

Evening grosbeaks... See /4B



Inside: New housing planned... See /3
Spring sports underway... See /1B
NA Bear Center reopens... See /4B

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STATE SUPREME COURT

Both sides claim PolyMet win

High court offers mixed verdict but suspends permit to mine, orders contested case hearing

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL— Both sides were claiming victory on Wednesday after the Minnesota Supreme Court delivered a mixed verdict on key permits for the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine near Hoyt Lakes.

The high court reversed parts of the ruling issued by the Court of Appeals back in January 2020, which had ordered a contested case hearing on disputes over the method of tailings dam construction, financial assurance, and the role of PolyMet's majority owner, Glencore, in the permitting process. The high

court found that the Department of Natural Resources had acted largely within its discretion when it denied a request by the groups Water Legacy, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, the Fond du Lac Band, and others, for a contested case hearing to present evidence contrary to the DNR's position

on the permits in question. That finding means a contested case hearing won't be required to address those issues.

"This is a big win for PolyMet, our supporters, and for industry in Minnesota," said Jon Cherry, chairman, president and CEO in a statement issued following the ruling.

The Supreme Court, however, did agree with the lower court that the DNR had erred by not placing a finite time limit on PolyMet's permit to mine, a decision which puts that permit on hold until further proceedings. They also concurred on the need for a

See...COURT pg. 10

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



'Meat' the new Neighbor's Eatery puts a Minnesota spin on barbecue

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- If you haven't yet dined at Neighbor's BBQ, the new restaurant that took over the former haunts of the Black Bear Café along Hwy. 169, south of Tower, a word of advice.

Suspend any thoughts or cravings you may have for one of the storied varieties of smoked meats lore – Kansas City, Memphis, and Carolina styles to name a few. You won't find them here.

Instead, you'll be served Minnesota-style barbecue, and

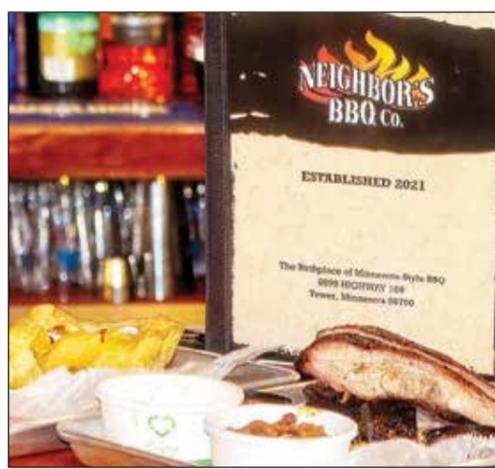
Erik Drake, above, and his wife, Angie, own the new Neighbor's BBQ in the former Black Bear Cafe building on Highway 169 south of Tower. photos by D. Colburn

it deserves to be sampled and devoured on its own merits.

And what exactly is Minnesota-style barbecue?

"The blend that we're using, it's a unique smoke profile," said Eric Drake, who owns the restaura-

See...EATS pg. 9



CITY OF TOWER

Council OK's major change in ambulance service staffing

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— The city council here, on Monday, adopted a change in the method of staffing its ambulance service to help ensure that no emergency calls go without a response. The move, which is expected to sharply increase the service's personnel costs, comes after the service had no EMTs available to respond to an emergency call from Scenic Rivers earlier this month.

The ambulance service has relied primarily on what's known as an "all-call" system for years, under which all members of the department are subject to call at any time, but no members are specifically designated to respond at any particular time.

"The all-call method is unreliable," said Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua, while outlining the proposed change to a written on-call schedule. "That's why the state has required a written on-call schedule for years," she said. In order to maintain an ambulance service in Minnesota, a service is required to have at least two staff on-call at all times, 24 hours a day.

Other ambulance services in the area rely on a written on-call schedule to ensure they have adequate staffing available to meet that state requirement. But the Tower service has been largely resistant to the change, although the service has covered about half of the required hours since 2018 through a

See...TOWER pg. 9

ISD 696

Ely students will be learning to learn during building project

School Board considering elementary schedule change to allow more time to pack and store classrooms

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – As the ISD 696 school community plans for the completion of a major construction project on the school campus over

the next 18 months or so, disruptions and dust will likely be the new normal as builders demolish unused structures, work to link two existing school buildings, and renovate landmark facilities.

The \$20 million project should be completed in time for the start of the 2022-23 school year, but staff and students are already getting a taste of the temporary re-locations, classroom shuffling and learning

materials storage challenges necessary for the renovation of the 100-year-old buildings.

School board members were updated on the project during a study session Monday night and were

asked to consider, among other things, approving an end-of-the-school year schedule change for the K-5 students in the Washington building to make room for

See...ELY pg. 10



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Community notices

Juggling:
A Not-So-Brief
Introduction
Kit

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing Juggling: A Not-So-Brief Introduction Take-and-Move Art Kits to member public libraries to distribute May 1-31.

These kits, designed by COMPAS Teaching Artist Benjamin Domask-Ruh, include an entire culture of juggling. Kits provide recipients a primer on the ancient art form, introducing the history, science, theory and beginning technique. Juggling kits will be distributed at Babbitt, Cook, Ely and Virginia libraries as well as the Arrowhead Library System Bookmobile.

Three handmade Russian-style juggling balls are included to encourage immediate juggling attempts. Additionally, a detailed and meticulously-crafted insert provides detailed instructions on how to juggle, supplemented with illustrations and diagrams. Once accomplished, new jugglers are provided with a "World's Newest Juggler" sticker to announce their new interest with friends and family. Please note each location has a limited number of kits; feel free to contact your local library for more information.

This program, sponsored by Arrowhead Library System, was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. To learn more about Arrowhead Legacy Events, please see our calendar at www.alslib.info or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/alslibinfo.

"Starting A Garden From Scratch"
class held on May 1 in Iron

REGIONAL- Spring has arrived and it's a great time to begin the process of preparing for a successful gardening year! If you've never raised a garden bed before, this class will walk you through the steps of creating one.

The local livestock association is happy to host an educational event focused on "Starting a Garden From Scratch." Troy Salzer, University of MN Extension Educator, will be presenting on how to get off to a good start with your garden and how to keep it producing for you and your family. Join us for this informative presentation and come with lots of questions to help improve your understanding of how to improve your gardening skills.

Class will be held on Saturday, May 1 at the Clinton Community Center, Hwy 37 in Iron. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m., workshop goes from 10 to noon and is free of charge. Pre-registration online or by phone is required and space is limited, so register early. CDC guidelines will be followed.

Call 218-749-7120 for assistance with registration.

Several free online mental health
courses available

REGIONAL- NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) has set up a wide variety of free online mental health classes for February and March. They include classes such as Eating Disorders, Hope for Recovery, Transitions, Ending the Silence, Understanding Early Episode Psychosis for Families, In Our Own Voice, Family to Family, Creating Caring Communities, a suicide prevention class called QPR – Question, Persuade and Refer, a special QPR class for Agricultural Communities and many more.

The classes are designed for family members and caregivers, persons living with a mental illness, service providers, and the general public. Find a complete listing of these classes and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "Classes" or go straight to <https://namimn.org/education-public-awareness/classes/scheduled/>.

NORTH ST. LOUIS SWCD

Soil and Water Stewardship Week
coloring contest finalists chosen

Vote for your favorite artwork by Friday, May 7

REGIONAL- For over 80 years, Minnesota's Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have been hard at work protecting our resources by working with landowners on programs and practices that support conservation and healthy working lands.

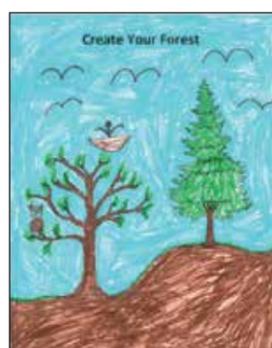
The North St. Louis SWCD honors and celebrates that work through its annual Conservation Coloring and Poster Contest as part of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 25 through May 2. This year's theme is "Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities". The contest was open to students in grades 4-6 for the poster contest and K-3 for the coloring contest.

"We received hundreds of creative entries from all across northern St. Louis County," said Becca Reiss, the SWCD's Community Conservationist. "Now we need you to help choose the winners! We've narrowed

it down to a handful of entries and are asking the community to help decide."

To vote in the contest, visit www.nslswcd.org/education where you will see all of the entries and a link to vote for your favorites in three age group categories. Winners will receive prizes through their teachers, first place \$25, second place \$15, and third place \$10. Voting ends Friday, May 7.

Trees are vital to our communities in northern Minnesota. They stabilize the soil, provide timber products and jobs, filter and protect water, provide healthy habitat for wildlife, absorb carbon from the atmosphere, and offer many additional benefits – for nature, people and biodiversity. "It was exciting to see all the different ways students incorporated the benefits we see from trees. They thought of everything from tree houses to eagle



Two of many finalists in the North St. Louis County SWCD coloring contests. The left picture is by a Northeast Range student and the right is by a North Woods student. To view all the artwork and vote, go to www.nslswcd.org/education. submitted photos

and Christmas trees to wildlife habitat," said Reiss.

The annual Soil and Water Stewardship Week, organized by the North St. Louis SWCD in partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to promote resource conservation

across the country.

For more information about Soil and Water Stewardship Week and how you can get involved in local conservation efforts, please contact North St. Louis SWCD at 218-288-6143 or visit the website at www.nslswcd.org.

Camp Invention runs August 9-13

VIRGINIA- Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized nonprofit summer enrichment program is coming to Virginia, August 9 - 13.

At this local camp, families can choose Camp Invention's in-person or at-home option. And to address any uncertainty that families face when planning for the upcoming summer camp season, Camp Invention now offers the Peace of Mind Promise, where parents can switch their experience format up to six weeks before their camp start date.

For its in-person option, Camp Invention will continue to adjust its in-person programs to comply with best practice safety measures to ensure the health of our campers, teachers, families and communities. These precautions may include daily health screenings for all children and program team members, the use of masks, social distancing within classrooms, providing individualized materials to limit sharing, increased sanitation practices and scheduled hygiene checks

within the building, and smaller student groups with staggered lunch schedules. Programs will follow all state and regional COVID-19 guidelines.

A hybrid program featuring both offline activities and optional online sessions, Camp Invention at home enables hands-on exploration by delivering an Innovator's Toolkit, packed full of fun materials, sent directly to each participant. With four themed activities, step-by-step guides and an Innovator Workshop, the program brings imagination, creative problem-solving and fun to children's living rooms. During the at-home format, local certified instructors take the campers through the day's activities, with the children choosing to attend the four daily online collaborative sessions or move at their own pace.

Each year the program features a new curriculum inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors, the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF) Inductees. This year's Recharge curriculum encourages children to be

confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

Open Mic: Campers amplify their creative voice, reverse engineer a wireless microphone, and then develop and promote their own extraordinary invention.

Duck Chuck: Through hands-on experiments with trajectory and velocity, children build their own device to launch rubber ducks around the world.

Road Rally: Imaginations accelerate as children design nature-inspired vehicles that can zoom across land and add prototype elements for moving through air and water.

SolarBot: Campers build and take care of their very own solar-powered robotic cricket, creating protective gear, a customized habitat and a fun cricket playground.

Whether parents choose the in-person or at-home format, they can be assured that the 2021 Camp Invention program provides a top-notch STEM learning experience for

their young innovator. "Honestly, the box sold me. The Innovator's Toolkit alone was worth the price," said Josh, dad of a 7-year-old camper.

A NIHF program in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning, builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness and encourages entrepreneurship, all in a fun and engaging environment. In the unprecedented times we're all experiencing, with "unfinished learning" and other challenges due to COVID-19, these lessons and opportunities for fun ways to learn are even more valuable.

For additional information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

gearing up for...
Kindergarten

If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2021, they are eligible to enter Kindergarten next fall.

You are invited to attend Parent Information and Registration Night on Tuesday, May 4 from 6-7 PM in Washington Auditorium in Ely.

This informational session is a chance for parents to ask questions and start the registration process.

If your child is not enrolled in a pre-school program, please contact the Elementary School office.

We look forward to creating a positive transition to Kindergarten for your child! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Ely Elementary Office Contact: 218-365-6166, ext 4

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COVID-19

State moves to increase access as vaccinations slow

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

New outbreak of cases reported on the Bois Forte Reservation

REGIONAL- As weekly COVID-19 vaccination totals statewide tumbled for a second consecutive week, Gov. Tim Walz refused to buy into a suggestion that the decline could be tied to hesitancy among some to get the vaccine.

Providers administered 318,107 shots last week, down more than 87,000 from the first full week since vaccines have been offered to anyone over age 16. The pattern of a rapid increase followed by a decline is similar to what the state has experienced with previous eligibility

expansions.

Speaking to reporters during a tour of a new mobile vaccination bus in Richfield on Tuesday, Walz said that the issue is access and not reluctance.

"We're past four million shots," Walz said. "People aren't hesitant to get the vaccine. They're just really busy, or it's not convenient for them to get it, or they don't have a computer (to register for appointments) or a car or something."

The Kaiser Family Foundation Vaccine Monitor reports that 13 percent of Americans say

they will not get vaccinated, one percent higher than the Minnesota hesitancy rate reported in a recent government survey. The resistance is highest among Republicans, KFF reported, with three out of ten rejecting the shots. The resistance among rural Republican men is higher still at 35 percent. When Walz was queried about possible resistance in politically conservative areas of the state, he acknowledged he needed help to promote vaccinations.

"I need Republican legislators to help me, if there's resistance, to tell

their constituents," he said. "If I tell some of those counties 'It's Tuesday' they'll disagree with me. That's just where we're at."

Reinforcing the message of access, Walz announced on Monday that people could begin making their own vaccination appointments for openings at the state-operated Community Vaccination Program sites, including the one at the DECC in Duluth.

"The Community Vaccination Program is a key component of our vaccination network, ensuring Minnesotans around the state are able to easily

get their shots in trusted and familiar locations," said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan in a press release. "Today, everyone will be able to directly sign up for an easy, free, and safe appointment at these locations. We're working hard to make getting vaccinated as easy as possible, and now we just need you to roll up your sleeves, get your shot, and help end this pandemic."

Child death

Walz took a moment on Tuesday to acknowledge the third COVID-19 death of a child in Minnesota.

"Yesterday reminded

us we're not done with this," he said. "The tragedy of a little first grader losing her life to COVID weighs heavily on all of us. Every person who gets a shot reduces the chance of that happening."

Around 250 children nationwide have died from COVID-19, with 75 percent of them being children of color. Children under age 16 are currently ineligible to be vaccinated, although trials are underway that could clear children ages 12-15 to begin receiving shots soon.

See COVID...pg. 5

CITY OF ELY

Council eyes private partnership for housing development

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

10-acre parcel available on north end of Miners Lake

ELY - The city council here is moving forward with a potential private-public partnership to develop a housing project on Miners Lake. Council members liked what they heard last week from a pair of developers who said they are exploring the possibility of building a clustered mix of single-family homes, townhouses, loft and villa dwellings on a 10-acre parcel along the northeast shore of the lake.

The council formed a subcommittee involving two of its members, the city attorney and the clerk-treasurer to discuss a development agreement with the developers that could be presented and pos-

sibly approved next month.

Ely native Karl Forsman, and William Stoddard, of Excelsior, have been working with a local realtor to locate suitable properties for their project, Langowski said.

"The area that best suits their needs is on Magie Drive, directly across Pioneer Drive from the Sandy Point boat landing on Shagawa Lake, and just east of the Trezona Hills development," he said.

Stoddard has developed numerous housing projects in Prior Lake, Excelsior and Shorewood.

"We're here hoping you will enter into a pre-developers agreement with us as we do our due diligence

and explore the possibility of this project," he said. "We want to look at what kind of dwellings makes the most sense for this beautiful location."

They are proposing a Homeowners Association arrangement "to control exterior grounds maintenance and unruly storage" on the parcel.

A development concept summary calls for the developers to obtain clear titles to the city-owned land, obtain entitlements and approvals, along with developing the land with streets and utilities, and to construct new homes. They hope to obtain grants and funding from local governing bodies includ-

ing the city of Ely and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

"The proposed workforce and market rate homes should appeal to buyers ranging from singles and young couples to empty nesters with an overall huge local economic boost from the construction trades and increased homeowner tax base increases from this vacant land," Stoddard said.

He added, "We believe adding a limited amount of attached house and one- and two-story detached homes will provide buyers options and price ranges. In addition, property values in the neighborhood should stabilize and trend nicely with

our proposed new housing options which also gets rid of uncertainty of developments that could come forward if our concept is not approved."

The developers could not provide the exact number of new homes, but proposed three dwellings per acre would be an approximate overall density on the 10-acre site they would like to develop. One or two main driveway entrances off Pioneer Road would be part of the development cluster.

Interim Mayor Chuck Novak was receptive to the housing development proposal.

"We do have a need, there's no doubt about it,"

he said. "We just acquired the land in question. Development there would be good."

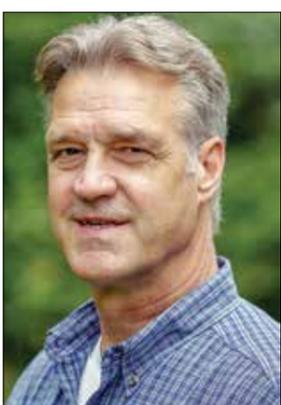
Council member Paul Kess said he welcomes a private-public partnership to develop housing in Ely.

"There is very little to buy or rent in Ely right now. The prospect of new modern housing in a great location is kind of exciting," he said.

Langowski proposed the subcommittee would work to develop timelines for the development.

"We could have an agreement to propose at your first meeting in May."

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Editorial

Distance learning

Schools would do well to improve, rather than abandon, remote teaching

As recent comments from local school board members suggest, many school officials are anxious to get all students back to the classroom full time.

The abrupt shutdown of school buildings and shift to distance learning for all a year ago was a monumental upheaval for all involved. Teachers consistently worked well into the night to hurriedly master new technologies and revamp their lessons for online delivery. The shift immediately exposed inequities in access to technology and high-speed internet connections for students. Parents scrambled for day care, took time off from work or quit entirely to guide their children's studies, and those with multiple children in school had the challenge of scheduling computer access and dealing more frequently with multiple teachers. That's just a short list of all the complications and disruptions caused by the wholesale shift to distance learning.

Which is why it's not a surprise that most school officials in our region are anxious to put distance learning behind them and get back to teaching in-person. Yet, districts should not hastily distance themselves from the lessons to be learned from distance education. While no one would advocate for another wholesale switch, there's a question all forward-thinking schools must consider: Is a 19th-century, agrarian-driven model of in-person education with summers off fully able to address the needs of a technologically-driven 21st-century workforce that is increasingly embracing the value of technology and working from a distance? Consider these statistics. The internet sector of the economy grew nine times faster than the economy as a whole from 2012 to 2018, and 14 times faster than the manufacturing sector. What's abundantly clear is that districts can't slack off on getting appropriate technology into the hands of every student they serve. According to the law of accelerating returns, the pace of technological progress—especially information technology—speeds up exponentially over time. And that progress is going to change the way we all learn in the future. Indeed, once the current generation of students is out of the classroom and into the workplace, most of their training will take place remotely, even after the pandemic is fully in the rearview mirror. Distance learning isn't going away. It's only going to become a more important part

of our lives in the future, and our schools should be preparing students to navigate that teaching model effectively.

When classes began last fall with a mix of in-person and distance learners, it wasn't long before ISD 2142 teachers sent the message loud and clear that the arrangement wasn't working. Administrators listened to their feedback, took a step back, and came up with a solid solution. Distance learners in a given grade level from multiple schools were placed in a separate class taught by one teacher at a specific school.

It's actually a model that's been in use around the country for many years at the secondary level. Multiple schools have banded together to offer new and varied courses through distance education that they could not offer on their own through in-person learning, and numerous schools in the North Country have stepped into that mix as well. Rather than simply abandoning remote teaching, schools in the region should continue working to perfect it, and explore new ways to utilize it to expand their students' horizons.

The experience of distance learning argues for a critical examination of school curricula in a statewide system with a primary goal of delivering a workforce for the 21st-century economy. Should districts shift away, for example, from classes focused on office software packages and offer more courses through distance learning such as Smartphones 1, coding, and app development? In a world of multinational corporations and global connectivity, are there foreign language classes that can be offered within a multi-campus district or between districts via distance learning that will better position students for good jobs when they enter the workforce? Even a basic review of the distance learning experience can yield valuable information about instructional design and delivery that will benefit in-person and distance learners alike.

We're all ready to get back to some semblance of "normal," but schools would do well to consider how distance learning can inform and play a role in a "new normal" for education that pools resources and offers students the best possible opportunities to prepare themselves for a 21st-century workplace that will undoubtedly look far different from today's.



Letters from Readers

Tell representatives you support clean over toxins

I live in the township of Morse on White Iron Lake. My family has vacationed in the BWCA for many years. So, when choosing a place to live a few years ago, Ely seemed a great choice for us. It gives my family daily opportunities to walk in the woods, play on the lakes, and enjoy beautiful sights, sounds, and clean air to bask in each day. It's about as close to heaven on earth as one could get. My favorite activity has been taking my elderly mother with Alzheimer's on canoe rides around the lake. I am a therapist and can attest personally and professionally to the emotional healing power of joy, gratitude, and awe. When I see a bald eagle dip down into a lake to grab a fish, I don't know a more fitting word than awe. What takes away from the positive and pleasant experience of living in this treasured land of Minnesota is the political divide and the threat of wastewater treatment failure from a sulfide ore copper nickel mine which would flow into Birch Lake, the Kawishiwi, and then "my" lake. One doesn't need to search very far on Google to find a list of tailings disasters from sulfide ore mining, such as the mine proposed by Twin Metals. I received a letter from my congressional representative who opposes permanently protecting the BWCA from this kind of environmental disaster. I want us to come together and do what is right so that our children and grandchildren can have some experiences of peace, recreation, and awe of their own. Please choose awe over anxiety. Choose clean over toxins. Let your representative know how you feel. And, finally, please be kind to your neighbors no matter their views. Thank you.

Carolyn Dehnbostel
Morse Twp.

Virginia does not subsidize its ambulances

In the April 19, 2021, *Timberjay* article, "Tower Ambulance Commission not yet ready to seek a raise in the per-capita subsidy," the Tower Area Ambulance Supervisor "noted that area communities are setting their per capita subsidy rates higher than Tower's. Virginia's is twice as much..."

That didn't sound correct to me. I knew that when I contacted the city of Virginia a couple of years ago, I was told that the city's ambulance service was not subsidized and in fact had earned a modest profit after all bills were paid including ambulance vehicle purchases. Just to be sure the situation hadn't changed, I called the city of Virginia last week and was told that nothing had changed. The Virginia ambulance service isn't subsidized, there is no per capita ambulance fee, and the ambulance service earns a modest profit.

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Twp.

"I'm Still Here—" a student's view

In recent weeks, the discussion of the book "I'm Still Here, Black Dignity for a World Made for Whiteness" has been led by those outside of the classroom. As a student who has read the book, I can assure you that Mr. Davis, Mrs. Mann, and the English class are on the same page (pun intended).

I'll outline the basic premise of the book for those reading these exchanges without any context. It's a personal memoir from author Austin Channing Brown in which she recounts a myriad of experiences in which she feels marginalized, discriminated against, or just downright frustrated. She juxtaposes these personal struggles against great family history or personal triumphs.

Based on a letter to the editor in last week's issue, the individual suggests that there is absolutely no hate speech towards white people.

I'll provide a few examples of anti-white rhetoric:

► "White people are exhausting." (p. 1) Not necessarily hate, but rude. It would be racist had it been towards a black person.

► "We know them; we know they are racist." (p. 105)

► She quotes a senior from her college, "I just want to say that I'm having a hard time even being mad at you white people anymore. I think I've just been convinced that white people are innately evil. You can't help it. You steal and kill, you enslave and lynch. You are just evil." Brown goes on and recounts that "The white students hadn't appreciated her words, but the Black students on the bus could have kissed her feet." (p. 57)

Last week's editorial cites a chapter completely dedicated to reconciliation. I can agree that the author alludes to the topic numerous times throughout the book. However, when we reach those points, Brown concludes that reconciliation is impossible—that any sort of apology will never be enough. She refuses to forgive, rather turning the apology around and asking what can be done differently the next time. (p. 109, 111) That is a constructive way to think, but not a way to forgive. For if we were to always do that, no atonement would ever be enough. It would be a constant, vicious cycle in which the quasi-victim continuously demands more and more. By any standard, that's not a solution.

There are numerous other books regarding race relations and prospective solutions that are far more productive, such as "Race and Culture" by Thomas Sowell. For that matter, our textbook, published in 1994, approaches these issues from a middle ground, giving us excerpts from both sides of the aisle. "I'm Still Here" does nothing in the way of offering solutions or insightful questions that encourage constructive discourse. Instead, it goes as far as to suggest that there is no hope. That there will always be a deficiency that will taint us. In one sense, that is correct. We will never be

See **LETTER...**pg. 5

Native Americans, religious liberty and Rick Santorum

"We came here and created a blank slate; we birthed a nation from nothing. There was nothing here. Yes, we had Native Americans, but candidly there isn't much Native American culture in American culture. It was born of the people who came here pursuing religious liberty to practice their faith, to live as they ought to live, and have the freedom to do so."



DAVID COLBURN

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, April 23 speech "The Fight for Religious Freedom" to Catholic school students

Step back for a moment, if you possibly can, from the sheer arrogance and absurdity of Rick Santorum's glorification of the architects of one of history's greatest and yet most culturally destructive experiments. Ignore, for the

moment, his dehumanizing and denigrating characterization of the rich and complex Indigenous cultures that predated the arrival of white European Christians by hundreds if not thousands of years.

Set it aside if you can, because it is but one outrageous snippet among many from a speech to young Catholics that advocates abandoning the very Constitution Santorum and his fellow Christian conservatives claim to hold so dear.

Santorum's comments above are but 30 seconds of an hour-long

exposition that I took the time to listen to in its entirety. It's a speech that lays bare the truth that for Santorum and his wing of the GOP, "the fight for religious freedom" isn't about freedom at all. It's the fight for conservative Christian dominance to the exclusion of the religious beliefs of others, including those Christians who would oppose them.

Santorum's sanitized and whitewashed version of history would have you believe that America was "born of the people who came here pursuing religious liberty to practice their faith," and

while true in the beginning for a majority of those who settled many of the northern Colonies, his omissions are glaring. He leaves out the vast numbers of people who came to the New World to seek not faith but fortune, doing so through ruthless devastation of the land's Indigenous cultures while importing British criminals sold as "servants" (estimates range as high as 120,000 such souls) and Africans sold as slaves in numbers that made them one out of every five people who lived

See **SANTORUM...**pg. 5

COVID...Continued from page 3**Relaxing masking**

The Centers for Disease Control issued revised guidance on Tuesday that permits fully vaccinated people to go maskless for many outside activities and indicated that it is “safe for those who are fully vaccinated to return to the activities they love doing inside while wearing a mask.”

A person is fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving their second shot of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines and two weeks after receiving the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The new recommendations say fully vaccinated individuals can engage in the following activities without wearing masks:

► Walking, running,

hiking or biking outdoors alone or with members of their household (also OK for unvaccinated people).

► Attending small outdoor gatherings with fully vaccinated family and friends (also OK for unvaccinated people).

► Attending small outdoor gatherings with a mixture of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

► Dining at outdoor restaurants with friends from multiple households.

Fully vaccinated people can also attend “a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event,” as long as they remain masked, according to a CDC infographic of the new guidelines.

Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm welcomed

the news.

“It’s common sense,” she said. “It’s reflecting what a lot of people are already doing. They’re just clarifying and validating what we’ve known all along. Indoors, (masking) continues to be a good idea.”

Last week, the health department allowed school athletes to begin competing without wearing masks, although they continue to have to wear them when they are not directly competing, such as a baseball team gathered in a dugout.

Bois Forte outbreak

The coronavirus was unkind in March to Ely area residents, but in April concern has shifted to the Bois Forte Reservation, where 20 new COVID cases had been reported for

the month as of Tuesday.

Midway through the month, only four cases had been recorded, all in the Vermilion sector. The counts began escalating on April 19 with three new cases, followed by four more on April 20. Nett Lake now accounts for three of the seven.

By Monday, nine more cases, all but one at Vermilion, brought the total to 20 within less than three weeks.

Having started its vaccination efforts with its elders, infections at Bois Forte mirror the state-wide experience with cases skewing toward younger age brackets. Seven cases have been identified in children age nine and younger. The others range from one teenager to two adults in

their 50s.

“Bois Forte Health is engaged in contact tracing and will follow up with those suspected of having recent contact with the individuals who tested positive,” health officials said in a Tuesday release. “The Band is coordinating with the Minnesota Department of Health regarding positive cases on-Reservation to ensure a robust and thorough public health response.”

While Bois Forte cases are reflected in the totals St. Louis County reports to the state, differences in reporting periods and lag times affect when those cases appear in the weekly cases reported each Thursday by MDH.

As of Thursday, April 22, Bois Forte cases had

yet to have an impact on zip codes monitored by the *Timberjay*. Six new cases over the prior week were reported in Ely and three new cases were identified in Tower. No new cases were reported in Orr, Cook, Soudan, or Embarrass.

As of April 21, the most current data available on the St. Louis County COVID dashboard, the seven-day average of daily cases in the northern region of the county had more than doubled in only six days, jumping from 9.7 to 23. During the same time frame the rate for the county as a whole continued a downward trend that began on April 10, dropping from 26 to 21.8.

LETTER...Continued from page 4

perfect. And if an individual or group expects perfection, they will always be dissatisfied. That’s the reality.

I’d like to address one of Mrs. Mann’s statements about the school board serving no role in curriculum decisions. Quoting MSBA/MASA Model Policy 706, section IV, “The school board may accept a gift, grant or devise of real or personal property only by the adoption of a resolution approved by two-thirds of its members. The reso-

lution must fully describe any conditions placed on the gift.” That text was quoted from a document on the district’s website and was reviewed by the board on April 12 of this year. In the Nov. 9, 2020, school board minutes, it says “10. Books from Ely Empower to be used for the library and English Department.” It is also important to note that Mrs. Mann was still on the school board and present at the meeting, via teleconference when the book

donation was approved.

My largest objection to the book is that it presents Brown’s personal experience as if it is the universal experience for ALL black people. These are her own struggles and background, but also her assumptions about others. For example, she spends a chapter talking about her workplace. She breaks the day down, and her various exchanges with managers and colleagues. Following each time-stamped descrip-

tion is an italicized sentence or two, outlining what she thinks or assumes the coworker is thinking, or what their motivation is. Speaking with such authority about what others are feeling, without actually knowing, is a tricky spot to put oneself in.

I also question the author’s tone. I’ve read enough literature to detect how an author/poet/writer feels about their topic. This memoir is no exception. I feel confident in saying that

Brown is nearly always condescending or patronizing, attitudes which just make me want to close the book.

The point of education in this country is not to create robots. Isn’t the goal to create critical thinkers? Isn’t part of our founding principles to be free to express how we feel, how we think? If the hope is that the students are just going to stay mute and comply with whatever they are taught, that isn’t the case.

That’s why my writing is on this page. Because some of us refuse to stay silent. You can agree, or you can agree to disagree. That’s how it works under our wonderful Constitution. Remember, I’m a human with an opinion, just as you have yours. This is my first editorial, and I’m sure it won’t be my last.

**Micah Larson
Junior at
Ely Memorial**

SANTORUM...Continued from page 4

in the Colonies in 1776.

Even more egregious, Santorum conveniently fails to mention that those who came seeking religious freedom were often as intolerant as the English church they sought to escape. Puritan minister Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson were banished when they questioned established practices. People were imprisoned, tortured, and executed as witches for behaviors outside the restricted religious norm, and Indigenous people were characterized as “bloodthirsty savages” by Puritans who had no qualms about killing Native women and children.

If it were true, as Santorum wrongfully claims, that there “isn’t much Native American culture in American culture,” why would that be? Because it doesn’t fit his narrative, Santorum skips over all of the well-documented history of decades of oppression intended to accomplish that objective.

Instead, he jumps ahead from the Colonies to reflect on a time when his parents were children, 1920s America, when “They grew up in an era where the country was much more affirming of the values we believe in.”

Ah, yes, the values of the 1920s, including 1926 when four out of five Native American children—about 61,000—were warehoused in 357 boarding schools and stripped of their traditional clothing, hair, personal belongings, and Native cultures in order to “Kill the Indian, Save the Man.” The 1920s, when the once nearly defunct Ku Klux Klan experienced explosive growth among white Protestant males throughout the South and Midwest by expanding its targets

beyond blacks to encompass Roman Catholics, Jews, foreigners and organized labor. Yes, those values...the ones formally embraced by five to six million Klan members, and held by many, many more Americans at that time.

Santorum’s speech to these students provides ample evidence of his belief that the country is in a spiritual war of “religious liberty” that must be won by conservative Christians by crushing the religious liberties of differing Christian sects as well as Jews, Muslims, and others.

“We’re engaged in a struggle as to where our rights come from and who controls,” Santorum said. “The fight for religious liberty is the fight for the soul of America.”

Ignoring the evidence from a 2019 Pew Research study showing that over half of Democratic voters are Christians and nine percent are members of other religions, Santorum glibly parrots the conservative line that the left is an enemy bereft of faith.

“People on the left hate competition, they like to decide and enforce,” Santorum said. “They are intolerant of other points of view. The vast majority of these people are not people of faith. They don’t want faith and freedom anymore.”

What Santorum and his like-minded lot can’t fathom, or stomach, is the fact that millions of American have thoughtfully, prayerfully found that their faith in God embraces practices Santorum roundly rejects. And in the truest form of intolerance exhibited by his colonial forebearers, Santorum would legislatively force his religious beliefs on all, the complete antithesis of

“religious liberty.”

It runs exactly counter to what Santorum said in the very same speech about why people came to America.

“Why did they come? They came because they saw freedom, but also the ability to live their lives and to practice what their conscience tells them,” Santorum said. Yet he would readily legislate away that precious practice of conscience from those who don’t share his beliefs.

It also runs counter to the document he professes to hold so dear, the Constitution. Santorum would like for folks to forget part of what the Founding Fathers so thoughtfully embedded in the First Amendment.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” it reads, and it’s that last part he so blithely ignores, and wants others to as well. Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion. THAT, not the nonsense Santorum spews forth, is religious liberty. Note that the Founding Fathers explicitly

chose the word “religion” and not “Christianity.” Conservatives who have long harped on the idea that the Constitution should be interpreted in the plain language it is written in should take note and back away from their misguided attempts to establish their own religious beliefs as the law of the land. Doing so is, in plain language, unconstitutional, denying others of differing beliefs the “free exercise” of their religions.

Santorum would do well to study the words of one of those he held in such high esteem, the Puritan minister and leader Roger Williams.

“God requires not a uniformity of religion to be enacted and enforced in any civil state, which enforced uniformity (sooner or later) is the greatest occasion of civil war, ravishing of conscience, persecution of Christ Jesus and his servants, and of hypocrisy and destruction of millions of souls,” Willams wrote. “Forced worship stinks in God’s nostrils.”

The Puritans expelled Williams because they could not tolerate his faithful criticism of their

maltreatment of Native Americans and the theft of their lands, a colonial Christian example of “It’s my way or the highway.”

Winston Churchill famously said, “Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” The revelation and study of our historical shortcomings are not intended to tarnish the nation’s legacy, they are intended to preserve its

future. Santorum’s willfully incomplete, mythical, whitewashed view of history leads nowhere other than conflict and strife, and in quite the opposite direction from the “religious liberty” so plainly defined by the authors of the Constitution.

the
TIMBERJAY

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NOTICE

CITY of TOWER



The City of Tower will be
**FLUSHING
HYDRANTS**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5
Starting at 9 AM

**Residents should expect
discolored water.**

Subscribe Online at
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Week of May 3

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 May 18.

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.

Indian Taco fundraiser on Saturday, May 1

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Lake Vermilion Traditional Pow Wow committee is hosting an Indian Taco Fundraiser on Saturday, May 1 at the Y Store parking lot from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., or until gone. Cost is \$7 per taco. All proceeds will go towards funding the pow wow which will be held June 25-27 on the Lake Vermilion Pow Wow grounds.

Special music at St. James on Sunday, May 2

TOWER- Greg Kuchan, on guitar, and his wife Denice, on electric drums, will accompany vocalists Kathy Siskar and JoAnne Connell singing an "oldie goldie," Bind Us Together, on Sunday, May 2 at 10 a.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. Greg and Denice have been bringing special music to the Sunday Service for some time now and the congregation of St. James invites friends and community members to come and enjoy the uplifting music.

BREITUNG TOWNSHIP
Clean-up Days set in Breitung for May 10, 12

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA
Staff Writer

SOUDAN- Breitung is continuing its spring cleaning tradition, setting Clean Up Days for Monday and Wednesday, May 10 and 12. During clean up days Breitung maintenance workers will transport yard waste, appliances, scrap metal, and tires, free of charge, to the canister site.

Residents must call Breitung Town Hall at 218-753-6020 or email the clerk at clerk@breitungtownship.org to arrange a pick-up, or if they have any questions. Maintenance workers will be collecting neatly-piled items from the curb or alley. Limited amounts of brush will be accepted.

No garbage, batteries, paints, or hazardous waste will be accepted. If you do have hazardous waste, residents are asked to bring it to the Soudan Canister on Wednesday, June 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a special household hazardous waste collection day. If you can't make it that day, household hazardous



waste is collected year-round at the Virginia Regional Landfill; call 218-741-8831 for more information.

Other business

In other business at their April 22 meeting, the board:

- Delayed a decision on whether the annual community picnic will be held. The picnic is normally held the weekend of July 4. Last year the picnic was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The board may choose to postpone the picnic until late

summer.

- Paid the remaining balance of \$10,801.58 to Mesabi Bituminous for work completed at the Breitung Community Center.

- Heard that McKinley Park will be purchasing five new picnic tables, one of which is handicap accessible.

- Will keep the Breitung Township office closed to the end of May.

- Heard from the Breitung/Tower Police Committee that they were exploring several options and researching liability issues.

- Will not advertise the open position of Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the *Duluth News Tribune* or *Mesabi Daily Tribune* due to prohibitive cost and will advertise solely on the Minnesota POST Board.

- Gave \$1,000 and a letter of support to be part of a Northern Minnesota Mine Tour, a proj-

ect that is in its early stages and is spearheaded by Community and Economic Development Associates, Visit Grand Rapids, Iron Range Tourism, Itasca County Historical Society, ARDC, and Club Mesabi and Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour. The tour would include thirty communities and mines, enhance the mining tourism, and preserve history.

- Spent \$5,095 on a new ballot counter. The one the township had been using was so old it was no longer serviceable.

- Approved paying Green Again Lawn and Landscaping of Hibbing for herbicide applications to the baseball field, monument area, volleyball court and park pavilion for a total cost of \$1,182.

- The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, May 27 at noon. The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will be Tuesday, May 18 from 1 to 2 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Civic Club cancels Memorial Day Service due to COVID restrictions; Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast also off

TOWER- The Tower Soudan Civic Club regretfully announces that they will not be sponsoring the Memorial Day Celebration or the July 4th pancake breakfast due to COVID restrictions. It is impossible to maintain safe distancing in the Civic Center for these functions. Thank you for your understanding.

Baby Shower for Life-Fill the Bassinet

TOWER- The St. Martin's Catholic Church Quilt Ministry is once again partnering with the Women's Care Center in Duluth. Quilters have been busy making quilts for them, but they have more needs. During the month of May, the quilt ministry group is sponsoring a Baby Shower for Life. All items and money donated will be given to the Women's Care Center. We spoke with The Crib Club manager to identify their specific needs:

Travel size lotions, hand sanitizers; chap sticks; gifts for our mothers; infant hygiene products (lotion, sunscreen, shampoo); outfits of any size, summer/fall (9 mo. to 12 mo. most needed); infant/toddler toys; infant carriers; hooded towels and washcloths; Boppy pillows and covers; Bumby seats; infant play mats; crib sheets; and diapers.

Donations may be placed in the bassinet located at the front entrance of the church, or dropped off at the rectory. Help us fill the bassinet for the Women's Care Center! Questions may be directed to Maryann at 753-4310.

When we visited with the staff at the Women's Care Center, they told us that they never have enough diapers! Diapers

are used as incentive gifts for the mothers-to-be. Our goal is to send diapers to them every other month. Would you be willing to donate to St. Martin's Diaper Club? If so, make a check payable to St. Martin's and make a note that it is for the Diaper Club and we'll take care of the rest.

When you are in Duluth, the Women's Care Center invites you to stop by. They will gladly give you a tour and answer any questions you have about the center and the work they do.

T-S Community Band seeking players for Fourth of July parade

TOWER-SOUDAN- We're putting the Tower-Soudan Community Band back together. The Fourth of July Committee has asked if the band can play for the parade this year, because they are expecting that high school bands will not be playing.

The plan is to play a few tunes in front of Tower City Hall (including The Star Spangled Banner) and then to ride and play on a flat-bed truck in the front of parade so band members can rejoin their families to watch the rest of the parade.

Please dig out your instrument and recruit others! If any questions, please text or call 218-393-2036, or email enorberg14@gmail.com. Please join the Band for a fun time!

Tower sets clean up days for May 10 and 12

TOWER- City of Tower residents are being asked to do their part in cleaning up the city. City maintenance crews and volunteers will be picking up brush, bagged yard waste, and old appliances on May 10 and 12. Neatly piled and bagged items should be left alongside the alley. No garbage will be collected, but litter collected from roadsides, alleys, and vacant lots can be bagged and left out for

collection.

Vermilion Lake Cemetery work day rescheduled to May 1

VERMILION LAKE TWP- Vermilion Lake Township is hosting their annual Community Work Day at the Vermilion Lake Township Cemetery, 6499 Wahlsten Road, on Saturday, May 1 beginning at 1 p.m. (The date was rescheduled due to poor weather last Saturday.) Help is needed to straighten headstones and raise grave markers. Many hands will make quick work of the project. The township has only a few tools. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own shovels, etc. If you have any questions, please call Sarah Schmidt at 218-750-2425, Phil Anderson at 218-749-3462, or Frank Zobitz at 651-755-5946.

Little Church Committee to meet Saturday, May 8

VERMILION LAKE TWP- The Little Church quarterly business meeting will begin on Saturday, May 8 at 10 a.m. The group welcomes anyone and is looking for people interested in keeping The Little Church preserved and maintained in our community. The meeting will include a discussion of the last year's work projects, plus election of officers. Masks and social distancing will be advised. The Little Church is located in Vermilion Lake Township on Cty. Rd. 26/Wahlsten Rd. Any questions, contact Len Hujanen at 218-749-2014.

NER Nighthawks baseball in Soudan

SOUDAN- The Northeast Range baseball team will be playing at the Soudan field (weather-permitting) on the following dates:

Thursday, April 29 at 4 p.m.

against Cook County

Thursday, May 6 at 4:30 p.m. against Chisholm

Monday, May 10 at 4:30 p.m. against Nashwauk-Keewatin

Thursday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m. against Silver Bay

Parade float registrations required by May 8 to see if there is enough interest to hold a parade

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board is hoping that there will be a parade on the Fourth of July this year. With the COVID-19 restrictions being loosened, and more citizens getting vaccinated, things are getting closer to "back to normal."

But for the parade to happen, the TSLVEB needs to get the public involved now!

The board needs to hear from all businesses, families, organizations, and individuals who plan on having an entry in the parade. The level of interest shown by all of you will be the deciding factor on whether or not a parade will happen.

Everyone who wants to participate in the parade this year should contact Julie Johnson at tseventsboard@gmail.com, or by phone/text at 218-750-7242 by May 8. This is the deadline the board has set to allow time to get all the aspects of the parade in place for Sunday, July 4.

Fireworks are being planned for Saturday, July 3.

Subscribe

(218) 753-2950

Breitung Clean-Up Days

Monday, May 10 & Wednesday, May 12

Maintenance Workers will pick up specified items for **FREE DISPOSAL** (anything that doesn't cost money at the dump)



All items must be separated and bagged or piled as directed and placed on the curb.

Absolutely no household garbage will be accepted!

Clean Yard Waste (in bags, no glass, no rocks, etc.)
White Goods (old refrigerators or stoves - doors must be removed from refrigerators), Scrap Metal (pile in a pile)
Car & Pick-up Truck Tires (24" or smaller)
No Batteries, Paints or Hazardous Waste

Please place all items **ON THE CURB.**

Residents must call Breitung Town Hall at 753-6020 or email the clerk at clerk@breitungtownship.org to arrange pick-up or with questions.

Northeast Range High School Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Grade 12
Ariel Kalinowski
Oskar Koivisto
Alexia Lightfeather
Phoebe Morgan
Sadie Theel
Ethan Zaitz
James Zupancich

Grade 11

Audrey Anderson
Erin Backe
Joscelyn LaSart
Thia Lossing
Markus Maki
Rylan Poppenhagen
Hannah Reichensperger

Grade 10

Mariah DeJoode
Kassidy Turner
Jonathan Zaitz
Grade 8
Luca Brown
Adeline Klatt

Grade 7

Hannah Aldrich
Nevaeh Evridge
Mabry Ohm

B Honor Roll

Grade 12
Anne Barich
Christopher Ferguson
Isaac Hendrickson
Luther Johnson
Willa Koivisto
Bralyn Lislegard
Gracie Sperling

Grade 11

Wyatt Gorsma
Amara Lampton
Alysia Miller
Jenna Smith
Calvin Winger

Grade 10

Michele Buckanaga
Morgan Bush
Layne Kaufenberg
Jacob Mackai
Logan Meskill
Jennie Nelson
Elaina Swanson
Emily Westvik

Grade 9

Natalie Backe
Aubree Gerlovich
Abby Koivisto
Zander Lislegard
Mikko Maki
Ruby Milton

Grade 8

Noah Backe
Joshua Burton
Kyle Kratz
Greyson Reichensperger
Danica Sundblad
Maizy Sundblad
Ian Sundsahl

Grade 7

Chloe Adkisson
Makana Bodas
Avery Buschman
Tuuli Koivisto
Brody Lindquist

HIGHER EDUCATION

Diesslins endow stock to VCC Foundation

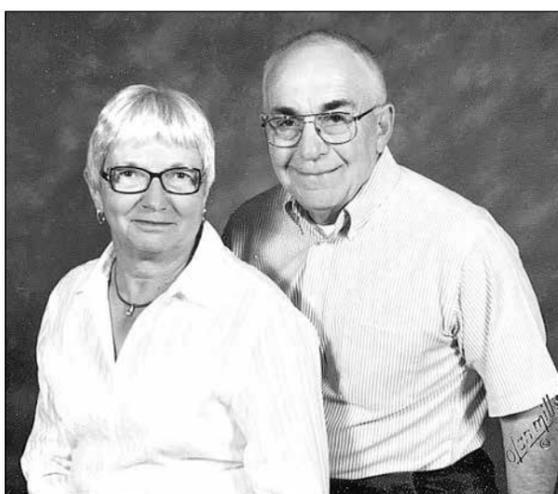
ELY - Local educators and long-time community service members, Blaine "Butch" Diesslin and Lucille "Lucy" Barnes Diesslin recently made a significant gift of stock to endow a scholarship with the Vermilion Community College Foundation.

When asked why they made the decision to give a large gift to establish an endowment, Butch Diesslin said, "A major reason for my endowing a scholarship at VCC is my receiving scholarships when I was in college. I am the second oldest child in a family with eight children. I received a 'Tuition and Fees' scholarship when I was earning my Bachelor's Degree at Mankato State College (now Minnesota State-Mankato). Over the years, I was able to save and invest a portion of earnings while I was employed. Now that I am comfortably retired, I've reached a point where I want to give back to others that want a college education by endowing two scholarships, one at VCC and one at UW-Superior."

Butch Diesslin made his first trip to Ely at the age of 15, as a member of a Boy Scout Explorer Post in St. Paul, to go on a canoe trip through the Region Ten Canoe Base, now known as the Northern Tier High Adventure Canoe Base.

It would be the beginning of a life-long commitment to the area. "I was the youngest, smallest, lightest and weakest member of the group," he said. "I couldn't carry a canoe on portages and could only carry the smallest and lightest pack in our outfitting set. My greatest asset was my experience in campfire cooking for our group."

He returned two years later, after getting slightly taller, much stronger, able to flip and carry a canoe,



Blaine "Butch" and Lucille "Lucy" Diesslin recently made a \$100,000 gift of stock for a scholarship to the Vermilion Community College Foundation. submitted photo

and paddle and steer the canoe. Diesslin learned about a three-week training available for Scouts interested in working as staff members and guides for the following summer. He successfully completed the training and worked as a wilderness guide summers throughout college.

Butch Diesslin is a St. Paul Johnson High School graduate and participated in an accelerated science and mathematics curriculum of the St. Paul Public Schools. He attended Mankato State College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education with a Major in Mathematics and a Minor in Physics.

After he began teaching, he continued to be a summer staff member at the Scout base here as a staff trainer and summer maintenance supervisor. Diesslin also continued his support of the base serving as a member of the Northern Tier National High Adventure Base Advisory Committee of the Boy Scouts of America from 1983-2020.

Diesslin taught junior high and high school math-

ematics, physics and physical science in various schools around the state. He was a participating student in a National Science Foundation Academic Year Institute of Graduate Studies in Physics Education at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and received his Masters of Science in Teaching degree in 1971.

His opportunity to teach at the college level came in 1973, as a temporary full-time employee for one quarter upon the sudden death of the Vermilion State Junior College physics instructor. His teaching skill and experience led him to a permanent faculty position.

During his tenure at VCC, Diesslin developed an Introduction to Astronomy course as a general education elective, and introduced personal computers (Apple, IBM PC, and Atari) into the facilities of the college. This also necessitated having a computer maintenance person on staff. He completed training courses in computer maintenance, repair and the college's local area network (LAN).

"I completed additional coursework to be able to develop and teach the college's Introduction to Computers computer use and literacy course, which became a mandatory course when not everyone owned or used a computer," he said.

In addition to his contributions to education in the Ely area, Diesslin has also served as a member of the Ely-Bloomensen Hospital Community Liaison Committee for more than 15 years and served as a board member of the hospital board of directors. He served on the Dorothy Molter Museum board since the early days of the organization and served as president for more than a decade, and has been an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Ely for many years.

It was during his time taking additional graduate studies in computer science at Bemidji State University that Butch met Lucy Barnes. The two had a lot in common: mathematics, teaching and a love of education.

Lucille "Lucy" Barnes Diesslin earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Winona State University, majoring in Mathematics. Lucy taught junior high and high school Mathematics in Highland and Lake Geneva, Wis., and St. Anthony Village, Minn. prior to meeting and marrying Butch and moving to Ely in 1983.

Lucy was a member of the faculty at Ely High School and retired after 38 years of teaching at the end of the 1998-1999 school year. Lucy volunteered as a tutor for the after school "Homework Club" for 15 years.

Lucy also served as a volunteer board member of Northwoods Partners,

is a member of the Ely Branch of the American Association of University Woman and continues to volunteer at the special events of Ely Community Resource. Lucy has also established a scholarship at Winona State University and has also contributed to the funding and endowing of the VCC Diesslin Scholarship.

When learning of the gift, Interim Provost Chris Koivisto said, "Butch and Lucy have long been strong supporters of Vermilion and our work to make the educational dreams and aspirations of students a reality. Butch's service to the college began in 1972 when he joined the Vermilion faculty and it continued into retirement as a member of the Vermilion Advisory Board. Butch and Lucy's generous gift to the Vermilion Foundation is the latest addition to their legacy of support for higher education, Vermilion, and the larger Ely community. On behalf of Vermilion, we cannot thank Butch and Lucy enough for their generosity and unwavering support. Gifts of scholarship mean more than ever to our students in these difficult times."

There are many ways to support the students of Vermilion Community College. Gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares can be a tax-advantaged way to provide immediate support for Vermilion. Gifts of any size benefit students, faculty and unique programs. As with any gift to Vermilion, supporters may direct gifts to a specific degree program.

For more information, please visit <https://www.vcc.edu/ways-to-give> or contact Sarah Guy-Levar at sarah.guy-levar@vcc.edu or 218-235-2166.

Star Wars trivia at Ely Public Library

ELY - Get your blaster out and brush up on your Star Wars Trivia. The Ely Public Library will be hosting an online Kahoot! trivia game on the topic of the Star Wars movies on Tuesday, May 4. (May the Fourth be with you!)

Call the Ely library to register at 218-365-5140.

Tuesday Group

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

► **May 4** - Ranae Hanson - Author, Watershed: Attending to Body and Earth in Distress

► **May 11** - Sherry Abts - Living With Loons

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



five-fifteen wake up distant 'who-ing' from outside nature's bird alarm

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

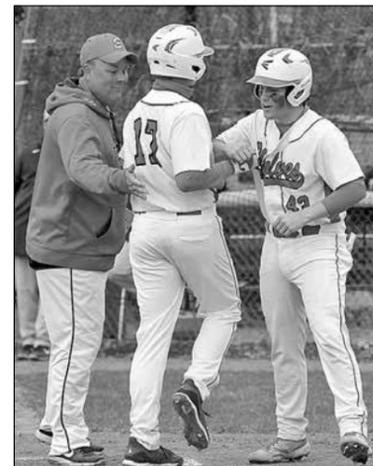
Monday Noon-6 pm
Tuesday Noon-6 pm
Wednesday Noon-6 pm
Thursday Noon-6 pm
Friday Noon-5 pm
Phone: 827-3345

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.
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS: Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely; 4th Monday of Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at Ely-Bloomenson Hospital Conference Room B

First home run for Towley

Ely Memorial High School baseball player junior Jacob Towley (17) was congratulated by Timberwolves teammate Will Davies (43) last Friday afternoon after hitting a home run in the first inning against North Woods at Veterans Memorial Field. Timberwolves assistant coach, and Towley's stepfather, Tom Coombe, also congratulated the player. The homer easily cleared the left-center-field fence and traveled an estimated 380 feet. "That was Jacob's first swing of the season," said his mother, Hollee Coombe. photo by K. Vandervort



Arbor Day in Ely will be celebrated on Saturday

ELY - The Tree Board here is marking Arbor Day on Saturday, May 1 with a family-friendly event.

Meet at Whiteside Park at 9 a.m. for a briefing on tree mulching and the new watering systems available for trees. Participants will divide into teams and be assigned mulching duty for a series of newly-planted trees around town. They will then gather back at Whiteside Park at about 11:30 a.m. for lunch (no charge), compliments of the Northland Foundation Age-to-Age program.

A young Tree Brigade member will read the Arbor Day Proclamation to mark the day.

Ely Police Department Activity Report - April 1-15, 2021

Arrests/Citations

► **Traffic Stop-** Officers issued an individual a citation for Driving after Revocation.
► **Traffic Stop-** Individual arrested for 2nd Degree DWI and unsafe equipment.

Complaints

► **Suspicious Activity-** Officers were contacted about an individual yelling near a vehicle. Officers located the individual who was upset he ran out of gas. Officers assisted the individual to get gas.
► **Garbage-** Officers contacted an individual about having garbage in their yard. The individual agreed to clean it up.
► **Civil Issue-** Officers were contacted about a landlord dispute. Officers assisted the individual.
► **Child Neglect-** Officers were contacted about a parked vehicle that had children in it. The vehicle had left

the area before officers arrived.
► **Public Assist-** Officers assisted an individual back into their residence.
► **Disturbance-** Officers were contacted about two individuals arguing. Officers mediated the situation.
► **Loud Music-** Officers were contacted about a vehicle that had loud music. Officers contacted the driver and the music was turned down.
► **Disturbance-** Officers were contacted about two individuals arguing. Officers mediated the situation.
► **Motor Vehicle Crash-** Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash. No injuries were reported.
► **Animal Disturbance-** Officers were contacted about a dog that was running loose. Officers brought the dog to doggy jail until the owner bailed them out.
► **Disturbance-** Officers were contact-

ed about two vehicles driving around pulling into driveways. Officers located the vehicles and determined the vehicles were trying to find friends.
► **Scam-** Officers were contacted by an individual that was scammed. Officers provided the individual with a case number per their request.
► **Theft-** Officers were contacted about an employee that was stealing property. This case is under investigation.
► **Harassment-** Officers were contacted about an individual being harassed. This case is under investigation.
► **Disturbance-** Officers were contacted about two individuals arguing. Officers mediated the situation.
► **Check Hazard-** Officers located garbage in the roadway that was removed.
► **Motor Vehicle Crash-** Officers were called to a vehicle that hit

a fire hydrant. The vehicle received minor damage.
► **Assist Other Agency-** Officers assisted a neighboring agency with an assault.
► **Public Assist-** Individual fingerprinted for employment.
► **Smoke-** Officers were contacted about smoke that had a red glow. Officers determined this to be fog and a street light.
► **DOA-** Officers responded to an individual that was deceased.
► **Shoplifter-** Officers were contacted about a shoplifter. This case is under investigation.
► **Trespass -** Officers were contacted about two individuals inside of the vacant Tanner Hospital building. This case is pending charges.
► **Check Welfare-** Officers were contacted to check on an individual. Officers located the individual who needed medical attention. The Ely Ambulance transported the individual to the

hospital.
► **Open Door-** Officers located an open door on a local business. The door was locked.
► **Suspicious activity-** Officers were contacted about two individuals looking inside windows. This happened several hours before being reported.
► **Mental Health-** Officers were contacted about an individual that was acting manic. Officers were able to calm the individual down and determined they were not a harm to themselves or others.
► **Public Assist-** Officers assisted an individual back into their residence.
► **Medical-** Officers assisted the Ely Ambulance with a medical.
► **Check Welfare-** Officers were contacted to check on an intoxicated individual. Officers determined that the individual was able to care for themselves.

Dual displays going up at Northwoods gallery

Month-long exhibit to feature work of quilt and fabric artist

COOK- Barbara Reed Schroeder will be the featured artist in May at Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery in Cook, located next to Dream Weaver Salon at 210 S River Street.

Schroeder plays with fabric and especially loves combining vibrant colors and textural design to create exciting effects within the overall design of her quilts. In 2019, her "Vintage Rose" quilt won third place at the Minnesota State Fair quilt competition. Barb lives in Lake City and frequently visits the Cook area.

Schroeder began making quilts for her family and friends when she took her first "how to

make a quilt" class during the 1976 Bicentennial Quilt Revival. Since her family members have all "dressed" their beds and walls many times over with her quilts, she has recently started using fabric to make bags and other smaller items that still give her the opportunity to play with fabric —just don't ask her to make a buttonhole!

The gallery is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The display will be featured in the back room of the NWFA Gallery called "The Wolfe Den", in memory of artist, Sue Wolfe.



Barbara Reed Schroeder, of Lake City, displays her award-winning Vintage Rose quilt. Schroeder will be the featured artist of the month in May at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery. Also on display will be entries in the "Finding Light" photo contest.

Photo voting opens on May 6

COOK- The "Finding Light" photo contest exhibit is going up and will be open for viewing at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery beginning Thursday, May 6.

Visit the gallery, enjoy the artwork in front, and vote for your favorite photo in The Wolfe Den in the back room. The "people's choice" winning photo will be awarded \$100 and the runner-up will receive \$50.

Some contest photographs will be on sale, but must remain in the gallery until the close of the contest on May 29.

There will be celebrating with publicity when the contest winners are announced but there will be no reception.

Cheney a cosplay favorite

COOK- In the fanciful world of cosplay, North Woods student Hannah Cheney is a standout, enough so that she was a CosPlay Popular Vote winner in a virtual contest held Saturday in conjunction with the GigaZone Gaming Championships sponsored by Paul Bunyan Communications.

The virtual championships were conducted over three consecutive Saturdays. Three cosplay participants claimed first, second, and third places with cash awards, and Cheney was one of two popular vote winners who received \$200 each.

"What an incredible job our team has done in pivoting to a virtual event this year. I'm very proud of all the hard work and dedication put in to provide these three weekends of online gaming fun for the region," said Gary Johnson, Paul Bunyan Communications CEO/General Manager. "This one-of-a-kind regional gaming event was free to play or watch and was held virtually due to the pandemic. It showcased Paul Bunyan Communications' IT and web development team which custom built and integrated much of the online technology to make the virtual



Hannah Cheney

event possible."

Cosplay is an activity and performance art that is a contraction of the words "costume play." According to Wikipedia, cosplayers wear costumes and

accessories to represent a specific character. Cosplay applies to any costumed role playing in venues other than on stage, including virtual environments.

PRECOCIOUS POETS



North Woods School third-grade students in the classes of Denise Parson (top) and Debra Johnson recently became published poets. Each student followed a six-step process to write a poem and create an illustration for it. The collective works were compiled and published in book form.

submitted photos

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

Graduation questions are answered

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP- Many questions regarding events at school have come up this year. We have had to alter how we handle nearly everything that happens due to COVID, from school lunch to sporting events and everything in between. As spring arrives and things seem to "loosen up," we are being asked by the Health Department to proceed with caution. I agree that many of us are at a point where we really want this pandemic to be over with.

North Woods School, along with all other public schools in Minnesota, is required to comply with the guidance given by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Education when it comes to events. You may have heard that the MSHSL (Minnesota State High School League), the entity that governs high school sports, proposed to MDH on April 16 that outdoor sports no longer need

masks, except in the dug-out for baseball and softball. It was approved last week, so now the change is in effect.

With graduation coming on June 4, the Senior Class Advisors have started planning the ceremony for the Class of 2021. Here is an overview using questions that have been asked thus far:

Q: Last year, graduation was outside. Are we able to have graduation inside this year?

A: Yes, graduation will be held inside in the gym this year. The guidance allows indoor graduation ceremonies based on 50 percent of the capacity of the space.

Q: Do we have to wear masks?

A: Yes, masks are still required for indoor public spaces.

Q: Do we have to be socially distanced?

A: Yes, we need to socially distance during the ceremony similarly to what indoor sports were

this winter. The bleachers will be available as well as folding chairs on the gym floor. The chairs on the floor will be set up in pods of four and spaced accordingly so that family groups may sit together. Those families who sit in the bleachers will do their best to keep space between themselves.

Q: How many guests can attend?

A: Each graduate can have four guests. This way, we are able to stay within the guidelines for the number of people our facility will hold.

Q: What if we have more family members who want to attend?

A: We are limited to four due to the rules that we must follow. If things loosen up by June 4, we will let our graduates know and change the requirements accordingly.

Q: Why don't we have it outside again so that we can have more people?

A: Last year, we were still somewhat limited in

terms of numbers of people due to the number of vehicles we could fit in the parking lot. Additionally, it required a great deal of extra logistical work to pull it off in terms of equipment needed and planning/preparation. The weather is also an issue. If the weather does not cooperate, we need to have an indoor ceremony as a backup plan too. So, it is, in a nutshell, much easier to plan an indoor ceremony.

Q: If part of our family cannot attend, is there a way we can watch the ceremony through a live-feed or streaming service?

A: Yes, the plan is to broadcast the graduation ceremony. The platform that we use will be communicated when we figure out exactly how this will look.

The nuts and bolts of it is that we are having what should ultimately be a fairly "normal" graduation ceremony this year, and for that I am thankful!

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EATS...Continued from page 1

rant with his wife, Angie. "No other region is known for using sugar maple for smoke. We had already decided we're going to bring in traditional hickory wood, and then we grabbed some Minnesota-grown oak and sugar maple and just started messing with it until we got the blend that we wanted. That first bite, you can taste just a little bit of sweetness, but it's not overly sweet. And then as you eat it you get just a little bit of tingle on your lips and tongue from the peppers that are in our rub, but it's not overwhelming."

The Blakes both have small business experience but have never run a restaurant. However, they have at least two things working in their favor for this venture.

The first is Eric's 15-plus years of smoking meats, and while he's not entered any barbecue cook-offs, his reputation is renowned in his Virginia neighborhood.

"Every time we fire up that smoker in our yard it looks like a little suburb of the Twin Cities," he laughed. "Everybody's there - 'The Drakes are barbecuing!'"

The second is their primary chef and manager, Jacob Dibble, who brings culinary expertise and a creative flair to the restaurant's menu.

"He's brought in some of the recipes, and when he comes into a place he likes to just be around the owners and the people involved and listen," Eric said. "And then he just takes a day when he's putting the menu together and comes up with little things that he catches from listening."

That's why there are items on the menu like Ryno's Trapper 'Stravaganza, a rib meat/brisket combo sandwich named after Eric and Angie's son Ryan, who just happens to love trapping.

Ribs appear to be the star of the show so far, as Neighbor's has sold out or come close to doing so nearly every night. If you like sauce, there's a tangy house version, and for something out of the ordinary, try the espresso barbecue sauce.

"I never envisioned it being like this," Eric said. "We're blessed that we're supported like this. The word's out on the ribs. We

had to do a second batch yesterday because we ran out of the first. If you come in at 7:30 or 8 p.m. on a Saturday night, odds are we're not going to have a whole lot left."

The menu has the variety of meats people expect when they come to a barbecue place, and smoking it all keeps the 500-lb-capacity commercial smoker going about 15 hours a day.

"We throw our pork butts and briskets in at night when they close the kitchen. When the morning crew gets here they pull that out and put the ribs in, and as soon as the ribs are done then we pull them and get the chicken in there," Eric said. "Then we use the smoker as a big holding oven."

Working out the kinks

Like any new business, the Drakes have been making changes as they go along, looking at what does and doesn't work to satisfy the demand for their food.

When they opened, a full breakfast menu was offered, but that's been discontinued. Eric said it took

too much time and effort away from the challenge of prepping for lunch and dinner.

Instead of breakfast, early risers can now stop in for specialty coffee concoctions and whatever homemade pastry or baked goods Angie has whipped up for the day.

Grandma Beethe's Potato Salad, a treasured old family recipe, has also gone by the wayside as too time-consuming to prepare in the mass quantity the restaurant needs.

The competing demands of restaurant diners and take-out orders were creating challenges for timely service and product availability, so the Drakes made the choice to try to prioritize in-house diners during their busiest times. If a call-in order fits in, they'll take it, but a caller during the busiest times may well be asked to call back a half-hour later to see where things stand, Eric said.

Filling out the staff with experienced workers has also been tough, Eric said.

"Some of the people we have waiting tables,

it's the first time they've ever waited a table in their life, and they never got the chance to ease into it," he said. "This is our first time doing a restaurant and we're all new together. We try our hardest, but I know we're not going to please everybody. Just this past week we're finally getting people with experience applying and we've got a couple of those hired, so hopefully that will help get everything smoothed out."

What's in a name?

Neighbor's is, well, a right neighborly name for a barbecue place, but like many of the menu items, there's a personal connection that adds special meaning to the name for Eric.

"This old boy from LA, as he called it, Lower Alabama, used to come up every year bird hunting with my uncle," Eric said. "He couldn't remember everybody's name that he met, so he just called everybody neighbor."

Eric tried for years to get him to reveal his secret barbecue sauce recipe without success, until one morning he told Eric they had to run to town.

"He said, 'Neighbor, I'm going to get the ingredients for that barbecue sauce and show you how to make it today,'" Eric said. "I wrote it all down and I've had it ever since. And I've never shared it with anyone. I thought I'd give him a little recognition by calling this Neighbor's."

And if you're serving Minnesota-style barbecue, it's only right to try to purchase other items that come from Minnesota, Eric said, like many of the spirits and beers on tap at the bar. The restaurant's extensive wine list reaches far beyond the state's borders, however, with most available by the glass or bottle.

Neighbor's BBQ opens at 6 a.m. on Tuesdays and closes after lunch at 1 p.m. Wednesday through Friday they're open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., but the kitchen closes at 9 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays the restaurant opens at 11 a.m. The kitchen closes at 9 p.m. on Saturday and 8 p.m. on Sunday.

More information about Neighbor's BBQ can be found on their Facebook page, or by calling 218-749-2271.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

partial paid on-call schedule.

But after the Tower ambulance missed the April 21 call, the council was convinced that it was time to adopt a written on-call schedule, at least on a pilot basis while the city waits for the completion of a business plan and a rural ambulance analysis by the Emergency Medical Services Review Board, or EMSRB.

The change could pose a challenge for the ambulance service, given that it is currently reliant on a small handful of EMTs to respond to calls. The service is training several new Emergency Medical Responders, or EMRs, but each call requires at least one EMT, and the service currently has fewer than half a dozen. Ranua noted that two of Tower's former EMTs have since left for Ely, which now pays EMTs \$18 an hour, compared to the \$11.50 currently paid by Tower. "That may have been the reason we didn't have an EMT available," said Ranua. In the end, it was the Ely ambulance that responded to the April 21 call.

The change in staffing method will increase personnel costs for the Tower ambulance, since it would require the service to pay for two on-call staff members 24 hours a day. City officials had explored adopting a pay structure similar to Cook and Orr, where on-call personnel are paid \$3-\$4 an hour, depending on their classification, in order to control costs. But that proposal met resistance from current staff, who have become accustomed to the higher pay (\$10.50 for EMRs, \$11.50 for EMTs) adopted by the former ambulance director back in 2018 when the partial paid on-call system went into effect.

Implementing a full on-call schedule at the current pay rate is expected to cost \$200,000 a year, said Ranua, which is almost certain to push the service's total payroll to over \$250,000 a year. By contrast, the service spent a total of \$240,000 for all of its expenses in 2017, the year before the paid on-call system took effect. Total payroll costs for ambulance personnel that year were a comparatively

modest \$93,000. In 2020, the ambulance service spent \$127,960 for on-call staff.

Adding to the personnel costs is a change in the pay structure for staff. While the staff will continue to receive the current rate of pay for all on-call hours they sign up for, they will now begin to receive additional "activation pay" when they are actually responding to a call. That higher pay rate is one way the city is hoping to protect itself from overtime liability. The ambulance service has been limiting staff to 40 hours per week, to avoid having to pay overtime, but the shift to a full on-call schedule may not be possible without allowing some EMTs to incur overtime hours, at least at present. City officials are hoping the higher activation pay will provide them a stronger argument that the on-call personnel aren't subject to overtime pay requirements, although that is one of only several factors at issue in such claims.

One other factor that could work to the city's advantage is the extremely low utilization rate for its on-call ambulance staff. Ranua noted that in the last pay period, out of 220 hours of paid on-call time, on-call staff responded to zero calls. While that was unusual, the utilization rate has consistently run under ten percent, which means a staff member who is paid for 40 hours a week, typically works, and generates revenue for the service, no more than four hours per week. Overtime claims in court are typically bolstered when on-call times are frequently interrupted

by call-backs to work, so the low utilization rate in Tower would tend to work against overtime claims.

The higher personnel costs are likely to strain the city's budget, at least in the longer term. While Ranua said the city can cover some of the additional costs for a while, she said ambulance service revenues are unlikely to cover the increased expense.

Council member Dave Setterberg seemed more optimistic and pushed to adopt the new on-call schedule, and suggested the new structure be adopted on a pilot basis, rather than interim. "That way, if it's working, we just go with it," he said.

While the proposal will raise the pay of on-call ambulance staff, it may also eventually come with a requirement that all staff sign up for a minimum number of hours on the schedule. City staff had proposed requiring at least 24 hours per month to maintain active status. At the current utilization rate for on-call hours, a member of the ambulance staff who signed up for 24 hours in a month would be paid about \$250-\$300, depending on their classification, and could expect to be dispatched on one or two calls per month. Currently, the service maintains a requirement for members to respond to 18 runs per year to maintain active status.

But Setterberg said he was concerned requiring ambulance staff to sign up for at least 24 hours per month could cause some members to quit and argued for a lesser requirement. In the end, the council set

no minimum for now, but will wait to see how staff responds.

While the council approved the switch to a written on-call schedule, they also approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to research options for covering the anticipated deficits in the ambulance budget. Council members Joe Morin, Kevin Norby, and ambulance director Dena Suihkonen will serve on the committee.

In other action, the council

► Approved a \$3,950 agreement with Becher Hoppe Associates to conduct an independent estimate of anticipated fees for an airport master plan. The independent analysis is required by the Federal Aviation Administration for funding master plans, and the cost of the estimate is covered by the FAA. The city is planning to develop a master plan for the airport, taking advantage of the current 100 percent reimbursement by the FAA as part of COVID relief.

► Approved a bid of \$123,212 from Parson Electric for the installation of Precision Path Approach Indicator, or PAPI, lights at the airport, with the cost to be reimbursed at 100 percent by the FAA. The city will also rely on an entitlement transfer of

up to \$100,000 from the Longville airport, to pay for the cost. The city will repay that entitlement using its own allotment of FAA dollars in 2022.

► Approved allocating up to \$500 this year to support the "Tidy Up Tower" initiative of Mayor Orlyn Kringstad. The tidy up period is set to be held this year on Monday, May 10 and Wednesday, May 12. The council declined a request by Kringstad to establish the clean-up effort as an annual event, opting to make the decision annually.

► Approved a motion to spend up to \$3,000 in support of the 4th of July celebration this year, excluding the security costs, which have yet to be determined. The city won't be spending money on out-of-town advertising, such as was done in the past. Kringstad said he will advise the Tower-Soudan Lake Vermilion Events Board of the city's participation.

► Heard a clarification on the anticipated revenues for the drinking water treatment plant and new water main, which included better news from the previous update. At the council's April 12 meeting, Ranua had indicated the city and the wastewater board faced a \$2.3 million funding gap. But that calculation did

not include a bonding bill request for \$1.75 million submitted to the Legislature by SEH on the city's behalf. At the same time, the city has been informed that it will likely still qualify for about \$187,000 in IRRR funding that had appeared to be in question. Any remaining funding gap could be made up through a loan from the state's Public Facilities Authority.

► Approved a motion to seek quotes for an appraisal of unsold lots in the city's Northstar Addition. Several lots on Birch Street remain unsold but the city has not actively marketed the lots for years. An adjacent property owner has requested to purchase one of the lots, but not for the construction of a new home there, which prompted the discussion.

► Heard an update on concerns expressed by some council members about online advertising claims made by Dave Rose regarding his Tower RV Resort, currently under construction. Rose has been advertising the park as including sheltered boat harboring, but he currently lacks permission for installing boat access or docking along the river. But city zoning consultant Tony Jeffries told the council that the concerns are outside the city's jurisdiction.

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COURT...Continued from page 1

contested case hearing on the use of bentonite on the planned tailings basin.

"This isn't a trivial issue," said Paula Maccabee, legal counsel for Water Legacy. "Bentonite application is the way in which PolyMet proposed to prevent acid mine drainage from reactive tailings waste."

The high court agreed that the proposal to use bentonite, a type of clay, in order to prevent water infiltration into waste rock, was not backed by science. "Further, the single

study on which nearly all the DNR's findings of effectiveness are based, is not in the record," wrote Justice Natalie Hudson, who drafted the high court opinion.

Environmental critics had noted that even the DNR's own consultants had raised concerns about the use of bentonite, calling the DNR's conclusions "wishful thinking" and "unproven," which were facts noted in the Court of Appeals decision. Most notably, one DNR consultant stated: "The bentonite

seal is a Hail Mary type of concept in my opinion. I believe it will exacerbate erosion and slope failure and will eventually fail."

Maccabee said this week's decision on the use of bentonite is a critical legal issue. "Basically, the Court held that the DNR had no substantial evidence that bentonite would work to prevent acid mine drainage," she said.

But PolyMet officials expressed confidence that a contested case won't alter the final decision about the company's right

to mine. "The DNR has spent years studying the bentonite cap issue that will be considered in a contested case and PolyMet looks forward to presenting that evidence in a hearing," stated a company release. "When DNR completes the contested case process, it can re-issue the permit to mine."

The DNR's failure to set a finite term for the PolyMet permit is another issue that could be tougher to resolve than it might first appear, according to Maccabee. "This is espe-

cially important because setting a fixed term will require the DNR to grapple with several unsolved issues of the PolyMet mine proposal, including permanent toxic pollution and failure to develop a closure and reclamation plan," she said.

While the high court reversed some earlier victories for environmentalists, siding with the Court of Appeals on two issues virtually guarantees months, if not years, of additional delay for the proposed mine. It is also likely to increase the pressure on

Gov. Tim Walz to address a string of court failures by state agencies now under this control.

"Today, the Supreme Court hit the reset button on PolyMet," said Kathleen Hoffman, CEO of the MCEA. "Now, it's up to Gov. Walz and his agencies to make better decisions and protect Minnesotans and the water they depend on."

The Timberjay sought comment from the Department of Natural Resources for this story. The agency did not respond as of presstime.

ELY...Continued from page 1

construction crews.

Superintendent Erik Erie reminded school board members of the construction pre-bid meeting this week with project manager Kraus-Anderson to discuss the parameters of the second phase of the construction project. This second bid package involves the extensive renovations planned for the Washington and Memorial buildings.

The first phase of the project that will link the two buildings has already been bid by construction firms and approved by the school board. While the project is being bid in two phases, all construction work on the campus will occur simultaneously.

The phase 2 pre-bid meeting with contractors, and the public tabulation of the bids, scheduled for Thursday, May 13, will itself be disrupted, according to Erie, because the Washington Auditorium is being used as a learning materials storage area for the duration of the project. The meetings will be held in the Memorial building media center.

School board members have scheduled a special meeting on Monday, May 24 to accept the phase 2 bid recommendations from Kraus-Anderson.

"We had (asbestos) abatement start today

already in the old boiler building," Erie said. "But May 17 is the start of the project when we turn things over to Kraus-Anderson." He noted that the electrical contractor is already on site disconnecting machines and fixtures in the Industrial Arts building.

A ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 27, beginning at 11 a.m. The Costin Group and Kraus-Anderson are facilitating the event. The public is invited.

School administrators are discussing how to allow Ely students to attend the ceremony.

"I have seen other school districts include the students in ground-breaking ceremonies, but that was in non-COVID times," Erie said. "We'll have to make (social distancing) accommodations for that anyway."

Calendar revision

K-5 Principal Anne Oelke proposed a minor end-of-year school calendar change to school board members.

"We are being tasked with a really big job, that all classrooms, closets and storage, the library, and everything else be packed and labeled by Tuesday, June 8," she said. "We teach students to Friday, June 4. That leaves us June 5-6, a Saturday and Sunday, and

the teacher workshop day on June 7."

She proposed that the school calendar be modified to end on Wednesday, June 2, to give staff and teachers more time to vacate the building before renovations begin on the building. Construction plans call for the elementary building refurbishing and updating to be completed in time for students to return in September.

In addition, the school's summer services, like special education, reading classes, Range Mental Health Adapt program, along with the elementary school office, must also be relocated to the Memorial building by June 8.

"There is a lot to be done in a very short amount of time," Oelke said.

She also noted that with the schedule modification, Ely elementary students would meet the state-required instructional hours for the school year.

While the school board was not able to act on the request during the study session this week, Oelke sought an indication of general support so she could draft a letter to parents to prepare them for the end-of-year schedule change.

"I have to let my parents know if the year will be two days shorter," she said.

Erie indicated that the district's administrative team supported the school calendar revision recommendation.

"Principal Oelke has been working on this for over a month, with input from her staff. She was ready to do this in early April," he said.

School board members did not indicate any concerns with the calendar revision and will likely approve the recommendation at the next meeting on May 10.

Seven-period school day?

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal, presented scenarios to transition Memorial School students to a seven-period school day beginning in the 2021-22 school year. One of the proposals is designed to not incur additional teaching costs, and adds study halls while allowing students to take an additional course.

"We hope to focus on study skills for our middle school students," she said. "For high school students, it allows them to take band or languages while their four core classes are taken care of. It allows for some flexibility. They may be able to take a shop class or an anatomy class, and spreads out the day a little bit."

The class length would be reduced from 55 to 50-minute periods.

Anderson also presented her "dream schedule" that replaces many study

halls with new classes, such as financial literacy, astronomy, health and nutrition, percussion ensemble, math quest and more study skills learning opportunities.

"This schedule does potentially add nine or 10 additional classes that would need to be paid for, and we're looking on the salary schedule at somewhere between \$90,000 and \$120,000," she said. "That is a substantial increase to our costs. Can this be sustainable is the million-dollar question."

Board chair Ray Marnik questioned whether the additional classes could be covered by existing staff, considering contractual agreement from both the school district and the teachers' union.

Anderson said teaching staff opinions "are a mixed bag" on supporting the school day proposals. "It is a balance of more teaching time, and the extra salary," she said.

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SOFTBALL

Young Ely squad at 1-2 in early going

Seventh and eighth-graders make up nearly half the lineup

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The Timberwolves softball team took the field here last Thursday for the first time in two years and opened a new season with a new coach, Cory Lassi, who is replacing longtime softball coach

Left: Ely's Bella Davis makes the catch at third base, but just a moment too late to knock out Chisholm's baserunner.

photo by K. Vandervort

Tom McDonald. Lassi had stepped away as Ely football coach last fall, but he's eager to be mentoring the young group of girls representing Ely this year.

Nine of the 20 players on the roster are in seventh or eighth grade, with a relative handful of upper classmen filling out the ranks. Sydni Richards, a longtime starter for Ely, is the lone senior on the team. Four juniors, Katrina Seliskar, Charly Flom, Willow Ohlhauser and Raven Sainio, are joined by sophomores

Madeline Kallberg, Kate and Rache Coughlin, and freshmen Lily Dirks, Brielle Lindland and Sylvia Shock. Middle school teammates include Janae Murphy, Rylee Larsen, Madelyn Moen, Maija Mattson, Bella Davis, Clare Thomas, Ella Perish, Makenzi Huntington and Sadie Rechichi.

Early jitters plagued the Wolves in their April 22 home opener against Chisholm. "We gave up five

See **SOFTBALL...pg. 2B**

SOFTBALL



North Woods pitcher Evelyn Brodeen shows intense focus as she hurls a pitch this week. photo by D. Colburn

North Woods slips to MI-B

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

MT. IRON- The home team had the hot bats on a chilly, rainy Friday afternoon in Mt. Iron as the North Woods Grizzlies softball team took a 13-2 loss.

The Rangers honed in on Ivy Chauklin's pitches early, scoring five runs in the first inning. After the Rangers loaded the bases in the second, Evelyn Brodeen came on in relief, but the Grizzlies gave up three more runs before getting out of the inning.

North Woods found a spark of offense in the top of the third, with Brynn Simpson scoring on a Hannah Cheney double. Cheney's blast advanced

See **GRIZZLIES...pg. 2B**

GOLF

Girls golf starts well for Grizzlies

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The North Woods girls golf team hit the links in Virginia on April 22 and Eveleth on Tuesday, putting up competitive scores in both events.

The Grizzlies placed second in the Rock Ridge Meet at the Virginia Golf Course, right behind Mesabi East. Tori Olson's round of 50 was good enough for a fourth-place finish, and teammate Haley Bogdan was right behind in fifth, shooting a 51. Other team members included Morgan Burnett, Abigail Shuster and Lauren Burnett.

"We had a good first meet consider-

See **GOLF...pg. 2B**

BASEBALL

Grizzlies wallop Wolves

Ten-run fifth inning clinches it for North Woods in 19-3 rout over Ely

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

ELY- While the North Woods baseball team could claim to be the more experienced team going into Friday's road game against Ely, it wasn't by much. It was the Timberwolves' first game of the season, and while the Grizzlies had a two-week head start on them, they only had one game to show for it, thanks to bad weather.

But North Woods took command immediately with a four-run spree in the first inning and rode a devastating 10-run fourth-inning blitz to an easy 19-3 victory.

Zach Cheney went 3-for-4 at the plate with a homer and four RBIs as nine Grizzlies batters hammered hits on the day.

"Our bats were alive," North Woods Head Coach Jeff Smerud said. "We ended up with 16 total hits. You don't usually get to see that many in a game, but I'll definitely take it."

Andrew Zika went the whole

Top: North Woods' Chris Chauklin rounds third base and is waved home, where he scored the Grizzlies' fourth run of the game in the first inning. Watching in frustration is Ely's Jacob Towley.

Right: Ely's Mason Davis winds for a pitch.

photos by K. Vandervort

way on the mound for North Woods in the ten-run-rule-shortened game, scattering seven hits across five innings while striking out eight Ely batters.

"He threw a lot of first pitch strikes, which is huge, and he stayed ahead of the hitters pretty much the whole game," Grizzlies Head Coach Jeff Smerud said. "He kept them off balance with his curveball and changeup. Coming out and getting a four-run lead I think helped a little. Andrew gave up a three-run home run in the bottom

See **BASEBALL...pg. 2B**



ZEN AND THE ART OF GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

It's all about the turf

North Country winters pose challenges for The Wilderness staff

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

TOWER- The calendar is an odd sort of beast for Ryan VerNess, course superintendent at The Wilderness golf course at Fortune Bay Resort Casino. Spring begins in the fall, as it must if the championship-level destination layout is to meet the high expectations of

those teeing up balls for the May 7 season opener.

"The way you put it to bed dictates how it will wake up in the spring," VerNess said.

For VerNess and his crew, water is both friend and foe, nourishing the bent grass greens, fairways, and tee boxes during the playing season, but threatening to wreak havoc in the off-season.

Grounds staff at The Wilderness are busy prepping the turf in advance of the golf course's photo by D. Colburn

"Your biggest concern here is moisture and freezing, so what you need to do is to get that water moving down," VerNess said.

The process begins in the

See **TURF...pg. 2B**



TURF...Continued from page 1B

fall by removing thatch that would hold excess moisture, and then VerNess turns each green into a sieve by poking thousands of holes into it. One run of his specialized equipment lays down holes eight inches deep, spread four inches apart. Another run creates smaller holes, four inches deep and spaced two inches apart. Then comes a blanket of green sand intended to protect the grass from the cold, wind, and snow of winter, help with water filtration, and provide a growing medium in the spring.

"It's just a colored sand. In the spring it helps get more heat to build up soil temperatures," VerNess said.

The final step is to spray on fungicides to prevent what VerNess called gray and pink snow molds. "You spray, and then you pray that you get snow first, without rain and ice, and then you start to count," VerNess said. "Once you get your spray down, you start counting about 140 days. That's how long your application is going to be most effective. If you get past that window, you start to get nervous."

Similar but different and less intensive processes are used to prepare the tees and fairways for winter. Greens get the most attention, VerNess said, because they're "the moneymaker" for the course.

General manager and PGA head golf professional Ryan Peterson said that the nerves kicked in this past fall before the countdown even started.

"Last fall was a little



Operating a green aerator recently at The Wilderness golf course. photo by D. Colburn

touchy because snow came and never left," he said. "Thank God it warmed up and melted so we could finish what we needed to do before the snow came and stayed for good. So, we were a little scared last year."

But the winter was generally kind, the snow retreated early, and the maintenance crew is off to a good start in prepping the course for the true spring opener.

"On the greens themselves, we do almost the same things we did in the fall, minus the spraying," VerNess said. "You still have the same issues with water movement, and you want to have a good growing medium."

That means more hole poking everywhere, but there's also some hole filling going on. Golfers

leave divots, gashes in the turf, behind them, and spring provides the opportunity to repair them.

Machines are used to do most of the work for greens, fairways and tees, but when it comes to taking care of the course's 62 bunkers it's a different story.

"Bunkers are a huge, huge labor issue," VerNess said. "Repairing the bunkers in the spring is essentially a week-long process. They're going to get leaves and debris. They'll have growth on their edges. You have to clean up all the edges and seed the bunker faces to get them to look good."

Underlying it all is the close attention paid to good environmental and conservation practices.

"The golf course uses the same mindset as Bois

Forte - we want to protect the land. The golf course will do whatever it can to do that," he said.

As a designated Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, a status first achieved in 2005, course practices for environmental planning, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, outreach and education, and wildlife and habitat management have been evaluated and certified by Audubon International. The course is also a participant in Monarchs in the Rough, a collaborative effort of hundreds of golf courses to provide habitat and implement best practices for monarch butterflies along their migration routes.

"We're doing things like using more recyclable stuff, more biodegradable stuff, whether you're talking restaurant supplies or golf tees," Peterson said. "We use bamboo tees because bamboo grows much quicker and it's more renewable than trees." VerNess said he uses organic fertilizers, and last year he replaced about 20 sprinkler heads with ones that deliver a more focused pattern to minimize water use. And VerNess carries another key to water conservation right in his pocket. From an app on his cell phone, he can control every sprinkler head on the course individually. Using both visual observations and sophisticated soil moisture measurements, VerNess can adjust the flow and timing of a sprinkler head to exactly what a specific area of grass needs and no more.

VerNess plans to shift

away from gas and diesel-powered equipment to electric in future years, and it's likely more technologically sophisticated equipment guided by GPS systems for more precision will be in the mix as well.

Welcoming golfers

If the 2020 summer of COVID is any indication of what this summer will be, and Peterson believes it is, golfers who want the best tee times should probably plan ahead.

"Something outside was one of the things you could do, and you could do it socializing with some friends on the golf course," Peterson said, noting that the Wilderness was up by eight percent over 2019. "Golf was huge last year across the country. We expect it to be again. Our future bookings look fantastic." Director of Sales and Marketing Rachel Indihar said that emphasis given to implementing strong COVID protocols at Fortune Bay and the golf course was an essential element of their success in attracting people to the course. "We wanted to be straightforward and tell them that we care about COVID, we want you to be safe, we want you to have fun," Indihar said. "You want to find that balance, you want to find ways to make it safe but still make it enjoyable for them when they come here because it's their vacation. We have several things in place that we've tried, and most of them I think we've stuck with if they worked well."

But COVID has also had its downsides.

"What's hurt the most

is that you have to take back the level of service that you're used to giving and that you want to give the customer," Peterson said. "Now we're talking with masks and I can't see if somebody's smiling or not. I can't bring a cart to somebody's car and help them with their bags. We can't have the water coolers and other things out that are amenities."

They even had to remove the rakes from the sand traps to prevent multiple unsanitized hands from touching the handles. But the critical element for good service still remains.

"People want to come here, choose to come here because of the service, because of the golf course, and none of that happens without people," VerNess said.

So, golf season is about to begin, but there's still more to do to get the course in tip top shape.

"The opening of the golf course doesn't stop on May 7, it's a process," VerNess said. "There's still a bucket list and to-do lists. We don't put flowers in until June. It's a long process. Then you get to the Fourth of July and you're like alright, let's start backing everything up and start working towards the spring again - I mean, the fall."

Or perhaps, in VerNess's calendar, he really did mean spring. Such is the life of a golf course superintendent.

SOFTBALL...Continued from page 1B

unearned runs in the first inning and I could just tell our youth and inexperience showed," Lassi said. "We were just nervous. Once we got through a couple of innings they relaxed and played much better."

Ely players tallied just four hits, one each for Flom, Richards, Kallberg and Thomas. Seliskar allowed 15 hits in five innings pitched, allowing the Bluestreaks to cruise to a 14-1 win. Seliskar only issued one walk and tallied

three strikeouts.

Playing at Northeast Range the following day, the Wolves took advantage of inconsistent pitching to tally 19 walks as they easily outpaced the Nighthawks 19-6.

"We were up 5-0 in the bottom of the second inning and they came back and scored six runs to take a 6-5 lead," said Lassi. "We chipped away at it and were ahead 11-6 going into the fifth inning, and broke the game open with eight more

runs." Seliskar and Perish both rapped two hits, while Richards, Kallberg, and Lindland added one apiece to keep the runners moving.

Kallberg pitched the first inning and two-thirds, allowing three hits and five walks. Seliskar pitched the rest of the way in relief, giving up just one hit while striking out six.

"We are pretty inexperienced at pitching," Lassi said. "It is tough to have to rely on just one pitcher game after game, but that

seems like the trend. I would love to develop a couple more pitchers so when we have three or four games in a row we can give the starter a break. We'll see how the players develop as the season goes on."

In Aurora, on Tuesday, Seliskar looked strong, hurling a ten-strikeout three-hitter, but Ely still lost 4-2 to Mesabi East.

The Wolves were up 2-1 in the fifth inning when the Giants scored three to go ahead 4-2. Sydni Richards

went 2-3 with a double and run score. Kallberg added an RBI.

Lassi said he is looking to Seliskar to lead the team in pitching this year. Kallberg, who played volleyball and basketball this year, will also see time on the mound, he said. "With such a young team and this my first year, I hope to be able to shape a team starting with the fundamentals. I'm excited to work with them and look forward to watching them grow as players

and as a team this season and over the next couple of years."

In other scheduled action, Ely's Monday game against South Ridge was postponed until Wednesday due to weather and will take place after the Timberjay's Wednesday presstime. They were set to return home to host games against North Woods on Thursday, April 29, and Cook County on Saturday, May 1.

BASEBALL...Continued from page 1B

of the first, and then after that he settled in and put zeros on the board the rest of the way."

Smerud also praised the defensive play behind Zika.

"We only made one

error, which was huge," Smerud said. "Our goal every game is to have under three errors."

The Timberwolves' Jacob Towley rapped Ely's homer in the losing cause. Hurler Bryce Fairchild

took the loss, with Eddie Prijatel, Mason Davis, and Towley taking turns trying to silence the North Woods

bats.

GOLF...Continued from page 1B

ing that the kids haven't had a lot of outdoor practice due to weather and course conditions," Head Coach Kandi Olson said. "Everyone was excited to be back on the course."

North Woods wound up in third place at the Eveleth event, with Tori Olson carding a 56 to tie for sixth.

GRIZZLIES...Continued from page 1B

Brodeen to third base, and Brodeen stole home for the only other run.

But another five-run inning by the Rangers took the wind out of the Grizzlies' sails and accounted for the 13-2 final score.

MIB batters kept the

"Eveleth Golf Course proved to be a worthy adversary," Coach Olson said. "While kids struggled a bit around the greens, each player noticed areas of personal growth. They are looking forward to future meets both as a team and as individual competitors."

Grizzlies' pitchers busy, as Chaulklin and Brodeen threw a combined 110 pitches while collecting seven strikeouts. Cheney went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead North Woods hitters.

Memories of the Early Days

A fascinating look back at the early history of the Lake Vermilion area

Written by Marshall Helmsberger • Published by the Timberjay

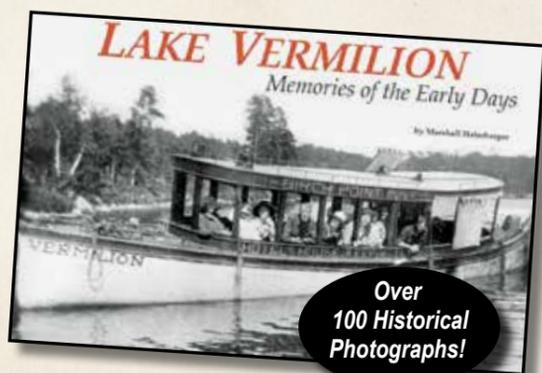


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TOWER

Gundersen Trust seeks to chart path forward

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— It appears a “morass of conflicting auditor and attorney advice” may have contributed to the current woes of Tower’s Gundersen Trust. That was one of the conclusions drawn by trust member Steve Wilson, who has spent weeks researching the history of 30-plus-year-old trust.

The trust, in its early years, provided the city with anywhere from \$20,000-\$40,000 in returns on an annual basis, which supported city operations, education, and recreation.

But poor management in more recent years, questionable advice from the city’s auditors, and

low returns on bonds and certificates of deposits have left little after setting aside funds to cover the impact of inflation on the trust.

Now, members of the trust are trying to right the ship, while avoiding mistakes made in the past. One of the biggest, said Wilson, was the 2018 decision by the trust board to convert from a public nonprofit to a government trust.

“It was originally set up as a nonprofit, like the Gardener Trust [in Ely],” said Wilson.

In fact, said Wilson, the original language of the trust documents appear to have been taken nearly verbatim from the Gardner Trust, which had been founded just two

years earlier.

But, based on advice from the city’s auditors, Wilson said city officials began taking steps to convert the trust from a non-profit to a government trust, which Wilson described as “the worst of all worlds.” By 2018, city officials completed that transition, but Wilson said it now appears that decision was a mistake, one that sharply limited the trust’s ability to direct its funds into more lucrative investments.

“It’s on Walker Giroux and Hahne,” said Wilson. “They said we didn’t meet the public benefit test for a nonprofit.”

Wilson noted that he was summarily removed from the board back in 2015, about the time city

officials began moving to convert to a government trust. “I was thrown off the board; I suspect because they thought I might object,” he said.

Wilson said his in-depth review of the trust’s history has been revealing. “I’ve learned you don’t want to just sit back and take the auditor’s or the attorney’s advice. It was often conflicting,” he said. He added that Walker Giroux has not been very helpful with his inquiries. He said he eventually contacted a Hibbing auditing firm, Sterle CPA. “They provided a carefully considered response with some other things to think about,” said Wilson.

Wilson said he now believes the city might be best off transferring

management of the trust to a separate foundation, like the Duluth-Superior Foundation or a similar entity, that manages endowments from a number of other cities and institutions. He said such entities can typically generate at least four percent returns on an annual basis, which, in the case of the Gundersen Trust, could yield almost \$40,000 a year based on the trust’s roughly \$1 million in assets.

While the change could well provide bigger annual returns on the trust’s funds, it could also limit the city’s ability to borrow funds from the trust, as it has done over the years for major expenses, such as a new fire engine and harbor-related expenses. In some cases,

noted Wilson, a transfer of the trust’s assets to a separate foundation would be irrevocable.

But Wilson said the trust shouldn’t make any decision on next steps until it has thoroughly reviewed the situation with an experienced attorney. Toward that objective, the trust board briefly reviewed proposals from two law firms, Hanft Fride and Fryberger, Buchanan, both of Duluth. But the two proposals had just arrived, so the board agreed to postpone any decision on the selection of a firm until the trust’s next meeting, which will most likely be held in May.

ELY

Ely library set to reopen with limited hours

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Annual report shows drop in usage during COVID precautions

ELY – After more than a year of being closed to the public because of COVID-19, the Ely Public Library is set to reopen next month on a limited basis.

Library Director Rachel Heinrich described the “express browsing model” to city council members last week, as the initial re-opening plan for the library that is set to be implemented on Saturday,

May 24.

“This is the day when it will be two weeks after our staff will have received their second dose of the coronavirus vaccine and we can re-open to the public,” she said.

The library closed in March 2020 due to public health concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. Curbside pick-up has been in place during the interim, and the library’s expanded free Wi-Fi internet

service has proved popular during the interim.

As approved by the library board, beginning late next month library patrons will have two-hour windows throughout the library and browse for materials, with no patron capacity limits.

“Between each two-hour block the library will be closed for 30 minutes to give staff time to clean,” Heinrich said.

The curbside pick-up program will end in June, and the library will return to the original “hold” system for materials.

While city council members were not required to give their approval for the re-opening procedures, they gave their support for the library board’s due diligence and attention to public health concerns.

During last week’s council meeting, Paul Kess asked what milestones will be needed to move past the limited re-opening.

“The (library) board did not set a date when the express browsing model will end,” Heinrich said. “We will see how it goes

and the board will discuss it at their next meeting.”

Heidi Omerza said patrons can expect to see changes in the facility once the doors re-open. “It will look different. There are not going to be a lot of chairs around. We want patrons to be aware of that,” she said.

The council directed the Ely Police Department to enforce the library parking lot restrictions. The lot is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and no overnight parking.

By the numbers

The Ely Public Library experienced a substantial drop in usage last year because of the coronavirus pandemic and their annual report reflects the loss in access.

The population of the Ely library’s legal service area dropped from 3,410 in 2019 to 3,395 in 2020. Registered users at the local library decreased from 1,701 to 1,627.

Of course, the number of visits to the library took a huge hit despite the curbside pick-up services in place. In 2019, the Ely library registered 71,271 separate visits. That number plunged to 24,429 in 2020.

Programs, whether in-person or virtual, took an obvious hit. The Ely library had 158 programs in 2019 and just 33 programs in 2020. The total program attendance dropped from 3,241 in 2019 to just 389 in 2020.

Print material inventory (books/periodicals) increased from 35,474 in 2019 to 37,611 in 2020.

Volunteers return to clear Powwow Trail

REGIONAL— The Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization, the Boundary Waters Advisory Committee (BWAC), plans to send ten crews to maintain the legacy Powwow Trail in May. “This year, the ten-year anniversary of the Pagami Creek Fire, the BWAC recruited more than 55 volunteers for trips next month,” said BWAC founder Martin Kubik.

Recruiting during the COVID-19 pandemic represented a challenge to BWAC as traditional avenues of recruitment (presentations at outdoor retailers or colleges) were not possible.

“The club retooled its recruitment strategy

to increase its presence on social media and the change paid off,” added BWAC President Susan Pollack. “Although the pandemic shows signs of abatement, BWAC will still limit crews to six people rather than nine as in the past for spring trips.”

At the end of the 2020 hiking season, a survey crew counted fewer than 500 treefalls.

“This is a markedly lower number as compared to several years ago when thousands of treefalls blocked the trail, making it extremely challenging for even the most expert and fit hikers,” Pollack said.

The U.S. Forest Service tentatively agreed to

restore several fire-destroyed campsites this year so that backpackers have access to water and latrines when they camp. Last year a BWAC volunteer crew, with the help of the USFS, replaced a decaying 22-foot-long log bridge at Lake Diana Creek with locally-sourced tamarack logs. Because tamarack is naturally rot-resistant, the bridge is expected to last for several decades.

“Backpackers should now have a much easier time both navigating and camping along the Powwow Trail,” she added.

To assist, BWAC has a free online guide to the trail on the website www.BoundaryWatersTrails.org.

Obituaries and Death Notices

Robert J. Nevala

Robert John “Bob” Nevala, 89, lifelong resident of Embarrass, died on Monday, April 19, 2021, at Edgewood Vista from brain cancer. Memorial and interment to be held at a later date.

He is survived by his son, Lyle Nevala; son-in-law, Ronald Dale; granddaughters, Leslie (Brad) Brunfelt, Tia (Scott) Moyer, Cari Hoffman and Megan Nevala-Plagemann; grandsons, Christopher (Kayla) Nevala-Plagemann and Jonathan Nevala-Plagemann; eleven great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Earl S. Bulinski

Earl Stanley Bulinski, 72, of Ely, died on Friday, April 2, 2021. The stories about the life of Earl could fill a book. He thrived on danger and adventure. For an in-depth picture of his life as a skilled musician, please refer to the recent articles in the *Timberjay* and the *Ely Echo*. A celebration of his life will take place sometime in July.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; brothers, Greg (Charles) and Bill; sisters, Pam, Trish and Becky (Falk); daughter, Nicole Riad (Ibrahim); son, Jared (Lisa); stepsons, Derik and Troy (Heather) Maki; stepdaughter, Christi (David) Brooks; and

eleven grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

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*\$385,450 raised for COVID-19

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Outdoors

Our lives in the
Northwoods

A POST-COVID SUMMER?

Ely's Bear Center reopens for the season

COVID-19 sharply limited public visits last year

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - The North American Bear Center here, the only black bear and wildlife educational facility of its kind, re-opened for the season this month and is once again welcoming visitors after a year of COVID-19 restrictions

"We are dedicated to replacing old myths with

facts. People learn from the bears themselves about bear behavior, ecology, and their relations with humans," said Senior Operations Director Scott Edgett. "We work closely with our partners at the Wildlife Research Institute and renowned bear biologist Dr. Lynn Rogers to create exhibits and content for the Bear Center. You can spend hours or days exploring all of our exhibits and videos about black bear behavior and animals that coexist with black bears in the north woods."

Along with the expertise of Dr. Rogers, the NABC

staff includes Sharon Herrell, senior bear keeper, who maintains the health and well-being of the center's four ambassador bears, Holly, Ted, Lucky and Tasha.

Carolyn Quick is the Bear Center's volunteer coordinator. Taking a year off from visitors last year, the Bear Center is in the midst of developing and training the many volunteers who help give visitors a more enriching experience. "An important part of our volunteers' time here is to educate the folks and answer questions, point out more information for them, and of course to help with our

Right: Bear Center Senior Operations Director Scott Edgett interviews Lynn Rogers about the new season at the center.

photo by K. Vandervort

bears," she said.

The Bear Center opened for the season on April 16, and is open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the rest of this month. The Bear Center will open daily for the season on Tuesday, May 4. Daily hours expand on Memorial Day weekend.

The Bear Center held

See CENTER...pg. 5B



NEW NEIGHBORS

The grosbeak soundtrack

After years without them, evening grosbeaks have returned to our yard

A cheery, and once-familiar, sound has returned to our homestead on the edge of the Lost Lake Swamp in recent weeks. For years, when we first moved to the area, the boisterous trilling of evening grosbeaks was a routine part of our Northwoods soundtrack. The grosbeaks often seemed to just spend the day in the yard, either yakking it up high in the trees, devouring sunflower seeds in the feeder, or picking grit from the floor of the garage, since I rarely get around to shutting the door.

Then, for years, they seemed to all but disappear. A couple birds would drop down to a feeder for a bite every few months, but they would disappear as quickly as they came. My observation wasn't just a one-off, either. Across the Great Lakes region into New England and much of southern Canada, birders have documented the precipitous decline of evening grosbeak populations, beginning in the 1980s and accelerating in the 1990s and early 2000s. These once-abundant birds had disappeared from feeders all across the eastern half of North America and nobody really seemed to



MARSHALL
HELMBERGER

Above: Male evening grosbeaks cracked sunflower seeds Wednesday morning.

Right: Female evening grosbeaks use a nearby feeder for their morning meal.

photos by M. HelMBERGER

know why.

But this winter brought a surprising influx of these entertaining birds to our yard, and it appears they're now settling in for the breeding season. Unlike most other parts of the U.S., where evening grosbeaks are strictly a winter visitor from the north, these brightly-colored, stub-tailed birds (about the size of a red-winged blackbird) live here in the North Country year-round.

I most fondly remember them from the summers, when they would bring their fledged young ones multiple times during the day to feed them sunflower seeds, which the parents would break open for their wing-fluttering charges before stuffing the "meat" into their gaping maws.

Now, after years of absence, they're suddenly back. A flock of ten, five males and as many females, just moved in and have



taken up residence, just like the old days.

And we're not the only ones, as the reports and photos from members of the Ely Field Naturalists attest. Evening gros-

beaks have been downright common at area feeders most of the winter. We saw them more regularly at our house as well, although a bit more sporadic-

See SOUNDTRACK...pg. 5B

DISEASE

Study: More than ninety percent of three bat species have died of fungal disease

REGIONAL — White-nose syndrome has killed over 90 percent of northern long-eared, little brown and tri-colored bat populations in North America in fewer than 10 years, according to a new study published in *Conservation Biology*. Researchers also noted declines in Indiana bat and big brown bat populations.

The findings underscore the devastating impacts of this deadly fungal disease. The research tapped into the most comprehensive data set on North American bat populations to date, which includes data from over 200 locations in 27 states and two Canadian provinces.

The findings represent the work of 60 individual collaborators, 37 organizations and hundreds of field technicians and volunteers who participated in winter surveys of bats over a 23-year period. The data was compiled by the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat), which was established by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), along with many partners, to improve conservation science for bats.

The Fish and Wildlife Service leads the national response to white-nose syndrome through a collaborative effort that includes coordination among state, federal, tribal and non-governmental partners. The agency also offers grants to institutions and natural resource management agencies to advance disease research and identify new solutions. Since 2015, NABat has been building infrastructure and coordinating efforts in response to the need for continental-scale monitoring to inform management of white-nose syndrome, as well as other threats to bats.

"The impacts of white-nose syndrome on bat populations have been swift and severe, but we are not without hope," said Jeremy Coleman, national white-nose syndrome coordinator for the Service and an author on the paper.

See BAT DEATHS...pg. 5B

INVASIVE SPECIES

Anglers can check the spread of aquatic invasives

REGIONAL — The approaching fishing season comes with a reminder from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to always follow state laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

It's also important for anglers to take a few minutes for invasive species prevention every time a boat comes out of the water.

Maj. Shane Kirlin, DNR operations manager, said that's true whether or not an enforcement officer or watercraft inspector is present.

"All anglers and boaters in Minnesota are required to take three simple steps: clean, drain, dispose," Kirlin said. "It's not only

the best way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, but it's also the law in Minnesota."

People must clean aquatic plants and debris from watercraft, drain lake or river water and keep drain plugs out during transport, and dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water.

In addition to these required steps, the DNR also recommends that anglers:

- ▶ Spray boat and trailer with high-pressure water;
- ▶ Rinse boat and trailer with very hot water (120° for two minutes; or 140° for 10 seconds); or
- ▶ Dry boat and equipment for at least five days.

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather

Friday					Saturday					Sunday					Monday					Tuesday				
56 40					68 41					64 37					56 34					57 36				
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.
04/19	54	25	0.26	0.5"	04/19	57	25	0.27	0.2"	04/19	53	25	0.20	1.0"	04/19	37	25	0.17	04/19	54	24	0.26		
04/20	38	25	0.00	04/20	37	25	0.00	04/20	36	24	0.01	0.1"	04/20	34	27	0.00	04/20	38	24	0.00				
04/21	36	28	0.00	04/21	34	25	0.02	04/21	35	26	0.00	04/21	39	27	0.00	04/21	34	26	0.00					
04/22	39	25	0.00	04/22	41	22	0.00	04/22	40	26	0.00	04/22	64	27	0.00	04/22	41	23	0.00					
04/23	63	26	0.00	04/23	63	28	0.00	04/23	63	25	0.00	04/23	45	32	0.00	04/23	63	28	0.00					
04/24	49	30	0.03	04/24	49	28	0.05	04/24	47	28	0.14	1.0"	04/24	41	27	0.00	04/24	47	28	0.16	0.5"			
04/25	43	18	0.01	04/25	41	14	0.00	04/25	41	22	0.00	04/25	50	18	0.00	04/25	42	14	0.00					
Total	5.19 69.1"				YTD Total	4.73 49.9				YTD Total	4.40 68.9"				YTD Total	4.41 NA				YTD Total	5.66 55.0"			

Outdoors in brief

Burning restricted in St. Louis County

REGIONAL — The Department of Natural Resources has added St. Louis County to the list of places where burning restrictions are now in effect. Koochiching and Itasca

were added to that list weeks ago, but burning is still allowed with a valid permit in Lake and Cook counties.

"By restricting burning during our peak wildfire season, we've significantly reduced the number of wildfires Minnesota has experienced over the past decade," said Casey McCoy, DNR fire prevention

supervisor

Instead of burning yard waste, McCoy encourages landowners to compost, chip, or take brush to a collection site. People who burn debris can be held financially responsible if their fire escapes and burns other property.

SOUNDTRACK...Continued from page 4B

ly than they've become in the last several weeks.

For me, that evening grosbeak trill gets me out of bed at the crack of dawn, just to be sure the smorgasbord is laid out in time for their morning repast. I eat my own breakfast now while watching their antics just outside the window.

I have little doubt the birds are mated pairs and they are nesting somewhere nearby, which means we should have young ones visiting with the adults before the end of May.

I'm looking forward to that. While April is early for nesting for many birds, that's not the case for evening grosbeaks, which can nest even when there's snow on the ground, as long as food is abundant.

Grosbeaks aren't territorial about nesting, either, and they still hang out in flocks even in the breeding season. They can nest close to one another, and that's likely due to the fact that they only nest when food sources are abundant, so there's less need to defend territory.

What is unclear, at this point, is whether this is the start of a longer-term trend of improving numbers of evening grosbeaks in our region, or whether this is simply a one-year aberration. Like most northern finches, evening grosbeaks are highly nomadic, so we could just be benefitting from being at the center of their latest congregation. Hopefully, however, their cheery trilling will continue to be a part of our local soundtrack for years to come.

BAT DEATHS...Continued from page 4B

"Through strong collaborative efforts like this analysis, we continue to learn more about the dynamics of this disease and we will build the infrastructure we need to conserve native bats for future generations."

White-nose syndrome is a disease that affects hibernating bats and is caused by an invasive, cold-loving fungus. The fungus grows on bats' skin, disturbing their hibernation and resulting in dehydration, starvation and often death. First documented in New York in 2006, white-nose syndrome has since spread to 35 states and seven Canadian provinces and has been confirmed in 12 North American bat species.

"The severity of the impact of this disease on bat populations is staggering. We found that nine out of 10 bats of the most vulnerable species are now gone," said Winifred Frick, chief scientist of Bat Conservation International and an author on the paper. "Bats are essential to our ecosystems, and our results that stem from working

with so many biologists across the United States and Canada focus our efforts on how best to protect these important mammals."

"With this collaborative study, we clearly illuminate the scale of the loss resulting from white-nose syndrome, which is both quantitatively severe and geographically pervasive," said Carl Herzog, senior wildlife biologist for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and an author on the paper. "The story it tells is grim, to be sure, but having a clear view of what we are up against is an important precursor to mounting an effective management response."

Limited multi-state, range-wide analyses of once common bat species have made it difficult to understand the role of local populations in overall species viability. Ongoing declines in northern long-eared bats led the Service to protect the species under the Endangered Species Act and to initiate reviews of little brown bats and tricolored bats. Individual states and Canada have also enacted

additional protections for bats.

"State fish and wildlife agencies welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on this important evaluation," said Jenny Dickson, wildlife division director for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and chair of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Bat Working Group. "We are pleased to be able to share data collected through projects frequently funded by federal grants to help quantify the extent of this conservation challenge. It helps others understand what we've seen firsthand — once common species have declined by over 90 percent in less than 10 years."

There is no known cure for white-nose syndrome, but scientists worldwide are working together to study the disease and determine how it can be controlled. Bats eat insects and are critical pest controllers. In the United States alone, bats are estimated to save farmers at least \$3.7 billion per year in pest control services.

CENTER...Continued from page 4B



The new pond at the bear center will provide more opportunity to watch bears at play.

on online Volunteer Appreciation event last Friday as staff officially kicked off the new season.

The four ambassador bears emerged from hibernation between March 15 and April 3 this year. While the staff was in the yard, Holly came around to greet them. "We refurbished our display area pond last year," Edgett said. "I heard rumors that there may be fish in there," he said with a wry grin. "One of our new volunteers insisted that we stock the pond."

Dr. Rogers related the health challenges he encountered late last year. "I have relied on volunteers since the beginning of my career," he said. "They make so much more happen than is otherwise possible. Thank you to all of our volunteers."

Edgett introduced the new NABC volunteer coordinator, Carolyn Quick. "She was actually one of the volunteers and is now an employee with us," he said. "She is looking to take the volunteer program back to what it was and hopefully beyond that."

The Bear Center staff struggled with volunteer numbers last year during the coronavirus pandemic. "We couldn't do as good as we liked because of all the other things, but we're going to pick this back up and take off this year."

Dr. Rogers' decades of trust-based research methods combine scientific observation with modern technology. "I think this way reveals more about black bear life than we ever learned with traps and tranquilizers," he said. "Attitudes change as bears themselves refute our most deeply held misconceptions."

Quick said her time working with Dr. Rogers dates back to 1988. "Lynn and I have a history of working well together, and I'm thrilled to continue the efforts here at the Bear Center and to help grow the volunteer program. There is so much talent here."

NABC intern Carter Hall will be programming a daily Critter Corner this year that will be highlighting all the animals that bears co-exist with in the wild. That program will take

play in the Ecology Hall portion of the Bear Center. "He will be presenting with some snakes, salamanders, turtles and other creatures one normally doesn't see in the forest," Edgett said. The educational programs will be held twice a day.

While capacity is currently limited to 50 percent because of COVID precautions, he said, they will start the season without taking reservations. "We have a very large capacity here," Edgett said. The Lily Pad picnic event will not be held in 2021.

For more information on the North American Bear Center, go to www.bear.org, or call, 218-365-7879.

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- ✔ Boats, trailers, and gear
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DRAIN

- ✔ Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
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DRY

- ✔ Everything at least five days before going to other waters
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL
& EQUALIZATION**

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, Eagles Nest Township is requesting that taxpayers who wish to question or appeal their property tax classifications or valuations do so in writing. Taxpayers may, however, also appeal their assessments by attending a meeting virtually by following the instructions below.

If the property information is not correct, you disagree with the values, or have questions about the valuation notice you have received or will be receiving, please contact Andrew Olson, Assessor, (218) 365-8208 fax (218) 365-8207 first. Often issues can be resolved at this level.

If you are going to make an appeal in writing, mail your written appeal to Keely Drange, Township Clerk at 1552 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN 55731. Be sure to include the basis of your appeal along with the Property ID number, tax description as found on your Valuation Notice. If the property has an address include that also.

Written appeals need to be sent as soon as possible so that the Township Clerk can get the information to the assessor before the deadline of Friday, April 1, 2021.

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) is set for Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 10 a.m.

The LBAE 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 YOUR PHONE 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.

Keely Drange, Town Clerk, 218-365-4573
eaglesnestwp@citlink.net

Published in the Timberjay, April 23 & 30, 2021

EMPLOYMENT

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Now hiring for summer cook/baker and kitchen assistants. Fun and flexible hours. Join our experienced culinary team while working right on the water on Farm Lake. Contact deb@campvoyageur.com. ^{1/11}

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**Would you like to work outside?
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**Ely HRA Executive Director
The Ely HRA has an opening
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Essential Tasks of the Position
 > Interprets, implements and administers the policies of the Board of Commissioners and all applicable federal and state housing regulations.
 > Provides for the administration, leadership and management of the Agency.
 > Directs and coordinates activities of managerial personnel engaged in carrying out agency objectives.
 > Performs other such duties as may be assigned by the HRA Board of Commissioners.

Position Requirements and Qualifications
 > Five (5) years' experience in housing management, community development, public administration or a closely related field. Or other related education and experience may be considered.
 > Four (4) years in a significant management capacity at a public housing authority or other similar experience. Supervised a staff of eight (8) or more for at least two years.
 > Prior skills in budgeting, personnel management and public relations.

Please submit a resume and cover letter at Klun Law Firm or to ryan.sundberg@klunlaw.com. Any questions about the position can be directed at ryan.sundberg@klunlaw.com or by calling (218) 235-2445. Accepting applications until May 8. ^{4/30}

**LEIDING TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL ROAD INSPECTION**

The Leiding Town Board will hold their Annual Road Inspection on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 4 p.m. beginning at the Leiding Town Hall.

Marie Milan, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 30, 2021

**CITY OF TOWER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Tower Economic Development Authority intends to sell a residential lot located at 510 S Second St. to the non-profit corporation, North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, for redevelopment as single-family housing.

Per the requirements of Minn. Stat. 469.105, Subd. 2, TEDA is required to hold a public hearing to take testimony from the public regarding the sale. Anyone interested in expressing an opinion on the sale can attend the hearing, to be held at **5:15 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center on Thursday, May 6, 2021.** Comment can also be submitted prior to the hearing in writing at teda@cityoftower.com, attention Marshall Helmberger, Executive Director, or addressed to Tower Economic Development Authority, PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Published in the Timberjay, April 23 & 30, 2021

**FIELD TOWNSHIP
MEETING NOTICE**

The May meeting of the Field Town Board will begin on May 11, 2021, 5:30 pm at the Field Township Cemetery for inspection, followed by road review. The meeting will reconvene at the Clerk's residence, 9998 East Lind Rd., Angora.

Pat Chapman/Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 30, 2021

**MORCOM TOWN BOARD
NOTICE OF MEETING DATE
CHANGES**

The Morcom Township Board monthly meeting date has changed. The board will now be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bear River School.

Sasha Lehto, Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 30, 2021

**Bearville Township
Road Inspection**

The Supervisors of Bearville Township will inspect the Town Road and Bridge (Bearville Road 528) on Tuesday, May 11, meeting at 4:00 pm at the Bearville Town Hall.

Itasca County will have a representative to answer questions about the condition of the bridge on Bearville 528. No decisions will be made at this inspection. The Town Board of Supervisors meeting will follow the road inspection at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

Masks and social distancing required at the meeting. Questions: 218-376-4495 or bearyl@frontiernet.net.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Town Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, April 30, 2021

EMPLOYMENT

POSITION OPENING

**Ely Public Schools
K-5 Elementary Teacher
1.0 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)**

Ely Public Schools is looking for a K-5 Elementary Teacher beginning the 2021-2022 school year; 1.0 FTE; competitive salary and fringes as per the master agreement. Background check required.

Qualifications include:
 > Current Minnesota teaching license in K-6 Elementary Education
 > Preferred teaching experience in primary grade levels
 > Excellent communication skills including verbal and written

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

A complete application must include the following:
 > District Licensed Application
 > Resume
 > Copy of official transcripts
 > Current Minnesota teaching license
 > 3 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent Erik Erie, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact Washington Elementary Principal Anne Oelke at 218-365-6166 ext. 1724 or aoelke@ely.k12.mn.us with any questions.

Start date: August 31, 2021

Deadline to apply: May 6, 2021; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, April 30, 2021

**Legal notices online
at timberjay.com**

Notice-Local Board of Appeal & Equalization

Breitung Township

**Important Information regarding Property Assessments
This may affect your 2022 Property Taxes**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Breitung Township shall meet in person on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm at the Breitung Community Center, 33 First Ave, Soudan, MN. Meeting is also available via teleconference.

Via Conference Call: Phone in 701-802-5299. Access code 8973797#

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact the assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization. If you are going to make an appeal in writing, please mail your written appeal as soon as possible to:

Breitung Township, PO Box 56, Soudan, MN 55782
 Attn: Dianna Sundahl, Township Clerk
 Or send correspondence by email to the clerk at clerk@breitungtownship.org. You may call the Township Clerk with your questions @ 218-753-6020.

COVID-19 protocols will be followed, along with social distancing, and masks are required.

Dianna Sundahl, Clerk, Breitung Township

Published in the Timberjay, April 30 & May 7, 2021

EMPLOYMENT



**HELP WANTED —
FULL-TIME SUMMER
EMPLOYMENT**

As a Wildfire Protection Maintenance and Installation Technician, you will install, test and maintain Wildfire Protection Systems and components within St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties.

We are looking for hardworking, reliable and mechanically inclined individuals who are able to perform physical work outdoors. Excellent customer relation skills are a must. Must have valid driver's license.

Excellent starting hourly wage, performance review schedule and bonuses are available. Health insurance, lodging, travel expenses, work vehicle are provided.

Will pay for interview travel expenses.

Visit our website: www.wildfiresprinkler.com

Please contact George or Marilyn Carlson at 218-388-9969
 c: 218-379-0399 or gcarlson@wildfiresprinkler.com. ^{4/30}



OPEN POSITIONS 10 Fifth Street SE Cook, MN 55723

- Dietary**
 FT Dietary Manager
Hospital/ER
 PT Registered Nurse (wage starting at \$34.06/hr - Sign-On Bonus)
Care Center
 PT Nursing Assistant (wage starting at \$16.36/hr - Sign-On Bonus)
Activities
 PT & Casual Activities Assistant

- Environmental Services**
 PT Housekeeper
 Casual Laundry Aide
 Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		5	7				4	6

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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TIMBERJAY CLASSIFIEDS

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

Try out the Timberjay classifieds
 Line classifieds cost 30¢/word, \$6.00 minimum.
 Classified ads can be run a second time at half price (private parties only). We now accept payment by Visa, Mastercard, AmEx, and Discover. Call your ad in to 218-753-2950. Display (boxed) classifieds are billed by the "inch"- please call for prices and information on discounts.
 Call Today - 218-753-2950 or 218-365-3114

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HOSPICE

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

LOST

PURPLE JET SKI SEAT lost on Tuesday, April 27 on Cty Rd. 77 or Hwy. 169, between the Vermilion Club and Ely. Call Mark at 218-343-5903. 4/30p

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF TOWER CALL FOR SEALED BIDS

The City of Tower is calling for sealed bids on a 2014 John Deere D150 Riding Mower. Sold as is, Where is. Needs Mower Deck Replacement.

Questions? call Randy at 218-753-6868
 Minimum bid: \$200

Sealed Bids Due Monday, May 10 at 12 Noon, City Hall Outside Drop Box or Mail to PO Box 576, Tower, MN 55790.

Bids to be opened Monday, May 10, 2021 at the Council Meeting.

Published in the Timberjay, April 16, 23, 30 & May 7, 2021

MARINE

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WANTED
 SELIGA CANOES WANTED: We'll buy old Seligas in Good Shape. Turn your classic canoe into cash. Call Steve at 365-6745. tfn

RUMMAGE SALE
 ELY CITYWIDE RUMMAGE AND CRAZY DAY- Saturday, May 22 from 8am - 4pm. \$10 registration fee. Receive signage, map location, and advertising. Stop in at the Ely Chamber of Commerce at 1600 E Sheridan St. to register. 5/7

HELP WANTED

SATURDAY CLEANERS WANTED- Come clean with our amazing team on Saturdays at White Eagle Resort. Competitive wages offered based upon experience. Contact us at 218-666-5500 or apply online at Whiteeaglesort.com. tfn

AGE 55+ WORKERS needed for part-time custodial/groundskeeping at the Lake Vermilion/Soudan State Park. Contact Green View. 651-639-1913. 5/7v

FOR SALE

ROTOTILLER FOR SALE- Cub Cadet Model RT65H. Used 5 times, stored in a shed, has forward and reverse. Asking \$600. Can be seen at 1588 Farm Rd. N, Tower (Vermilion Reservation). 5/7

SNOWFLAKES
 by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦♦ Easy ♦♦♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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FUNERAL SERVICES

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 Hibbing 263-3276
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8	2	1	6	9	4	5	3	7
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Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Participated in a PAC
 8 Gridlock
 15 Muffler, e.g.
 20 "Amen to that!"
 21 Blank-faced, as a comic
 22 Gung-ho
 23 Basic items on a canal boat?
 25 Auto gear
 26 Has it wrong
 27 "Who is —?"
 28 Day, to Diego
 29 One hooking something
 30 Nonclerical
 31 Niche religion
 32 Large-scale swindle?
 35 Cubs hero Sammy
 36 Hip dwellings
 37 Make holy
 38 Glowing molten rock?
 42 Like acids
 43 Rough- (unfinished)
 47 Wintry glaze
 48 Dundee denial
 49 "How precious!"
 50 "John Q." actress Anne

DOWN

51 Place to grow grapes
 54 TV program about kings and queens?
 58 Settles up
 59 Assistant on an iPhone
 61 Suffix with hepta-
 62 Radius site
 63 Granola grain
 64 European city famous for post-drinking headaches?
 69 In history
 72 Pot-au- (French stew)
 73 Poem form
 74 "Not so fast!"
 75 Makes the decision
 79 Press-on nails?
 83 "Dream on!"
 85 Radiant
 86 Gun rights gp.
 87 Old Pan Am rival
 89 Tutu, e.g.
 90 Comic Martha
 91 Fill to excess
 93 Placards that say "I'm only human?"

DOWN

1 Insult in print
 2 Fictional Scarlett

3 Bush fruit
 4 Totes, e.g.
 5 Intense anger
 6 Visual acuity determiner
 7 It may record a fender bender
 8 Fateful March day
 9 Grown boys
 10 Gentle touch
 11 Reebok rival
 12 Neighbor of Andorra
 13 Tongs may be placed in it
 14 U.S. nav. officer
 15 Auto types cleaning services
 17 Winemaking phase
 18 Party hearty
 19 Brother, in French
 24 Use a couch
 29 Boat landing
 31 Like dirty chimneys
 32 Wii user, e.g.
 33 Nutrition fig.
 34 Viral illness
 35 "Good grief!"
 36 Club swingers' gp.

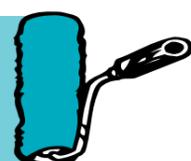
38 Abbr. on an invitation
 39 Tony winner
 40 Refute
 41 Drug banned by MLB
 42 Title river in a Jolson hit
 44 Canyon call
 45 "Not so fast!"
 46 Pond critter
 49 Gung-ho
 50 Service song
 52 Emmy-winning Ed
 53 Cobble together
 55 Wetland bird
 56 Schoolyard retort
 57 Salvors
 60 Côte d'— (nation in Afrique)
 65 Two or three
 66 Writer Buchanan
 67 Lunged toward
 68 Terrier type, for short
 69 At a distance
 70 Reciprocal of nano-
 71 YOLO part
 76 Smug sort
 77 Gull relative

78 Match parts
 80 Loses all one's moolah
 81 Alert
 82 Tale
 84 Topic
 88 Lopsided
 91 In — (as placed)
 92 Prefix with puncture
 93 Actress Wasikowska
 94 Electrical units
 95 Susceptible to being misplaced
 97 Magnate
 98 Bewildered
 100 Gorbachev's wife
 101 Perturb
 102 "Capeesh?"
 103 Software package
 104 Have life
 105 — Hawkins Day
 106 Teen turmoil
 107 Judges to be
 110 Tallies (up)
 111 Goalie glove
 113 GPS graphic
 114 Certain URL ending
 115 Singer Des'—
 116 Lacerate

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