

**Inside:** Turkey giveaway time... See /12 Eagles Nest bear issues... See /1B Busy blue jays...See /4B

# ABERIAY<sup>®</sup> Serving the communities of northern St. Louis County since 1989 VOL. 32, ISSUE 43 October 29, 2021

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM

# Labor dispute threatens regional library services

Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL- Patrons of services provided by the regional Arrowhead Library System could see those services disrupted by an ongoing labor dispute that could lead to a strike if union members vote down the latest contract offer on Oct. 29.

Strike is an option if sides can't resolve differences

While ALS, a seven-county regional library system, has expanded and diversified its offerings in recent years by adding numerous online resources and collections, people-intensive services such as Mail-a-Book and the Bookmobile, as well as



ongoing support of programming in local public libraries, rely on the work of front-line staff.

AFSCME Council 65 represents the members of Local 3258, which includes all but four of the employees who work at the ALS headquarters in Mt. Iron. Staff members have been working under a contract that expired at the

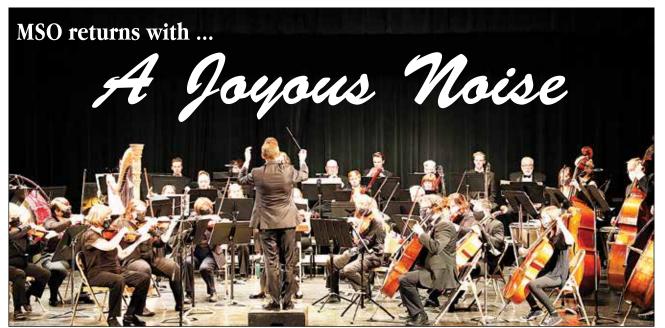
end of 2019, and now members are set to vote on what AFSCME Council 65 labor representative Amanda Metsa said is a "last and final offer" from the ALS administrative negotiating team.

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"They're saying this is as far as they're coming," Metsa said. "We engaged the services

See...DISPUTE pg. 11

#### SUPPORTING THE ARTS



# Mesabi Symphony Orchestra opens season in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - A "joyous noise" filled the air at Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater Saturday afternoon as the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra opened their 2021-22 season after an 18-month hiatus.

The live concert shut-down was due to public health concerns over the coronavirus

See...MSO pg. 11







PUBLIC MEETINGS

# **ISD 696** looks at changes to open forum

School board chair cites deliberate efforts to damage staff reputations

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY – In response to recent ISD 696 school board meetings where some audience members verbally attacked some school district employees, the board is considering updating their open forum policy to try to tone down

MORE

mandate

Page 9

remains in

Ely schools

Mask

the vitriol. The Ely school board chair presented an updated open forum policy at a study session Monday night for members to consider.

"I would have to say

that I was very disappointed with our last two open forums," said Ray Marsnik. "I believe there was a deliberate and sustained effort by some speakers to damage the reputation and credibility of some of our staff."

As chairman, Marsnik publicly apologized to those people who were attacked.

"As the chair I probably could have stopped a lot of that, but I didn't. Don't get me wrong, it wasn't everybody. There were a lot of good comments at those forums. As a board, we must continue to encourage the public to engage in correspondence."

He continued, "We can't tolerate that kind of behavior by some people at the

See...FORUM pg. 9

#### LAKE VERMILION

# House destroyed in explosion, fire

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

VER-LAKE MILION- A home on Everett Bay Road was ripped apart Wednesday morning in an astonishing explosion that rocked houses across a broad swath

force of the explosion sent pieces of the house flying into neighboring yards and immediately caught the remains of the structure on fire.

Two individuals were reported to have been home

at the time. Unofficial

of Lake Vermilion. The Breitung Fire Chief Steve Burgess sizes up the scene after an explosion destroyed a house Wednesday morning on Lake Vermilion. photo by M. Helmberger

> reports indicate that a male victim, Michael Gramse, was found alive but suffering from burns and other

> injuries. There was no

official word on the fate of the female victim, believed to be Eva Gramse, but a

See...FIRE pg. 10





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October 29, 2021 THE TIMBERJAY

## **Community notices**

#### **Purchase ice candles by Nov. 1**

EMBARRASS- Ice candles for the Embarrass Cemetery are now for sale and must be ordered by Nov. 1. Candles are \$4 each. Call 218-984-2084 to

#### **Program on Finnish women artists, Nov. 2**

HIBBING- Sandra Markovich of the Iron Range Historical Society will present a program on Finnish women artists at Grace Lutheran Church, 4010 9th Ave. in Hibbing on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. Sandra, who is herself an artist, will share some of the contributions women have made to Finnish culture that represent Finland's difficult but proud history. Everyone is invited; a social time will follow the program.

#### Dream Quilters to meet on Nov. 4

TOWER- The Vermilion Dream Quilters will meet Thursday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Tower. Masks are encouraged. There is space for social distancing. Anyone who is a quilter or interested in learning about quilting is welcome to visit. In addition to a short business meeting, Noreen Saukko will demonstrate how to use a sewing machine to attach a quilt binding and members will show and tell their recent creations.

#### Craft and bake sale on Nov. 6 supports Embarrass Region Fair

EMBARRASS- A handcraft and bake sale will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6 at the Embarrass Timber Hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. sponsored by the Embarrass Region Fair Association, in conjunction with the November Pancake Breakfast.

Breakfast includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, choice of ham or sausage links, juice, and a bottomless cup of coffee the first Saturday of each month through May at Timber Hall. Adults \$6, children (6-10 years) \$3, and under 5 years eat free. Breakfast is held from 8 to 11 a.m.

Proceeds from both breakfast and the sale go to support the Embarrass Region Fair.

#### Dialing area codes now required to make local calls

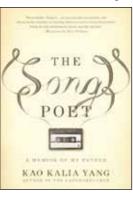
REGIONAL- 218 numbers in northern Minnesota and all of Wisconsin must switch from seven-digit to ten-digit dialing due to a growing population and to provide easier access to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, according to the Federal Communications Commission. Across the country, 82 area codes are included in the mandatory switch. Beginning Oct. 24, ten-digit dialing is required for both landlines and cell phones.

A ten-digit dialed telephone call requires entering both the three-digit area code and the seven-digit telephone number to complete the call, even if the area code is the same area code as your own. When an area code transitions to ten-digit dialing, you will no longer be able to dial seven digits to make a local

Transitioning to ten-digit dialing will not affect your current telephone number. Your phone number, including your area code, will not change. Local calls dialed with only seven digits may not connect and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. You must hang up and dial again using the area code and the seven-digit

#### Statewide One Book program begins

ST. PAUL- The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, as the Minnesota Center for the Book, announces the sixth chapter of One Book | One Minnesota, a statewide book club that invites Minnesotans of all ages to read a common title and come together virtually to enjoy, reflect, and discuss. The sixth title for the program is "The Song Poet: A



Memoir of My Father" by Minnesota author Kao Kalia Yang. Presented in partnership with State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education, the program aims to bring Minnesotans together during a time of distance and adversity and highlight the role of libraries as community connectors.

From Oct. 25 through Dec. 19, through their local libraries, Minnesotans will be invited to read the featured book selection and will have access to reading guides and virtual book club discussions. Readers can access the ebook and audiobook for free on Ebooks Minnesota for eight weeks. All Minnesotans are invited to participate in a statewide discussion with the author on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. The discussion is free and open to the public; registration is required.

In addition to the digital formats, hard copies of the book will be available through public libraries and through independent stores across the state. Links to resources and more information can be found at thefriends.org/onebook.



ELY-BLOOMENSON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

# **EBCH** asks locals to complete survey



EBCH will send a survey to a random sample of homes in the area. photo by K. Vandervort

ELY- Community members in Ely, Winton, Isabella, Babbitt, Embarrass, Tower, and Soudan may soon be receiving a survey in their mailbox. This survey will be sent to a random sample of homes in November to help Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH) understand community needs, the current use of local healthcare services and provide a picture of overall community health. This information will be used for strategic planning, grant applications, and new programs and services. This process

was developed to maintain quality healthcare to serve the continuing and future needs of the community and is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to be completed every three years.

The National Rural Health Resource Center (The Center), of Duluth, is assisting Ely-Bloomenson in collecting data. All completed surveys will be returned to The Center to ensure the anonymity of survey respondents.

"We are pleased to be able to bring some of the best community health resources in the country to EBCH to assist with our Community Health Needs Assessment. We want to address present and future needs in the best way possible," said EBCH CEO Patti Banks.

"The survey process promotes healthcare as a local affair. We know that keeping healthcare local is vital to the overall health of all of the communities served by Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. By completing and returning your survey, you can directly impact the health of your community," said Banks.

Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital offers a wide array of services, including a provider-staffed **Emergency Department** that is available 24 hours a day, seven days per week, with an onsite Laboratory and Diagnostic Imaging Department. Robust Physical and Occupational Rehab, Cardiac Rehab, and a Surgery Department offer robotic-assisted surgery with a brand new, state-ofthe-art da Vinci robot.

#### THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

## Patients counting on blood as shortage continues

Donors who answer the call to help Nov. 1-12 entered to win Hawaii trip; receive \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card from Nov. 1-23

REGIONAL- With Thanksgiving and the holidays approaching, the American Red Cross urges donors to continue to make and keep appointments now and in the weeks ahead to help overcome the ongoing emergency blood shortage that has significantly impacted the nation's blood supply. In fact, the current blood supply is the lowest the Red Cross has seen this time of year in more than a

Since declaring an emergency need for donors last month, thousands of people have come to Red Cross blood drives across the country to roll up a sleeve and help patients who are counting on lifesaving transfusions. The Red Cross is incredibly grateful for the kindness and generosity of these blood donors, but hospital demand remains strong. At least 10,000 more donations are needed each week in the coming weeks to meet patient needs - ahead of the upcoming holiday season, which always presents seasonal challenges to blood collection.

Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood. org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

In honor of the new series, "I Know What You Did Last Summer", those who come to give from Nov. 1-12 will automatically be entered to win a trip for two to Hawaii, courtesy of Amazon Prime Video. The trip will transport you to where the series was filmed and includes round-trip airfare for two,

hotel accommodations for nine nights, meals, \$1,000 gift card for expenses and on-trip transportation with tour stops from Honolulu to Maui. Plus, those who come to donate Nov. 1-23 will receive a \$10 Amazon. com gift card by email, thanks to Amazon.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control including facemasks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status.

#### ELY DFL OFFICE

# What individuals can do to maintain biodiversity

ELY- Bill Tefft, retired Vermilion Community College instructor, will lead a discussion on "Our Personal Role in Maintaining Biodiversity on Northern Minnesota Private and Public Lands," at the Ely DFL Office, 1311 E Sheridan St., on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 1-2 p.m.

The event will be interactive, with Tefft facilitating dialogue

among participants about the environment in which we live and how we think about the natural resources that add to our quality of life. Tefft taught biology and parks and recreation at VCC for 33 years and has spent 45 years exploring the lands of Northeastern Minnesota.

This week's discussion is the first in a series of Saturday forums the Ely DFL office will be hosting to explore elements of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party platform. The platform represents the values and legislative priorities of the members of the DFL.

Tefft's discussion addresses the platform plank that states: "We believe in leaving the world in better condition than we found it through preservation of biodiversity and wilderness."

For more information, call the Ely DFL



Bill Tefft submitted photo

Office at 218-365-3444 or see the St. Louis County DFL Organizing Unit 3 website at https://slcou3.



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STOP FOR THE SCHOOL BUS

# Four injured after vehicle fails to stop for school bus

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

VERMILION LAKE TWP-ARock Ridge school bus carrying children home to the Tower area was almost hit when a vehicle failed to stop for the flashing lights and rear-ended a vehicle that had stopped behind the bus. The accident occurred near the Wahlsten Road/ Cty. Rd. 26 and Highway 169 intersection, where the highway is hilly and curvy with reduced visibility. This section of highway has had more than its share of serious traffic accidents.

"I heard the accident from our house and ran right down," said Crystal Alaspa. Her husband Ryan had walked down their driveway to meet five of their children, getting off the bus from school in Virginia, on Friday, Oct. 19. No children injured; school bus was not hit

Just as the children were getting off the bus, Ryan watched as a minivan, traveling at full speed, plowed into the pickup truck that had stopped behind the flashing lights and outstretched stop arm of the school bus. The school bus itself was not hit.

"Ryan threw two of our kids in front of the bus," Crystal said. "The crash was less than 15 feet away from them and he thought they might get hit."

The couple has seven children, six of whom still live at home, ranging from early elementary to high school age.

"That accident could have killed almost our whole family," said Crystal.

The accident was a stark reminder that drivers

need to be paying attention to school busses on rural roads.

"That gentleman in the van was from the twin cities area and had no idea there was a school bus stop here," she said.

Crystal said she has called 911 numerous times after taking down license plate numbers of vehicles on Highway 169 that fail to stop for school bus flashing lights, and instead will pass the bus at highway speeds.

"I had asked the township about putting up a sign," she said, "but it's not a township road."

"My kids were already afraid of getting off the bus," Crystal said. "People aren't paying attention. Something needs to be done." The issue became more of a problem, she noted, after the speed limit was raised to 60 mph, which means traffic is often sailing by at speeds of close to 70 mph.

"This accident could have been much worse," she said.

Wayne Charles Johnson, 83, of Ham Lake, was driving the 2016 Chrysler Town and Country minivan that hit the 2016 Toyota Tundra stopped behind the bus, which was in the northbound lane. Johnson and his passenger, 77-year-old Ann Johnson Kaltheen, of Ely, were transported to Virginia Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.

The Tundra was driven



This minivan failed to stop for a school bus, endangering several children. submitted photo

by 28-year-old Nathaniel J. Broughten, of Embarrass.

Broughten and his passenger, Shane Broughten, 58, of Embarrass, were also both transported to Virginia Medical Center with non-life-threaten-

ing injuries. Both drivers and their passengers were wearing seat belts, and alcohol was not involved.

#### COPPER-NICKEL MINING

# **BLM denies pending Twin Metals permit applications**

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

REGIONAL—
The Bureau of Land Management has issued a denial of a mineral lease application that is critical for the creation of the Twin Metals mine, at least as currently proposed by the company. The BLM has also denied a pending prospecting permit that the

company had sought on adjacent lands within the Superior National Forest, near Ely.

The denials were required as part of the Biden Administration's recent decision to put a two-year hold on any new mineral leases while the U.S. Forest Service completes an analysis of its proposed 20-year withdrawal of mineral leasing in the area.

The affected area includes about 225,000 acres located within the headwaters of the Rainy River, upstream of the 1.1-million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Under federal law, the denial of any pending mineral lease or prospecting permits is required as part of the withdrawal process.

The denial of the

mineral lease application, which would have given Twin Metals preferential mineral rights on 1,044 acres interspersed within its proposed project area, is a critical blow to the company's plan to open a copper-nickel mine about ten miles southeast of Ely. Twin Metals had proposed to build the sulfide-based mine within the Kawishiwi River watershed just a

few miles upstream of the wilderness boundary, a proposal that has elicited considerable opposition from those who want to protect the BWCAW.

While Twin Metals would have the ability to reapply for the lease at some future point, if the mineral withdrawal is ultimately approved, as now appears likely, that future point would be decades away.

"What the administration has decided is a policy decision, that the watershed of the Boundary Waters is the wrong place for copper-nickel mining," said Becky Rom, of Ely, who chairs the national Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters.

While the proposed mineral withdrawal appears

See MINING...pg. 10

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# OPINION

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The First Amendment of the United States Constitution

## Editorial

e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

# **Mineral withdrawal**

It's time to move past the debate on a highly speculative mine proposal

The decision by the Biden administration to study a possible 20-year mineral withdrawal affecting a portion of the Superior National Forest has generated plenty of predictable hyperbole from local politicians and others who have used the opportunity to herald the imminent demise of the Iron Range economy and the continued U.S. dependence on foreign sources of minerals, among other things.

Such claims rest on certain assumptions, most of which are questionable.

As this newspaper has argued for years, a "proposed" mine is not actually a thing until someone can provide evidence that it is economically viable. Twin Metals and its parent company, Antofagasta, have yet to provide even a hint of potential profitability. Until the company releases independently developed financials showing the capital costs, the operational costs, and the anticipated revenues, any claim of jobs or other economic benefits is nothing more than corporate spin.

What's more, it is entirely possible that the economy of the Ely area would be harmed were the mine to be built. While many in the area don't like to acknowledge it, Ely has done better than many other parts of the Iron Range, in large part because of the broad economic benefits of the Boundary Waters and the outdoor recreation economy that it has fostered. Those benefits go way beyond what we traditionally think of as "tourism" and include many other sectors, such as real estate, construction, home furnishings, insurance, and finance. These aren't speculative benefits that might arrive someday. They're real, are here today, and can continue indefinitely as long as we protect the wilderness upon hich they are based

What's more, a 2016 study by a Harvard economist found that the initial local economic benefits of the Twin Metals mine, which would mostly be felt during the construction phase, would be quickly overshadowed by the losses to these other sectors. Within just a few years, according to the study, total local income would most likely decline with a mine, as compared to a continuation of the Ely area's current economic model.

Meanwhile, claims that the Twin Metals mine will help reduce our dependence on foreign sources of critical metals are equally dubious. One thing that Twin Metals has, thankfully, not proposed is a smelter. While that lessens

the mine's threat to air quality, it almost certainly means that the ore produced by the mine will leave America's shores for final processing, most likely in China. Once there, the copper will become part of the global supply chain, indistinguishable from the copper produced anywhere else in the world. It will do nothing to reduce our foreign dependence on the metal.

Nor will it prevent children in the Congo from being exploited in Chinesecontrolled mines located in that African country, as Rep. Pete Stauber falsely claimed in a ridiculous recent letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. It would be nice to think that a new mine in Minnesota would prompt a Chinese company to clean up its act in the Congo, but there is absolutely no connection. If anything, putting more copper on the international market will prompt those Chinese mines to adopt even more exploitative practices in order to cut costs. It was just one of many head-slappers deployed by Stauber in his embarrassing missive to the Secretary.

As we argued nearly five years ago when the Obama administration announced its own mineral withdrawal effort, the Biden administration has taken a positive step for the Ely area economy.

The years of uncertainty and division within the Ely community have almost certainly been a drag on the local economy. Over the past ten years, Cook County, on the other end of the Boundary Waters, has been one of the fastest-growing counties, by percentage, in Minnesota, and managed that feat by focusing in a united fashion on quality of life centered on outdoor recreation. Ely, with its constant fighting over a speculative mining venture mostly managed to miss out on that growth. Talk about an opportunity cost.

We certainly don't envision the longstanding divide in Ely to disappear in a Kumbaya-like moment any time soon, but at least the old fights - over relatively minor things like motor quotas, truck portages, and cell towers - didn't pose existential threats to the wilderness or the economy that's built up around it.

If we're still writing about a copper-nickel mine a decade from now, Ely's economy will be poorer for it. The sooner the area can move past this debate and focus on a sustainable economic future the better.



## Letters from Readers

## Open letter to Rep. Pete Stauber

Dear Mr. Stauber,

I'm an active member of the Vermilion Lake Association, and I have a cabin there. Yesterday, Oct. 21, 2021, was the 43rd anniversary of President Jimmy Carter's signing of The Boundary Waters Wilderness Act. I am sure you're aware of the grassroots effort that led to this monumental legislation. Opponents (loggers, developers) at that fraught time advanced a "jobs" argument, but in fact the question was SETTLED on that date. The law mandates protection of fish, water, and wildlife. But most important to the environment and to those of us who care, the law minimizes "to the maximum extent possible" the environmental impact of mineral development and prevents road and commercial development.

Thus, The Boundary Waters Canoe Area, in its SETTLED historical chapter, gained its essential surname, Wilderness.

Yet here YOU are, a half-century later, arguing once again that maintaining the tranquility and beauty of the BWCAW is "a job killer." I implore you to rethink that position. Mining in the BWCAW would be disastrous to the environment. In your heart you know this, and you know that greedy executives of the Chilean copper mining industry are the only ones who would benefit by your approach.

Joanne Bergman Cook

#### What is the Greenwood town board hiding?

Supervisor Drobac recently requested the training records of the Greenwood Township fire personnel. She has, and is, being denied this simple request even though it should be readily available to any citizen, but most certainly to a supervisor tasked with oversight.

The fire department is just a part of the township and is

subject to control of the supervisors. The information she seeks is not private in nature and, in fact, there is public interest in it. Drobac has made a very reasonable request, yet it was met with a usual patronizing comment, "Where are you going with this?" from Board Chair Mike Ralston. The request does not require any private or sensitive information, such as addresses, phone numbers, financial information or employee reviews that should be redacted. But go ahead, Supervisors Carmen DeLuca, Ralston and Paul Skubic, ask your attorney Mike Couri and MAT attorney Steve Fenske what grounds you have to keep this information from fellow supervisors. What is it you hide and why would you want to hide it from a supervisor?

**JoAnn Bassing** Greenwood Twp.

#### Can democracy win out over authoritarianism?

Democracy is an idea, a set of values and, in practice, it is a way of life. In the forgotten past, cooperation may have provided necessary sharing for group survival. Ancient Greeks practiced a limited version of people's rule 2,500 years ago. In 1789, the American democratic experiment was reserved for white men of wealth. Peoples' voices may be stifled, but not silenced when decisions affect their lives.

Hierarchical thinking concluded, "some are more equal than others." That's America's "original sin," for which we have yet to atone. Excluded were the enslaved, the dominated indigenous people, property-less white males and all women. White-male supremacy squelched political democracy for more than two centuries.

Agitation gained the vote for all white males in the early 1800's, followed by women in 1920, Native Americans in 1924 and Black voting rights in 1965. Voting was denied to Blacks by terror and the reign of Jim Crow for a century following the

Civil War. Political democracy remains illusory under threat of authoritarianism, anti-science and conspiratorial vitriol.

Corporate capture diminished democracy, distracted civic engagement with the lure of desire, drained the public trough and drowned out common good. As our nation becomes a majority of minorities, white privilege has turned ugly with virulence and violent insurrection.

Corporate capitalism reduces the citizen from participant player to mere spectator. In a "house divided against itself," we are ruled outsiders, not insider rulers. Economic power remains in the hands of a very tiny group of privileged elites who dominate and manipulate the political system to the detriment of democracy. The One Percent cannot, forever, quell the voice of mutual respect among the 99 percent.

Harold Honkola Roseville

### Thanks for the amazing windows

I would like to thank Sandy Brandley, Mary Ann Pinckney, John Weidemann and Scott King for their work on the last three stained glass installments for the Public Library.

When my husband got sick and I had to leave the project after the first week of working this fall. these talented friends stepped up to the plate and, although short-handed, completed the last windows in record time. They should be installed shortly. And, they are gorgeous!

Thank you to Rachel and the Ely Library for the opportunity we have all had. Thank you to the Board of the Elv Arts and Heritage Center, Keiko and the Board of Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust, Rosemary and Kekekabic Studios, and especially the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Library Legacy Grant for making this opportunity happen.

Claire Taylor

# Shouting into the wind

True to my nature, I vasse crumble away under have been trying to figure out how and why we have come to such a bizarre impasse in our country. If I were a cartoonist, I would draw two lines of people facing each other nose-to-nose across a deep divide, heels dug in, mouths set in stubborn grimaces, glaring at each other,

as the edges of the cre-



back and reach out to

ing to tumble them all d o w n into the abyss. They can save themselves if they'll only take

their toes.

threaten-

a step

I have been just bumfuzzled about the intensity of the resistance to masks and vaccines. A friend and I were talking today about the selfish unwillingness of people to consider the common good in making these decisions, and she revealed that her husband refused to be vaccinated. When she tried to have a discussion about the possible effects on others, his only response was, "They

make a human chain to pull

everyone to safety.

can't tell me what to do!" I was amazed to learn that his mining company employers have offered to pay all employees \$1,500 for each of two vaccinations, plus an added bonus of an expensive, giant cooler. His response? He didn't need \$3,000 that bad. My friend said, "Tell them you'll take it if they fill it with Miller." Heck, for \$3,000 I'd let them suck the vaccines out of me and give them to me I have often found it

puzzling that we human beings need to be coerced or bribed to do things that are good for us. I have received coupons from my insurance company that will pay me \$20 to \$50 for getting a colonoscopy or mammogram. This type of payment is a little bit more understandable from a profit/loss standpoint, for if these preventative measures uncover problems earlier, it could presumably mean lower medical costs that the insurance company

neither of these procedures are a joy to anticipate, so perhaps a little incentive is not so out of line. Digging deeper into

would be liable for. Plus,

the psychological bedrock of our resistance, I think there are many factors, but perhaps this foot-stomping, you're-not-the-boss-of-me. I-can-do-what-I-damnwell-please intransigence comes down to our psyches screaming out for recogni-

See **BETTY...**pg. 5

# Letters from Readers

#### Top expert says mask-wearing is ineffective

I write in response to Ellie Larmouth's letter in the Oct. 15 Timberjay suggesting a classroom should focus on investigating the research and conclusions on the efficacy of wearing masks to prevent COVID in the classroom. Perhaps this investigative research should be completed before suggesting it is the job of a parent to teach their children they must do things they may not want to do and at this time she states, it is to wear a mask around

Larmouth states that parents should be making their children understand they must wear a mask in the classroom because she apparently has determined that mask wearing in the classroom is the way to keep everyone safe and well! She gives no data to support her opinion!

Dr. Michael Osterholm is the Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. He is a well-known and respected epidemiologist. He served 24 years in the Minnesota Department of Health and is a regents professor at the U of M. In November 2020, he was named a member of President-elect Joe Biden's COVID-19 Advisory Board. On June 12 of 2020, Dr. Osterholm did a Youtube video explaining why cloth face masks are not effective in preventing SARS-CoV2. In August of 2021, I listened to a podcast that Dr. Osterholm was a guest on. When he was asked about the advisability of having students wear cloth masks as they return to the classroom this fall, his response was this; World renowned industrial hygienists have done the cloth mask research and it clearly concludes that

cloth masks do not work in preventing transmission of the virus. He said that in a room with aerosolized virus, a maskless person will get enough viral load in 15 minutes to become infected and you may delay that by 4 or 5 minutes when wearing a cloth mask. He said the only masks that are effective in preventing transmission of the virus are well-fitted valveless N95 masks and, unfortunately, they are not made in children's sizes. As we all know, children are not in their classroom settings for just 20 minutes or less. This being the case, doesn't it make you wonder why they are being required to endure the physical, psychological and academic harm of worthless cloth mask wearing? Are we allowing political science or emotional reaction or both to override scientific data on this issue? Pat O'Brien

St. Paul

#### **Editor's Note:**

MichaelOsterholm's position on masks is much more nuanced that this letter writer implies. In response to claims that he rejects mask wearing as ineffectual, Dr. Osterholm wrote a commentary on the issue, which is posted on the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota.

Here is an excerpt from Dr. Osterholm's com-

"At the outset, I want to make several points crystal

➤ I support the wearing of cloth face coverings (masks) by the general

➤ Stop citing CIDRAP and me as grounds to not wear masks, whether mandated or not.

➤ Don't, however, use the wearing of cloth face coverings as an excuse to decrease other crucial, likely more effective, protective steps, like physical distancing

➤ Also, don't use poorly conducted studies to support a contention that wearing cloth face coverings will drive the pandemic into the ground. But even if they reduce infection risk somewhat, wearing them can be important."

#### Undermining democracy one election at a time

Sunday, on CNN, there was a report on how the GOP is watching the Secretary of State jobs coming up for grabs in the 2022 midterm elections. The Secretary of State is the person who is responsible for the integrity of each state's elections. The GOP is wanting those jobs to influence the outcome of a particular state's presidential election. They showed a video of an election judge all decked out in a Trump shirt and hat. He was fired because we as judges are to be non-political. We have to make certain our elections are above reproach and that is the Secretary of

> Skip Dickinson **Britt**

State's job.

#### Practice fire safety at the hunting shack

This fall as you pack up your gear for the hunting shack don't forget a smoke alarm and a carbon monoxide detector. And if you already have them there, pack fresh batteries. Some years ago Vermilion Lake Fire Department responded to a fire call for an overheated oil stove. There were no injuries and the structure

suffered minor damage.

The stove malfunction occurred in the early evening while everyone was still awake. Had it occurred after everyone had called it a night, the outcome could have been much worse. Heating equipment at hunting shacks and lake cabins is often older equipment with a sometimes-innovative installation, often-sporadic maintenance, and only-occasional operation. Further, occupants are not in their usual surroundings and access to the site may be difficult. What could go wrong? Battery operated smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are readily available. And please get a CO detector with a readout that shows the level of carbon monoxide.

> Steven Lotz Fire Chief Vermilion Lake Twp.

#### A hero of the COVID-19 pandemic

Jacinda Ardern, in my opinion, is still the hero of the COVID pandemic. She is the prime minister of New Zealand, and she persuaded her fellow citizens to adopt a 100-percent virus elimination strategy in 2020. It worked. New Zealand enjoyed 464 days free of infection. There were no workplace closures. Children were in school. Restaurants were

On Aug. 17, 2021, unfortunately, a new case of infection was discovered in Auckland when a traveler returning from Australia brought the Delta variant home with him. Before he had any symptoms, before he had a positive test, he transmitted the virus to others. There was a super spreader event in a church with a large congregation. The number of new cases exploded.

The government was forced to change its strategy from elimination to vaccination. Jacinda Ardern has just announced an accelerated program to fully vaccinate 90-percent of the population, everyone five years old and older, by the end of November.

Jim Ganahl

#### Tower News story riddled with bias

I am writing to clarify a few things for the public, written in a Tower News article in their Oct. 15 paper.

➤I asked for the disbursement report from the clerk, not the claims.

➤ I asked for this report to compare to the treasurer's disbursements. When the clerk's report came out, a discrepancy of over \$10,000 between the two reports was found. A comparison of the reports is necessary for checks and balances.

➤ Regarding the township credit card, I did leave the card at the time I left. A phone call to the credit card company would have changed the name. (As I did when I became clerk.)

➤I did not attack the fire department. I am only asking questions and getting no answers.

➤ Having a list of names and gross pay versus a summary report is necessary for transparency and checks and balances in the payroll system.

➤The headline in the Tower News says I was mired in old business. Yes, the old business has not been resolved. The board has passed motions that are not being acted on, and because of this they need to be brought up time and again. Past motions should have positive results – not

be ignored.

➤If the Tower News reporter needs information about the payroll check errors, she may call me. My number is listed in many

➤I did not and have never pounded the table even though the firefighters' training report has frequently been requested. without success. The fire department representatives now say the fire department can train their own people, and other training is not necessary. I would want firefighters coming to my home to be professionally trained. Also, why does the state do training? I think that a fire boat running out of fuel is of great concern. Also, our township does not have a fire brigade.

➤ Saying I ask questions "sadistically" is rather upsetting.

➤ The use of mute needs to be corrected.

➤ Use of the office printer by the supervisors is not a bad thing, and in all reality the public has not used the public computer. The only use has been by previous or serving super-

➤ The issue of Supervisor Ralston approving an extra expenditure for a fire department truck repair, should have been brought back to the board for approval.

And in answer to Mike Ralston, not all the time are all people notified about meetings.

Obviously, the writer is learning journalism as she is using bias and her opinion in the regular articles. A lot of what was written should have been in an editorial.

LASTLY, I ASK QUESTIONS BECAUSE I, AND MOST LIKELY THE PUBLIC, DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWERS. **THERE ARE NO STUPID** 

QUESTIONS. Sue Drobac Supervisor Greenwood Twp.

#### $\mathbf{BE'I'I'Y}$ ... Continued from page 4-

tion, writhing in agony because we feel invisible and powerless in the face of everything that is happening

in our country and our world. In the long view, men have had to face that they're really not the stronger sex except perhaps when lifting weights, while women show themselves as brilliant, creative, and resilient in spite of continued efforts to keep them down. Women have to live with the fact that we're still quite a long way from fair, equal pay even when we're often doing the heavy lifting at work and at home, expected to keep things running, while at the same time have lost some of the benefits of being the protected homemaker. Young people are facing a world with monumental messes they didn't create, wondering where the elders are that they can emulate.

And then the pandemic hit. Some people had thought, if nothing else, a pandemic might bring people together to fight the common enemy. Wrong again. I think what has happened is that the coronavirus has made it evident that we really are quite vulnerable creatures, dependent on brilliant scientists to rescue us, yet still remaining vulnerable to the quirks of new viruses to come. Although scientists have warned us for years that the overuse of antibiotics could create drug-resistant bacteria, we remain shocked that viruses we can't even see have taken down so many and threaten the rest of us. Some of us, lacking any other reasonable response, stand up to the bully virus and Dr. Anthony Fauci, yelling, "You can't tell me what to do!" Then we can dust off our hands, belly up to the bar, down a brewski or a cappuccino, saying, "Guess I told them!" It kind of has the nostalgic essence of standing on the wooden porch protecting the

homestead, rifle in hand, sending the

message of strength whether there are any rustlers in the bushes or not. At

least we're doing something. I think there's also another layer with a different flavor that factors in here. It is a bit more elusive. It's the part of us defined by a sense of place. Having a sense of place can give us a grounding, a deep knowledge of where we belong, which is often a physical place, but it doesn't have to be.

I was born and raised in the Midwest, and when I lived in Colorado near the Rockies, I longed for lingering sunsets and the abundance of lakes, rivers, and dramatic thunderstorms I'd taken for granted. I missed the luxurious, soft lawns of grass, while the tumbleweeds and scrawny piñon trees left me hungry for majestic oak, maple, elm, evergreen and apple trees, the stalwart guardians and playgrounds of my childhood. Along the way I realized I was Midwestern to my core, even when I wanted to be someone more exotic. The Western deserts and craggy landforms created by wind and water filled me with awe combined with the clear sense of being a stranger, knowing I could live there

but never completely belong. The predictability of our existence is part of that sense of place, and one of the reasons we often resent and resist change. Newcomers to an area are often resented because they bring change or at least bring the differences of their own selves to our comfortable sameness, requiring adjustments in our lives. It can be as minor as, "I don't know that person walking down my street." The coronavirus moved in on us, like an unwelcome stranger, infecting our communities, bringing death, and demanding changes for self-protection and the

health of the community: masking, disinfecting, distancing, isolation, vaccines. We couldn't protest its arrival by chalking messages on sidewalks, "COVID, go home!" – an ineffective protest technique sometimes tried on humans perceived to be intrusive. Without knowing an end in sight, many of us have felt disoriented, discouraged, lonely, hopeless, and certainly weary. How to fight back? How to get over it? Our "place" has been changed, probably permanently and unpredictably. We stomp our feet and feel the earth wobble. But at least we have the freedom and independence to shout in the wind.

Postscript: According to *The New* York Times, approximately 1,500 people have died of COVID every day this last week with a lower U.S. vaccination rate than Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy. According to the most recent Kaiser Family Foundation Poll, only 58 percent of self-identified Republicans are vaccinated, compared with 90 percent of Democrats. The Times calls it "a triumph of misinformation."

## A poem for COVID

There's a problem in hospitals: Everyone's tired And stressed out and gloomy; A solution's required. Too bad it sounds mean-Don't know about you-If you've had no vaccine You should wear a tattoo On your forehead that says: "I won't accept care in ICU beds To save room for broke backs, Dialysis, heart attacks, Accident cases That leave smashed up faces, And people with cancer"

And that is my answer. **Kate Furness** 

# *TIMBERJAY*

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**Trick-or-Treat on Main** 

nesses will be handing out treats to

**Street in Tower on Oct. 29** 

TOWER- Tower Main Street busi-

children on Friday, Oct. 29 after school. Participating businesses will have posters on their doors, welcoming the children.

The Timberjay, once again, will have a

**Community Halloween** 

**Party at Tower-Soudan** 

TOWER- A Community Halloween party will be held in the big gym at the

The party is sponsored by the Tower

Children in Tower-Soudan tradition-

ally trick-or-treat at houses on the actual

Tower Elementary School on Friday, Oct.

29 from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be games

and fun in the gym, and food will be

Fire Department Relief Association.

served in the multi-purpose room.

date of Halloween, Oct. 31.

**Elementary on Friday** 

nice selection of rubber ducks.

#### Week of Nov. 1

#### Monday

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 Nov. 16.

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

#### Wednesday

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

#### Thursday

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

Tower/Soudan Community Bible Study- Thursdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Tower Elementary School cafeteria. All are welcome. Call 218-984-3402 for more info.

#### Vendors needed for Tower Holiday Craft Show set for Saturday, Dec. 4

TOWER- The Tower Holiday Craft Show is tentatively being planned for Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Tower Civic Center. The show will be held if there is enough interest from vendors, so please let us know as soon as possible if you want to participate. Tables are \$20 each (limit two 8-ft. tables per vendor) and must be reserved and paid for in advance. Checks can be made out to Friends of VCS and mailed to Friends of Vermilion Country School, PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790 or can be dropped off at the Timberjay office in Tower. For more information, call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950.

# Special music at St. Paul's. Oct. 31

SOUDAN- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Soudan is holding a Reformation Sunday Service on Sunday, Oct. 31 at 8:30 a.m. There will be special music featuring Deb Tuominen and Louis Wiermaa.

Brunch will follow the service. Everyone is welcome to attend. Any questions, call Susan Trucano-Precht at 218-780-

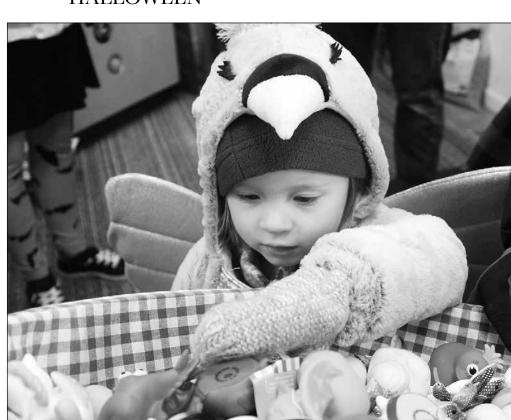
# Red Hat Belles to meet Nov. 11

1560.

TOWER- The Northern Red Hat Belles will meet Thursday, Nov. 11 at 11:30 a.m. at the Benchwarmer's Grille. Following lunch, the group will go the Nelimark Museum in Embarrass. Please RSVP to Kathy, at 218-753-2530, by Nov. 8. All old and new members, and guests, are welcome to attend.



#### **HALLOWEEN**





# Getting ready for Halloween!

Vermilion Country School students spent an afternoon decorating pumpkins and making scarecrows. Pictured clockwise from top left: Brandon Strange with his two-piece pumpkin creation; Alyssa Costello with a minecraft-themed design; Brody Anderson's pumpkin has no wifi; Isaac Archambeau and Destany Burks painted their pumpkins; Abbi Zapata, Mahlia Schuster, and Alyssa Costello with their scarecrow. photos by S. Ukkola







# Tower-Soudan Class of 1970 holds reunion



TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Class of 1970 celebrated their 51st class reunion with classmates and spouses on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at The Wilderness at Fortune Bay. Those attending from the class were:

Front (from left): Kathie Hujanen
Birk, Ethie Sjoberg Kniivila, Ron Svatos,
Andrea Trucano Alto, Kathy Nikunen
Gentilini, Ann Bobence Carlson. Second
row: Don Carlson, Brian Birk, Karen
Wagoner Dahl, Peggy Holappa Brula,
Maxine Lundstrom Hughes, Sue Burgess
Cebelinski. Back row: David Larsen,
Tom Trembath, and Richard Herring.
A vase of six yellow roses (the class

flower) was displayed in memory of classmates who have passed: Guy Alaspa, Sue Peitso Ruiter, Clifford Thierer, Kevin Nystrom, Helen Zavodnik and Gary Slead.

submitted photo

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

# Gardner Humanities Trust awards \$10,890

ELY - The Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust awarded nearly \$11,000 to local artists, organizations and fine art events in its fall round of grants.

"The Gardner Humanities Trust board was happy to see new grant projects this year that will impact the community," said Keiko Williams, executive director for the Trust. "The Trust is also happy to continue support for some great projects that have been funded in previous years that the community really enjoys."

A total of \$10,890 in grants was approved by the organization's board of directors earlier this month.

Brennan Rue was awarded \$750 to attend weekly painting and drawing classes with Dafne Caruso during the school year. A Youth Grant helps meet the needs of students who demonstrate a high motivation in the fine arts. The youth grant program helps young artists afford training opportunities through workshops, classes, lessons or mentorships.





grant program supports activities in the fine arts and is intended to make possible presentations or productions. Five project grants were awarded this year to the following organizations:

➤ The Ely Winter The Trust's project Festival was awarded \$2,770 to support the Snow Sculpture Symposium at Whiteside Park in February

➤ The Ely Homeschool Co-op was awarded \$1,000 to help provide pottery classes for students K-8th grade with Wade Pharr and Pharr Thrown Pottery

Nominees wanted for Music and Drama Club arts service award

The 2019 ArtWalk, above, featured artists Nancy Ensley and Gail deMarken. Art at left, is by Brennan Rue. submitted photos

➤ Ely Area Television was awarded \$2,000 to produce a community holiday concert that will be broadcast on Ely TV and also shown at the Ely Historic State Theater.

➤ The Ely ArtWalk was awarded \$2,130 for its outdoor art exhibit in downtown Ely in February 2022 a collaboration of area artists and Ely business owners.

➤ Cyko Art Productions was awarded \$2,240 to produce a 'Time Capsules' video series to

document living history of Ely area residents, collaborating with the ECR Video Production Club.

The 2021 Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust board members are Beth Ohlhauser, Jill Swanson, David O'Donnell, Vince O'Connell, Angela Campbell, Pam Ransom and Sara Skelton.

Any questions about the grant programs, the Trust or ways to support the arts in Ely can be directed to Keiko Williams, Executive Director at 365-2639 or info@gardnertrust.org.

The purpose of the Trust is for the enhancement, growth and improvement of:

1. The Ely Public Library

2. The arts and artisans of Ely and surrounding area, to include the performing arts, the visual arts and literature.

3. The creating and funding of scholarships, educational and artistic grants.

4. The cultural and aesthetic environment of the City of Ely and its surrounding area.

## Tuesday Group

ELY - The Tuesday Group community gathering meets every Tuesday at the Grand Ely Lodge. Participants have an opportunity to order lunch. For those interested in being a host, or who have a speaker suggestion, contact Lacey Squier by email at ElyTuesdayGroup@ gmail.com or call her at 218-216-9141.

➤Nov.2:Rewritingthe Rural Narrative and Rural Resident Recruitment with John Bennett.

➤ Nov. 9: Transition Towns: Local Responses to Climate Change. Visitors from St. Anthony Park, a St. Paul neighborhood, will show how their community is fostering a transition from fossil-fueled systems to more sustainable ways of life.

#### **Breathing Out**

by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



pumpkins dot the yards bright orange reminders of fall

transition to white

## ibraries

**Ely library** Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

#### volunteer their time and talents to Last year's winner was Bill

ELY - The Ely Music and Drama Club is seeking nominees for its annual community service award. Since 1981, the local study and service group has annually sought names of Ely citizens who have generously given of themselves to the enrichment of the local arts scene.

Each year, the Ely Music and Drama Club selects one of those nominees to win the Music and Drama Club's Community Service

This award is announced at the club's Christmas Dinner and the recipient is invited to join the group to celebrate the season of giving by recognizing the award winner's contributions to the arts in Ely. The names of all the Community Service Award Winners are mounted on plaques which grace the entrance to Vermilion Community College's Fine Arts Theater.

Defenbaugh for his contributions to public art and the formation of the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust which has given so many local artists grant opportunities.

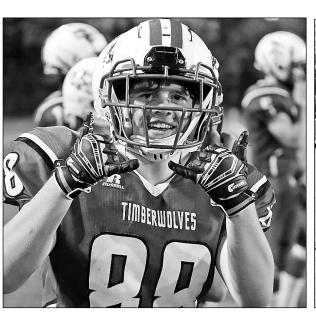
Community Service Award nominees need not be living to be acknowledged for their service, and several past awards have been given posthumously. Award winners must go above-and-beyond paid activities to selflessly

the betterment of the arts in Ely. This year, the club welcomes

recommendations of those people who have promoted the arts and enriched lives through their service to the community through the visual, literary, or performing arts.

Names of nominees should be directed to Sara Skelton, who can be reached at Vermilion Community College at 235-2142 or s.skelton @vcc.edu.

#### FOOTBALL SEASON IN ELY







Clockwise from upper left, Gavin Marshall, Coach Cory Musel at flag football camp, Timberwolves quarterback Mason Davis, Turner Drange practices his ball-handling skills. photos by K. Vandervort



#### Babbitt library Monday Noon-6 pm Monday

Phone: 365-5140

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

**Anonymous OPEN AA - 7:30** p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, in-person, First Lutheran Church, 915 E. Camp St., Ely. **SUNDAY NIGHT AA** at St. Anthony's Catholic Church is cancelled. **ELY WOMEN'S OPEN** 

AA - Every Monday at noon at Ledgerock Church, 1515 E. Camp St., Ely. BABBITT AA - 7 p.m.

Tuesdays, Woodland Presbyterian Church AL-ANON - Sundays 8-9 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely. For persons who encounter alcoholism in a relative or friend. **BABBITT AL-ANON** Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Woodland Presbyterian. **CO-DEPENDENTS'** 12-step support group,

#### noon Fridays, St. Anthony's Catholic

ADULT BASIC **EDUCATION GED**  Study materials and pre-test available. Call

218-365-3359, or

Church, Ely.

#### 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







The commons area and parking lot at North Woods School were filled with all manner of costumed cuties for Family Fun Night on Tuesday.

Clockwise, from top left, a tyranosaurus rex bellows beside a Cook ambulance unit; a full crowd mingles among the various activies set up in the commons area; Frankie the French Bulldog was part of a "skeleton" crew with the ambulance, alongside owner and EMT Emily Nelson; face painting was a popular activity, and Kaisa Ruuska kept it simple with black whiskers, eybrows and nose to complement her striped shirt; sisters Sidney and Brooklyn Gabrielson wait for decorative sprinkles to top off some sugar cookies; Jase Hawkinson, who wants to be a firefighter for Halloween, sits on the lap of his father, Jeremy, at the wheel of engine provided by the Cook Fire Department; and Faelee Laakkonen laughs with delight after striking a ball at a putting activity. The size of the crowd could be estimated in part by the fact that more than 300 hot dogs were served. The activities included a tour of the school's forest trail led by Principal John Vukmanich.







# **FAMILY FUN NIGHT**



COOK COMMUNITY CENTER

# **Community center event to** be night of fun for families

COOK- When she's not occupied with all of her North Woods School classes and numerous activities, Grizzlies senior Haley Bogdan stays busy in the community, including working part-time for the city of Cook the past three years.

Not too long ago, Bogdan was cleaning at the Cook Community Center when she paused to look around.

thought, 'This is such a big awesome space, and the community never gets to use it anymore," Bogdan said. "With COVID, it's now mostly used for meetings and birthday parties and private stuff.'

So Bogdan decided it was time to put the "community" back into the community center by organizing a Family Fun Night for Thursday, Nov. 4 from 4 to 7 p.m.

"It will be a good opportunity to get kids and families out in the community with our local school



clubs and with businesses and organizations, just to get everybody to communicate with each other and see who's in their commu-

nity," Bogdan said. She got immediate support from her colleagues at city hall, and

started making contacts. "We've got the North Woods Art Club, Peer Helpers, Student Council, and possibly the football team, coming to do crafts and games," Bogdan said. "Northwoods Friends of

the Arts is coming to do a

fall craft. Zup's is putting

our menu together, and we've got awesome prizes donated from Cook's Country Connection, the Montana Café, and the Comet."

Bogdan said she's also trying to make arrangements with the Cook fire and ambulance services to have personnel and rigs there for children to interact with.

In addition to providing an opportunity for people to make connections, Bogdan also wants people to see what the Cook Community Center has to offer.

"I tell people I work at the community center and they go, 'Where is the community center?" she said. "How do you not know where the community center is? We're just trying to get the word out about the space that we have and what it can be used for."

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 2.

#### **Halloween candy** drive-thru to be held in Cook

COOK - A Halloween candy drive-thru will be this Sunday, Oct. 31, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Cook Community Center.

For a second consecutive year, the Cook Lions Club and Cook VFW are hosting the annual fright fest event outdoors due to the continuing presence of coronavirus activity in the community.

Patrons started lining up early last year for the opportunity to roll through the lot to collect bags of goodies from costumed greeters. Advance weather forecasts are predicting partly to mostly cloudy skies and temperatures in the low 40s, a typical fall day that should bring out the trickor-treaters.

All are asked to please stay in their cars while driving through the parking lot.

**Library express** visits resume

Library patrons will once

again have limited ac-

COOK- Cook City

cess to the facility when express visits resume on

Use of lobby pickup whenever possible is still preferred, Librarian Crystal Phillips said, but a limited number of visitors will now be allowed in the building from Tuesday through Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. for express visits.

Visits must be 30 minutes or less. Two computers are available, and the restroom is open. Food and drink are not permitted in the library. If you feel sick, please visit another day.

Indoor events, programs and activities remain paused. The meeting room is not available. "Our main priority is

the safety of library staff and patrons," Phillips said. "We thank you for the opportunity to provide a safe and welcoming experience for all." Lobby pickup contin-

ues to be available Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please use the outdoor book drop for all returns For more information call 218-666-2210 or email crystal.phillips@

alslib.info.

## **Woodcarving and** watercolors come

to Cook gallery COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Woodcarvers Group has resumed meeting every week on Thursdays, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery, 210 S

River Street, in Cook. A talented group of carvers meet and share the joy of carving on Beginners are wood. welcome! Call Howard at 218-741-7941 for more information.

On display at the gallery beginning Nov. 4 is a special exhibit in honor of Cook watercolorist Lois Larson. The show is titled "Paint, Water & Paper, A Lois Larson Retrospectivee." The gallery is open

Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

> **Read It HERE**

# Ely school mask mandate remains in place

Ely Editor

ELY - "Don't let wearing a mask wag the dog," local physician Joseph Bianco told the Ely school board this week at a study session concerning metrics for ISD 696 COVID-19 mitigation

After nearly two months of the school year and a face mask mandate for all students, staff and visitors in the Ely school buildings, the administration and a community advisory group have been working on a strategy to dial back the mitigation efforts put in place due to rising coronavirus pandemic numbers.

Responding to a petition drive calling for the end of the face mask mandate, along with other pushback in the community, the school board rescinded the authority they granted to the superintendent to make campus-wide COVID-19 health decisions and will now vote by majority rule on efforts to keep kids safe.

Superintendent Erik Erie and the Ely Safe Learning Plan Advisory Council (ESLPAC) continue to work on recommendations for the school board to consider when School board considers metrics while COVID rates remain high

local transmission rates and positive COVID-19 cases reach a level where face masks won't be mandated in the school buildings but just recommended.

Bianco, an ESLPAC member and Ely Essentia Clinic Director of Primary Care, presented a 16-page COVID-19 metric recommendation to the school board Monday night. He noted that because of the responsibilities of his day job as a doctor, the research paper took longer than he anticipated to develop. It was not discussed by the advisory council prior to the school board study session.

As COVID-19 transmission rates and local case rate data remain elevated in the Ely area, any face mask mandate adjustments are unlikely anytime soon. ELSPAC planned to review Bianco's metric recommendations at their meeting this week and could be ready to submit a plan to the school board at its Nov. 8 meeting.

"I encourage you not to back into this," Bianco said, referring to dumping the face mask mandate. "Look and see what the risk is. Don't try to find a way to not have masks anymore. That is the idea of having the science behind it. You are going to get there. We'll get to these numbers. If you want to go faster, then you can change whatever you do, but you'll have to explain why you want to do it that way, and it may put you in a high transmission rate. That is your choice."

Bianco has been a family physician in Ely for 28 years. He was director of primary care for 15 years for the entire Essentia Clinic system, overseeing 65 clinics and more than 500 physicians.

Never during this time have we had a pandemic like we have right now. This is unprecedented. We're also learning as we go along with this, so it is important for people to take big breaths and learn together as we go forward," he said.

Bianco stressed that together face masking and vaccines are "synergistic" or cumulative in reducing the amount of transmission in a community.

"Vaccines are your most effective approach, but the combination (with face masks) also leads to an additive effect in preventing community transmission," he said.

He admitted that most patients infected with COVID-19 will recover fully from their illness. One in four will have long-term symptoms with pain and suffering for years to come,

"But most important, the reason we do this is to protect the vulnerable in our community," he said.

In discussing metrics for dialing back the face mask mandates, Bianco suggested considering COVID-19 case rates, testing, vaccination rates and resource availability (access to ICU beds, health care, etc.).

"We've been getting cases from Hibbing every week, referring to Ely, because Hibbing is full. We are getting COVID patients transferred here," he said. "And 90 percent of those are unvaccinated. God forbid any of us get sick and have nowhere to go."

In making his recommendations, Bianco noted that none of them are perfect.

"Watch for trends in surrounding communities," he said. "Mask recommendations will be different for Memorial versus

Washington school buildings until vaccinations are available for all students.'

The CDC-developed transmission level should be at the moderate level for school officials to consider having face masks recommended rather than mandated, he suggested. Right now, the Elv community is at the "high" transmission rate level.

"If the vaccination rate is at 80 percent by attribution of staff and students, I would remove the mask mandate," Bianco said. The current vaccination rate among the eligible Ely students is at about 40

"This is probably not achievable due to vaccine resistance," he added. "However, more than 90 percent of Ely community members over the age of 65 are vaccinated for COVID."

He noted that he would not recommend the vaccine rate as a primary measure in a mitigation strategy.

The bottom line in Bianco's recommendations showed that a moderate transmission level of 10 to 50.total new cases per 100,000 in a seven-day average could be a bench-

mark for establishing a face mask recommendation policy. The Northern St. Louis County region was above 400 last week. "CDC recommends using case rates to evaluate spread of the disease in your area because a case rate will more accurately reflect what is happening in your community by accounting for population size," he

He also suggested considering a case positivity rate of less than eight percent for two consecutive weeks. St. Louis County was at 7.21 percent last week and increased slightly to eight percent on Monday, according to Bianco.

"These things are trending down," he added.

He asserted that school officials consider tracking trends over a couple of weeks when looking at case rates. "You don't want to be taking masks off then putting masks back on. You want to be sure that you are following trends," he said.

"It is difficult to know where the trends are going, but if the state is going down, we will go down," he said. "We will get to the point where we can get to mask recommendations rather than masks mandates."

#### **HEALTHCARE**

# New physical therapy practice opens in Tower

by JODI SUMMIT

Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- An overriding theme is evident in the words of physical therapist Patrick Oltmanns as he described the services and classes to be offered at Living Well Therapy in

"Life shouldn't hurt," Oltmanns said. "Sitting, driving, or playing with your kids shouldn't be painful."

"I can help people figure pain out," he said. "It is better to fix pain early, rather than down the road.'

Physical therapists help injured or ill people improve their body's movement and manage pain. They work with patients of all ages who have sports injuries, chronic illness, and other injuries, providing both rehabilitation and preventative care.

"Pain is your body telling you something,' he said.

And while people often think their pain isn't severe enough to require a doctor's visit, sometimes a trip to the physical therapist is a good first step.

"It's not always the case you need to visit your doctor first for a referral," Oltmanns said.

His father was a physical therapist, and his mother was a nurse, so he was very familiar with what physical therapy involved. He didn't



Patrick Oltmanns recently opened Living Well Therapy in Tower. photo by J. Summit

enter college with the idea of studying PT, but soon made that decision.

"I was always interested in sports," he said, playing hockey in high school and volleyball in college.

Oltmanns graduated from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth with a degree in physical therapy, and then received a master's degree specializing in neck and back care. He started his career in the Essentia Health System in Duluth, working both with athletes in the sports clinic and older patients in long-term care. Eight years ago, he opened his own practice in Duluth, called Living Well Therapy. They expanded to Floodwood six years ago, and now have opened their third office

Oltmanns bought the former Wrights' Dock buildings and renovated the separate building facing Spruce Street into their new office. Patrick and his wife Stacy plan to keep the apartment on the second floor of the Main Street building for themselves, with Patrick staying in Tower two or three nights a week. The Main Street-facing commercial storefront is available for rent, he said.

The newly-renovated building, with most of the work done by Patrick with help from his father, consists of a front office area, physical therapy/fitness space, and two treatment rooms. There is fitness equipment for all levels, including seniors

"I like to take people into a lifetime of fitness after they've recovered from an injury," he said, "and help them develop functional exercise routines."

In addition to physical therapy, there will be fitness classes. His physical therapy assistant, Maty Erie, will be offering Pilates classes for all levels, along with balance and fall prevention classes for senior citizens. These classes will begin later this fall. Wendy Anderson, from Tower, will be teaching strength and cardio classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning this week.

Oltmanns also is certified in dry needling therapy.

"This helps with pain management for chronic

pain, muscular issues, and joint pain," he said. The therapy uses very fine monofilament needles which are inserted into tension areas, he said. "This reduces tension in muscles and the nervous system. I've seen really good results for pain management," he said. "And when the pain level is lowered, patients can build their strength back up and start doing the things they enjoy."

His treatments also can include a lot of hands-on therapy like myofascial release, soft tissue manipulation, and tool-assisted manipulation

Oltmanns said he really enjoys working with athletes. He said that something that appears to be a simple knee injury can actually stem from problems in the hips or ankles.

"I can help athletes get stronger," he said, "and recover more quickly from injuries or strenuous workouts."

The practice also offers strength and fitness assessments for people at all levels of fitness.

Working with senior citizens is also a focus of his practice. "A little bit of exer-

cise can have remarkable benefits for seniors," he said. "We help them build balance and strength."

Oltmanns is still very involved in sports. He

coaches the Duluth East Club Volleyball Team, where his high-schoolage daughter is a player. His son, a sophomore at McKendree University in St. Louis, Mo., is playing D-1 volleyball. He enjoys all sorts of outdoor activity, including hiking with his wife Stacy, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. The two are both really enjoying spending time in Tower and exploring the trails and recreation-

al opportunities available. "We both really feel drawn to this community,' he said. "And we love the trails we've explored so

far."

Oltmanns can often be found biking or hiking on area trails, usually with his puppy, an energetic St. Bernard-Poodle mix, tagging along.

The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. They can accept almost all local insurance plans, and often do not require a doctor's visit first (his office will take care of any required pre-authorization). The practice also has cash-only pricing (available on their website). Strength/cardio fitness classes are \$12 per session, with 10 classes at \$75.

You can learn more about the business at www. living-well-therapy.com.

➤ A violation of the

➤ All open forum

The policy change

Open Forum Protocols

is subject to Minnesota

Statute 609.72 Disorderly

requests will be reviewed

by the board chair and be

accepted or denied.

#### **FORUM...**Continued from page 1

last couple of sessions. The people who were attacked deserve better than that."

Marsnik noted that open forums are not required to be held by the school board under Minnesota open meetings

"We have to make space available for the public to attend our meetings and we must advertise those meetings in advance," he said.

He asserted that he was not suggesting to cut out

open forums. "I think they can be

very valuable," he said. "There is a Minnesota statute that deals with disorderly conduct at a public meeting.'

Recent Ely school board meetings are not the only instances where elected officials and/or district employees are coming under attack.

"It must be happening elsewhere in the state because MSBA (Minnesota School Board Association) came out with guidance on dealing with these things,"

In consultation with

the ISD 696 legal counsel, Marsnik developed an open forum request form.

"I would like to see this form filled out at or before the open forum. The form contains the date, name, address of requester, identification (student, parent, staff, district resident, etc.), agenda item topic to speak about and a brief description of comments."

He listed open forum protocols on the request form:

➤ The Board Chair will recognize one speaker at a person that can summarize time. Only those speakers

recognized by the Chair will be allowed to speak.

➤ If you are approved to speak, you will be speaking directly to the School Board, not to the audience, staff, students or community.

➤ Comments must be limited to items on the agenda.

➤ Comments must be informational in nature and not exceed five minutes.

➤ If there are a number of individuals present to students. speak on the same topic, please designate a spokesnot use profanity, insults,

➤ All written requests must meet the requirements of the comment period protocol, or the request will be denied.

➤ The Board cannot engage in a discussion or debate in the allotted five minutes, but will take information and find answers, if appropriate.

threats or defame a person's

will be reviewed and dis-➤ Comments must not reference identifiable information about employees or

➤ Comments must

character.

Conduct.

cussed at the board's Nov. 8 business meeting. Like all policies, the board will have three consecutive readings of the proposal before formal adoption.

CITY OF ELY

# **Public art location set for Whiteside Park flower garden**

Ely Editor

ELY –The relocation of donated canoe statues in Whiteside Park, and progress on the sale of the former Community Center building were addressed by city council members here last week.

The city's Park and Recreation Committee made their recommendation for locating two bronze statues, to be donated by Bill and Holly Rom, within Whiteside Park.

Last summer, the Roms proposed to donate two bronze statues, one depicting a historic Voyageurs scene in a full-size canoe, and the other a one-fourth size paddler and canoe. They presented their idea with the hope of placing the statues in prominent places in the park.

After deliberation on a suitable location, the committee opted to ignore the Roms' desire to have the

Council OKs Community Center purchase option

sculptures prominently displayed in two open spaces within the park.

Park and Committee chair Heidi Omerza said the committee recommended the statues be located in the flower beds in the middle of the park. No reason was given for the location change.

Mayor Roger Skraba repeated his opposition to having two similar pieces of art in the park, and suggested that the smaller of the two canoes be located in Semer's Park. "Ithink Semer's would

be a great location for that canoe," he said. "I know this is a new idea and has never been brought up. This is my personal opinion. And I think putting the sculpture in the flower bed is a great idea."

The council approved the committee's recommendation on a 6-1 vote The sculptures will be completed and installed next summer.

Council members approved an "option to purchase" agreement for the former Community Center building with Matthew Stupnik, of Dellwood, giving the potential buyer up to six months to come up with a plan. The agreement could clear the way for the landmark to be returned to the city's tax rolls.

According to City Attorney Kelly Klun, the agreement allows for a six-month timeline to determine a fair-market value for the building, complete a hazardous material environmental assessment, and to review the buyer's architectural plans, budget and cost estimates.

"In this agreement we are going to commit to completing a level one

with Skraba voting no. environmental assessment at a cost of a couple thousand dollars, and in return we are looking for the buyer to show us his plans for the building," Klun said. "From there we would move forward with determining a purchase price based on fair market value and amended depending on the economic value it would have for the city, at the council's sole discretion."

Skraba questioned one of the terms of the deal, Stupnik's exclusive option to buy the Community Center. Klun indicated the city could still show the building to other wouldbe buyers during the sixmonth option window, and the city retains control of the facility. She added that the potential buyer can withdraw his offer at any time during the six-month

Council member Al

Forsman said, "I would love to see what he's proposing. I think six months is quite quick when you're talking something of this nature.

The former Community Center, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been vacant since 2014, when the city closed the facility after building a new library. Efforts to find new life for the building face the reality that major renovations and repairs are estimated to be almost \$3 million.

The building returned to city ownership last year after it was owned briefly by the K America Foundation. Their plan to repurpose the building into a venue for Korean culture camps never materialized.

Council members voted 6-0 to enter into the option-to-purchase agreement.

Council member Angela Campbell abstained from voting on the motion. "Opposed," she said. Then she added, "I'm going to abstain. I see a better use for the Community Center." She did not reveal what her plan was.

#### Other business

In other business, the council:

➤ Approved Commercial Renovation Loan for Ely Portage LLC, 18 E. Sheridan, for \$17,500.

➤ Received a 2020 U.S. Census report that indicated a city of Ely population of 3,268, down from 3,460 in 2010. There are 1,961 total housing units in the city, with 346 vacant. ➤ Approved an appli-

cation from the Knights of Columbus Council 3238 to conduct Bingo games on Nov. 21 and Dec. 12 at St. Anthony's Church.

#### MINING...Continued from page 3

likely to substantially delay the creation of a Twin Metals mine, it is only part of an overall strategy of mine opponents, who hope to enact permanent protection for that portion of the Rainy River watershed that lies upstream of the BWCAW. Most other portions of the Boundary Waters have enjoyed the protection of a mining buffer zone since the passage of the 1978 Boundary Waters Wilderness Act. But that buffer zone was not extended to the Kawishiwi River watershed due to the existence of two mineral leases, that the BLM had issued to the International Nickel Company, or INCO, back in 1966. Those leases eventually came to be controlled by Twin Metals and its parent company, Antofagasta, the Chileanbased copper giant.

Twin Metals responded to the decision on Wednesday.

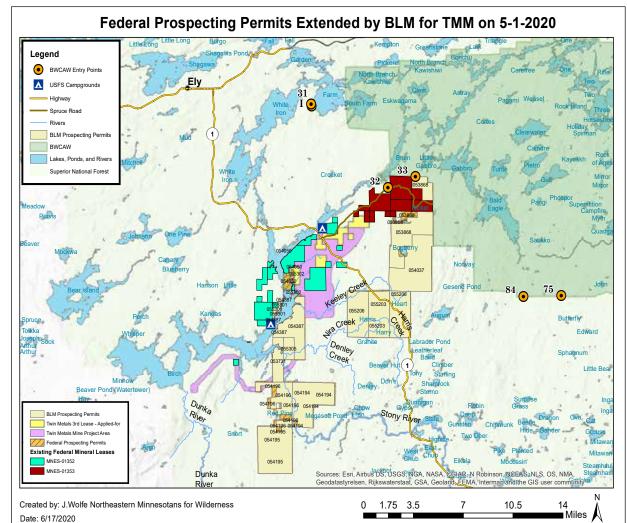
"Last week, the federal government took back-toback actions that threaten the future of thousands of jobs in northern Minnesota and the ability of the United States to produce the minerals necessary to combat climate change and secure

domestic supply chains, contradicting the Biden Administration's own priorities," said a Twin Metals spokesperson in a release issued Wednesday.

"The rejection of the preference right lease applications and prospecting permit applications was both politically motivated and completely unnecessary," said Julie Padilla, Twin Metals Chief Regulatory Officer. "This tells us that the federal government has no intention to listen to science, and it also makes clear that opponents of copper-nickel mining are afraid that the established environmental review process already underway for our project would show that a modern copper-nickel mine can be safe for the environment and should be permitted."

The company is vowing to appeal the decision.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to the communities of northeast Minnesota," said Kelly Osborne, Twin Metals Chief Executive Officer. project that we will move forward under existing law."



The bright yellow portions of this map represents Twin Metals Minneota's application for a third federal mineral lease. The gold portions represent the 13 prospecting permits currently under review. submitted

#### **FIRE...**Continued from page 3

family friend informed the Timberjay just ahead of press time that she did not survive the blast.

The explosion and fire

prompted an extensive emergency response, with firefighters from Greenwood, Tower, Breitung and Vermilion Lake called to

the scene, as were the Tower and Virginia ambulances. A LifeLink Helicopter was reportedly also engaged to airlift the male victim. St. Louis County deputies and a DNR conservation officer were also on the scene and the state fire marshal was reportedly on his way to investigate the incident.

Neighbors said the son of the male victim told them that he had talked to his father just minutes before the explosion. While there has been no confirmation of the source of the blast as of

**WASCHKE FAMILY** 

CHEVROLET • COOK

press time, a propane leak is seen as the most likely

cause. The fire was burning actively as of late morning Wednesday as firefighters struggled to get water to the residence, located at the end of a long, narrow driveway. The water supply appeared to be limited and Greenwood fire officials had called for tender support

as of 10:30 a.m. The *Timberjay* will have updates online at timberjay.com as they become available.







A firefighter from Greenwood Township battles flames at a house fire Wednesday morning. photo by M. Helmberger

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#### **MSO**...Continued from page 1 –

pandemic. The 2021-22 season is called "Return to Harmony" to celebrate the fact that live concerts are once again resuming on the Iron Range.

"I want to thank you for your continued support of this organization," said Ben Nilles, MSO artistic director, as he took the VCC stage in front of a large audience. "I thank you for helping the MSO thrive and remain a cultural pillar of our communities," he said.

"Our season theme. Return to Harmony, is meant to encapsulate all of the feelings I, and the orchestra, have about this upcoming season as we hopefully approach an end to the pandemic," he said.

The first concert on Saturday in Ely was followed by a repeat performance on Sunday in Virginia. The first piece in Joyous Noise featured the Act 2 Finale of "Triumphal

March and Ballet Music" by Giuseppe Verdi. Nilles pointed out the use of a unique instrument, the cimbasso, in the tuba family, as played by Norman "Skip" Ferris. That was followed by "Evening Prayer and Dream Pantomine" from Hansel and Gretel, by Engelbert Humperdinck. ("Not the singer from the 1970s," Nilles added).;Danse Macabre Op.40 (Dance of Death) by Camille Saint-Saens, was followed by Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, by Franz Liszt, arranged by Karl Muller Berghaus.

Other concerts in the Return to Harmony series include:

➤ Holidays at the Symphony will get audiences in the holiday spirit on Saturday, Dec. 11 in Goodman Auditorium at Virginia Secondary School.

➤The annual Young Artist Competition Winners



The Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ben Nilles, opened the 2021-22 season at Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater on Saturday. photo by K. Vandervort

concert, Feb. 19 in Ely and Feb. 20 in Virginia, will again feature some of the

most talented young musicians in the area.

➤ The MSO season

closes April 23-24 in Virginia and Moose Lake Community School with

A Musical Jubilee.

For ticket information, go to https://www.mesa-

## **DISPUTE...**Continued from page 1

of the Bureau of Mediation Services, which is a state agency that offers mediation to unions. So, we have been working with a mediator and have gone through multiple kinds of steps and phases of negotiations. And rather than continuing those negotiations and trying to work through our disagreements, the employer has opted, through the mediator, to offer us this last and final offer."

If members don't ratify the contract offer, a strike isn't inevitable, Metsa said, but it is an option available to them.

"We're not out there looking for a strike,' Metsa said. "Nobody wants to go on a strike unnecessarily. Our hope is that if the members choose to reject the offer that there will be further conversation, but ultimately we will defer to the Bureau of Mediation Services in terms of next steps."

With a nationwide shortage of labor, unions have increasingly been flexing their collective muscles through the use of strikes. Cornell University's Labor Action Tracker has tallied at least 176 strikes in 2021, including 17 this month.

"There are workers who are standing up all over the country and striking in numbers we haven't seen in a long time," Metsa said. "If it happens, it's about settling the contract in a way that is fair, that's about protecting union rights, and about protecting the library system and the work and the jobs they love."

Executive Director Jim Weikum has been with ALS for 29 years, and he said in an interview on Oct. 19 that he not only works alongside his union employees, he hired all of them. If the contract isn't approved on Oct. 29, Weikum also hopes a strike can be averted

through further mediation. "My hope is that through the efforts of the mediator that we continue to communicate," Weikum said. "I would like to believe that the gap between the sides isn't insurmountable. I think we can get there, but we need to continue to take advantage of the mediator. They have a very real skill set, and we should continue to use them as best we can."

#### **Negotiation delays**

Weikum said he believes this is the longest that his staff has worked without a new contract, due to the mere logistics of coordinating busy schedules of the negotiating parties and the impact of

Negotiations began in early December of 2019, mere weeks before an existing three-year agreement was set to expire.

"We got a late start," Weikum said. "And to be honest, getting everybody's schedules aligned is always a trick. It's not unusual that we can go a month and possibly more between meetings because the union's negotiator and our negotiator are extremely busy, as both of them have multiple clients and groups that they work with. I don't think it surprised anybody that we went into January."

And with negotiations still in their infancy at that time, the start of the coronavirus pandemic March complicated things even more. "That really threw a wrench into the process, and there were significant delays, particularly in the spring and in the early part of summer because there was no way to physically meet," Weikum said.

And while months often passed between negotiating sessions, Weikum said those lapses weren't intentional on the part of either side.

"I would not want to characterize it as either side trying to slow it down or taking their time," he said. "There were a lot of extenuating circumstances that just really had this go on for a long time."

#### **Primary issue**

While many public sector organizations have a step-based compensation schedule for positions, ALS does not. The old contract specifies hourly wage rates for each union position for each of the three years the contract was in effect. As a new contract has yet to be approved, employees have been locked in at the 2019

Metsa said the union's goals involved more than

simple compensation. 'We are discussing a wage schedule," she said. "But for the employees who are making this decision, it's not just about wages, it is about working condition in some way, because to them it's about being able to recruit and retain co-workers who are as dedicated as they are. It's about more than what their paychecks look like, it's about the health of the library system."

The financial health of the system is also of concern to Weikum in a time when supporting public revenue streams haven't kept pace with the growth in expenses.

"Our agency is funded through a combination of a state appropriation and dollars provided by our seven participating counties. It has been well over a decade since the Legislature added any funds to the appropriation for the 12 regional public library systems, including ALS,"Weikum said. "ALS has also been working with individual counties to secure increased funding, but it is a slow process and a challenging one as counties face their own budgetary challenges. It is

But Metsa maintained that budget concerns weren't as influential in the administration's decision-making as were the results of a wage comparability study by Bjorkland Compensation Consulting, of Minneapolis, in February 2020.

indeed a challenge to run

an agency in 2021 at 2010

funding levels."

"They didn't make a claim that their expenses are out of control, they made a claim that their staff are overpaid," Metsa

Metsa said that union negotiators haven't seen the actual wage compensation study, but have tried to propose a wage step system that establishes fair compensation rates for current employees while also remaining competitive for attracting the type of qualified new hires that can maintain the quality services expected from ALS.

Metsa said the proposals from administration, which reflect the findings of the wage compensation study, would have lower, less attractive starting wages for new employees, and that the proposal to be voted on by members actually includes wage decreases for three positions currently held by union members.

Weikum had a different interpretation of what the wage comparability study found.

"The takeaway for me was that we identified a handful of positions within the unit that really were under-compensated," he said. "So, a cornerstone of our proposals has been to try and adjust the focus to make additional adjustments to those positions. At the same time, our proposals have always included a wage increase for every position."

The "last and final" offer delivered to the union by the mediator is one Metsa said represented little movement by management across the two years of negotiations.

"The negotiating committee of this local has been extremely creative in thinking about these problems and about how they can come up with solutions that may be acceptable, and the employer has essentially held fast to their proposal and not made a lot of movements. The employer in September emailed us the last and final offer, which for our process means that we have to take this to a vote of our membership, to accept or

reject the offer and move forward towards authorizing a strike. You don't get to that point where both sides are having open communications."

When the Timberjay asked Weikum about the impact of a strike on ALS services, he said the ALS Board of Directors had just directed him to put together a scenario regarding that possibility, and that he couldn't yet say what the specific impacts might be.

"It's not that I wouldn't comment-I just don't have the answer yet," he said. "But it would be a significant barrier to providing services. A lot of what we do here is virtual, the technology in the background, and I think we can keep that running. But beyond that, we're just starting to talk about what our game plan would be. There are only four of us here who aren't in the union. What do we think we can continue and what do we think we can't? That's where the internal discussions are going now."



Q: Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A: COVID-19 vaccines may prevent serious respiratory illness caused by COVID-19. The latest data shows that fully vaccinated people are 15 times less likely to be hospitalized and 30 times less likely to die from COVID-19. The vaccines may also keep you from spreading the virus to others, including loved ones or vulnerable people in your community.

#### Q: Can there be side effects from the COVID-19 vaccines?

A: There can be side effects for some people who get the COVID-19 vaccine, but they are far less dangerous than getting the virus for most people. Common side effects are:

• Pain, redness, or swelling of the arm where you got your shot

• Fatigue, fever, headache, or muscle pain that may last a day or two These side effects are signs that the body is forming protection against COVID-19.

#### O: I am fully vaccinated. Do I need to get the booster shot?

A: Most vaccinations require a booster to maintain their strength. The COVID-19 vaccine is no different. A booster shot can provide more antibodies to prevent serious illness and slow the spread of COVID-

Right now, booster shots are available for the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for people who meet the following criteria:

- Individuals over the age of 65
- Individuals over the age of 18 who live in long-term care facilities
- Individuals over the age of 18 who have underlying health concerns
- Individuals over the age of 18 who live or work in high-risk settings Individuals who received their original doses more than six months ago

Anyone older than 18 who received one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine qualifies for a second booster dose two months following their first dose.

Dr. Brock Urie is an Emergency Room Physician and the Chief Medical Officer at Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. Dr. Urie graduated from the University of MN, Duluth, with his Bachelor's Degree in Biology and attended Medical School at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He completed his Residency in Emergency Medicine at Western Michigan Universities School of Medicine in 2015. During residency, Dr. Urie served as a flight physician and county medical control physician, and a clinical instructor of Emergency Medicine

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October 29, 2021 1B THE TIMBERJAY



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# **Grizzlies win in playoff forfeit**

Barnum stands in the way of possible Deer River rematch

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Last year, COVID-19 wreaked havoc on Minnesota's prep football playoffs, which ended abruptly by executive order with the Deer River Warriors and the North Woods Grizzlies eyeing a 7A sectional championship tilt that never happened.

But on Tuesday, COVID brought a championship matchup between those sectional rivals a step closer.

The Grizzlies were prepped for a quarterfinal game that night against the East Central Eagles, a team they defeated 52-7 on the road exactly one week earlier. Instead, North Woods got the night off and a free pass to the next round when winless East Central forfeited the game because of coronavirus issues.

The Grizzlies, 7-2 and seeded second, would love nothing more than to reach the Nov. 5 sectional championship game, but to get there they'll first have to get through the Barnum Bombers on Saturday after-

A 42-20 win over Mille Lacs on Tuesday earned Barnum a return trip to North Woods and a chance to avenge one of three losses the Bombers suffered in the regular season.

On Sept. 24, North Woods took nearly two quarters to put points on the board before rolling to a 28-14 win over Barnum. The Grizzlies got 203 rushing yards and three touchdowns from T.J. Chiabotti and a 70-yard kick return score by Jared Chiabotti. Ethan Byrum and Eric Aune keyed a defensive effort by the Grizzlies that allowed only one Bombers' score until the final seconds of the game.

Kickoff for the Grizzlies and Bombers will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at North Woods. Per Minnesota State High School League policy, Right: In their previous contest with Barnum on Sept. 24, Grizzlies quarterback Ty Fabish zeroes in downfield for a touchdown pass to T.J. Chiabotti, the Grizzlies' first score of the game. The two teams will face off again on Saturday, at North Woods. photo by D. Colburn

admission will be charged.

In Saturday's other semifinal game, Deer River will take on Chisholm, a 40-12 victor over Braham on Tuesday. Saturday's winners will meet in the sectional championship on Friday, Nov. 5 in Proctor.



# Ely drops from football playoffs

Decision comes after seventh straight loss, MSHSL refusal to allow them to compete at nine-man level in post-season

by KEITH VANDERVORT

ELY-The Ely High School football team suffered their second shut-out loss in a row last Wednesday to end their regular season. The 26-0 drubbing by Kelliher/Northhome also ended their season as the Timberwolves abruptly dropped out of the Minnesota State High School League playoffs the next day.

"Long-story short, we decided this morning not to participate in the playoffs," said ISD 696 Athletic Director Tom Coombe, when asked about the decision.

The Wolves had struggled all season, and the road would have only gotten tougher in the playoffs. Due to inadequate numbers this season, Ely had played at the nine-man level throughout the regular season. But MSHSL rules dictate that they would have been bumped up to the 11-man competition for the Section 7A playoffs because the team had joined forces with Northeast Range in football. The rules require that a team's class in the playoffs is based on total enrollment of a combined program.

"That would have put us up against the top-rated team in 7A, Deer River," Coombe said. "Given the vast competitive disparity and our own participation numbers, we will not take part in the playoffs. They are a top-ranked 11-man team and we have struggled at the nineman level this season. It's not an easy decision but all things considered probably the wisest and safest one." The MSHSL denied ISD 696's appeal to remain in the nine-man division.

Ely's final game of the season was indicative of their season. Ely's Gavin Marshall recovered an opening kickoff fumble against North Central, but couldn't find the end zone. In the first half against the Stars. Ely came up short on three more

possessions, including giving up an 80-yard interception for a touchdown and committing another turnover in the end zone.

The Timberwolves came out in the second half and turned the ball over two more times in three plays, leading to two more scores by North Central. Jason Kerntz led the Timberwolves with 79 yards rushing for the night.

After a season-opening victory against Carlton/ Wrenshall, Ely lost seven games straight and finished their season with a 1-7 record.

#### **CROSS COUNTRY**

# Devine top Ely finisher at Hoyt Lakes meet

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

**HOYT LAKES**— Zoe Devine was the top Ely finisher at the Iron Range Conference cross-country championships held here last week. Devine, a junior, finished fourth in a field of 38 runners with a time of 21:16.7, to help the Timberwolves to a second-place overall team finish

in the event. The Ely girls had help, as well, from seventh-grader Molly Brophy, who finished in seventh, with a time of 22:07.1, followed in eighth place by junior Phoebe Helms, with a time of 22:12.2. Anna Dunn was the only other Ely finisher in the top 20, finishing at 19th place with a time of 24:27.4.

The Ely boys had a tougher time against a field of 65 runners, with junior Jake Cochran leading the team with a 12th-place finish, with a time of 18:23.4. Senior Gabe Pointer finished in 20th place with a time of 19:12.8, followed closely by ninth-graders Caid Chittum (22nd-19:18.9), Jace Huntbatch (23rd- 19:26.2), and Silas Solum (24th-19:34.6).

Ely runners will compete in the sectional competition on Thursday, Oct. 28, at Cloquet. The state cross-country meet is set for Saturday, Nov. 6, at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

# Nighthawks have solid outing at I-Falls

by Keith Vandervort

INTERNATIONAL

FALLS – The Northeast Range Nighthawks swim team won three individual events and two relay races last Tuesday at International Falls, but lost the dual meet 104-77.

Junior NER swimmer

Lily Tedrick added to her record-setting season and won the 200 Individual Medley with a time of 2:32.11. Junior Kelly Thompson finished the 50 Freestyle in 29.30, for a first-place win, squeaking by International Falls swimmer Esther Anderson's 30.82.

Junior swimmer Morgan McClelland won the 100 Freestyle in 1:03.42, followed

closely behind by Thomspon who took second with a time of 1:03.91.

The Nighthawks team of Tedrick, Thompson, McClelland and Anna Larson took first in the 200 Freestyle Relay in 1:53.81, and the 400 Freestyle Relay in 4:16.24.

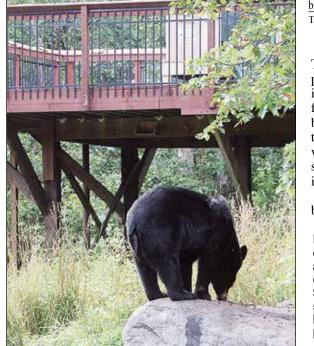
Tedrick also had a second-place time of 1:09.16 in the 100 Butterfly. Maggie Dammann posted a second-place time of 1:17.21 in the 100 Backstroke.

The Nighthawks were scheduled to host Chisholm for a dual meet on Tuesday, Oct. 26, travel to Mesabi East on Thursday, Oct. 28 for the Pumpkin Quad, and again on Saturday, Nov. 6 for a dual meet.

#### TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED

# Proposed bear-feeding ban dropped under fire

Bear-feeding supporters turn out in droves at Eagles Nest board meeting



by JODI SUMMIT

EAGLES NEST TWP- Opponents of a proposed bear-feeding ban in Minnesota turned out in force at the Oct. 19 town board meeting here, despite the fact that the legislator who proposed the bill has since withdrawn his leg-The issue has long

been a lightning rod in

Left: A black bear feeds on sunflower seeds and other foods put out at the Vince Shute Sanctuary near Orr. The sanctuary would have been impacted by the bear-feeding ban.

photo by M. Helmberger

Eagles Nest, where large numbers of residents feed bears and other wildlife. It appears an equally large number of township residents object to that activity and that contingent turned out in force at a town board meeting in September to hear from District 3A Rep. Rob Ecklund, who had offered to carry a bill to ban bear feeding in the state.

Ecklund had found support for his bill at the earlier meeting, but he faced considerable opposition from other residents of Eagles Nest as well as supporters of the Vince Shute Bear Sanctuary, a major tourist draw near Orr. That

facility has long fed wild

black bears, providing an

opportunity for the public

to safely view the animals as they interact.

While the tradition of bear feeding in Eagles Nest has attracted large numbers of bears to the township, located halfway between Tower and Ely, it has relatively few bear problems, according to Dr. Lynn Rogers, who has been studying bears in the area for decades.

"What this area is known for is no attacks, no aggression, and almost no home break-ins," said Rogers during the town board meeting last month.

While Rogers was in the minority at September's meeting, he had plenty of

support at the latest meeting,

with numerous residents

speaking out in favor of bear

feeding and urging their neighbors to learn to live with their "bear neighbors."

Judy Thon, a township resident who works at the North American Bear Center (NABC), was the first of many residents who spoke up on the subject. She thanked State Rep. Rob Ecklund for deciding to withdraw his legislation that would have prohibited bear feeding statewide. She also urged the

board to revisit and publicize the locally written study they have published on the township website, titled "Living with Bears in Eagles Nest Township" that was put together back in 2007.

See MEETING..pg. 2B

#### CITY OF TOWER

# Council hears more on city's water woes

by Marshall Helmberger

Managing Editor

TOWER — The city council here, absent council member Kevin Norby, discussed a familiar list of issues Monday night, without taking much action.

The condition of the city's drinking water was back on the council agenda after the latest round of testing by the Department of Health showed that the drinking water supply is, again, in violation of the standards for trihalomethanes. The latest sampling, conducted in late September, showed the total trihalomethane concentration at just over 105 micrograms per liter. That exceeds the drinking water standard of 80.4 micrograms per liter.

According to Acting Mayor Dave Setterberg, the latest findings are likely the result of the increased use of chlorine by the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board, which manages the drinking water supply for Tower and Soudan. This year's drought has dropped the water level in the communities' wells, and that means the pumps are pulling water from deeper depths. That has not only tinted the water a yellowish color, but raised concerns about possible contaminants, prompting the increased use of chlorine to disinfect the water.

Organic matter in the water, combined with higher levels of chlorine, is known to generate unhealthy byproducts, including haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes. While the haloacetic acid concentrations remain well below the maximum limits, that hasn't been the case with trihalomethanes this year.

Wastewater operator Matt Tuchel told the council that the problem began after a 2012 well-

head protection study showed a hydrological connection between the drinking water wells and the East Two River. The city's current drinking water treatment plant is not designed to treat surface water, which typically has higher levels of organic contaminants than well water. A high beaver population in the area, whose dams had raised the river level near the wells, increased concerns about surface contamination of the wells, which required that the TBWWB add additional disinfectant. It's that disinfectant that appears to have raised the level of the haloacetic acid and trihalomethanes.

Tuchel said the TBWWB experienced its first violations of those contaminants in 2014 and 2015, and that continuing efforts to remove beaver from the vicinity of the wells had brought the water back within safe limits.

But, a recent influx of new beavers had backed the river water up again, creating the conditions for a new round of violations. "Due to the drought and the river being backed up by the beavers, I expected we'd fail to meet the standard," said Tuchel He said three of the four beaver dams in the area have now been removed, but that a large one, that's difficult to access, is still in place. He said he's trying to find a blaster who can come and take care of it.

Given the latest violation, Tuchel said he's now required to undertake quarterly testing for the two contaminants until the violations cease.

There is hope on the horizon for a more permanent solution to the problem, noted Tuchel. The new \$4.5 million drinking water treatment facility, which TBWWB officials hope to con-

struct next year, is designed to remove organics and reduce the production of the decontaminant by-products currently causing the exceedances. Those organics include the tannins that are also staining the water that unpleasing shade of yellow. The TBWWB currently has \$3.375 million in secured funding for the water

In other business, the council heard a lengthy financial presentation, one of the most detailed in years, from outgoing clerk-treasurer Victoria Ranua. The report suggests that the city's financial hole from two years ago has improved significantly, although Ranua urged the council to rebuild reserves in some accounts in order to have resources to invest in further improvements to things like city streets.

Ranua reported a current balance of \$202,908 in the city's general checking account, \$175,132 in the Hoodoo Point checking account, \$58,057 in the TEDA checking, and \$16,938 in the ambulance service checking. The ambulance vehicle savings account has a current balance of \$72,600, while various other city savings accounts have a combined balance of \$48,255.

The city began 2021 with a total debt load of \$3.288 million. which should be reduced to \$3.133 million by the end of the year. More than half of that debt is from a non-recourse loan from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, for the TEDA-owned Lamppa Manufacturing building, which totaled \$1.777 million as of the beginning of 2021. The loan, which is managed by TEDA, includes no interest and is payable only from net proceeds from rental payments for the facility, which means city taxpayers will never be liable for the debt.

The largest remaining debt, which taxpayers could be liable for at some point, is the \$466,000 in remaining debt for the sewer extension to Hoodoo Point Campground in 2018. Ranua noted that the council should be sure in the future to take on such debt only after undertaking due diligence. "They never saw a report from an engineer saying that the existing [septic] system was failing," said Ranua. At the same time, she said that connecting the old and leaking piping at the campground to the municipal treatment system allowed a considerable amount of ground and surface water infiltration, consuming much of the system's remaining capacity.

Other debts include \$240,000 in remaining TIF obligations stemming from the construction of the senior assisted living facility back in 2005, \$253,000 in a temporary utility bond, paid for by the TBWWB, \$200,000 from a League of Minnesota Cities loan in 2019, \$214,000 owed to Gundersen Trust for harbor work, and \$137,646 in remaining debt on the renovations at the charter school. The charter school debt will be down to \$93,679 later this month, when TEDA makes its final debt payment for the year.

Ranua noted that the city's debt, at least on paper, will jump significantly next year as a result of construction of the new drinking water plant. While the plant will be owned and paid for by the TBWWB, Ranua noted that the debt will appear on city books. In other business, the council:

➤ Heard a report on the 2020 federal census from the state demographer's office. The city saw a decline in its total population from 500 in 2010 to 430 as of 2020. According to the data, the city has 297 total housing units, with only 218 occupied, for a total of 79 vacant units.

The high vacancy rate raised concerns among some on the council, particularly given what appears to be a high interest in housing in the community.

➤ Heard from Setterberg that the city has gotten "a couple" responses to the advertisement for the council vacancy. The council is set to make a decision on filling the vacancy at their Nov. 8 meeting.

➤ Gave the second reading to an updated version of Ordinance 2, which governs sewer hookups. ➤ Heard a report from

council member Joe Morin about options for grading. He noted that the repair cost of the city's current grader would be in the \$25,000-\$30,000 range, while leasing a grader from Zeigler would run around \$10,000 a month. "We'd have to rebuild the engine or go out on the market and see what might be available used," said Morin. "It's not looking real easy peasy."

Council member Sheldon Majerle questioned whether the city needed a grader, but Morin said it's needed to cut down snowbanks when the city gets a lot of snow. Majerle said in cases of emergency, the city could use equipment at the airport for that kind of work. Morin said he would talk to public works supervisor Ben Velcheff about that possibility.

Approved a special meeting with the Gundersen Trust board, at a date to be determined. The council is hoping to hear options for the trust to improve its financial returns.

#### **BEARS...**Continued from page 1B -

"My concern is that we went from what is on the website to all of a sudden, after two years of drought, talk of a bear-feeding ban," she said. "I didn't see any concerns voiced over the

The recent drought has meant fewer natural foods in the woods and has meant more bear-people interactions through the region.

Thon said that what she heard at the last meeting was mostly that people seemed afraid of bears. "Fear can be debilitating," she said, and noted the remedy for that was education about bears and bear behavior.

After last month's meeting, Rogers decided to set up meetings with township residents at the NABC and has sent out invitations for the first session which was set for Oct. 23. The meeting was by invitation only, Thon said, so they could safely limit the crowd size, but they expect to hold additional meetings next spring and summer that would be open to a wider audience.

Thon noted that fear is real, but not warranted. "We need to change attitudes and perceptions," she said.

'People can't coexist with an animal they fear," Thon added. "This community is one that does coexist."

Several other township residents who had moved to Eagles Nest on account of the wildlife, specifically bears, spoke to the board.

"We are lucky to be here," said Steve Barnish, who moved to the township in 2017 precisely because of the tradition of feeding

Barnish questioned the board on why the meeting agenda last month only

mentioned feeding wildlife. "That seemed a benign subject," Banish said, "but they introduced an already-finished product from the DNR without input from citizens."

Town Board Chair Richard Floyd said the board had been approached by Ecklund who had asked to speak at the meeting.

"He mentioned both bears and birds," Floyd said. "We weren't going to take any action on it. It was just information." Floyd said he had contacted Rogers prior to the meeting, to let him know the issue was going to be discussed.

Others also said they were unhappy with what they saw as underhanded tactics at the September meeting, and that so many who opposed bear feeding apparently knew about the meeting in advance and attended.

"My point is that we were ambushed," said Larry McCray, the township's Fire Chief, but speaking as a township resident. "We heard statements of hate and statements of fear-mongering." McCray urged the board to stay neutral and balanced on the issue.

He said the board should be concentrating on things like improving roads and looking into grant opportunities for improving township buildings.

"What we got is we are going to invade your backyard and tell you what you can do with sunflower seeds," McCray said, speaking of the proposed bear-feeding ban. Since bears are attracted to sunflower seeds put out in bird feeders, this ban might have required taking down bird feeders in areas with bears.

Floyd suggested that the effort to ban bear feeding had apparently backfired.

"As it turned out," Floyd said, "the opposite happened. He [Ecklund] got so much backlash that he won't be introducing the

legislation."

But others, including township supervisor DeAnne Schatz, said the large numbers of bears, many of which are no longer fearful of people, can cause problems.

"We don't live in fear," she said. "But now you see a bear and they won't run

Other noted that bears are daily tracking through the yards of those not feeding bears, to visit properties where food is being put out for them.

Board members reiterated that, as a board, they didn't feel it was their responsibility to take a stand either way and said they would refer any questions to the already-published study on the home page of the township website (eaglesnestmn.com).

After over 45 minutes of public comment on the bear issue, Floyd asked if there were any other citizen concerns, not relating to

When one member of the audience suggested they talk about ATVS, almost everyone in the room laughed. The publication of a map showing an official ATV/OHV route using several public roads in the township has been a contentious issue since late summer.

Supervisor Kurt Soderberg said that two town board officials would be meeting with representatives from the DNR, St. Louis County, and Prospectors Trail Club on Oct. 25 to discuss a possible compromise route, which would include old forest roads, keeping the route off township roads as much as possible.

"We hope to find common ground and consensus," he said. "And we will give a report at the next board meeting."

Floyd reiterated that the township was not against general ATV use in the township but was concerned over a published ATV/OHV route that the township had not approved.

Fire Chief Larry McCray discussed repairs needed for a hazardous gas monitor. The board gave permission to purchase a new unit, at a cost of not more than \$2,000, if it wasn't affordable to make the repairs to the existing unit. He told the board the department had received a donation from the Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department of a compressor they can use to fill their airpacks.

McCray also updated the board on the last Tower Area Ambulance Board meeting and discussed the option of approving a one-time double subsidy payment in 2023, to allow the department to upgrade their second ambulance faster. He said this onetime effort would allow them to keep the subsidy rate at its current \$15 per capital amount. McCray said he was confident that the department was being

managed well at this time. Soderberg asked McCray to continue investigating this idea with the joint ambulance board and said the town board would discuss it when they are setting their 2023 budget in February.

McCray also gave the board the go-ahead to send in their 2021 subsidy payments and sign the current contract.

#### Other business

In other business the town board:

➤ Approved a two-year renewal of the website contract with Carolyn Quick for \$3,100. This includes regular updates of information. There are additional fees for annual hosting and domain renewals, as well as a \$40/hour fee for making changes/additions to the structure of the website.

➤ Asked for a volunteer to serve on the Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board. The township donates \$200 a year to the group, which makes small grants for youth recreation and community education in Tower-Soudan.

> Discussed options for allowing remote access to meetings for a supervisor who is out of town in the

➤ The next township meeting is on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 5 p.m.





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#### Obituaries and Death Notices





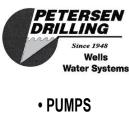
#### **Eleanor A. Phillips**

Eleanor Aune Phillips, 98, of Angora, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 2 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Alango-Angora. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral

Home of Cook. Eleanor was born at home in Idington, on July 18, 1923, to Solomon and Susanna (Koski) Alt. She graduated from Alango High School as Valedictorian. While in school, she worked at the Angora Coop and at the Idington School as a hot lunch cook. She married Raymond Phillips on Nov. 5, 1942. Eleanor and Raymond moved to Chicago, where she worked at Haber Screw Machine Company, and then transferred to an aircraft plant as a plane parts inspector. The young couple was blessed with their first son, Larry, who was born in Chicago in 1947. Eleanor and Raymond moved back to Minnesota in October 1949,







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where they were blessed with two more sons, Lee in 1950 and Jay in 1953. They bought a home in Sturgeon and co-managed the Sturgeon Co-Op for 17 years. Eleanor drove a rural mail route for 28 years before retiring in 1984.

Eleanor loved to travel; she and Raymond traveled the country coastto-coast. She enjoyed golfing, bowling, camping and snowmobiling. Eleanor loved dancing to Country Junction. She was a longtime member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a member of the Homemakers Club, and served on the Sturgeon Town Board for several years. She also served as a fire warden after the death of her husband Ray.

Eleanor is survived by her sons, Lee (Lynne) Phillips and Jay (Sharon) Phillips; grandchildren, Kit (Sarena) Phillips, Ryan Phillips, Jesse (Sheena) Phillips, Scott (Holly) Phillips, Grant Phillips, Troy (Mary) Rasch and Wade (Lori) Rasch; and great-grandchildren, Milo Phillips, Levi Phillips, Elizabeth Phillips, Nora Phillips, Victoria Phillips, Brittany Phillips, Natalie Rasch, Michael Rasch, Connor Rasch and Laura Rasch.

She was preceded in death by her parents; beloved husband of 71-and a-half years, Raymond; son, Larry Phillips; grandson, Chris Phillips; sisters. Susan Kumma and Gertrude Rahikainen; and brothers, Walter Alt and Arne Alt.

#### Rohl C. Peterson

Rohl Carlo Peterson, Tucson, Ariz., died Monday, Oct. 11, 2021. There will be no funeral service.

Rohl was born on Aug. 5, 1935, in Breitung Township, the son of Ruth (Anderson) Peterson and Carl "Cully" Peterson. He graduated from Northome Minnesota High School and continued his education at Itasca Junior College in Coleraine (now ICC) and Bemidji State University where he earned his education degree. He obtained his master's degree from the University of Minnesota. He met his wife, Patricia Miller Peterson, while teaching in the Virginia School District and they were married in Babbitt on Feb. 10, 1962.

Britt during their working years. In retirement they spent their summers on Lake Vermilion-Cook and winters in Tucson, Ariz., at the Voyager RV Resort. In Tucson, Rohl volunteered his time to the National Park Service which he enjoyed very

Pat and Rohl lived in

much, especially climbing the mountains. Rohl and Pat loved traveling the country and the world researching their genealogy. They have provided their family members with valuable family history. Rohl always had a story to tell and was interested in sharing it.

Rohl is survived by his wife, Pat of Tucson,

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ruth and Carl Peterson.

#### **Katherine L. Lenich**

Katherine Telich Lenich, 95, a lifelong resident of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, at the Boundary Waters Care Center in Ely. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation from 10:30 a.m. until the time of service. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her daughters, Kathleen (Jim) Harley and Lucy (Greg) Currie of Eagan; son, Franklin (Pam) Lenich of Hibbing; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and sister, Jean Vasicek of Lady Lake,

#### Susan K. Burland

Susan Kay Burland, 77, of Orr, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021. Services are pending with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

#### Francis D. Connor

Francis "Tuna" David Connor, 61, of Tower, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, at his home. A wake was held on Monday, Oct. 25 and a traditional service was held on Tuesday, Oct. 26, both at the Bois Forte Government and Service Center.

He was born on Jan. 26, 1960, in Cook, to Lawrence and Olive (Villebrun) Connor. Tuna was a bright, spirited individual and would befriend almost anyone he would meet. He had an infectious smile and was always cracking jokes and laughing like a mallard. Tuna served in the U.S. Army for four years and spent most of his time

stationed in Germany. He worked over 20 years as a Heavy Equipment Operator with the local 49ers. Tuna's hobbies were fishing, watching sports with friends, and playing bingo. He enjoyed going to concerts. Most importantly, he was a great son, father, sibling, uncle and friend.

Tuna is survived by his mother, Olive Connor; children, David Connor and Vanessa Connor; stepchildren, John Kingbird and Dylan Fee; granddaughters, Andreanna and Kylie; siblings, Lawrence "Tejon" Connor Jr, Lois "Coke" (Howard "Daddy Dean") Graham, Annamarie Dorr, Darrell "Pete" Connor, Karen Connor, Kay Connor, Kelly Rutar and Ruth Connor; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Connor Sr.; brothers, Loren "Hawk" Connor and Alden "Ottie" Connor; and nephew, JosH Rutar.



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people powered health plans

UCare Minnesota is an HMO-POS plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in UCare Minnesota depends on contract renewal. Y0120\_11303\_092021\_M

4B October 29, 2021 THE TIMBERJAY



WATER LEVELS

# Repair plan taking shape for Pike River dam

by Marshall Helmberger Managing Editor

VERMILION LAKE TWP— The Pike River dam is now slated for repairs that could help to maintain water levels on the Pike River Flowage, a normally 214-acre artificial lake located upstream of the dam.

This summer's intense drought had lowered water levels on the flowage dramatically, prompting complaints

to the Department of Natural Resources, which now owns the dam and is responsible for maintenance. The city of Tower originally built the 110-year-old structure to generate electricity for the city, but the river's flow proved unreliable and the dam was eventually abandoned by the city. The dam's penstock, which once housed the dam's power-generating turbine, which is located well below the lip of the dam, has continued to allow water from the flowage to drain, even during the worst of this summer's drought.

Those complaints prompted Jason Boyle, the state's dam safety engineer, to send a contract diver to the site to propose a solution. Boyle informed the Timberjay this week that the contractor has proposed installing a steel plate on the upstream side of the penstock to eliminate

See DAM...pg. 5B



Dam's former penstock, which once held the dam's turbine, continues to leak water, contributing to the drop of the water level in the Pike River Flowage. The penstock has leaked for years, but the ongoing drought has made the extra leakage a bigger problem than

photo by M. Helmberger



THE NEIGHBORS

# For jays, it's hoarding time

Flocks of blue jays make it catch as catch can for smaller birds this time of year

omewhere, on the eastern edge of the Lost Lake Swamp, there's a hollow tree that must be packed from top to bottom with sunflower seeds. As most readers have known for a long time, I feed birds. Almost religiously, in fact. Since I was in junior high, I've gotten up, usually before the sun is up, to put out fresh supplies of sunflower seeds, cracked corn, suet, bread, or whatever else the latest visitors seem to prefer.

With winter rapidly approaching, it's the hoarding season for our neighborhood jays and that means my morning offering doesn't last long. While gray jays have been noticeably

scarce around our house in recent months, the blue jays are everywhere. Tons of them, in fact. It's not unusual to count more than 20 blue jays feeding at our house at any one time.

I use the term "feeding" advisedly, of course. This time of year, the blue jays aren't really feeding so much as filling their winter caches ahead of the coming snow with my increasingly expensive sunflower seeds

Most of the year, they really do come to eat. They'll grab a sunflower seed, and stand on the edge of the feeder, seed between their feet. With a couple expert blows of their oversized beaks, the seed is cracked open and the oily insides go right down the hatch. They eat a dozen seeds like this and are ready to do something productive with their day.

This time of year, the jays simply gobble up the seeds whole until their throat pouch is bulging, then fly away to disgorge it all in some hidey hole, Above: Caught mid-gulp, a blue jay prepares to down another piece of cracked corn, with its throat already bulging with corn and sunflower seeds.

Right: A blue jay chisels open a sunflower seed to add to its

Below right: Chickadees and nuthatches use a small feeder that jays have a hard time negotiating.

photos by M. Helmberger

usually in a hollow log or tree. They can make a dozen seeds disappear

in about ten seconds flat and they don't stop until all of the sunflower seeds are gone.

I think it's this tendency that has given the blue jay a poor reputation with many people who feed birds. My father, who also fed birds for many years, used to keep a pellet gun by his back deck to take potshots at the blue jays and grackles, both of which he considered undesirables. Apparently,

he's not alone. Despite being such a familiar and beautiful bird, not one U.S. state has ever selected the blue jay as its state bird. My father tried to instill his bird

biases in me, but they never took hold. We maintain on open border policy in our yard, and the handouts go to all birds, regardless of color.

I would say we maintain equal opportunity bird feeders, except that's not always the case, especially once

See JAYS...pg. 5B

**HELMBERGER** 





#### **INVASIVES**



## **Effort in place** to eradicate **buckthorn** in Ely

ELY - Do you have invasive plants in your yard in Ely? If so, the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District wants to hear from you. The NSLSWCD will be working with a Conservation Corps crew to treat and remove invasive plants in Ely from Nov. 8-11 through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. They can be contacted at 218-288-6143.

The work can be completed on public or private lands, at no charge, at the request of landowners. This project is in partnership with the Ely Field Naturalists/ Ely Area Invasives Team for volunteer efforts and the city of Ely to dispose of materials. The effort has additional support from the 1854 Treaty Authority and the Duluth Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

Woody invasive plants including common buckthorn, glossy Buckthorn, Siberian peashrub, and non-native honeysuckles are the targets of this effort. These plants have primarily been introduced as ornamental plantings, but now are considered invasive species and noxious weeds by the MDA. Plants are classified as invasive when they are not native to an area and cause economic or ecological harm, harm human health, or threaten natural resources. In a serious infestation, invasive plants might be almost the only thing growing in an area, destroying habitat for wildlife, making the area less appealing for recreation, and even increasing the risk of wildfire, erosion, and

One of the targets, common buckthorn, is a well-known invasive plant in Minnesota. It is well established in many parts of the state, but not so in northern St. Louis County, which makes it still possible to control. Buckthorn grows earlier in the spring than many native plants and keeps its leaves longer in the fall. This gives it an advantage over other native plants, but also makes it easy to identify and treat this time

See INVASIVES..pg. 5B

October 29, 2021 **5B** THE TIMBERJAY

#### REFLECTIONS OF FALL



The season's first snowfall whitened the reflections from the Pike River Flowage last Friday morning.

photo by M. Helmberger

#### YOUTH DEER HUNT



Hannah Redmond, of rural Virginia, poses with the deer she shot during the first day of the youth deer hunt, held Oct. 21-24 this year. Redmond was hunting with her grandpa, John Richard, on property north of Buhl. She is the granddaughter of John and Mary Richard, formerly residents of Lake Vermilion.

submitted photo

#### **DAM...**Continued from page 4B

the outflow, a solution that, if implemented, would be "robust," according to Boyle.

"We are in the process of hiring a contractor to stop the leaking penstock but we don't have a contract yet," said Boyle.

Water levels in the flowage have improved somewhat in recent weeks due to more seasonable rains in September and October, although they still remain well below normal levels. Loss of water behind the dam had noticeably shrunk the size of the flowage earlier this year, including leaving one entire

#### **INVASIVES...**Continued from page 4B—

Private landowners can be key to helping stop the spread of invasive species. Becoming aware of invasive species can benefit the landowner and protect Minnesota's natural resources, on private and public lands, and abundant an waters.

If you are interested in having invasive species removed on your property between Nov. 8-11 or helping as a volunteer, you can visit www. nslswcd.org/eawi/ to sign

the North Saint Louis Soil and Water Conservation District at 218-288-6143.

pest@state.mn.us or 1-888-545-6684.

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# bay virtually high and dry.

up or contact Becca with

Additionally, if you are heading out to the deer stand or other outdoor activities. keep an eye out for invasive species. For more information on how to identify common invasive species in this area, visit dnr.state. mn.us/invasives. If you see any, note the location and report it to arrest.the.

**LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST** 

Monday **Tuesday** 

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#### **Outdoors** briefly

#### **DNR seeking pine and** spruce cones for 2022

REGIONAL—The Department of Natural Resources is looking to to acquire hundreds of bushels of evergreen cones within the next few months to meet state and county orders for spring 2022 reforestation efforts.

DNR foresters coordinate the seeding of approximately 5,000 acres each year to reforest DNRmanaged land. Seeds are also planted at the state forest nursery to grow tree seedlings, which are used in reforestation efforts on public and private land across Minnesota.

Most of the nursery's seeds and cones are purchased from the public. Prices paid to private individuals for seed collection range from \$20 \$150/bushel, depending on the type of cone.

"We rely very heavily on the public to supply seeds and cones to the forest nursery," said DNR Forestry Silviculture Program Coordinator, Mike Reinikainen. "Gathering seeds and cones is a great outdoor fall activity that helps produce future forests, plus it's a good way to make some extra money."

While a variety of tree seeds and cones are needed, black spruce, jack pine and red pine cones are in particularly high demand. Because black spruce cones can be challenging to reach, DNR staff can direct

people interested in gathering these cones to timber harvest locations where black spruce tops have been left on site.

Before collecting seeds or

from NOAA weather

drop-off locations for more information, including instructions on how to present cones for purchase. Seeds and cones may be col-

cones, contact one of the DNR seed

lected on your own property or on state forest land.

Jack pine and red pine will be accepted through November, provided the cones have not opened. Black spruce cones will be accepted through February 2022.

To learn more, visit the DNR's Seed and Cone Collection website.

#### **JAYS...**Continued from page 4B

the blue jays' hoarding gene has kicked into gear. Blue jays aren't just big, they're kind of like bulls in a China shop at the feeder, which means the smaller birds can easily be shut out from the largesse. Kind of like how the big money interests in Washington leave the rest of us with crumbs

I've solved that problem by hanging other, smaller feeders, that the blue jays can't tap. I fill those with sunflower seeds for the half billion chickadees that seem to inhabit our yard, as well as the nuthatches and the occasional goldfinch. Think of it as affirmative action for the little guys. I now put most of the sunflower seeds in those feeders, which leaves the blue jays with a dinner plate filled mostly with cracked corn, with only scattered sunflower seeds. The blue jays will haul away the cracked corn as

well, but at least that's cheaper than sunflower seeds.

I scatter the cracked corn on the ground as well, which brings in sparrows along with regular visits from a couple ruffed grouse. Despite their reputation as ruf-

fians, of a sort, blue jays have solid family values. They routinely pair up for life and both parents participate in nest building and raising of young. The male jay will even feed his mate while she's sitting on their eggs.

In good habitat, a pair of blue jays could raise quite a few offspring over the years. Blue jays can live a surprisingly long time. The oldest known blue jay in the wild lived 26 years, although that was undoubtedly a lucky one. While blue jays are relatively large, compared to many feeder birds, they aren't large enough to avoid predation from hawks. In fact, perhaps because they make a hefty meal, they're pretty popular with some types of hawks, which keeps blue jays constantly on the alert. They're sharp-eyed and quick to sound the alarm, which they do with a variety of calls. Like many members of crow, or corvid, family, blue jays are accomplished mimics and will imitate the calls of hawks that tend to prey on them, apparently to alert other jays when

one of these hawks is in the area. One final interesting note about blue jays is that the pigment in their feathers, which is melanin, is

actually brown. It's the unusual structure of the feathers themselves that reflects blue light, which gives the feathers their blue appearance. That's different from many other birds, which frequently have other pigments in their feathers, which are responsible for







lampmfg@gmail.com lamppakuuma.com



# COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Available

Scenic Rivers is now scheduling appointments for individuals to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at our medical locations following state eligibility guidelines. Supply is limited and call volumes are high, so we appreciate your patience. If you believe you meet the MN state vaccine eligiblity requirements, please call the number below to schedule an appointment.

Cook Medical Vaccine Scheduling 20 5th St SE (218) 361-3297





24 Hour Emergency Care Available Through Cook Hospital

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Social Studies** Teacher .5 FTE

Vermilion Country School in Tower, MN is seeking to hire a .5 FTE Social Studies Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Position open until filled.

For more information, please email jsummit@vermilioncountry.org or call Jodi Summit at 218-753-2950



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FT Radiologic Technologist

<u>Nursing</u>

Admissions

Hospital/ER

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<u>Care Center</u>

PT Dietary Aide/Cook

**Dietary** 

RN House Supervisor

**Environmental Services** 

FT Housekeeper Casual Laundry Aide

**Activities** 

Casual Housekeeping & Laundry

PT & Casual Activities Assistant

# More Info? Contact Human Resources 218-666-6220

## FT & PT Nursing Assistant (Wage starting at \$16.36/hr - \$1,500 Sign-On Bonus) FT & PT RN or LPN (\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus) humanresources@cookhospital.org

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#### **COMMUNITY RESOURCES MANAGER**

Habitat for Humanity has partnered with over 100 families since 1995 to build homes, communities, and hope! Join our dedicated and successful team of staff and volunteers to help build affordable homes with our neighbors on the Iron Range.

The Community Resources Manager focuses on:

- Recruiting volunteers for construction and committee activities
- Enhancing relationships with the area's churches, businesses, and organizations
- Assisting with grant research, writing, reporting and fundraising activities
- Developing media stories to advance the knowledge of Habitat's mission in the community (The full job description can be found at www.nslchfh.org)

#### **Experience and Skills**

- A commitment and passion for Habitat's Christian housing ministry
- Four years management experience preferred
- A bachelor's degree or equivalent training and/or experience
- A demonstrated work ethic and ability to work successfully on a team

Strong public speaking, writing, leadership, and organizational skills

This is a full-time position, worked from the Habitat office with an annual salary starting at \$40,000 to \$50,000 depending on experience. Interested candidates can apply by emailing a detailed cover letter and resume to executive director, Nathan Thompson at habitat@nslchfh.org. For more information please call Nathan at 218-749-8910.

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### **BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP CALL FOR BIDS**

Bearville Township will be accepting bids for the sale of a 1978 International Cargostar 1950B Fire Truck.

Details: Air brakes, Allison Automatic Transmission, 3208 Caterpillar Diesel Engine,1000 GPM Waterous Pump, 500 gal-lon Steel water tank, Odometer-36,703 miles. No Title

"As-is" condition-Truck may be seen at the Bearville Fire Hall: 13949 Co. Rd. 22 (one mile east of Hwy 65) To view contact: Kathy Cressy Clerk 218-376-4495. Best Offer.

Submit your sealed bid by November 5, 2021

Bearville Township-Fire Truck, 62949 County Road 557, Cook, MN 55723

Bids will be opened and considered at the Bearville Town Board meeting, Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m at the Bearville Town Hall. Bearville Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Township Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 22 & 29

# **NOMELTARES**

## Get Results!



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# **BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP**

#### **Accepting Bids/Quotes for** Snowplowing (Cedar Lane)

Bearville Township is accepting bids/quotes for the 2021/2022 snowplowing of Cedar Lane area- Beatrice Lake contract. Route would begin at the point where St. Louis County stops plowing (formerly Robertson's), 1.45 miles to Beatrice Lake Forest Road, 4 miles of Beatrice Lake Road to Cedar Lane, .48 miles of Cedar Lane, from Cedar Lane .8 miles of Beatrice Lake Road ending where Echo Lane meets Beatrice Lake Road (approximate total distance 3.1 miles).

Plowing must begin when there is a 4" snowfall, and road must be kept open the entire season. The snowplowing seasonal contract would be in effect from November 1, 2021 until 2022. Requesting bids for the ent season. A Certificate of Insurance is required upon acceptance of the bid.

Please contact Bearville Supervisor Jennifer Cressy: 218-969-6856 or Kathy Cressy- Clerk: 218-376-4495 or bearvl@frontiernet.net for more details. Sealed bids must be received by November 5, 2021 to be considered and will be opened and awarded at the Bearville Town Board of Supervisors' meeting, November 9. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm at the Bearville Town Hall, 13971 Hwy. 22- 1 mile East of State Hwy 65. Mail sealed bids to: Bearville Township Snowplowing bid, c/o Kathy Cressy-Clerk, 62949 County Road 557, Cook, MN 55723. Bearville Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Kathy Cressy, Bearville Township Clerk

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# **King** Crossword

16

#### **ACROSS**

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- © 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.
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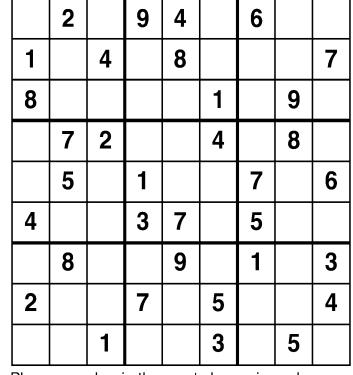
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# Weekly SUDOKU

# by Linda Thistle



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.

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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.

#### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

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 Classoon 3-Use west side entrance. For more information go to coda.org

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

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

p.m. 218-984-2037.

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

ELY WOMEN'S OPEN AA MEETING- Every 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, tollfree 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-East Range meetings and information, call 218-749-3387 or www.district8online.org

AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the basement.

## Adverstising PAYS OFF!



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Answers Solution time: 23 mins.

King Crossword -



## **BUILDING**

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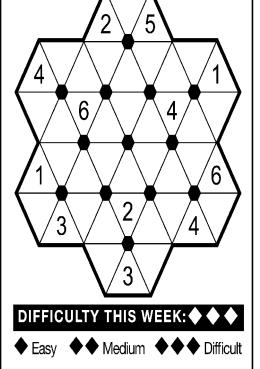
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# by Japheth Light

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.



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## Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

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**WAY TO GO** 

80 Fall bloom

monitor

84 Fizzy wine,

for short

85 Rowlands of

88 1970s spinoff

"Gloria"

sitcom

89 Grassland

91 Make over

96 Dr. Mom's

attention

97 Spew forth

100 Skyrocketing

102 Actress Leah

103 Nebraska

104 AOL rival

106 Halved

natives

105 Vital conduit

107 Actor Sacha

Baron -

112 Liking a lot

113 Novelist

of a cyclops

101 Odd feature

92 Eggnog

83 Ecol.

81 Soothsayers

## 129 Like some

cholesterol. portrayed for short 94 "If only -

known!"

95 Suffix with

kitchen

98 More in

order

town

102 Diner and

cubes

108 - laude

**109** 'Neath's

111 State of

114 Amigo

**119** More

opposite

110 Deer family

member

societal

116 Orlando-to-

121 What eight

Miami dir.

highfalutin

answers in

this puzzle

breakdown

104 Casino

sleeper

university

99 Maine

Hawkeye 48 Mai -

46 Alan who

(cocktail) 51 Has in one's

62 Conductor

shake-up

**63** Corp.

66 Gold, to

Jorge

**68** 1995-2016

69 Radials, e.g.

NBAer Kevin

**67** Zip

**73** Zoo

sights 53 They list a film's cast

21 Democratic 57 Diamond great Mel diplomat 58 Midwest air Harriman

22 Take off of a hub spool **61** CPR 23 Cat's-eye, specialist

steelie and aggie

**ACROSS** 

1 Abu Dhabi,

8 Old name for

for one

a hippo

20 Like many

walls

rec room

14 Top banana

25 Skimpy 26 Moral wrong 27 "High School

High" actress Carrere

28 Wife of TV's Frasier 30 "Take - out

of crime!" 31 Nine-digit ID,

for short 34 Big Apple

inits. 36 Tsunamis are

big ones 38 They make

pins fall 43 Fashion

figure Oscar de la -

44 Colored ring of the iris

painter Edgar

portraved a

Soprano

110

119

125

128

Abbr.

84 For -

86 Avail 45 Falco who

77 "- Na Na' (TV oldie) 78 French

**76** Chi-Town

team

82 Concert extra 125 2017 biopic

83 And so on:

(really cheaply)

87 Resounding

90 Harmful ant

120

121

126

129

**127** Acid storm noises 128 Big pizzas,

about skater Harding 126 Attacked

energetically

neutralizers

say

the Sphinx

19 Choral clubs 24 Possibly

"cent" 32 Walk heavily

"cant" but not

35 Loutish guy

12

short

73 One of Jennifer the "Little 115 Follower Women" of "ooh" or **117** Thin

**118** "Who -120 Dorm heads, for short

122 Pig's home 123 Boxing win, in brief

124 Scoundrel

18

20								21							22					
23							24								25					
26					27				28					29		30				
		31	32	33		34		35			36				37					
38	39				40				41	42				43						
44							45					46	47					48	49	50
51						52			53		54					55	56			
57					58		59	60			61				62					
63			64	65		66				67				68						
			69		70				71				72							
73	74	75						76				77				78		79	80	81
82							83				84				85			86		
87						88				89				90		91	92			
93					94					95		96	97		98					
		99	100	101				l	102					103						
104	105						106	107				108				109				

112

127

118

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## Super Crossword

37 Close to its face value, post-meal bad breath as a bond

130 Prìncipe's 38 Ulan -Mongolia partner island 39 Elocute

**DOWN** 40 Defense gp. 1 Actor Omar 41 Sour fruit 42 MGM lion 2 African land

3 As a 46 Without response for purpose 4 Playa del -47 Allow to

49 Feuding, say **5** Old ring king 50 "Who -6 Camp shelter 52 Jarred 54 Disguise

7 Border fringe 8 Facial offerer

9 British noble 10 Both: Prefix

11 Violins' kin 12 - acid (fat

compound) 13 Squander

14 Tour vehicle 15 Hocked 16 Reach for

rudely

17 Using other sources

18 Opposite of east, in

Mexico

29 Sound in

74 With a sharp image, for

75 Like nerves

55 Muffed up

60 Sat on a

perch

64 Hit with the

knuckles

65 Close watch

67 Vote down

70 Trapping in

branches

68 Immense

**71** — Raton

**72** E'en if

59 Elbow locale

56 Thick

acting on eye muscles 33 River close to 79 Part of many a heavv-

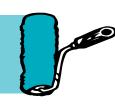
14

metal track

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