Junior High 7-9 Champion and a High

School 10-12 Champion.

School overall at North Woods is beginning to feel much more "normal." Although masks are a daily reality, with a high percentage of kids returning to school in-person, staff and students alike seem to be getting their groove back.



JOHN VUKMANICH

Our plan, even with the limited snow this winter, was to have our "Snowmobile to School" day on Friday, Feb. 26. This event has become an annual North Woods tradition, although the weather has not always cooperated. Special thanks go out to our local DNR Conservation Officer Zavodnik for helping us with our highway crossing. Although part of a CO's job is to enforce the law, another part of it is education. Snowmobilers do need reminders once in a while. As snowmobilers, we need to be respectful

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

North Country making progress in COVID vaccine access

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Those 65 and older in the North Country wanting to get vaccinated against COVID-19 are likely grateful this week that Cook Hospital is following in the footsteps of Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital by offering community-based vaccination clinics.

And all can get a glimmer of hope for what's to come from looking at what the Bois Forte Band has accomplished with its own vaccination efforts.

Statewide vaccination efforts started in December without a community-based clinic approach. The targets were high-risk health care workers, residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities, and emergency responders, all very specific groups in specific places.

When the CDC recommended in January that vaccinations be opened up to people 65 and older, it was a game changer for the progressive tier-based distribution officials had planned for. The scramble was on to stand up temporary and semi-permanent vaccination sites around



EBCH pharmacist Beth Hartshorn fills a syringe with Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Saturday morning. Two hundred Ely-area residents received their second doses.
photo by K. Vandervort

the state and to gradually recruit community health clinics and local hospitals, as vaccines became available, to begin serving the nearly 1.1 million Minnesotans that were added to the eligibility rolls.

Ely Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital offered its first community-based clinic for those 65 and older on Jan. 30 at Vermilion Community College, and two hundred area residents who received their first COVID-19 vaccine dose that day returned to the

college gymnasium last Saturday for their second dose.

Beth Hartshorn, who works at the Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital pharmacy, said the Saturday clinic at VCC "went very smoothly. She added that "the doses were distributed quickly and no problems" with the patients. Patients received the Pfizer vaccine.

"We are all very thankful to get the shots," said Ely resident Gene Hicks after receiving his second dose. He makes and sells the popular ground coffee bearing his name.

"We didn't have any problems," said his wife, Jean Hicks. "We are looking forward to getting back to normal this summer."

The Ely hospital was scheduled to hold another COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Thursday, Feb. 25 at the Grand Ely Lodge for 200 Ely-area residents to receive their first dose of the Moderna vaccine. They will return four weeks later for the second dose.

Cook Cook Hospital was recently designated to receive a shipment of

COVID-19 vaccine, and opened up preregistration for appointments for its first three-day vaccination clinic at the Cook Community Center, scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Feb. 24-26.

Director of Nursing Nichole Chiabotti said on Tuesday that the response leading up to the clinic has been strong and favorable.

"Preregistration and interest has been great," Chiabotti said. "We have all appointments booked and have a pretty good waiting list as well."

Chiabotti said they would be administering 100 doses per day.

It's uncertain when the Cook Hospital will offer another vaccination clinic, Chiabotti said, because it all depends on the vaccine distribution system and when another lot of vaccine is designated for Cook Hospital. Because the notice they get is short and vaccines have to be administered within 72 hours, Chiabotti recommended that people sign up for the waiting list so that they will be notified directly of the next clinic. Register for the waiting

list online at <https://www.cookhospital.org/community-covid-vaccine-information/> or email vaccine@cookhospital.org.

Bois Forte

The experience of the Bois Forte Band offers a glimpse into a future in which vaccines are readily available, something not anticipated across the state or country until summer-time.

The Bois Forte are part of a separate vaccine distribution system for reservation residents, which has also seen a limited supply.

But as a smaller tribe that also happens to have its own clinics and qualified health personnel, Bois Forte was positioned from the outset to make more progress than the country as a whole.

Clinic Administrator Sue Larson said on Tuesday that the clinics at Nett Lake and Vermilion have given over 1,300 vaccine doses and 400 second doses are already scheduled.

"The vaccines have been given in phases," Larson said, "with the health care workers, EMTs, firefighters, elders and teachers in the first

phase. The second phase included Bois Forte enrolled tribal members and their households." The phases, particularly with the emphasis on immunizing people living in the same household, are an alternative and effective way to distribute vaccines in the Bois Forte community as opposed to limiting vaccines to only specific ages or characteristics Larson said.

Bois Forte is in the third phase of distribution for "Bois Forte descendants and their families, tribal government and Fortune Bay employees, along with the tribal businesses," Larson said. They are averaging 50-60 doses daily between the two clinics.

Larson said they also have a mobile mass vaccination clinic for the urban offices in Duluth and the Twin Cities on March 18-19.

"Our goal is to reach as many tribal members and their families as we can and to continue to give the vaccines that are shipped to us for distribution," Larson said.

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP

Ceremony reminds firefighters of long history of volunteer fire services

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

EAGLES NEST TWP- Dressed in fire gear with wide light-reflecting stripes, members of the Eagles Nest Volunteer Fire Department, along with some help from other volunteer firefighters, "pushed" the department's brand-new fire engine into its new home at the Eagles Nest Fire Hall. Firefighters from Morse-Fall Lake, Ely, and Breitung stopped by at the hall on Feb. 16 to help with the ceremony.

The fire hall sits at the top of a small hill, so the push-in was symbolic, not literal, with one firefighter at the wheel gently backing the truck into its new home.

"This is our department's first brand-new engine," said Eagles Nest Fire Chief Larry McCray. "We are excited."

McCray, who assumed the chief position in Eagles Nest after a long career in emergency services, talked



The Eagles Nest Fire Department members, from left, Assistant Chief Rob Mattson, Mary Beth Monte, Mike Ostlund, Chief Larry McCray, and Terry Mattson, helped push the truck in later in the evening. submitted

about how volunteer fire departments like Eagles Nest are built on tradition.

"Fire departments didn't have radios long ago," he said. "They used bugles to get messages out."

The emblem on a fire chief's helmet features five bugles, because a fire chief would have an assortment of bugles, each used for a different message.

"The number of bugles in the emblem indicates rank," he said.

The push-in ceremony also is built on a tradition that dates back hundreds of years, McCray said.

"Steam engines were pulled by horses," he said. "When they got back to the fire hall, the horses were unhooked, and the fire department members

would have to push the engine back into the hall."

Volunteer fire brigades have been around since ancient Roman times, he said, and were called familia publica.

"We are brothers and sisters in fire service," he said.

The Eagles Nest Volunteer Fire Department is one of the newest in the

area, formed less than 30 years ago when the township was created after splitting off from Breitung Township. The back wall of the department is filled with portraits of the founding department members. The department currently has 15 members, some of whom provide emergency medical services (EMRs).

"We want to honor them today as well," McCray said. "They built our department's reputation with their hard work, caring, and dedication."

When the department's main truck broke down last summer, McCray said he was nervous about asking the town board to purchase a new truck. But he was pleasantly surprised by the board's positive response. The township had been setting aside \$20,000 the past five years, knowing that such a purchase would be needed.

The \$306,000 new truck is a 2021 Rosenbauer,

with a 1,500 gallon-per-minute pump, and a 1,000-gallon tank. The township paid \$100,000 up front and financed the rest through Frandsen Bank. The truck should be paid off in 10 years, McCray said, without having to raise the levy.

The department's last engine, which was purchased used, lasted 30 years, and McCray said they expect this new one to be in service for a minimum of 25 years. The department's smaller engine is outfitted with a mini-pump and is 28 years old, and their tender (water hauler) is 11 years old.

Department members got their initial training after the push-in ceremony on Feb. 16.

The department is planning a township-wide evacuation drill in August as part of emergency preparedness training.

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VOTE JOANN BASSING GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP CLERK

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021

- I SUPPORT:**
- ★ Reasonable access to public data.
 - ★ Continuing to work on Broadband access in Greenwood Township
 - ★ Open and transparent government
 - ★ Voting NO on Option B

Paid for by the candidate on her own behalf.

River Street ARTS
Starts at Hwy 53 and runs to Veterans Bridge in Cook

Artists
Creatives
Musicians
Buskers
Performers
Potters
Storytellers
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Entertainers
Cyclists
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Sewers
Knitters
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Entrants **MUST** attend a "It Starts on River" meeting. Watch for date... Accepted projects can earn **\$1,000** per project. Open to all without prejudice.

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Open Every Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.
Providing NO COST basic healthcare and referrals
111 S 4th Ave E, Ely
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POLYMET...Continued from page 1

projections which showed that PolyMet's proposed NorthMet mine was only marginally profitable at the 32,000 tons-per-day (tpd) scale the company had proposed from early on. In that same report, PolyMet had asked the consultant to consider substantially larger mining operations, including a 59,000 tpd scenario and a 118,000 tpd alternative, both of which indicated higher returns on investment.

Environmental critics of the mine have argued since the release of that report that the company intends to build a much larger operation that would have significantly greater environmental impacts than were considered in the environmental review and subsequent permitting process.

But the Supreme Court determined that federal regulations do not require the MPCA to investigate the sham permitting claims. Instead, the high court found that the regulations give the federal Environmental Protection Agency the authority to investigate such claims after the fact, and potentially levy substantial civil fines and penalties for companies that obtain permits through deceit. The decision means the MPCA won't be required to take a second look at those concerns.

At the same time, the high court remanded a second claim back to the Court of Appeals for further consideration. During their initial appeal, environmental groups and

Fond du Lac had argued that PolyMet had failed to reveal all relevant facts related to the permit and had "knowingly submitted false or misleading information to the agency."

But the Court of Appeals never specifically addressed those claims and the Supreme Court referred those questions back to the lower court for further examination of those claims.

On a minor note, the high court also rejected a motion by the MPCA and PolyMet to strike certain documents from the court record. But the high court said the request was no longer at issue and so left the record as is.

PolyMet officials reacted favorably to this week's ruling. "This deci-

sion is another big win and a major step forward in the defense of our air permit," said company President and CEO Jon Cherry. "We strongly believe that the facts and the law are on our side, and we are pleased that the court agreed with us on the law."

Cherry said he's confident that PolyMet and the MPCA will prevail on the remaining issues that the high court remanded to the Court of Appeals.

Environmental plaintiffs offered mixed opinion on the decision. "Today's ruling underscores that the entire process by which PolyMet obtained its permits in 2018 may have been deceptive and allows us to make this case to the Minnesota Court of Appeals," said Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of the

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. "PolyMet has engaged in a bait-and-switch scheme to avoid air pollution standards, and we are glad that the Supreme Court ruling allows us to make this case."

Chris Knopf, executive director of Friends of the Boundary Waters, said the case demonstrates that the state's regulatory process is flawed. "The outright resistance from regulatory agencies to do their jobs shows that the system is broken and simply unable to oversee copper-sulfide mining," he said. "This underscores the need for legislative action to pass a Prove It First law and protect Minnesota's waters."

While a partial victory for PolyMet, the decision

is a long way from clearing a path for the company to begin construction on its proposed mine.

Three other permits, including the permit to mine, issued to the company by MPCA and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have been rejected by the Court of Appeals, with high court decisions on those matters still pending. The company's water pollution permit, also known as a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, also remains suspended.

In addition, the Section 404 wetlands destruction permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers has been appealed and remains in federal district court.

2020 30th Annual Lights of Love Campaign

The VHHP Board of Directors would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed to the success of the 2020 Lights of Love Campaign.

A special thank you to the volunteers in the communities of Cook and Orr for their work in coordinating the ceremonies!

In Honor of

Frances Scofield
Julie Fogelberg

by Nancy & John Stoneburner
by Propane Plus- Gary & Linda Hadersbeck

Diane Dietel
The Work Done by VHHP
Marge McPeak
Grandchildren-Braden, Jorey,
Cedely, Athena & Xavier
My Husband, Bruce

by Robin S. Fisher
by Timberjay
by Renee Pollock

by Laurie Chilcote
by Lois Garbisch

In Memory of

Virgie & Erling Hegg
Carol Jean Antus
Jody Cin, John & Faye Cin,
Jos & Mildred Peterka
Sue Wolfe, Wife, Mother
& Grandmother
Erwin & Vera Keister,
Donald Baumgartner
Darlene Karakas, Bernadette Papone,
Jackie Champa
Ed Borowiec
Nancy Perez
Don Housenga
Raymond Johnson
Olive & Jim Burt
Our Family & Friends who have
gone before us
Cassandra Brandon
Dick Mayo, Neil Mayo
Carol Ann Pohto, Roger Novak,
James Kirk, Jim Backman,
David Lehtinen
Josh Rutar
Raymond Scofield
Ty Klocow, Denise Long
Lucille Boleman
Richard N. Flack, Memphis Padora
Ray Scofield
Ward, Leone & Paul Conklin
Family
Bill & Laverne Fromel,
Wes & Pat Sjostedt
Tenna Perkio, Michelle Perkio Perander
Tammy Johnson, Dale Long
Daniel & Paige
Jim Katila
Eero Ruuska
James, Emily & Janice Peyla
Philip Gulan
Patti Jo Knoer
Dale Sabart
My husband, Lloyd
Mary Jo Reing, Martha Edblom,
Penny Buckingham, Luis Peraza,
Bill Fischer, Anthony Grebenc,
Milton Edblom, Lily Edblom
Joe & Marion Giru
Jim Sanborn, Fran & Ernie Stellmach
Lori Mae Nurmi
Robert Delich
Nicholas Tuomela
Our son, Patrick and our Parents
Josh Rutar
Kathy Fuson
Bettie & Richard Kirschner
Gladys D. Tuuri
Eric "Jarf" Kolstad
Robert Martin
Murline Tahija
Our loved ones
Parents of Chuck & Mary Richards

by Cherie Bridges
by Carly Antus

by John & Diane Cin

by Ray Wolfe & Family

by The Tire Shop

by Bob & Andrea Champa
by Joanne Bergman
by Sandra Katila
by Pauly Housenga
by The Raymond Johnson Family
by Gary & Linda Haugen

by Randy & Julie Grahn
by Roger & Nancy Lindbeck
by Katherine Mayo

by Ray & Carol Pohto
by Todd, Chris, Kyle & Dusty Gabrielson

by Frances Scofield
by Randy & Wendy Long
by Lloyd & Carol McIntire

by Becky & Don Simpson
by Nancy & John Stoneburner
by Cork & Lynn Connor
by Frank & Kathy Siskar

by Bill & Joyce Fromel
by Bruce Perkio
by Dale Johnson
by Terry & Toni Swanson
by Sandy Katila
by George & Robin Pliml
by Richard Peyla
by Cecelia A. Gulan
by Gene & Marilyn Jenkins
by Propane Plus-Gary & Linda Hadersbeck
by Mary Gustafson

by Little Beginnings
by Jim & Janine Oakman
by Handberg's Marine
by The Good Ol' Days
by Greg Delich
by Susan Tuomela
by Leo & Lindi Wilenius
by Rob Rutar
by Rolf & Laurie Anderson
by The Larry Hutton Family
by Judith Ulseth
by Doug & Sue Kolstad
by The Viita Family
by Renee Pollock
by Barb Seopa
by Chuck & Mary Richards

In Memory of (Continued)

Charles Zupancich
All of our loved ones who have passed
Chris "Boots" Shoemaker
Joseph & Mildred Peterka,
Erden & Adelaide Hyppa
Fred & Pat Shusterich
Jean & Leo Moeglein
John R. Morin & John M. Morin
Pam Clines
Helen & John Cinciva,
Marjorie & Donald Herr
Frank G. Meyer
Joe & Lil Biondi, Bill & Angie Glad
William & Alice Gruska
Sutich, Ilse & Grevich Families
Jan Ferguson
Fred & Katy Erkkila,
Richard & Patricia Lenski
Dorothea Olson,
Viola Podpeskar Kmett
Ray Harris
John Musech
Bob Martin, Lois & Arne Hill
Bonnie Esala
Richard Mlaker, Tim Pogorels
Warren Regina, Nevin Johnson,
Bob & Louise Dobosenski
Art & Lorriane Boutto,
Don & Doris Roderick
Past Members
Ron Amundson, Julie Stahlberg
Lakmann & Schweitzer Families
Ellen Burckhardt
Loved Ones
Stan Bular
Galen Squires
Loved Ones
Genevieve Reagan, Eugene Kantola
Dale Lundblad
R. Terry & June L. Brownell
Susan & Dan
VanOverbeke - Bryan, Linda, Susan,
Vincent, Barbara, Lois, Dorothy Annen,
Greg Annen
Evelyn Pederson
Alice Niemi
Patty Karich...we miss you!
Dale Lundblad
Larry Krall
Phyllis & Darwin, Bill & Anne Joki
Harry Aune, Joe & Norma Betlach
Ray & Janet Hill
Bev Kmett
Stephanie Stevens
Peggy Harju, Clay Johnson
Deceased CCW Members
Leo Ducharme
Bette Lauf
Chet & Irene Kishel,
Fred & Ellen Sorgenfrei
Dean & Donna Bundy, Aiti,
Bill & Lorraine Dundas
Our Loved Ones in Heaven
Leonard & Alice Niemi,
Erling & Virgie Hegg, Becky Niemi
Audrey Amundson

by Zup's of Cook
by Mlaker Funeral Home
by Greg & Gayle Shoemaker

by Fred & Marge Hyppa
by Dave Shusterich
by Michael Moeglein
by Janice Morin
by Timbaktu - Clines Family

by Steve & Marge Herr
by George & Kathleen Meyer
by Carol & Jeff Biondi
by Bill Gruska Construction
by Nick & Kathy Sutich
by Laurie Potter

by Fred & Dana Erkkila
by Pat & Dick Olson
by John & Clarie Zwieg
by Verdella Musech
by Linda Martin
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ISD 696

New drawings show vision for Ely school project

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – School Board members here met in a study session Monday night to discuss various updates on design, financing, and construction involving the district’s \$20 million facility renovation project.

Architects presented numerous full-color, three-dimensional drawings as well as an animated tour of the new construction that will connect the Memorial and Washington school buildings.

Karl Larsen, principal architect for Architectural Resources, Inc., updated the board on the two phases of the project. The first phase involves design and construction of the new addition that will connect the campus buildings. The second phase involves renovations, reuse and updating of both existing buildings.

“We have worked diligently in the last couple of months to complete the design so we can get the project out for bids early this year yet,” Larsen said. “We are in the final week of completing construc-



In this architect’s view looking north toward the school’s secured entrance, the commons/cafeteria area in the new Ely school addition will feature a barrel-vaulted ceiling with plenty of natural light. The new gymnasium is on the left, and the new kitchen area is on the right. courtesy/ARI

tion documents.”

He noted that for the exterior, all the materials have been selected. An architectural rendering shows the new secured front entrance that ties together the traditional 100-year-old design elements of the existing buildings, and features a prominent identification panel that includes the school’s “Timberwolves” logo.

“As much as 99 percent of the interior is designed with the lighting,

mechanical engineering, use of natural materials,” he said. “The exception is the color concepts and color schemes, so some of the renderings have blank or white walls, floors and ceilings as we work through the colors of those spaces.”

As one enters the new school entrance, a 16-foot wide corridor will connect the Washington building to the right and the Memorial building to the left. The room opens into the commons/cafeteria

space featuring a vaulted barrel ceiling with plenty of natural light. Viewing windows and entrance doors into the new gymnasium is located to the right, adjacent to the commons. Along the left wall will be the renovated kitchen area. Continuing south through the commons area, with seating options as many as 180 people, visitors will see a visual display wall of the music department and access to the industrial arts classrooms and workshops.

“Design elements inside this new area will pay homage to the design traditions of the schools,” Larsen said. “We are looking to have many areas of wood and brick work to tie all the building design into one.”

Board members were also updated on the timeline this spring for the sale of the \$2,570,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds.

The bond issue, part of the overall facility renovation project funding

approved by taxpayers last fall, will finance the long-term deferred maintenance and health and safety projects, including the upgraded air quality and HVAC system in the building, according to Jodie Zesbaugh, senior municipal advisor for Ehlers Public Finance Advisors.

Zesbaugh estimated the interest rate of the general obligations at about 1.6 percent will not result in additional property tax levies.

Officials from the project construction manager, Kraus Anderson, said the renovation project will be bid in two phases this spring, however, the construction project will proceed as one project over the next two summers.

An April groundbreaking ceremony will likely be scheduled in April, according to ISD 696 Superintendent Erik Erie. The construction project, starting with the demolition of the former heating plant on the north side of the campus, and the south end of the existing Industrial Arts building, could start by mid-May.

WATER...Continued from page 1

mayor Kathy Brandau reported to residents that the city did not have any water. The water main breakage issue was complicated by a frozen water tower pump.

Brandau was optimistic later that day when she reported, “We were able to isolate the water (main) break and most of our residents will have water again by around 5 p.m. if not sooner. Unfortunately, on Main Street there will be residents without water until the break is repaired.”

In temperatures approaching -40 degrees, Low Impact Excavators employees were on the job all day as the cold snap continued. “They were running into difficult issues and worked into the night,” Brandau said in an update statement last Tuesday. “Our hope was to be able to have water to a portion of the town, but it looks like the water tower might have frozen. We worked with our city engineers trying all their recommendations.”

Brandau was also challenged in getting timely updates to her residents because the city’s website was down. WELY Radio was tasked with getting the word out. “Please let your neighbors know the situation in case they do not have social media. We are trying our best to keep you all informed,” she said.

Brandau reported late last Monday that the water was back on and advised residents to boil their drinking water until further notice. But, just prior to midnight, Winton residents were informed of another water main break located west of the Roadhouse.

Brandau reported early Tuesday, Feb. 16 that Low Impact Excavators was back on the scene.

Winton Utility Manager Destin Anderson said that Tuesday morning that the city’s water tower drained empty on Monday when a pump failed. “We thought the water main was fixed but when we increased water pressure it broke again in the same area,” he said. “The pipe shattered in that area.”

Temperatures barely



Technicians worked Monday afternoon to thaw out the frozen Winton water tower. photos by K. Vandervort

budged all week with a thermometer reading of zero degrees out of reach. Work continued on the second water main break overnight and into the early morning of Wednesday, Feb. 17.

That appeared to fix things until reports of a third water main break in the same place trickled in late Wednesday afternoon.

At 5 p.m. that Wednesday, Mayor Brandau reported, “Winton Residents: Looks like we have a third leak in our water system. It might be another night without water. Everyone involved is working so hard for our city. I will keep you posted.” With the night-marish conditions continuing, drinking water was made available at the Community Center. “And Porta-Potties are located at both the Community Center and at the Mailbox Pavilion. Thank you for your patience,” Brandau added.

Work on the Winton water system continued on Thursday, Feb. 18. Drinking water remained available for residents at the Community Center. A Morse/Fall Lake Fire Department tanker truck was also parked at the city center to provide water for residents to flush toilets.

Former Winton water operations manager Terry Jackson reported late Friday, Feb. 19 that ice had formed in the Winton water tower, preventing the tower from filling with water.

“Winton has a floating grid system with your

water pressure normally coming from the head pressure in the tower,” he said. “Since the tower is frozen, the water pressure in your home currently is the result of direct pressure from two pumps.”

By late the next night on Saturday, Jackson reported, “We continue to pump directly to provide water service to all residents in Winton. This direct pressure is capable of maintaining water pressure in your home, although limits your fire protection. It is imperative for you to take special precautions during a time of limited fire protection. The local fire departments are aware of our situation.”

The water tower was out of service until equipment was brought in to thaw the ice. City officials planned to complete water

tower thawing efforts on Monday. “Bear with us for a couple more days, and consider all precautions during this time of limited fire protection,” Jackson added.

Bottled water is available daily at the Winton Community Center, from 1-4 p.m.

“Water will continue to be available until we can confirm our water is safe from a public health standpoint,” Mayor Brandau said. “Continue to boil your tap water if you are using it for drinking, cooking and making ice.”

Low Impact Excavators are putting in an extraordinary effort to alleviate the Winton water woes. The Warvin family, John, Sue Thad and Crystal related their thanks to the Winton community for their patience during the ordeal. “The way the community came together in these challenging times was truly astonishing. Everyone was looking out for their neighbors, family, friends and community, and the crew of Low Impact Excavators, Inc.,” the statement read. “The deliveries of coffee, cookies, pizzas, donuts, hot chocolate, and the list goes on and on, the blessing, prayers, and thoughtfulness – is overwhelming and so greatly appreciated.”

The Warvin family added, “To the crew of

Low Impact Excavators, Preston Morgan, Cody Lakner, Nick Vigilante, Jason Tomsich, we are very fortunate to have a crew like you. Through the long hours and exhaustion, the freezing temperatures, unexpected challenges, equipment freezing, frustration, the unknowns from hour to hour, your unwavering dedication to make sure we did all that we could to get the city of Winton resident’s water as soon as possible. This never would have been accomplished or possible

without you.”

And they thanked their employees’ family. “We could not have accomplished what we did without having your spouses, fathers, significant others etc. on site through the long hours. We know this can cause additional pressures at home on all of you and we are thankful that we had your support through all of it. The way everyone came together makes us proud and reminds us why we live here.”

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RACE...Continued from page 1

He finished the 50-mile race in 4:06:31, beating his own 2020 record of 4:36:26 by 30 minutes. In fact, the first three eight-dog finishers this year posted faster times than Bestgen's 2020 time. Nick Vigiante, the final eight-dog musher to leave the starting line was second with a time of 4:20:38, followed by Joanna Oberg at 4:22:02.

And, according to Race Director Ellen Cashman, the first racers last year were some 45 minutes faster than in many recent years. Following sub-zero temperatures just a week earlier, the race conditions on Sunday started out relatively mild as Bestgen left the Ely softball field starting line at 9 a.m.

Temperatures rose steadily under cloudy skies and light snow was falling throughout the day. Ely musher Scott Edgett said the trail was in great shape this year.

"It was warm, and the trail actually got better on the way back with the light



Ryan Miller's eight-dog team, above, was motivated to get off to a good start Sunday morning in the 2021 WolfTrack Classic sled dog race. Volunteers, below, escorted each team to the starting line at the Ely Softball Complex. photos by K. Vandervort

snow," he said. "There wasn't much snow but just enough to make it a little more slippery."

The race was again organized by the Ely Chamber of Commerce, and this year the added challenge of COVID-19 was put in the mix. The event adhered to the Stay

Safe Minnesota COVID-19 guidelines and the Wolf Track Classic Covid-19 Preparedness Plan that limited the number of teams and prohibited spectators.

"We saw a few more spectators out along the trail, which was really nice, but we did miss all

the excitement the fans brought in previous years," Edgett said. "I'm glad we could get a race in."

The 2021 WolfTrack Classic and last month's Beargrease marathon were the only races to take place in Minnesota this year because of public health concerns over the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

Bestgen missed a couple of years of the WolfTrack Classic following a recent knee replacement, and is now a repeat winner.

"This is really a beautiful race and I hope to be back again next year," he said.

Seventeen mushers competed in this year's eight-dog race, compared to just eight teams last year.

Other eight-dog mushers and their times included: Anna Hennessy, 4:39:47; Erin Altemus, 4:41:38; Ero Wallin, 4:43:32; Blake Freking, 4:47:26; Kristen McCarty, 4:57:22; Frank Moe, 4:57:42; Ryan Miller, 4:58:21; Jen Freking,

5:04:47; Jodi Reineccius, 5:04:47; Mary Manning, 5:15:44; Tim Anderson, 5:19:24; Bucky Tippet, 5:19:28; and Jim Ward, 5:22:53. Ward was the 2020 WolfTrack Classic six-dog winner. Robin S. Fisher dropped out.

Twenty-one mushers competed in the six dog race this year, and 19 teams finished the 30-mile course. The field was led by Nick Turman, who crossed the finish line in 2:17:54, almost 10 minutes faster than the 2020 winning six-dog time. Turman came in second in 2020.

Dusty Klaven posted a time of 2:25:37 for second place, followed by Billie Diver Thompson, 2:28:35, in third place.

The other top 15 six-dog teams and their times included: Taylor DeBoer, 2:29:26; Ann Stead, 2:31:51; Amy Flakne, 2:36:18; Ashley Thaumert, 2:36:52; Susan Serifini, 2:40:41; Neal Seeger, 2:48:35; Eva Robinson, 2:50:56; Scott

Edgett, 2:57:41; Andri Duval, 2:59.13; Sherri Moe, 3:00:50; Elana Morgan, 3:10:01; and Marina Fuhrman, 3:14:40.

One eight-dog team and two six-dog teams did not finish.

"Some teams got a little tired because it got a little warm out," Edgett said. "Those mushers, of course, don't want to keep pushing their dogs, and they made the right decision to pull out of the race. As far as I know everyone stayed safe and we had a great day."

Communications were provided by the Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club. Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital assisted race organizers with developing the COVID-19 plan. Outward Bound and Wounded Warriors contributed to road crossing safety.

For more information and complete race results, go to www.wolftrackclassic.com.



WALK...Continued from page 1

engineer for the bog walk project, that was provided to the *Timberjay*, Pember Project Manager Dave Webb described the expertise and enthusiasm his company would bring to the project.

"We have done quite a few timber trail bridges for the MN DNR throughout the state, from Big Falls to Bemidji, Walker, Rutledge, Moose Lake, Rochester, Faribault, Waterville, Lanesboro, Preston, LeRoy and quite a few others, not to mention different cities and counties," Webb said. "I have been at Pember Companies for 16 years this year and we do a wide variety of projects - this one fits us very well. I also grew up in Embarrass, so I am very familiar with the area as I still have family in Tower and Embarrass, and I would love to be able to build this for the city of

Orr."

Mayor Joel Astleford expressed confidence in the council's selection.

"I did some background on them and they certainly seem like a legitimate company," Astleford said. "They've been in business since the 1970s and they've done a lot of boardwalk bridges. They have about 80 employees and they're a family-owned company."

An item in Pember's bid that wasn't discussed at the meeting is also good news for a local Orr company, something Webb confirmed for the *Timberjay* in a Tuesday email.

"We most definitely will be using Lumber Orr Hardware for the materials on the project as well as any other supplies we may need while working on the project," Webb said.

And because the

materials will be sourced locally, construction of the 10-foot sections making up the walk also will be done in Orr, Webb said, rather than building them elsewhere and trucking them in. Webb said Pember will likely have about six workers staying in Orr for five weeks or more during construction.

As all four bids exceeded the \$392,350 the city has for the project, the council could have rejected all of them and rebid it. However, highly volatile lumber prices, a reluctance to delay construction, and no guarantee that subsequent bids would come in any lower were all reasons cited by councilors for going ahead with the bid from Pember.

That left a gap of approximately \$29,000 between the city's budget and Pember's bid, a gap that will have to be made

up either by securing additional funding or modifying the design to bring the price down.

That gap immediately came down to \$24,000 when Astleford announced that the city would be receiving \$5,000 from a private donor. But with no additional money in the city budget and other funding sources scarce, the council's discussion quickly turned to design modifications.

Eliminating two benches, three kiosks, and a new sign would save

\$4,950 without affecting the walkway.

Modifying the number and/or size of the floats underneath the planned 55 open-water sections was an option that generated extensive conversation among councilors and Johnson. In Webb's letter to Johnson he indicated that savings could amount to as much as \$15,000. Councilors agreed that the option deserved careful consideration.

"One thing they don't want to skimp on is the quality of the floats because

that's our number one issue out there," Astleford said.

Decisions about design changes were outside the scope of the special meeting, but discussions with Pember will proceed ahead of a yet-to-be-scheduled preconstruction meeting where plans will be finalized.

If all proceeds as planned, the new bog walk should be substantially completed by mid-June, with a final completion target of July 1.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Grizzlies' speed tops Devils' height

North Woods downs Virginia 88-54

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods boys basketball team jumped into the second half of the season in style on Friday, cruising to an 88-54 home win against Virginia.

The 2-6 Blue Devils brought enough height and talent to the floor to make the Grizzlies work hard all game, but not enough to pose a serious threat to the now seven-game North Woods win streak.

Right: North Woods' Alex Hartway fends off a Virginia player.
photo by D. Colburn

The Grizzlies never trailed, starting fast on a pair of buckets by Brenden Chiabotti and a score by T.J. Chiabotti to grab a 6-0 lead. North Woods went up 15-3 on a baseline drive by T.J. Chiabotti, but the Blue Devils fought back, closing the gap to 21-13 with nine minutes left in the half.

Virginia would get no closer,

See **NW BOYS...**pg. 2B



GIRLS BASKETBALL

T-Wolves clobber Nighthawks

by JORDAN PRICE
Contributing Writer

BABBITT- The Timberwolves showed little mercy to host Northeast Range here last Friday as they held the Nighthawks to just a dozen points in a 62-12 shellacking. Ely virtually stole the game, notching an astonishing 35 steals in the contest.

Ely sophomore guard Madeline Kallberg and freshman Sarah Visser both had career nights. Visser nearly notched a triple-double, with 18 points, nine rebounds and eight steals, while Kallberg tallied 19 points and six steals. Rachel Coughlin added eight steals.

"The offensive flashes from both Sarah and Madeline were very exciting to see," said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt. "This win was a real morale boost for us. We showed some flashes of potential, especially on offense. We were pushing the ball up the floor with purpose and pace. It was fun to see."

It was a marked turnaround from an otherwise lackluster season to date. "Hopefully we can build on this win as we have three straight games coming up," said Gantt. "We have been improving all year and this was wonderful way to come back after a tough loss last week."

Ely returns to the hardwood on Friday, playing at Cherry. They face the Bluestreaks in Chisholm on Monday and host Cook County next Tuesday. Tip-off for all three games is at 7:15 p.m.

NORDIC SKIING

Ely melts in Duluth contest

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

DULUTH— Warm conditions vexed Ely as the boys ski team slipped in team competition to Duluth East and Cloquet-Esko-Carlton and the girls fell to Duluth East here on Tuesday.

"We had a rough day," said Ely Head Coach Paula Anderson. "It was HOT and Ely kids had a hard time adapting. Plus, we struggled with the classic ski waxing, which wasn't a fun experience for our skiers."

The conditions didn't prevent Ely standout senior Jasper Johnston from topping the boys field in the mixed classic and freestyle competition, held at Duluth's Snowflake Ski Center.

See **NORDIC...**pg. 2B

HOCKEY

Wolves fall to 0-5

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

BABBITT- Bagley peppered Ely goalie Chase Sandberg with 63 shots on goal here last Friday en route to a 5-1 win for the Flyers.

The Ely-based squad played on neighboring ice in honor of the team's lone senior, Jimmy Zupancich, who attends Northeast Range. The honors were short-lived, however, as the Flyers jumped to a 1-0 lead in the first period and added three more in the second, including a short-handed goal. The

See **HOCKEY...**pg. 2B

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Second half lifts Grizzlies

Nighthawks show promise in first half but fade down the stretch

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

BABBITT- After Northeast Range guard Morgan Bush nailed an electrifying three-point buzzer beater going into halftime of a home rematch against North Woods on Tuesday, the Nighthawks were flying high. Down by 28 after the first stanza in their Feb. 9 matchup with Grizzlies, NER was in the thick of this battle, trailing by only five, 37-32, as they carried momentum into the

locker room.

But Old Mo didn't make it back on the court with the 'Hawks, as the Grizzlies unleashed a ferocious defense that fueled a 17-4 blitz in the first eight minutes of the second half. The North Woods girls coasted from there to a 77-52 win.

An opening trey by the Grizzlies' Kiana LaRoque was immediately answered by NER's Aili Bee, and the first-half slugfest was on.

See **GIRLS...**pg. 2B

Above: Don't tell Helen Koch that basketball isn't a contact sport as she reacts painfully after running into a wall of NER defenders.

Right: NER's Maizy Sundblad goes up for a shot between North Woods defenders Talise Goodsky (left) and Hannah Cheney.

photos by D. Colburn



BOYS BASKETBALL

Ely routs Mariners 89-31

Missed shots plague Wolves in loss to Chisholm

by JORDAN PRICE
Contributing Writer

SILVER BAY- A young Mariners team was no match for Ely as the Timberwolves rolled to an 89-31 victory here on Tuesday. Ely built its lead from the start and took a comfortable 37-point lead into the break, leaving little doubt about the outcome.

"I thought we played pretty well on both ends of the floor," said Head Coach Tom McDonald. "We shared the ball well as we had 28 assists on the night."

Right: Ely's Will Davies looks for room around a Chisholm defender.
photo by J. Greeney

Sophomore guard Joey Bianco nearly notched a double-double, with 22 points and nine assists, along with five steals and as many rebounds. Emmett Faltesek poured in 22 points as well and added five assists, while Harry Simons added 15 points and five assists. Mason Davis had a nice evening, scoring 14 points, while

See **ELY BOYS...**pg. 2B



LIVING WITH WOLVES

Recent wolf attacks raise concerns in Ely area

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - A dog out for a run with its owner near Burntside Lake last Thursday had an encounter with a wolf after the dog ran into the woods. The dog sustained injuries that required surgery.

The dog's owner reported the incident to the Department of Natural Resources according to Chad Richardson, communications director for the International Wolf Center.

A second encounter occurred last Friday around noon on Little Long Lake with what was believed to be the same pack of wolves, Richardson said. Local residents Russ and Cathy Vanderboom reported their dog

was involved in the second encounter.

"Just before noon, I took our dog for a run on the lake," Cathy Vanderboom said. "As I watched from the dock (and) our dog ran around the bay, I saw a large light-colored wolf coming off the point, about 100 yards from me and the same distance from our dog. A second black wolf was further south on the lake, several hundred yards away. I blew the dog whistle, and our dog came in. I continued blowing the whistle loud and long until the wolf moved off."

Russ Vanderboom said he found two deer kill spots about 100 yards south of the couple's house, and at least four sets of wolf tracks coming from the west across Little Long from

Burntside Lake.

Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator at the International Wolf Center, manages the wolf helpline, a resource for local residents to report wolf issues and receive advice and consultations with local wildlife management agencies.

"While wolves are typically territorial toward other canids, they may have an increased response to dogs during the breeding season in late February through early March, as well as after the pups are born later this spring while denning and in summer when raising pups," she said.

"This winter may have an additional challenge due to snow depth. A winter with limited snow can be good for deer as

they have an easier time eluding wolves, but obviously, hungry wolves can be more bold in behavior," Schmidt added.

"Wolves can be drawn to areas where people may be feeding deer or other wildlife because of the potential for concentrations of prey and increased opportunities to kill deer. Occasionally they're attracted to the food source that people are providing other wildlife or pets as well," Schmidt said.

What to do

Although attacks of dogs may be rare it is easy for these situations to develop quickly and happen unexpectedly.

"It's best to be cautious when recreating in areas where your dog may encounter wolves,"

Schmidt advised.

She offered safety recommendations for dogs and people for living and recreating in wolf country.

► People with pets should avoid areas where wolves have been sighted until time passes or no additional wolf observations/incidents occur.

► Keep dogs on leash, so wolves are less likely to approach people.

► Don't allow dogs to run loose or range away and keep them in close contact and control.

► Don't try to intervene if a dog is actively being attacked.

► Carry bear/pepper spray. It can be used to deter an attack or if a wolf is actively attacking a dog.

GIRLS...Continued from page 1B

Maizy Sundblad and Willa Koivisto also connected from three-point land to give the Nighthawks a 9-8 lead.

Normally a presence under the bucket, Hannah Kinsey slipped out beyond the arc and drained a three for North Woods, the start of an 11-0 run that put the Grizzlies ahead 26-16. But unlike the first game, the Nighthawks wouldn't let the Grizzlies run away.

A trey by Jenna Smith trimmed the North Woods lead to five, and when the Grizzlies stretched the advantage to ten once more, the Nighthawks answered, most notably with Bush's buzzer-beater.

For Grizzlies Head

Coach Liz Cheney, some halftime adjustments were in order.

"I said, 'The door with the word hope on it has opened for Northeast Range,'" Cheney said. "Morgan Bush's three-point shot at the end, that's going to pump anyone up. So we had to close that door. We readjusted our goals and talked about how in the second half we were going to take ownership of the game. And that's exactly what they did."

Madi Dantes set the tone for the Grizzlies with two steals in the Nighthawks' first three possession of the half. When they weren't getting steals, the Grizzlies' press

forced NER to make bad passes and turnovers. Madison Spears picked up the scoring pace down low for North Woods, and five players scored during the eight-minute blitz, including triples from Dantes and Kinsey.

The game flow was more balanced the rest of the way, albeit with the Grizzlies firmly in control and NER never mounting even a minor threat. North Woods was up by 24 with seven minutes remaining and won by 25, 77-52.

Spears and Kinsey were the main scoring punch for North Woods, hitting 21 and 20 points respectively. Hannah Cheney also reached dou-



Left: The Grizzlies' Madison Spears goes up for a shot against NER's Willa Koivisto.

photo by D. Colburn

The 5-5 Grizzlies will face their sternest test of the season this Saturday when they face off on the road against perennial powerhouse Mt. Iron-Buhl. MIB is the top-scoring team in Section 7A and second highest in all of Class A, averaging 74.5 points per game, and in 10 games has compiled an average winning margin of 32 points. North Woods will be on the road again on Monday, March 1 at Floodwood.

NW BOYS...Continued from page 1B

as Davis Kleppe hit a two and a trey on consecutive possessions to put the Grizzlies back up by double digits at 26-13. North Woods kept right on rolling, and a buzzer-beating NBA-depth triple from Brenden Chiabotti gave the Grizzlies a 49-26 cushion at the half.

"Virginia is always one we want to get," Grizzlies Head Coach Will Kleppe said. "The boys came out with a lot of

energy. We wanted to get quality possessions to start the game. As we approach the second half of the season this is certainly the type of performance we were looking for."

When the pace dictated playing from offensive sets, the Grizzlies were patient and found success working the ball inside and along the baseline. Their production around the basket offset a subpar performance from three-

point range, where North Woods hit only six of 21 attempts.

"There were times with the ball rotation where Virginia was passive on the defense and maybe our guys were surprised how open they were," Kleppe said. "Sometimes you can feel like you're too open, like there's something wrong with that shot, and you hesitate. We've got to make those count."

The Grizzlies' kept

up the relentless defensive dominance they've displayed en route to an 8-1 record, holding the Blue Devils to 41-percent shooting and 0-of-12 from three-point range while forcing 32 turnovers, including 15 steals. North Woods held a 39-35 edge in rebounding.

T.J. Chiabotti led North Woods scorers with 22, and Brenden Chiabotti was hot on his heels with 21.

Kleppe also noted the

play of Sean Morrison, who had 14 points, and Davis Kleppe, the other Grizzly in double digits with 10.

"Those guys coming off the bench gave us strong games," Kleppe said. "That's a nice bonus when we get some guys to come into the game and give us a spark."

In addition to dictating a shorter regular season, accommodating COVID-19 has also led to

scheduling changes. North Woods has had weeks with only one game, but they're about to play catch-up with four games in six days.

The Grizzlies were slated to host Chisholm on Thursday before road games on Friday against Deer River, Monday against Lakeview Christian Academy, and Tuesday against Nashwauk-Keewatin.

ELY BOYS...Continued from page 1B

Will Davies notched ten rebounds and five steals. Jason Kerntz added eight boards.

The Timberwolves also had a season high 23 steals proving that a game is not solely won on offense.

Ely's offense fell

short last Thursday against Chisholm, however, and it made the difference for the Timberwolves last Thursday night against Chisholm, as they lost at home, 60-66.

Ely was down at the half, 33-21, but the Wolves rallied to make it a game

midway through the second-half. They tied the score at 42, but it seemed Chisholm had an answer for every Ely run. The Wolves couldn't get their shots to drop much of the night as they managed just 16 of 29 shots from two-point range and only nine

of 39 shots from beyond the arc.

"We shot extremely poor from the three-point line. We had many open looks, but just struggled to hit them. We weren't aggressive to the basket and it showed. We only shot three free-throws on

the night," said McDonald.

Joey Bianco led the Wolves with 18 points and six rebounds. Emmett Faltsek scored 17 and Will Davies added 11 points, collected eight rebounds, and had six assists.

"I thought we defended well for the most part

but just couldn't get stops when we needed them," said McDonald.

The Timberwolves take on South Ridge at home on Friday, starting at 7:15 p.m. They'll host Cook County on Tuesday, with a 6:30 p.m. start.

NORDIC...Continued from page 1B

Johnston finished the 3.5 km classic portion in 10:22, two seconds ahead of senior Benjamin Bauer of C-E-C. But Johnston led Bauer by a full 20 seconds in the 4.5 km freestyle competition to take the overall by a comfortable 22 seconds, with a time of 22:03.

Jon Hakala had a strong outing for Ely as well, finishing sixth with a time of 24:14, while Gabe Pointer finished eighth with a time of 24:30. Micah Larson finished in 17th with a time of 26:04.

For the girls, sophomore Zoe Devine again led the Ely squad, finishing

in third place with a combined time of 26:49.

"Zoe had a rough classic race but came back strong in the skate race," said Anderson.

Sophomore Phoebe Helms took eighth with a time of 28:26, while freshman Ava Skustad finished at 16th, with a

time of 29:41.

The Wolves weren't helped by the strong competition they faced from Duluth East. "Duluth East is definitely back on form with many, many strong skiers," said Anderson. "They went through a bit of a dip over the last few years but they are full force once

again and are the team to beat in Section 7, for both boys and girls."

Ely next heads to sectional competition at Giants Ridge, next Wednesday, March 3. Two

teams and six individuals will advance to the state meet from each section. The state Nordic ski meet is set for Friday, March 12, also at Giants Ridge.

HOCKEY...Continued from page 1B

Wolves, who managed just nine shots on goal, did put the puck between the pipes on an even strength effort by Brecken Sandberg. Zupancich and Kole Macho were credited with the assist.

Bagley scored again in the third period to give them the 5-1 win and drop Ely's record on the season to 0-5.

Despite the loss, Sandberg put on an impressive display in the net, casting aside 58 of the

63 shots the Flyers sent his way.

The Timberwolves spent eight minutes in the box on four penalties. Bagley committed two infractions for four penalty minutes.

The Timberwolves started a long road stretch this week, traveling to North Shore on Tuesday and Moose Lake on Friday. They start the month of March with road games at International Falls on March 4, a rematch with

Bagley on March 6 and Eveleth-Gilbert on March 8. Ely finishes the season at home against Duluth

Marshall on March 11.

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LEGAL NEWS

Attorney Kaardal under ethics review for filing “flimsy and legally-flawed” election fraud case

by M. HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— The Minnesota attorney who handled the 2010 election promotion lawsuit against the St. Louis County School District has been referred by a federal judge for disciplinary proceedings after filing a lawsuit in December that sought to invalidate the results of the Nov. 3 presidential election. The referral, against Erick Kaardal, of Mohrman and Kaardal, was first reported by the Washington D.C.-based online magazine *Politico*.

According to *Politico*, Kaardal had filed the case, known as Wisconsin Voters Alliance v. Pence, alleging that election procedures in five states, Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, were

unconstitutional because legislatures did not have the final say in certifying the winner in those states. All five battleground states had voted for Donald Trump in 2016 but went for Joe Biden in 2020.

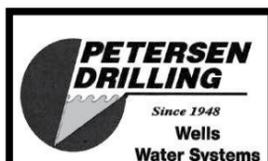
The federal district court judge, James Boasberg, threw out the suit on Jan. 4, noting it had been filed in the wrong court and with no apparent effort to serve the other parties in the action. “It rests on a fundamental and obvious misreading of the Constitution,” Boasberg noted, dismissing it as laughable.

He later called the filing so “flimsy and legally flawed” that it warranted a review by an ethics panel. Lawyers are bound by rules of procedure that prohibit the filing of lawsuits without

basis, but the prohibition is sometimes ignored.

As quoted by *Politico*, Judge Boasberg wrote: “The relief requested in this lawsuit is staggering: to invalidate the election and prevent the electoral votes from being counted. When any counsel seeks to target processes at the heart of our democracy, the committee may well conclude that they are required to act with far more diligence and good faith than existed here,” wrote Boasberg in his referral.

The *Timberjays* sought comment from Kaardal for this story. He did not respond.



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Obituaries and Death Notices

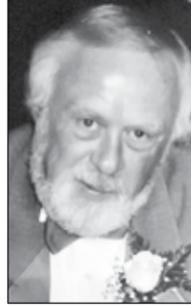
**William C. Troland**

William Clarke “Bill” Troland, 76, an Iron Range native and most recently of Monticello, passed away on Dec. 18, 2020, in the St. Cloud Hospital from complications of pneumonia. No services were held. Bill opted for cremation through the Cremation Society of Minnesota.

Bill was born on Nov. 8, 1944, in Minneapolis, but spent his childhood years in Virginia, moving to Babbitt in 1954. Graduating from Babbitt High School in 1963, he was a well-known athlete who played baseball and was captain of his basketball and football teams, winning conference awards in both sports. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved duck hunting and fishing.

Apart from working at Reserve Mine in Babbitt, he became certified in drafting, and moved to the Twin Cities area in the millwork industry, where he enjoyed a long career in project planning for major commercial projects.

Bill is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren: daughter, Kari Christopherson (Mitch) of Big Lake, and children Joshua, Kacy (Lara and Elise) and Sarah (Mackenzie and Odin); daughter, Kathleen Hallaway of Minnetonka, and children Cassidy and Alison; son, Jason (Anit) of Big Lake, and children, Devin, Jayanna and Max; siblings, Jim (Barbara) of San Francisco, Calif., Carol Miller (Doug) of Vancouver,



Wash., and David (Kristin) of Mt. Iron; as well as members of the Conner clan of Aitkin, Mike (Edee) of Isle, Randy (Merna) of Eveleth, Greg of Aitkin, Bonnie Landy (Mike) of Lebanon, Tenn., and Kathy Gallatin (John) of Aitkin.

He was predeceased by his wife, JoAnn (Leisdon) Troland; parents, Caroline and Alfred Troland of Babbitt; grandparents, William and Gladys Conner of Virginia/Aitkin; uncle and aunt, William Jr. and Dorothy Conner of Aitkin; and cousin, Kevin Conner of Aitkin.

Mary L. Juhl

Mary L. Juhl, 76, of Tower, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in the summer. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Mary was born on Aug. 8, 1944, in Buffalo Center, Iowa, to Ervin and Elizabeth (Stowe) Halvorson and grew up in Rake, Iowa. She received her Bachelor’s Degree from Luther College and her Master’s Degree in Psychology from St. Mary’s College.

On July 8, 1967, she married John Juhl in Rake, Iowa, and helped found the family business, Jaytech, where she worked as an advisor in the water treatment business. She also worked in the church as a Youth Director and Stephen Ministry Trainer, as well as a volunteer at the airport.

Mary is survived by her husband, John Juhl of Lake Vermilion-Tower; two sons, Mark Juhl of Fountain Hills, Ariz., and Christopher (Jenny) Juhl of Savage; three grandchildren, Tommy, Michael and Reagan Juhl; and sister, Carol (Kermitt) Brandt of Moorhead.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORCOM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MORCOM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 following the closing of the Township Elections at 8:00 pm. Location: Bear River School, Hwy 22, Cook, MN 55723.

Sasha Lehto, Morcom Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 19 & 26, 2021

Bearville Township Annual Town Meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021

The Annual Town Meeting for Bearville Township will be held on Tuesday, March 09, 2021, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Fire Hall, to set the levies, and to conduct any and all other business proper to be conducted when the Annual Meeting is convened. Snowplowing of West Sturgeon Forest Road (Dave and Dan Watson). Consider authorization to donate money to Northeast Itasca Rescue (First Responders). Authorize the Town Board to contract with Itasca County for Bearville Town Road maintenance.

COVID-19 social distancing and face mask restrictions will be in place. Residents of Bearville Township that are eligible to vote in Bearville Township may vote at the Annual Meeting. All meetings are open to the public. The meeting will be available for teleconferencing. If you would like access please contact the Clerk at the number or e-mail below.

In case of inclement weather, the Annual Town Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at the time and place stated.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk
(218) 376-4495 bearvl@frontiernet.net

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 19, 26, and March 5, 2021

EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Eagles Nest Township, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Meeting will not be held in person, but instead will be held virtually. Citizens can attend by phone conference or by video conference.

Phone Conference Instructions:

1. Call 1-701-802-5104.
2. When prompted for an access code, enter 2894250# using your telephone key pad.
3. PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF WHEN NOT TALKING. This will prevent background noise during the meeting. You can mute and unmute yourself by pressing *6 on the keypad or by pressing the “Mute” button.

Video Conference Instructions:

1. Download the application.
 - a. Go to <https://www.freeconferencecall.com/> and create an account.
 - b. Once you have created an account go to your account dashboard and download the free conference call app.
2. Join the meeting.
 - a. Double click on the FCC icon, then choose the “Home” selection on the left side of the window.
 - b. Click “Join”.
 - c. Enter your name and email associated with the free conference call account you created. Then enter the meeting ID, which is “eaglesnestwp”.
 - d. Click “Join with computer audio”.
 - e. In the lower left part of the screen, “Mute” “Audio” and “Video” icons. You may click those on and off as desired. A gray icon represents off; blue represents on. Note that if you turn off the audio, you will leave the meeting. You can join again by clicking the audio icon again. As with the phone conferencing instructions above, PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF WHEN NOT TALKING to prevent unwanted noise during the meeting.

More detailed instructions can be found on our website: <https://www.eaglesnestmn.com/> or on our Facebook page

The clerk will open the meeting and immediately ask the township electors to recess the meeting until August 31, 2021, so that the annual meeting might be conducted fully in-person, when conditions related to COVID-19 may have improved. If a motion to recess the meeting does not pass, the meeting will proceed remotely as currently scheduled.

Keely Drange, Township Clerk,
Township of Eagles Nest

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 19 & 26, 2021

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Bids open Monday, March 22,
2021 at Council Meeting

Published in the Timberjay, Feb.
26, March 5, 12 & 19, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME/ AMENDMENT TO ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333. The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.
Assumed Name: Kara Polyrner
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 766 E Madison St., Ely, MN 55731
This certificate is an amendment of Certificate of Assumed Name File Number 1954950-2, originally filed on 8/18/2006, under the name Border Country Sign Co. NAMEHOLDER(S): Kara Polyrner, 766 E Madison St., Ely, MN 55731

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

Dated: February 16, 2021
SIGNED BY: Kara Polyrner,
Owner/President

Published in the Timberjay,
Feb. 19 & 26, 2021

CITY OF TOWER OPENING

Opening on ad-hoc Blight Ordinance Review Committee. Looking for citizen volunteer to help develop a City blight plan and budget. Apply online at cityoftower.com/positions-available or at clerk.treasurer@cityoftower.com.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 26, March 5 and 12,

VERMILION LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Vermilion Lake Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

The election poll hours will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Supervisor for a term of 1 year
One Treasurer for a term of 2 years

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at the following location:

VERMILION LAKE TOWN HALL
6703 WAHLSTEN ROAD

NOTE: Board of Canvass will meet following the Annual Meeting.

Crystal Alaspa, Vermilion Lake Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 19 & 26, 2021

FIELD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Field Township, County of St. Louis, and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

The election poll hours will be from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:
One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Treasurer for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass will meet following the Election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Election and Meetings will be held at the Field Town Hall.

The Reorganization Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. (in case of inclement weather will be on March 23).

Social distancing and mask-wearing are required at all meetings in the town hall.

Any questions, contact the clerk at clerk@fieldtownship.com.

Pat Chapman, Town Clerk, Field Township

Published in the Timberjay, February 26, 2021

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Outdoors

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OUTDOORS

Spring light goose season

REGIONAL — Hunters can help reduce the population of light geese through a federally authorized spring conservation harvest that runs Feb. 18 through April 30. Light geese are snow geese, blue-phased snow geese and Ross' geese. Harvest regulations can be found on the DNR website. The conservation action aims to reduce the damage these geese cause to fragile ecosystems in Arctic coastal areas and around Hudson Bay.

DNR changes license purchase rules for couples

REGIONAL — Both members of married couples who want to purchase a combination angling or hunting license in person will need to be present at the sales location starting Feb. 18, when the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin requiring both spouses to provide and verify their own complete customer records on file to purchase a combination license.

"These changes will bring the DNR into compliance with state and federal laws that require collecting this information for angling or hunting license sales," said Steve Michaels, licensing program director. "The information helps prevent licenses being sold to people with violations or unpaid fines."

Customers will continue to pay the same price for combination licenses, which are discounted compared with purchasing two individual licenses.

When purchasing a combination license in person, both spouses must be present, and, if age 21 or older, also must provide their current Minnesota driver's licenses or identification cards. If both spouses are not present, the person present may purchase their part of the license and their spouse may obtain their license at a later date at no additional charge.

If a spouse does not have a record on file with the DNR, that spouse can create one with their full name, birth date, social security number. If they are a Minnesota resident age 21 or older, they also will need a current Minnesota driver's license or current Minnesota identification card. They can create their record anywhere DNR licenses are sold or call the DNR license center at 877-348-0498 or 651-297-1230 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. New resident customer records for people age 21 and over cannot be created online.

"Thank you to all our license purchasers for patience adjusting to these changes and for buying a license," Michaels said. "Your license dollars pay for a great deal of DNR conservation work and leverage more federal funding that supports hunting and fishing opportunities and habitat work."

The DNR offers the following married combination licenses:

- ▶ Angling, valid for fishing.
- ▶ Conservation angling, valid for half the possession limit, per spouse.
- ▶ Sports, valid for fishing for both spouses and small game hunting for one spouse.
- ▶ Super Sports, valid for fishing for both spouses, small game for one spouse, includes two state trout stamps, and waterfowl and pheasant stamps for one spouse. It also offers the choice of a firearm, archery or muzzleloader deer license for one spouse.



WILD VISTORS

A cat who came in from the cold

Bobcats are increasingly common in our region, and that has its own ripple effects

Randy and Julie Grahn were surprised during the recent cold snap to have a regular visitor in their backyard — a bobcat. While normally pretty secretive, this cat appeared perfectly comfortable at the Grahn's and even took up residence at times in a vacant doghouse in the backyard.

At other times, it has sat in one of their bird feeders, as if it's hoping to turn an unob-servant bird into lunch. While the Grahns

normally feed the birds, the bobcat has been taking advantage of some of the fare they've been putting out, including the skins of smoked fish and roasted ducks, which the birds will normally haul away.

At one point, the bobcat just sat in the doghouse and watched intently as deer fed on spilled bird seed 25 feet away. The cat made no movement, but the deer eventually spooked anyway.

It's not surprising that a bobcat found that doghouse attractive during the recent cold spell. While the bobcat population has increased significantly in our region, particularly on the western side of St. Louis County, our area remains on the northern fringe of bobcat range. Our winters generally provide a challenge to bobcat survival, a challenge that the shelter from a doghouse might ease at least a bit. Access to the occasional doghouse isn't the real explanation, of course. Biologists suspect that climate change is allowing more of them to survive here than in the past, given milder winters in general.

I suspect other factors, such as recreational deer feeding,

Above: During the recent cold spell earlier this month, an enterprising bobcat decided to make use of a vacant doghouse at the home of Randy and Julie Grahn, near Cook. It appears he was, perhaps hoping for a bowl of milk, as well?

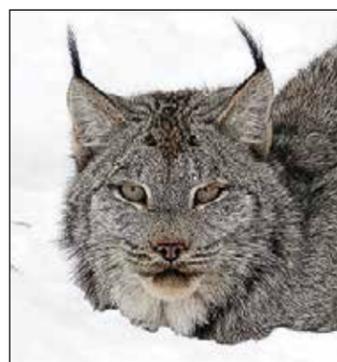
Right: The same bobcat decided to spend some time sitting in the Grahn's bird feeder.

Lower right: There are a number of characteristics that distinguish a bobcat from a lynx, including in the face. Note that the bobcat (on left) has more distinctive patterning on the face, while the lynx appears mostly gray with relatively little patterning.

Bobcat photos by J. Grahn
Lynx photo by B. Smith

are playing at least as large a role. While bobcats don't eat the corn that is now so broadly distributed across the North Country landscape in winter, that new and energy-intensive food source is changing the North Country ecosystem and it has wide-ranging ripple effects. That corn has allowed for the spread of wild turkeys into the North Country, for example, which are prime prey for bobcats. Deer, particularly fawns, are another important prey base for bobcats. If recreational feeding helps some deer survive that might otherwise have perished in a North Country winter, that means more fawns in the spring. Increases in the prey base allow for a higher carrying capacity for predators, including bobcats and wolves.

As with everything in nature, the spread of increasing numbers of any predator into our region, will have ripple effects. I've written recently about the noted decline in the



number of fisher in much of northeastern Minnesota. While biologists see multiple factors behind that decline, including overharvesting of older timber which fisher need for nest cavities, bobcat are also known to prey on fisher, so their growing presence in our area is likely part of the explanation of the decline of that species.

Biologists also suspect that bobcat will eventually supplant lynx in northern Minnesota, particularly if we see less snow in the future. Lynx can outcompete bobcat where the snow is deep, since the lynx's huge feet give it the ability to walk on top of all but the fluffiest snow. That gives the lynx the ability to effectively prey on snowshoe hares, but it's also made the lynx something of a specialist. If bobcats move into an area and prey, even to a limited extent, on hares, it reduces the prey base for lynx and limits their reproductive

and overall survival potential. Bobcats, by contrast, are generalists, which will readily shift to other more available prey as need be. They'll take anything from adult deer to mice.

While most animals right now are still hunkered down waiting for spring, it's a busy time for male bobcats. Late winter is the breeding season and this time of year, the toms will range widely in search of receptive females. Breeding is the tom's only involvement in the process as the females do all of the rearing of the kittens, which are born in late spring. The young are dependent on the mother, relying on milk for their first month of life, before gradually shifting over to solid food. They typically remain with the mother for their first nine months, eventually separating in about January, shortly before the breeding season.

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Outdoors in brief

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

DNR: It's time to renew hunting, fishing licenses

REGIONAL—It's the time of year when hunters and anglers need to buy new fishing and hunting licenses. Minnesota fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 2020 expire Sunday, Feb. 28. Licenses for 2021 are now available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold, online

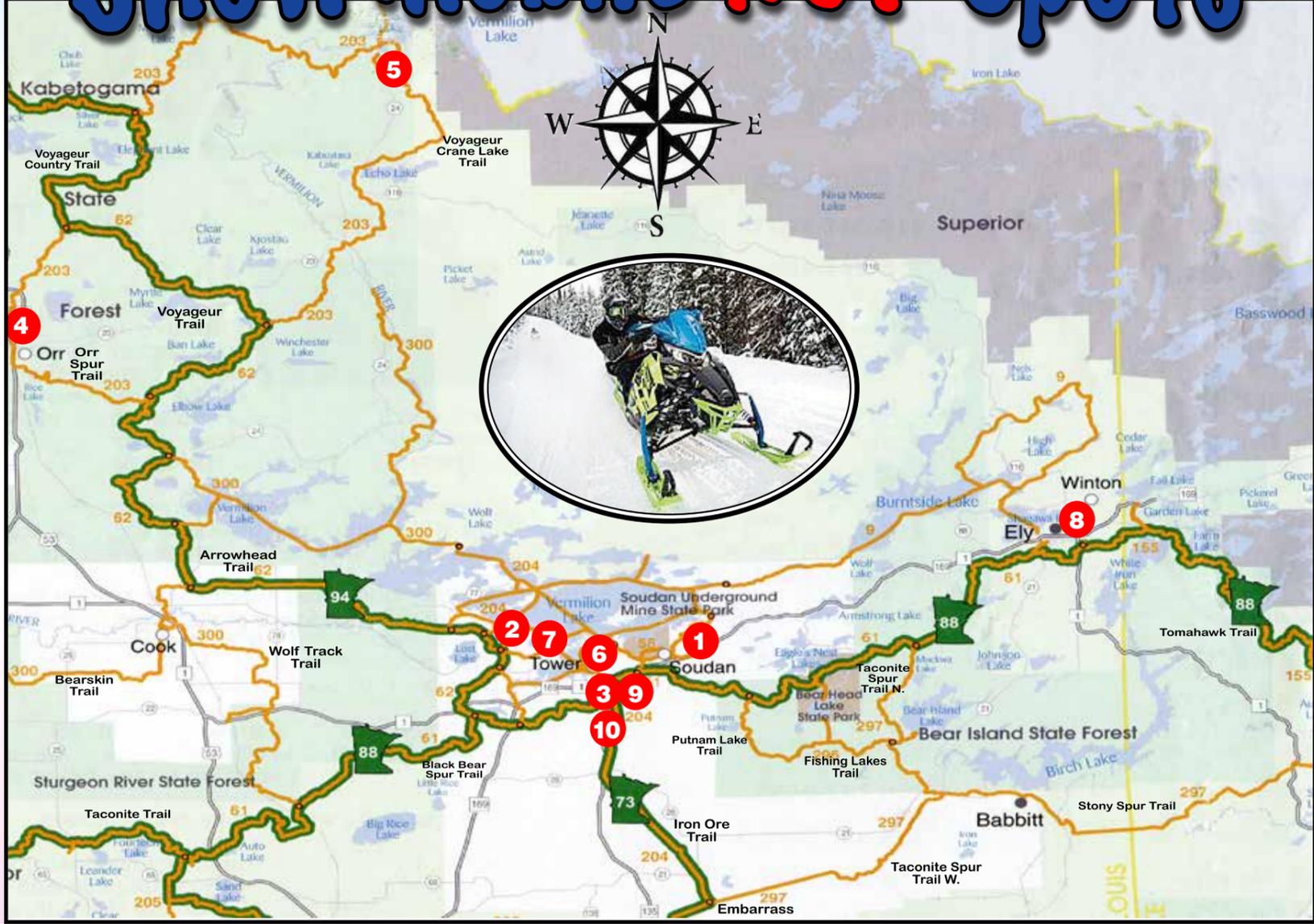
at mndnr.gov/buyalicense and by telephone at 888-665-4236. All 2021 fishing licenses become effective Monday, March 1. New licenses are required for 2021 hunting and fishing seasons that continue past Feb. 28. Current ice shelter licenses, though, are valid through Friday, April 30.

| Friday | | | | Saturday | | | | Sunday | | | | Monday | | | | Tuesday | | | |
|--------|----|-----|------------|-----------|----|-----|------------|-----------|----|-----|------------|-----------|----|-----|-----------|-----------|----|-----|------------|
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| 35 19 | | | | 30 2 | | | | 18 -3 | | | | 21 7 | | | | 32 12 | | | |
| Ely | Hi | Lo | Prec. Sn. | Emb. | Hi | Lo | Prec. Sn. | Cook | Hi | Lo | Prec. Sn. | Orr | Hi | Lo | Prec. Sn. | Tower | Hi | Lo | Prec. Sn. |
| 02/15 | -7 | -34 | 0.00 | 02/15 | -9 | -42 | 0.00 | 02/15 | -8 | -36 | 0.00 | 02/15 | 3 | -35 | 0.00 | 02/15 | -8 | -42 | 0.00 |
| 02/16 | 6 | -34 | 0.00 | 02/16 | 4 | -42 | 0.00 | 02/16 | 0 | -37 | 0.00 | 02/16 | 10 | -35 | 0.00 | 02/16 | 10 | -42 | 0.00 |
| 02/17 | 14 | -30 | 0.00 | 02/17 | 12 | -37 | 0.00 | 02/17 | 9 | -33 | 0.00 | 02/17 | 12 | -29 | 0.00 | 02/17 | 12 | -36 | 0.00 |
| 02/18 | 14 | -35 | 0.02 0.4" | 02/18 | 12 | -32 | 0.02 0.4" | 02/18 | 13 | -28 | 0.05 0.5" | 02/18 | 16 | -2 | 0.02 | 02/18 | 13 | -31 | 0.02 0.3" |
| 02/19 | 16 | -36 | 0.01 0.2" | 02/19 | 15 | -11 | 0.02 0.1" | 02/19 | 16 | -9 | 0.01 0.1" | 02/19 | 18 | -17 | 0.00 | 02/19 | 16 | -15 | 0.00 |
| 02/20 | 22 | -38 | 0.00 | 02/20 | 20 | -21 | 0.00 | 02/20 | 16 | -16 | 0.00 | 02/20 | 27 | -2 | 0.00 | 02/20 | 19 | -28 | 0.00 |
| 02/21 | 25 | -39 | 0.00 | 02/21 | 26 | -21 | 0.00 | 02/21 | 24 | -17 | 0.00 | 02/21 | 30 | 10 | 0.00 | 02/21 | 26 | -19 | 0.00 |
| Total | | | 0.41 50.4" | YTD Total | | | 0.66 36.4" | YTD Total | | | 0.72 48.8" | YTD Total | | | 0.40 NA | YTD Total | | | 0.28 37.9" |



Check Out These...

Snowmobile HOT Spots



1

Vermilion Park Inn B&B
 OPEN Year-Round!
 Right off the Taconite Trail between Tower & Ely... next to Soudan's Only Store!
 • Comfy, cozy rooms
 • Great rates starting at \$88 per night
 • Wifi
 • Continental breakfast
 NEW PROJECT/CLASSROOM on lower level!
218-753-2333
 30 Center Street, Soudan

2

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 • LARGE BAR •
SNOWMOBILES WELCOME!
 Full Menu/Daily Specials
 Hours:
 Wed-Thurs: 3 PM-Close;
 Fri, Sat, Sun: Noon-Close
Poor Gary's Pizza:
 Wed-Thurs: 3 PM-9 PM
 Fri, Sat, Sun: Noon-9 PM
 3191 Hwy 77, Tower (Daisy Bay, Lake Vermilion)
 753-6277 Bar/Restaurant
 753-5707 Pizza

3

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 Mon-Sat 6 a.m. Sun 8 a.m.
 Featuring Minnesota's Best Bloody Mary!
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4

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5

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8

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9

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION BY PARK STATE BANK DULUTH, MINNESOTA

Notice is hereby given that Park State Bank, 2630 West Superior Street, Duluth, St. Louis County, Minnesota 55806, has made application to the Minnesota Department of Commerce for consent to acquire through merger American Bank of the North, 117 Central Avenue, Nashwauk, Itasca County, Minnesota 55769, and The Lake Bank, 613 First Avenue, Two Harbors, Lake County, Minnesota 55616. The resultant bank will establish the following detached facilities at: 117 Central Avenue, Nashwauk, Itasca County, Minnesota 55769 (DF 1446); 2015 Third Avenue E, Hibbing, St. Louis County, Minnesota 55746 (DF 1447); 128 Highway 53 SE, Cook, St. Louis County, Minnesota 55723 (DF 1448); 231 West Lake Street, Chisholm, St. Louis County, Minnesota 55719 (DF 1449); 221 N Main Street, Biwabik, St. Louis County, Minnesota 55708 (DF 1450); 428 NW Fourth Avenue, Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota 55744 (DF 1451); 1215 Pokegama Avenue S, Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota 55744 (DF 1452); 8401 Unity Drive, Mountain Iron, St. Louis County, Minnesota 55768 (DF 1453); 4539 Highway 53, Orr, St. Louis County, Minnesota 55771 (DF 1454); 613 First Avenue, Two Harbors, Lake County, Minnesota 55616 (DF 1455); and 88 Outer Drive, Silver Bay, Lake County, Minnesota 55614 (DF 1456). It is contemplated that business locations of the merged banks will continue to be operated. The application was made pursuant to Minn. Stat. secs. 49.33 to 49.41, and 47.51 to 47.57. The above application was filed with the Minnesota Department of Commerce on February 11, 2021.

This notice is being published on February 24, 2021, in the (i) Grand Rapids Herald, Grand Rapids Minnesota, (ii) Chisholm Tribune, Hibbing, Minnesota, and (iii) Mesabi Tribune, Virginia, Minnesota; and on February 26, 2021, in the (i) North Shore Journal, Silver Bay, Minnesota, and (ii) The Timberjay, Tower, Minnesota.

Any person, bank, or other financial institution has a right to file written communication in favor of or against the applications described above. Written comments will become a part of the public record on the applications and should be addressed to: Maxwell Zappia, Deputy Commissioner; Minnesota Department of Commerce; Division of Financial Institutions; 85 7th Place East, Suite 280; St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Written comments to the Minnesota Department of Commerce must be received within fifteen (15) calendar days after the publication date in Minnesota in Nashwauk, Two Harbors, Hibbing, Cook, Chisholm, Biwabik, Grand Rapids, Mountain Iron, Orr, and Silver Bay, pursuant to Minn. Stat. sec. 47.54. An administrative hearing in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, Minn. Stat., Chap. 14, may be ordered at the discretion of the Commissioner to hear testimony and to take evidence in favor of or against the applications. In addition, the non-confidential section of the application is available for review at the Minnesota Department of Commerce in St. Paul. For an appointment for public review or for information on copies and related charges, please telephone (651) 539-1714 during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Park State Bank
2630 West Superior Street,
Duluth, Minnesota 55806
St. Louis County
Minnesota Bank Charter 1273

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 26, 2021

Notice of Election MORCOM TOWNSHIP

State of Minnesota, County of St. Louis
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we will
hold a township election on
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at:
BEAR RIVER COMMUNITY CENTER
12512 HWY 22, COOK, MN 55723

Polling place will be open from 4:00 P.M.
until 8:00 P.M.

TOWNSHIP OFFICES:
1 Supervisor, 3 year term
1 Treasurer, 2 year term

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 19 & 26, 2021

Notice to the Voters of the Town of Crane Lake ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the Town of Crane Lake, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 5:30 PM at the Crane Lake Chapel Fellowship Hall to set the levies, and conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting may be postponed until Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Jo Ann Pohlman, Clerk, Town of Crane Lake
Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 19 & 26, 2021

LEIDING TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Leiding Township, County of St. Louis and State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Leiding Town Hall.

In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be postponed until Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

The election poll hours will be open from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at which time the voters will elect by ballot:

One Supervisor for a term of 3 years
One Treasurer for a term of 2 years

The Board of Canvass
will follow the election.

The Annual Meeting will commence following the Board of Canvass to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The regular town board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 19 & 26, 2021

EMPLOYMENT



Boundary Waters Care Center is looking for motivated caregivers in the following positions:

Certified Nursing Assistant-
Flexible Full-Time and Part-Time Positions Available. Benefits are available for full time positions, competitive pay up to \$18.36 per hour (with experience credit pay given to qualified applicants), paid time off.

Nursing Assistant in Training-
Boundary Waters Care Center is offering Certified Nursing Assistant classes, free of charge to the student! We offer the opportunity to work in the facility as a Nurse Assistant while enrolled in the class to become certified.

Full-Time Culinary Aides and Fill-In Cook-
Now hiring 2 full-time culinary aides and fill-in cook.

Apply today at
<https://boundarywaterscc.com/careers/>

For more information contact Sarah Spate, Human Resources, 200 W Conan St, Ely, MN 55731, or sspate@boundarywaterscc.com, or 218-365-8756. 2/26



Intern Trainee- Public Health & Human Services
Apply by 03/08/2021

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

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 2/26

Super Crossword

Answers

| | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| HORSE | ARAB | WAFTS | PEPS |
| UVEAS | LADY | INURE | CMLI |
| BELLPEPPER | STRIP | LAUD | |
| REINA | LOVEIS | STRANGE | |
| JUAN | SNAPTO | TEABAG | |
| ASRARE | A SHEN | STEETH | TEM |
| MENSA | SKI | IAM | FIDE |
| | TWAS | FORCES | OF EVIL |
| SANGTO | POWS | REDOLENT | |
| EMILY | WATSON | DIVERT | |
| TYPE | SWAT | SITE | BAIT |
| | ARMPIT | ICAINTS | AYNO |
| AIR | SPEED | GMAN | RADNER |
| GLOOM | AND DOOM | LAI | D |
| ALAN | LOB | PAL | APSO |
| RED | BLUERING | EDOCTOPUS | |
| GASSED | CURSER | LETA | |
| NATHAN | DETROIT | ERIC | S |
| ELLA | AERIE | SEE | ADOCTOR |
| OLAV | PRIMP | ESAI | MERLE |
| NYSE | ESSES | STUD | ASADA |

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 June honoree
- 4 Say it's so
- 8 Pretzel topper
- 12 Past
- 13 Travel permit
- 14 Done with
- 15 Brock of baseball
- 16 Alaskan city
- 18 Heron's kin
- 20 Army address
- 21 Dalai -
- 24 Slow, in music
- 28 Right to vote
- 32 Cash advance
- 33 201, in old Rome
- 34 Heat to near boiling
- 36 GOP org.
- 37 Priestly vestments
- 39 Cheap ride section
- 41 "Yum!"
- 43 Novelist Hunter
- 44 Steal from
- 46 Cowboy's workplace
- 50 Spur on
- 55 Tic-tac-toe win
- 56 Nerd's kin
- 57 Hostels
- 58 Hooting bird
- 59 Big wind

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|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | 54 | | | 55 | | |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | | 58 | | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 | | |

- 60 Track tipster
- 61 Carrier to Amsterdam
- 10 Table support
- 11 Three, in Rome
- 17 Texas tea
- 19 Sprite
- 22 PC alternatives
- 23 Marble type
- 25 Asta's feeder
- 26 Tart flavor
- 27 As soon as
- 28 "Shoo!"
- 29 Bruins' sch.
- 30 Little lies
- 31 Mountain ht.
- 35 Most loved
- 38 Painter's motion
- 40 Genetic letters
- 42 Thee
- 45 Telly watcher
- 47 Cranny
- 48 Batman's hood
- 49 Actress Celeste
- 50 Early bird?
- 51 PBS funder
- 52 Cartoon frame
- 53 Yucatan year
- 54 Wildebeest

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EMPLOYMENT



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- Activities**
PT Activities Assistant

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Casual Laundry Aide
Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

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humanresources@cookhospital.org

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Assistant Volleyball Coach

Ely Public Schools is looking for an Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2021 fall season. Background check required.

Qualifications include:
• Bachelor's Degree preferred;
• Previous coaching experience preferred;
• Must be available for several practices/games per week from August through October, including some weekends and during school break periods.

Application and full job description is available at www.ely.k12.mn.us.

A complete application must include the following:
• District Application
• Resume

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

Stipend: \$3,920

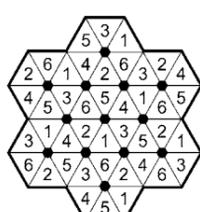
Deadline to apply: March 5, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Feb. 19 & 26, 2021

**Call 753-2950
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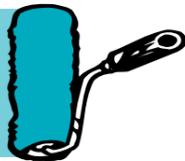


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Jodee Micheletti
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"Well, that harebrained Jones boy finally prevailed on a get-rich-quick scheme.

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SCRAMBLERS

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

- Strike
DOCILLE
- Affirm
FORSEPS
- Endorse
TERYFIC
- Accurate
RECIPES

TODAY'S WORD