

**Inside:** Longbranch upgrade... See /3 Winter sports underway... See /1B The pecking order...See /4B



#### CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

# State scrambles to cope with Omicron surge

Nearly 30,000 new COVID cases reported since last weekend

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

REGIONAL-Minnesotawas hammered with nearly 30,000 new COVID cases over the past weekend, and everyone from Gov. Tim Walz to local hospitals is scrambling to cope as the impending Omicron peak still lies ahead.

Tuesday's situation update

from the Minnesota Department of Health revealed 29,487 new COVID cases, more than 70 percent estimated to be caused by the highly contagious Omicron variant. MDH also reported 28 new deaths, bringing the state's pandemic total to 10,838.

Like the rest of the state, St.



Louis County has seen a post-holiday spike in cases, with the seven-day case average of 177.3 on Jan. 5 more than double that of 86.7 on Dec. 27.

'We were going down and that was good, but we're going back up," Public Health Division Director Amy Westbrook said on Tuesday. "It's coming on the heels of Omicron, so it's really hard to understand the most impactful factors."

Walz a n d MDH Commissioner Jan Malcolm were scheduled to announce additional actions Wednesday to support Minnesota hospitals that are being inundated with patients and challenged to respond due to their own staffing shortages. Walz has previously asked for and gotten

See...COVID pg. 11

GREENWOOD



#### COLD COMPETITION

# **Board seeks to** address high arsenic levels

by JODI SUMMIT Tower-Soudan Editor

GREENWOOD TWP- The town board here approved the purchase of a water treatment system to remove arsenic from the well water that is used to supply drinking water to township residents via an outdoor spigot.

"The water outside is important to many people," said Supervisor Barb Lofquist, who had spearheaded the effort to get the town hall water tested. "This will provide safe drinking water for the public."

Many township residents who have lake water systems have used the town hall as a source for drinking water. While the water has been tested for common contaminants, as required by the state, the township had never tested the water for other minerals.

The board, at their Jan. 11 meeting, decided it was not necessary to install a system for the entire town hall, since the water quality is considered safe for bathing, washing, and short-term consumption. The board noted the town hall kitchen is rarely used, and that if needed, water for cooking can be hauled from the outdoor spigot. Installing a system to service the kitchen and bathrooms would have at least tripled the cost, Lofquist said. The cost for the Brassmaster system is \$6,880, which includes the installation and required plumbing work by Iron Range Plumbing and Heating. The township will need to have an additional electrical outlet installed, which is estimated to cost an additional \$500. This system will also remove iron and manganese. The township will remove the drinking water fountain inside the town hall, and they will post notices that the water in the bathroom and kitchen is not "potable." The outdoor faucet that supplies water to

## Kids' snowmobile racing season kicks off at Crane Lake

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

CRANE LAKE- The official start of winter comes in December, but the official start of competitive winter snowmobiling was this last Saturday for the kids competing in the KCPRO East Youth Ice Racing circuit, with the season kickoff event held at Crane Lake.

The Kids Championship Power Racing Organization (KCPRO) started in 1987 in Thief River Falls, and four years later KCPRO East was formed when the organization split into two divisions. Racers

Above, KCPRO East racers, from left, Maximus Haggland, Brock **Roduner, and Brecken** Cornelius vie for position at the start of a race.

#### **Right, Brecken Cornelius,** of Cook, leans into a curve. photos by D. Colburn

ages four to 17 vie for checkered flags in a dozen classes by piloting their snowmobiles around a 25-foot-wide oval track. Most of the kids compete in multiple classes.

See...RACES pg. 10



See...WATER pg. 9

#### **ISD 696**

## The new year brings new challenges for Ely school district

#### by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - A veteran Iron Range school administrator is next in line to lead the Ely School District following the abrupt resignation

Resigning superintendent, recovering board chair, relocating board member

announcement last month of the superintendent.

Meanwhile, school board chair Ray Marsnik faces an extended recovery

following multiple injuries sustained in a pre-New Year's car crash.

And a school board member is leaving the district this spring, triggering a process to appoint a replacement.

Ely School board members interviewed John Klarich on Dec. 23 for the district's soon-to-bevacant part-time superintendent position, and voted that day to offer the

interim part-time position to him pending contract negotiations.

Klarich, who is now retired, was a superintendent in both the Mt.

See... ELY pg. 12



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## **Community notices**

#### Making REEL Change virtual ice fishing tournament

REGIONAL- Anglers ages 16 and older are invited to take part in the Making REEL Change ice fishing tournament, Jan. 13-17. Fish the lake of your choice in St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, or Itasca counties. Prizes will be awarded for different fish categories, and one participant will be randomly drawn to win a lifetime Minnesota Fishing License. \$20 to enter. All proceeds benefit UWNEMN's Smiles United program. Download the FishDonkey app and search "UWNEMN" to enter the tournament.

### Power of the Purse

VIRGINIA- United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's Power of the Purse event is set for Thursday, Jan. 27 at Iron Trail Motors Event Center (at the site of the former Miners Memorial building). The Totally 80's themed event will be emceed by CBS3 News anchor Kristen Vake and will feature food, wine, exciting games and raffles, and live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$45 to attend in person, or \$15 for virtual access to the silent auction only. All proceeds will benefit UWNEMN's Imagination Library program. Get your ticket at www.unitedwaynemn.org/pop.

#### NAMI Minnesota offers free online mental health classes

REGIONAL- NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) has set up a wide variety of free online mental health classes for January and February 2022. They include classes such as Hope for Recovery, Family to Family, In Our Own Voice, Creating Caring Communities, Ending the Silence, Understanding Early Episode Psychosis for Families, a suicide prevention class called OPR (Question, Persuade and Refer), a special QPR class for Agricultural Communities, and more.

The classes are designed for family members and caregivers, persons living with a mental illness, service providers, and also the general public. Find a complete listing of these classes and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "Classes".

### St. Louis County seeking public input through survey

**REGIONAL-** Questions about quality of life in St. Louis County, customer service interactions with the county including during the pandemic, preferences for communication and information services, and what people think of the job the county is doing at providing a wide set of critical services are included



in a survey that will be mailed out within the next week or so to a random selection of county residents.

Information collected in the survey helps guide decisions on budgets and policy. For instance, based on the results of past surveys, the county

put more focus on services in the areas of public safety and care for the vulnerable, redesigned its website, and made significant investments in its Gravel Road Improvement Program.

Approximately 2,800 county residents selected at random will receive a survey packet in the mail. Results of the survey, which are considered statistically valid, will be shared by early summer and will be taken into consideration by staff and commissioners as they work on the 2023 budget and long-range plans. "We encourage our citizens, if you are one of the randomly selected households to receive this survey, please fill it out," said County Board Chair Paul McDonald. "The opinions and information we gain from this survey have helped reaffirm some decisions and in other instances have been the rationale to redirect resources." In addition to this scientific survey, the county will later offer an online survey that any citizen can complete. Those answers will be kept separate from the official survey, but will still be reviewed and taken into consideration.

## CELEBRATE WINTER Winter Festival returns to Ely

#### by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - This community's 29th annual celebration and embrace of the cold season returns this year with the 2022 Ely Winter Festival. A more typical celebration will be held Feb. 3-13, after the 2021 celebration was dialed back due to COVID-19 public health concerns.

"There will be plenty of activities to fill your schedules," said organizer Shauna Vega. "The board and volunteers have been busy putting all the final details together and we are ready to bring back some time-honored favorite events." The Snow-Sculpting Symposium, Ely ArtWalk, snowshoe hikes with the Listening Point Foundation, and Great Nordic Beardfest are all returning this year, she said. A full schedule and more information can be found online at www. elywinterfestival.com, and a brochure will be available later this month at many local businesses.

The festival's sigsnow-sculpting nature event was limited to just a handful of snow blocks in Whiteside Park last year and limited to local artists. "We have a number of snow-sculpting teams from Minnesota, the upper Midwest, Germany, and Argentina making their way to Ely," Vega said. "Whiteside Park will be full of visitors flocking to see the snow sculptures as they take shape." The amateur snow-sculpting con-



## Annual celebration starts on Thursday, Feb. 3

test will also return this year. Amateur individuals, families, and groups will carve their creations from Jan. 31 to Feb. 5 with judging and prizes awarded that Saturday afternoon.

Great Nordic The Beardfest will also return this year and will be conducted at two venues over two days, at the Boathouse Brewpub and Restaurant and at Ely's Historic State Theater, on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 4-5. Check out their website at www. greatnordicbeardfest.com for more information and to register.

Snowshoe hike tours out to Sigurd Olson's historic Listening Point will be available through the ten days of the festival. "Limited slots are available, so sign up soon," Vega said.

The windows of many downtown Ely businesses will be turned into a walking art gallery as the Ely ArtWalk returns for local artists to display their best works.

"We are in need of volunteers in a number of areas, especially in the making of the luminarias," Vega said. "To lend us your time and talents, email snow@elywinterfestival.com."

The Ely Winter Festival is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Arrowhead

Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. This activity is also made possible by a grant from the Donald G. Gardner Humanities Trust. "The Ely Winter Festival would like to thank Veterans on the Lake, Raven Words Press, Twin Metals Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Grand Ely Lodge, and Ely Family Dental for their generous support," said Vega.

For more information, contact Shauna Vega at 218-365-SNOW or Shauna@elywinterfestival. com.

#### ARROWHEAD LIBRARIES

### Create a Comic Kit with Minnesota author and illustrator Chris Monroe

REGIONAL- The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will be providing Create a Comic Take and Make kits to member public libraries to distribute through the end of January. Create and draw your own wacky characters and insert them into a comic strip of your own design using the cartoon-panel pages provided. Follow the helpful draw-along instructions to determine your character's looks. style, emotions, and ability to take a fall. Kits will be distributed at many Arrowhead Library System libraries, including: Aurora Public Library, Babbitt Public Library, Cook Public Library, Ely Public Library, Eveleth Public Library, International Falls Public Library, Mt. Iron Public Library, Virginia Public Library, Ar-



rowhead Library System comics drawn from your Bookmobile, and the Arimagination or your life. rowhead Library System Comics are for everyone (patrons so the recommended age Mail-A-Book must qualify for Mail-A- for this activity is third Book services) Each kit includes some example drawings and prompts to create comics and characters from your own imagination. Will your character be a bumbling human? A scary doll? You and your family? An impatient ice cream cone? A wise old dandelion? Maybe that's a team? Defy the laws of physics, draw goofy stuff, and have fun creating

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author, illustrator, visual artist and cartoonist. She is the author of seven children's picture books, as well as the illustrator of picture books by authors Kevin Kling, Jane Yolen, and Janice Levy. Her comic strip, Violet Days, has been in print for over 19 years, and is featured in the collection "Ultra Violet: Ten Years Of Violet

grade to adults. (Little kids could do it, too, if someone can read to them.) Each kit includes fun directions and space for drawing characters, some blank comic templates, and a felt tip pen to bring your comics to the page. Please note each location has a limited number of kits - feel free to contact vour local library for more information.

Days.

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

Chris Monroe is an



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#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# **New life for the Longbranch**

## A new development in Winton; plans revealed for longtime saloon

by KEITH VANDERVORT Elv Editor

WINTON-TheLongbranch property here, 23 acres on the shore of Fall Lake, was sold last fall by the Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club to a Twin Cities eatery collective, Travail Kitchen and Amusements, and the new owners have a grand vision to help boost the economy of the area.

Winton Mayor Kathy Brandau introduced one of Travail's owners, Mike Brown, at the recent legislative session of the Ely Economic Development

Joint Powers Board.

"They have a plan in place to bring economic development to the city of Winton and the area," she said. "The city of Winton and our engineer will be working with them to redevelop this property."

Brown, one of three chef/ owners of the Travail Collective, presented his group's vision for the sprawling land that includes 900 feet of Fall Lake shoreline and a 5,000-square-foot building that was the original dining hall at Maple Leaf Lodge in the BWCA.

He described a three-phase project.

"For phase one, we plan to start this spring to be open and fully operational by spring of 2023," he said. "It is our goal to refurbish and possibly add lodging to the current Longbranch structure. Also, in working with JPJ Engineering, we hope to add a sewer lift system to connect our property to the city sewer."

He added that a sewer structure will be developed for future growth on the property.

"We also want to build two shower houses and one sleeper cabin and produce roughly 40 spaces for RV sites," Brown said. Phase two will add to the Above: An aerial view of the Longbranch Saloon on Fall Lake in Winton. submitted

**Right: Mike Brown talked** about his collective's plans for redevelopment at the Longbranch during a joint powers meeting in Ely last month. photo by K. Vandervort

new development.

"We will take 15-20 of the RV sites and turn them into sleeper cabins that house two to six guests with a single bathroom," he said.

"Phase three, which we plan to have open in 2025, will



include the addition of three to five full-size cabins and possibly an events center," Brown said.

"We are looking for as much support as possible from our community leaders in the state grant program and IRRR (Department of Iron

See WINTON...pg. 5

#### WILDLIFE EDUCATION

## Wanted: A bear-y passionate leader for the Vince Shute sanctuary



by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR-To get ready for the busy summer tourist season, there's a lot of work that has to take place at the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary near Orr to accommodate all of the staff,

Left: A large bear at the Vince Shute sanctuary has a good scratch after his meal. file photo

importantly the voracious hunger of the star attractions, the wild black bears.

But the American Bear Association board of directors is facing a potential bottleneck: with preparations needing to kick into high gear by March, they're without a director.

New opportunities await outgoing director Steph Horner, and while board Vice-

thousands of visitors, and most President Karen Hauserman understands change happens, she's sorry to see Horner go.

> When Steph started out, I'm sure at the time she had nothing like what she's been doing in mind," Hauserman said. "She went up as an intern and she was great, she loved it. She grew into the job, and then she grew that job. She had passion, and she had work ethics that are beyond reproach. She's a very special

person, and I just hate to see her go. I told her I wouldn't keep trying to talk her into staying, but I find it almost impossible not to do."

But Hauserman and the other board members are realists, and with Horner's departure confirmed, they started advertising the position in December, posting it on general job sites like Indeed.

See DIRECTOR...pg. 5



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## *Editorial* January 6 insurrection

## One year later, democracy in America appears more troubled than ever

In an editorial one year ago, in the immediate wake of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at our nation's capital, we asked whether the Republican Party would be able to recover from its slavish devotion to a dangerous demagogue. "Can the party recover from the Trump cult of personality and begin to stand for something other than his own self-aggrandizement?" we asked.

One year later, the answer is clear.

The handful of Republican leaders who have placed their loyalty to the U.S. Constitution above loyalty to Donald Trump have been rejected and even sanctioned by their own party, while those who plotted with Trump to overthrow the government of the United States are firmly in control of the GOP. Across the country, the GOP is using its grip on a number of state Legislatures to rewrite election laws, in some cases making it far easier for radical, partisan legislators to strip their own citizens of their right to choose the President of the United States.

Far from the soul-searching we had hoped from Republicans in the wake of the Jan. 6 violence, the party is doubling down on its Big Lie about the 2020 election in hopes of blocking any future Democrat from occupying the White House.

The Big Lie, which has been disproven time and again, is being exploited by the GOP to engineer the same kind of coup that Trump narrowly failed to execute one year ago. Across the country, and particularly in swing states, Trump backers in the GOP are seeking to remove Republican officeholders who refused to overturn the free and fair election results in their own states. Secretaries of State, such as Brad Raffensberger in Georgia, who resisted Trump's demand to "find" just enough Trump votes to reverse that state's result, is almost certain to be ousted in favor of a candidate who will find those votes next time, even if they have to be invented from whole cloth. Under the guise of "fighting election fraud," Republicans are changing election laws to commit actual election fraud through voter suppression and by allowing Legislatures to more easily toss legitimate election results in favor of their own pre-determined outcomes. Democrats, hamstrung by archaic Senate rules, appear unable to defend Americans' right to vote and have their votes fairly counted. At the state level, Republicans aren't limited by things like the filibuster, which would otherwise

allow Democrats to block their efforts to rig future elections.

We'd like to think that GOP voters themselves would oppose these efforts to undermine one of our most important Constitutional rights. Yet, the Trump fever won't break as long as right-wing media continues to spread his falsehoods and bizarre conspiracy theories.As we saw, last week, that fever has spread to parts of the Eighth District, where the Crow Wing County Board voted earlier this month to ask the Minnesota Secretary of State to undertake an audit of the 2020 presidential vote in the county to look for signs that the count was somehow manipulated by unseen forces. It's utter nonsense.

While the county board appropriately made clear that it has full confidence in its election process, they acknowledged that a considerable number of county residents were convinced that fraud must have occurred.

While one can certainly sympathize with the Crow Wing commissioners, they must realize an audit is a fool's errand. There have been countless internal reviews, independent audits, and hand recounts across the country, all of which revealed what any sensible American already knows: that the 2020 presidential election was free and fair and accurately reflected the will of the voters. The Crow Wing County audit will reach a similar conclusion and it will prove exactly nothing to the legions of Trump voters who prefer make-believe to reality.

It would all be fodder for the late-night comics if the current state of the GOP weren't so frightening. Donald Trump and his supporters are playing with fire, for both financial profit and political gain. Trump and his prominent supporters have raised millions of dollars peddling his Big Lie and much of that money ends up in their own pockets. He uses his election falsehoods to maintain political momentum, by generating anger on the right – anger he hopes will fuel another run for the White House. Trump doesn't care that his lies are badly eroding the very foundation of our system, by turning his supporters against free and fair elections. Recent polls have indicated that a significant plurality of Republicans now say they support the use of violence to achieve their political aims. There's no soul-searching on America's political right. There's only a fever that seems to grow more dangerous by the day.



## Letters from Readers

## The real elephant in the room

OPINION

As we solemnly observe the anniversary of Jan. 6, 2021, Ihad hoped that the Capitol riot would serve as an inflection point on the road back to sanity, and that Donald Trump's legacy would be relegated to the 'dustbin of history' where it belongs. But he continues to hold sway over the GOP and his base, and I'm struck by the strange dynamic that's been in play throughout the Trump era, where he says outrageous, insulting things, even occasionally incriminating things, and then, because he says them out loud, to the whole world, he gets away with it.

During the infamous Lester Holt interview in 2017, on national television, he admitted he fired FBI director James Comey "because of the Russia thing". In other words, he said, "I fired the man who was investigating me.....because he was investigating me." How in the world was that not obstruction of justice? If he had said this privately, and it was secretly taped and then leaked to the press, there would've been a firestorm of protest. But because he said it to the whole world, he gets a pass? This same dynamic was never more evident than on the morning of Jan. 6, 2021, when, in front of the whole world, he incited his followers to violence, urging them to march on the Capitol and "fight like hell" (even as he was trying to bully his vice president, and various other election officials, into disregarding the Constitution, in a criminal attempt to overturn the most secure election in history). Accusations against Trump for 'instigating an insurrection' and 'sedition' have been thrown about freely over the past year, but the powers-that-be need to stop dancing around the issue and call it for what it was: out-and-out treason. That's the 'elephant in the room' that no one wants to talk about: former President Donald Trump is guilty of treason, pure and simple, and should be charged and prosecuted accordingly. And the fact that he has 'incriminated' himself publicly, and pressured others to go along with his delusional madness, should have made it an easy call.

> Lynn Scott Soudan

## Stauber's record shows it's time to go

I happen to agree with last week's letter writer, Pamela Kelsey. I am thankful for those who put the ad in the *Timberjay*, concerning the pitfalls and failings of Rep. Pete Stauber. I, too, have received the typical "canned responses," that not only do not relate to my subject matter, but are clearly written to pass you off.

We need someone who really cares about our best interests in their agenda. Pete Stauber has proved he clearly does not, with all his negative voting record. Stauber needs to go.

#### Barry Tungseth Ely

A policy that all sides

do much of the heavy lifting to quickly, radically and measurably reduce CO2 emissions that cause the warming of our planet. Dividends from the tax on carbon will be equally distributed to the American people with no extra red tape. The free market will drive innovation and opportunities for diversification and job creation, and the USA will continue to be competitive on a global scale. Most importantly, millions of lives will be saved with cleaner air.

Let's decide to come together to save ourselves and our planet. Let's do it for our kids and grandkids, who do not deserve a future wrought with climate chaos. We can act decisively and swiftly, right now, to eliminate CO2 emissions by supporting what is as close to a "silver bullet "as we can get: Putting a price on carbon. Let's act now, together. Let's change the game before the clock runs out.

Please join CCL (citizensclimatelobby.org/join-citizens-climate-lobby/) and tell your Senators (cclusa.org/ senate) and President Biden (cclusa.org/white-house) to pass strong Pricing Carbon and

### should support

Katherine Hayhoe writes in her new book, "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World", that most people who deny climate change do so not from a scientific point of view, but from a political one.

As a nation we are increasingly impacted by wildfires, rising sea levels, wildly fluctuating temperatures, prolonged drought, and ever more unpredictable, bizarre and destructive weather patterns. For us Minnesotans, our "Great Outdoors" lifestyle is more at risk than ever before.

But there is hope: Congress is currently discussing Carbon Pricing, a bi-partisan, no-nonsense climate solution that can satisfy both sides of the aisle. Putting a price on carbon will Dividend legislation right now. Judith A. Thimke Duluth Twp.

## We welcome your letters

The *Timberjay* encourages letters to the editor. You can submit letters by mail at PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790, or email letters to marshall@timberjay.com.

We ask that letters be limited to 300 words.

Letters are subject to editing, primarily for length and clarity.

Letters are a great way to offer your input to the *Timberjay's* editorial page. We want to know what you think!

## 2022 cat comfort and The Betty White Challenge

A fresh new year has arrived and with it very little in the way of cheery outlooks for topics we hear about when we turn on the computer, radio or TV.

During our annual *Timberjay* Christmas break, I delighted in leisurely mornings



with coffee and my three cats, Rainy, Lil' Bit and Grady. I lounged in my LL Bean flannel nightgown until noon on many days talking to them and enjoying the loveliness of my Christmas tree with its white lights and beaded heirloom decorations. I watched some good movies and enjoyed TV shows such as Yellowstone and Bridgerton. I also watched the birds at the feeder, joined by my indoor cats who love to watch them, too. I have been teaching my youngest cat Grady some new words like "no, down, water, paws, poop" and even "egg". How entertaining it was one day while he watched me peeling eggs. He was so curious about the egg shells so I let him bat them around a bit before giving them a toss....since I am not a garden mulcher. Then, while seated elsewhere to look through my mail, I spoke about the egg project and he eagerly dashed right back to the bowl of eggs. Having been the owner of ten (mostly shelter) cats throughout the years since 2003, I am sure this little guy can be taught many words. He is an exceptionally intelligent cat in comparison to others I have had as roommates. In addition to wanting to learn to

make egg salad and eat it, too, he is an extremely loving boy. In fact, I wonder if he isn't the reincarnated Casanova or a past lover of mine! It's the way he extends his front paws to touch my face and nuzzle my neck, licking to an extreme...if I were to let him, that causes me to wonder. He can be quite a spectacle, yet I adore him and am trying to get him to calm himself a bit. All of my

#### See CHALLENGE....pg. 5

## Letters from Readers

### Our climate is not what it used to be

In the Good Old Days, back in the middle seventies when I was a new arrival in northern Minnesota, I always looked forward to the annual January Thaw. One morning the temperature would be thirty-five below, and the next afternoon it would be thirty-five above. One of my neighbors, dressed in nothing but shorts and a tee shirt, would burst out of his door and run three laps around the block in the melting snow.

In the last three or four years, however, we've had at least one thaw not only in January but in

every month of the winter. It's happening again in 2021/2022. More than half of the daily high temperatures in November were above freezing. In December we had three thaws with one at the beginning and one in the middle and one at the end. Will there be a thaw in January? Will there be one in February?

Jim Ganahl Cook

## Eagles Nest Fire doesn't discriminate

The Eagles Nest Fire Department, which includes Fire, EMS, and Emergency Preparedness will not refuse services to any individual or group of individuals based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, political affiliation, or ideologies. We will continue to provide the same rapid response, including the high level of care that our citizens have grown to expect from us.

Recently, a member of our Board of Supervisors submitted a letter to the editor of one of our local newspapers. Near the end of the letter was a suggestion that caused me great concern, to the level that I must speak out. The first paragraph of my statement is aimed at reassuring the people of Eagles Nest they need not be concerned or worried

that their services will be interrupted. The comment made by this supervisor was filled with hate and division and the actions suggested border malpractice. It is not our policy to judge the actions of patients nor is it our policy to adjust the level of care based on lifestyles or personal choices. I understand the frustration this pandemic has caused. Daily I worry about the safety of the men and women who serve this community. I urge them to take advantage of the protection equipment provided such as masks, gowns, gloves, testing, and yes vaccinations. I pray they are kept safe and are able to continue to enjoy their lives free

of injury and/or disease.

Perhaps the comment was made because of this same frustration and was written in a moment of weakness. Those of us who have the privilege of being in a position of authority must think about the things we say and realize during these times we must be real leaders and that people sometimes take literally off-hand remarks as truth or intent. I hope the remark I spoke of earlier is one of those times.

> Larry McCray **Fire Chief** Eagles Nest Twp.

## **CHALLENGE**...Continued from page 4

cats do calm me, expecting little in return.

Northern Minnesota's cold and isolating winters are a gift to those of us who enjoy quiet reflection. The past year brought deaths and departures of men and other friends who were in my life, with some that lacked the closure I hoped for. I am a person who likes to amend difficult situations that arise between people, but not everyone is like me. By the time the holidays arrived, I was feeling like an old Christmas card that loses its glitter after being shuffled around. I confer with the fact that I am unable to change the opinions and often misguided beliefs of other people and am practicing "The Subtle Art Of Not Giving A F\*ck," a favored listen on Audible. Like my sister says about those who hold gripes and grudges, "Some people just chew and chew on things for a very long time." Chewing is noisy and I want to be at peace while retaining some of my glitter, and all of my humor. A hearty toast to 2022!

This past Sunday night, the last night of my vacation, I sat in my office nook just off the kitchen until the wee hours. I was nestled in the wine-colored wing back corner chair I once purchased from a woman on Ely's Echo Trail for \$15. To recall how I met the chair is always comical, with the visuals of two women in the dark trying to wedge it in my small car. When I saw it on Facebook's Marketplace at 8:30 p.m. one night, I decided I had to have it and sped off to Ely from Soudan. I've often done spontaneous things like this. So, in the dim lamp light sitting in that chair, I was having a conference with myself the way we often do at the start of a new year. The conference gave way to rich moments, starting with a cat jumping up to settle in. I was holding the Icelandic Lopi wool sweater my mother knit back in the 70s. It has draped the back of my desk chair since her passing in 2012, being held in permanent hug position by one of its ornate silver buttons. It is too small for

me to wear but purposeful with the soothing aura it lends. I raised it to my face and discovered it still holds a trace of some fragrance mixed with the lanolin of sheep's wool. With one hand I was petting Grady while he slept in my desk chair near my propped feet...curled up in the green knit blanket I bought on the island of Inishmore. The blanket always brings back the beautiful memories of a trip to Ireland just as mom's sweater brings memories of her. My conference ended with this truth - I am so happy to have so many wonderful memories that lay the groundwork for positive beginnings in this new year.

Living man-free now with just my cats, hats, patterned chairs and organized commotion. I have learned much about who I am and I accept myself as basically a "good egg" .... to use a once-favored expression. It's great to be comfortable in my own skin. These days I don't have to cook for anyone else, clean house as much, or explain where I am going or why. How I spend my money is my own decision, too. I grin with delight when I go to bed...no longer shoved to one edge and jammed between a snoring partner and intensely cuddling cats only to hurl myself from bed and failed attempts at sleep to flee to another bedroom for space and stillness. Sports events no longer blare from a volume-hiked TV and on a personal note: I never have to quip, "Stay offa' them nips!" Cats are my balm and

calm. There is no way you can look at a drowsy or sleeping cat and feel any tension. Animals have emotions and you see them expressed in so many ways, just look at their eyes and it is obvious. A cat will never be insulted if you refer to it as black, white or Siamese. A dog might however, but I adore dogs, too! Cats know who they are. You don't have to tip-toe around issues with cats or question their motives. They belong to no political parties. Their constant presence and lack of concern for anything outside of their world can

greatly reduce stress for us humans and there are studies that support this.

The recent death of animal activist Betty White has prompted what is being called "The Betty White Challenge," a fundraising event slated for this coming Jan. 17, which would have been her 100th birthday, encouraging people to make a donation (\$5 suggestion) to animal shelters or rescues in her name. It's a wonderful idea and has gone viral. If you are interested in donating, see the shelter addresses at the end of my column. You can also find places online, but like anything else, beware of scammers that are posting fake sites to take your money. I was impressed and touched to learn about Betty White. In addition to being an actress with a long-running career, she had a lifelong love of animals. Throughout her long life she supported numerous animal-related nonprofits through adoption, donations, volunteering, fundraising, and recording public service announcements. She also

served on the board of trustees for the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association.

I will be taking up "The Betty White Challenge" next Monday, Jan. 17 and making my donation. Lets give back to our beloved animal friends. They have been with us through the COVID pandemic, deaths, celebrations, and our daily struggles. Animals are our true friends.

Here are some local agencies that assist pets in need.

► Contented Critters: 1939 Old Hwy 1, Ely MN 55731, 218-638-2153

► Mesabi Humane Society: 2305 Southern Drive, Virginia MN 55792, 218-741-7425

Precious Paws Humane Society: 101 1st Ave SW, Chisholm, MN 55719,218-254-3300

► Range Regional Animal Rescue: 11215 Hwy 37, Hibbing, MN 55746, 218-262-1900

Contented Critters-Makinen: 4986 Town Line Road, Makinen, MN 55763

## **WINTON**...Continued from page 3

Range Resources and Rehabilitation). We are looking forward to bettering our property and working with the community in Winton and Morse

such as trying to bring back a blues festival during (Blueberry/Arts Festival)," he said. We want to bring back some fishing tournaments and there," he said.

The Ely-Winton Rod and Gun Club retains the rest of their 66-acre property and the organization will continue its activities,

serving everyone themselves. The idea caught fire and suddenly there were lines out the door.

Soon, the owners Mike Brown, Bob Gerken, and James Winberg, who would come to be known as the "Collective," launched an online campaign to raise funds for a new location. By 2018, the collective had outgrown its second location. In the intervening years, there has been a launch of a wildly success-



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Township.

Brown made clear that the new development will not impede on any of the events and activities that have occurred over recent years at the Longbranch property.

"We hope to enhance all those experiences

keep the water cross event going and have more community involvement."

He noted that snowmobile trails will remain on the property and the beach will be open to the public.

"We are looking to enhance everything that's

#### DIRECTOR. Continued from page 3

com and more specialized sites for ecological and wildlife positions.

Applications have been trickling in, Hauserman said, but they're hoping to get more. As is often the case, the ones they've received so far are a real mixed bag.

"We've gotten a lot of applications and a lot of them are so way overqualified," Hauserman said. "Like PhDs working on theories about alcohol and drug abuse, and they've written books on it."

What the board has found lacking in most applications is a focus on how applicants see themselves fitting in to the work at Vince Shute and life in the North Country.

'It makes me think, 'Is this person going to be happy living up north or are we going to be in the same situation next year and the year after. It takes a very special person. Some people would love living here and some people have a hard time even visiting.

The area is unique, the job is unique, the person has to be unique."

Few would know better than Hauserman. While she lives in New Jersey these days, she is one of the three original founders of the sanctuary, and reminisces fondly about its namesake, Vince Shute.

"I think the driving force in the (director) and their passion actually comes once they're there. It grows. I know it certainly did for me. When I found Vince I thought I had found Heaven or something," she said. "What was going on up there I just couldn't believe. What he was doing was what I could imagine could be done with bears. He was coexisting way before it was even a word."

Passion is the key ingredient Hauserman is hoping to find in a director candidate, passion for bears and also educating the public about them. Along with an inclination toward a rustic lifestyle

according to Brown. What is Travail?

According to a Twin Cities restaurant publication, Travail began about 10 years ago as a neighborhood restaurant where the chef/owners were doing something rare at the time,

in the north woods, they hope that a new director will also come equipped with basic management skills necessary to perform the multi-faceted job successfully. Staffing, facilities maintenance, food procurement, scheduling, following a budget, promoting the sanctuary, and more are all part of the job, but much of it, including gaining in-depth knowledge about black bears, can be learned, Hauserman said. What can't be learned is passion and work ethic, both necessary to persevere in a job that requires 50-60 hours a week from May through October.

"If somebody comes in and they're just average, if they have the passion they're going to become top-notch," Hauserman said. "With passion, that job is self-motivating."

There's not a specific orientation plan in place once they find a new director, as that will depend somewhat on what they bring to the table,

Hauserman said. But she's confident the board can marshal the resources to get them up to speed for the upcoming season.

"We have some board members that live close by, although they're pretty busy," she said. "Like always, we'll somehow pull together and get it done."

The online job postings set an application deadline of Feb. 1, but if they haven't found the right candidate they'll extend that date, Hauserman said. But they're hoping to get a new director on board as soon as possible, and at the latest by mid-March when the activity really begins to pick up.

Hauserman invites anyone who may be interested, or knows of someone else who may be, to take a look at the complete job description at www.americanbear.org/get-involved/ employment/. Information on how to apply is available there as well.

ness/Editorial Office at 414 Main St., PO Box 636, Tower, MN 55790. Call (218) 753-2950 to subscribe. E-mail address is editor@timberjay.com. Periodicals postage paid at Tower, Minnesota.

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Moving? Questions about your subscription? Call the Tower office at (218) 753-2950.

## Week of Jan. 17

#### 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 Jan. 18.

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

#### Wednesday

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

#### Thursday

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

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.

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

#### Willa Koivisto named to Dean's List at MSU-Moorhead

MOORHEAD- Willa Koivisto, of Soudan, has been named to the Minnesota State University-Moorhead dean's list in recognition of academic achievement fall semester 2021. Students must maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average and carry 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor. Willa is majoring in Social Work.

#### Melissa Nelmark received Highest Honors at

## **BREITUNG TOWNSHIP** Public input sought on police body cam policies

Public hearing set on body camera issue for Thursday, Feb. 10 at Soudan Community Center

by STEPHANIE UKKOLA Staff Writer

SOUDAN- At the Breitung township meeting on Dec. 23, Police Chief Reing reported he is pursuing the purchase of body cameras for the Breitung Police Department.

"It's a good thing," said Reing. "It's about accountability, for the officers and the people. Not having body cams is a thing of the past," he said. Reing said the cameras would sync with the squad cameras and would back up to cloud storage free of charge, and case data would be available indefinitely if needed. He said cameras would cost \$1,095 each. Private citizens have offered to donate \$700 in funding so far.

Reing said he will draft a policy defining what is considered public data and private data consistent with the Minnesota Post Board and collaborate with other law enforcement agencies that will also be getting body cameras soon.

A 30-day public comment period is now open. Comments can be made to Chief Dan Reing at daniel.reing@breitungtownship.org or "Public Comments on Camera," PO Box 6, Soudan, MN 55782 or to the township clerk.

A special meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 10 at 12 noon to discuss and gather public input on body cameras.

#### Skating rink open

The Soudan skating rink will be open weekdays from 4 to 8 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. On holidays or other days that school is closed the rink is open from 11 a.m. to closing. The rink may close for inclement weather.

The board decided to discon-

tinue COVID-safe skating rules that were imposed in the past.

A separate skating rink for small children is now open.

#### Other news

In other news, the board:

► Made several fund transfers and changes including: transfering \$35,000 to the equipment replacement reserve fund which included \$25,000 from the general fund and \$10,000 from fire fund; removing the police forfeiture fund account; adding a new park reserve fund account with a transfer of \$50,000 from the park fund; transfering \$25,000 to the gravel reserve fund using \$10,000 from the road and bridge fund and \$15,000 from the general fund.

► Approved a partial payment to Jola and Sopp Excavating for \$29,362 for their work on sanitary sewer improvements.

➤ Heard that there has been no communication from the city of Tower on a proposed bike trail maintenance plan for the shared trail from McKinley Park going towards Hoodoo Point. The township will send the city a bill for maintenance done on Tower's portion of the trail in 2021.

► Received \$2,000 from Lake Country Power for improvements to the Soudan Park.

> Passed a resolution to adopt the new McKinley Park rate schedule.

▶ Renewed the tobacco license for Soudan Store.

➤ Received a thank you from the Ely Police Department for the opportunity to rent the Breitung police car.

► Approved the police contract with Tower.

The next regular meeting is Thursday, Jan. 27 at 12 noon.

### TOWER-SOUDAN ELEMENTARY





## **Elementary basketball** on Mondays after school

Elementary basketball is now underway at Tower-Soudan Elementary on Mondays after school. While originally organized for students in grades one, two, and three, the program is now open to all elementary-age students. Volunteer coaches will be working on beginning ball and dribbling skills, and learning the rules of the game. submitted photos

#### **Tower-Soudan** Athletic Association 2021 report

funding for Tower-Soudan Little League and Babe Ruth summer baseball programs, money to be elected at the annual

Dostert, vice-president; and Jodi Summit, treasurer. The 2022 officers will cover the entry fees for meeting. Anyone wishing to learn more about the group, or to request funding, can contact Jodi Summit at jsummit@vermilioncountry.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

other needs that are not funded through the regular budget.

> able to host the monthly meeting. Anyone wishing senior bingo events again this year, due to the pandemic, and they are hoping to be able to resume senior bingo sometime this year. The group was able to host the 2021 Vermilion Run and the Christmas Craft Show, and raised a little over \$2,500 this past year. In 2021, the group helped fund special events at the charter school including supplies for Halloween and Thanksgiving, gifts for school staff, and help with marketing costs for the school to help attract new students.

Muriel Scott, president; and Jodi Summit, treasurer. The 2022 officers will The group was un- be elected at the annual to learn more about the group, can contact Jodi Summit at jsummit@vermilioncountry.org.

### **UW-Stevens Point**

STEVENS POINT, Melissa Nelmark, Wis.of Embarrass, has been awarded Highest Honors for the fall semester at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Melissa is a senior. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.

TOWER- The Tow-

er-Soudan Athletic Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Vermilion Country School in Tower. The group did not raise any funds for the second year in a row, due to the cancelation of the annual fall auction, the group's only fundraiser.

The group made \$1,691 in donations in 2021. Donations included

**Facility** 

site hours

Cook Transfer Station

2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook

Hours

Mon: 10am–6pm

Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

Soudan Canister Site

5160 Hwy 169, Soudan

Hours

Mon, Wed, Sat:, Sun

8am–5pm

Aurora Transfer Station

5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora

Hours

Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm

Tue, Wed:10am-4pm

Sat: 8am–noon

**Regional Landfill** 

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm

Sat: 8am-3:30pm

#### all the Tower-Soudan Elementary students who participated in the Ely Marathon, and funding for greenhouse supplies and the tall ship sailing trip for Vermilion Country School.

TSAA is a local booster club that raises money at its annual fall auction to fund athletics and activities at the Vermilion Country School, summer baseball programs, and special elementary athletic opportunities at Tower-Soudan Elementary.

The 2021 officers were Marshall Helmberger, president; Joan

#### Friends of Vermilion Country **School 2021** report

TOWER-Friends of Vermilion Country School will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Vermilion Country School in Tower. The group is a booster club for the school, and all money raised goes to support school activities and

The 2021 officers are

## Tower-Soudan-Embarrass Bookmobile Schedule

Every third Wednesday: Jan. 19; Feb. 9; March 2 and 23; April 13; May 4 and 25; June 15; July 6 and 27; Aug. 17; Sept. 7 and 28; Oct. 19; Nov. 9 and 30; Dec. 21



Britt (Sand Lake Storage): 9 - 9:30 a.m. Bois Forte (Boys & Girls Club): 11 - 11:30 a.m. Greenwood (Town Hall): 12 – 1 p.m. Soudan (Post Office Vicinity): 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Tower (Civic Center): 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. Embarrass (Hwy 135 & Hwy 21): 5 – 6 p.m.

You can see the full bookmobile schedule on the website, alslib.info/services/ bookmobile. For more information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 218-741-3840, email at als@alslib.info, or website at www.alslib.info.

#### Joint Powers **Recreation Board** to meet Tuesday. **Jan. 25**

TOWER- The Tower-Soudan Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 8:30 a.m. at Good Ol' Days. Requests for funding must be made in writing prior to the meeting to Terri Joki-Martin at Tower City Hall.

#### **Tower Loan Closet** now located at Frandsen Bank, side entrance

TOWER- The Tower Loan Closet has been moved to the side office at Frandsen Bank, Spruce St. entrance (the former law office location). The closet has medical equipment like crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, canes, and toilet seats that can be lent out. The loan closet is open by appointment by calling Joe Morin at 218-780-7306.



Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am–3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm

County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm

**Embarrass Canister Site** 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30–4:30pm Thu: 10am–5pm

**Household Hazardous Waste** Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm

Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

St. Louis County Environmental Services Department 1-800-450-9278 Office hours 8-4:30 Monday through Friday www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle



# Ely rental house damaged in late night fire

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY - Ely and Babbitt firefighters were dispatched to a house fire in Ely on Wednesday, Jan. 5. The fire was reported around 11:55 p.m. at 319 East Camp Street.

"When we arrived, we found a two-story home with smoke showing from the eaves on all four sides," said Ely Fire Chief David Marshall. "Captain Ryan Callen was designated as Operations Section Chief and Captain Chris Vesel was tasked with leading an interior offensive attack."

According to Marshall, the first interior team found heavy smoke and near-zero visibility on the second floor of the structure. "They quickly identified they had fire overhead in the attic, and they were able to gain access to the attic and apply a hose stream of water to cool the area," he said.

"The second interior attack team was able to further open up the attic, but due to the visibility issues, requested a ventilation team assist in clearing



A house at 319 East Camp Street was heavily damaged in a fire on Wednesday, Jan. 5. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but centers around an LP-fired room heater on the second floor, according to Ely Fire Chief David Marshall. submitted photo

smoke. Ladder 1 was used to cut a ventilation access in the gable end of the structure, vastly improving visibility and access to the attic. The attic fire was extinguished and a second vent hole was cut in the roof allowing additional attic access to ensure the fire would not reignite. The structure received significant fire, smoke, and water damage," Marshall said.

The lone tenant and her dog escaped unharmed and there were no firefighter injuries. The home is owned by local attorney Rae Bentz.

"The investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing, but centers around an LP-fired room heater installed on the second floor of the duplex," Marshall added.

Eighteen Ely firefighters and five Babbitt firefighters responded to thecall. The Ely Hummer, Engine 1, Ladder 1, and Squad 1 were deployed and Babbitt sent one of their engines. The Ely Police Department and Ely Utilities assisted with the incident. Ely Utilities and Ely Public Works also assisted with managing the ice and thawing hydrants the following morning.

At the city council meeting last week, Marshall stressed the importance of calling the fire department even for what appears to be a minor fire. Just prior to Christmas, a structure fire on White Street resulted in extensive damage to the structure.

"A fire can hide," he said. "Even though you have a fire in your house and you think it might be just a small fire, it is still a really good idea to give the Fire Department a call and have us come in and take a look at things and make sure there were no extensions to the fire that went somewhere else, like into the attic."

Marshall added, "As a taxpayer, this is a service you are paying for already, so use us. If you want us to come take a look after something like that happens, call us and we will check things out."

## Tuesday Group

ELY – The Tuesday Group community educational lunch 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.

Upcoming Tuesday Group speakers:

→Jan. 18: Ely Middle School Behavioral Health Literacy Curriculum with Lori Linkous

→ Jan. 25: Civic Coalition to Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Spread into the BWCAW with Jeff Forester.

► Feb. 1: Meet new Ely-area residents

## Breathing Out by Cecilia Rolando © 2021



bird action above a pigeon wave flyover

dive in unison

## Libraries

#### Ely library

Hours: Monday — Friday, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays Phone: 365-5140

#### **Babbitt library**

	Jiuiy
Monday	Noon-6 pm
Tuesday	Noon-6 pm
Wednesday	Noon-6 pm
Thursday	Noon-6 pm
Friday	Noon-5 pm
Phone: 827-33	345

Support groups

## Ely woman dies in two-car crash



ELY – An Ely woman died, and two others were seriously injured, in a two-vehicle crash late Thursday, Dec. 30 on Hwy 1/169 near Robinson Lake at Camp Lake Road in Morse Township.

Pat Marsnik, 72, of Ely, was killed when a Chevy Silverado in which she was a passenger was hit by a southbound Subaru Crosstrak that crossed the center line into the northbound lane, according to the Minnesota State Patrol. Another passenger in the Silverado, longtime ISD 696 school board chair Ray Marsnik, 80, of Ely, suffered life-threatening injuries and was transported to Essentia Health Duluth. He remained in the hospital as of last week. recovering from multiple

injuries. The driver of the Chevy truck, Bob Baier, 74, of Ely, was also taken to Essentia Health with non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the Subaru, Ryan Anthony Reid, 38, of Superior, Wis.,sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported to Essentia



The Ely Rotary recently presented checks to two Ely-area groups. The girls of Camp Atsokan, above, received a check for \$800 to help cover the cost of next summer's trip to Rainy Lake. Each year, over a dozen teen-age girls from Ely participate in a four-day writing workshop with authors Mary Casanova and Margi Preus. Camp Atsokan is organized by Story Portage, a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting personal narratives and literacy in the Ely area. Donations towards next summer's trip can be sent to Camp Atsokan, c/o Story Portage, PO Box 286, Ely, MN 55731. The Ely Rotary Club also donated \$500 to the Ely Winter Festival. The annual winter event runs Feb. 3-13. Shown below from left, Chris Kloppenberg, EWF Chair, Linda Ganister, EWF Treasurer, and Todd Heiman, Ely Rotary Club President. submitted photos

Health Duluth, according to authorities.

Everyone involved was wearing a seatbelt, and alcohol was not involved with either driver, according to the incident report. Snow and ice were reportedly contributing factors in the crash.

The highway between Ely and Tower was closed for more than an hour following the accident, which happened around 4:50 p.m.

## Higher Education Briefs

#### Ely student honored at UW-Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,350 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2021-2022 academic year, including Ely's Peter Anderson, a senior, who earned honors recognition.

Honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

#### Students honored at St. Scholastica

DULUTH - The College of St. Scholastica announced its Fall 2021 Dean's List recipients. Dean's List members have achieved a 3.75 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale.

Local students named to the list include Erin Forsman, Amy Kellogg and Julia Schwinghamer, all of Ely, and Lori Huseby, of Babbitt.

### Thompson honored at MSU Moorhead

MOORHEAD–Maxibillion Thompson, of Ely, was named to the Minnesota State University-Moorhead dean's list in recognition of academic achievement fall semester 2021. Students must maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average and carry 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor. Thompson is pursuing a degree in physics.



## In Brief

### **Ely Senior Center Bingo**

ELY - Looking for something fun to do in 2022? Members and guests are invited to the Ely Senior Center on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. for bingo.

Boards are 10 cents each per game. They play 20 games with four special games. Winners split the pot up to \$10. The final cover-all game is a jackpot game starting at \$50 and 45 numbers. If there is no winner within the designated numbers, the game will continue until a coverall is reached and the winner will receive \$10. One number and \$5 will be added each week until the jackpot is won.

Participants must play the whole bingo session to participate in the coverall. Anyone over 55 may become a member for \$10 per year.

AA - Alcoholics 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 Church, Ely. ADULT BASIC **EDUCATION GED** - Study materials and pre-test available. Call 218-365-3359, or 1-800-662-5711. CAREGIVER **SUPPORT GROUPS:** Babbitt: 3rd Monday of Month: 6-7:30 p.m. at Carefree Living Ely: 4th Monday of

Month: 10-11:30 a.m. at

Ely-Bloomenson Hospital

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## **Orr City Council welcomes new year with rate hike**

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

ORR- Water and sewer rates for city of Orr customers are going up for 2022, as city council members voted at their meeting on Monday to take action to trim losses from decreased water and sewer usage over time.

Clerk/Tresurer Cheri Carter gave a stark but simple illustration of the problem.

"Back in 2006, we

were pumping over 14 million gallons of water," Carter said. "Now we're down to five million and it still costs the same amount of money to treat."

As spending the same amount with nine million fewer gallons to charge for to cover the expense isn't sustainable, council members had no choice but to consider a rate hike. They unanimously agreed to raise water and sewer rates by an additional \$1 per 1,000.

The hike is well un-

der that needed to break even on water and sewer operations, but councilors agreed the city would continue to transfer revenues from the liquor store to keep rates down.

As part of the annual organizational meeting, the council approved the following standard appointments:

Sterle and Company as the city's auditing firm.

➤ Cook Nwews Herald as legal newspaper.
➤ Klun Law Firm as city attorney, and Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith and Frederick, P.A. as bond counsel.

Benchmark Engineering as city engineer and Bollig, Inc., as airport engineer.

→Park State Bank, RBC Investments, League of Minnesota Cities 4M Fund, and North Star Credit Union as official financial repositories.

Councilor Tom Kennebeck will serve as acting mayor in the absence of Joel Astleford, a

position he filled in 2021. Astleford will continue as the city's noxious weed inspector.

In other business, the council:

Discussed next steps for moving ahead with the purchase of the ISD 2142 bus barn for future use for the ambulance service. It was determined the district needs to provide a formal legal description of the property before a survey of the property can be conducted. ➤Approved the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of 58.5 cents per mile for use of personal vehicles for city business.

► Received the second half Cook Orr Healthcare District levy of \$38,137 and approved its deposit in the ambulance service checking account.

► Approved the receipt of \$1,188 from Cook Hospital and Care Center for reimbursement of ambulance service expenses.





### It's lovely weather ...

It couldn't have been a much nicer winter's day for sleigh riding on Saturday, and folks turned out in droves for the annual charitable event at the Mike Hanson family residence north of Cook. Around 150 attendees kept two sleighs and three teams of horses working steadily for about three hours. Hansen said that the attendance was about normal, but the donations received of \$944 and 278.5 pounds of food for the Cook Community Food Shelf were all-time records for the event.

J. Grahn photos

#### Archery team scores big wins at Hill City meet

FIELD TWP- The North Woods Archery team competed in a round robin tournament on Jan. 8, its first since the coronavirus pandemic brought an early end to the 2020 season.

Hill City School hosted the meet, which saw 370 elementary, middle school and high school students compete.

The North Woods Elementary team (grades 4 and 5) and Middle School team (grades 6-8) both took first place. North Woods High School took home the third-place medal.

Individual medal

Brunner, first; Buckley LeForte, second; and Brady Swanson, fourth.

➤7th grade- Collin Grahn, fourth; Khloe Holland, fourth; and Merilee Scofield, fifth.

►8th grade- Lincoln Antikainen, third.

▶12th grade- Lillian Voges, fifth. The next tournament

is at North Woods School on Saturday, Jan. 22.

#### Community Ed program offers January classes

FIELD TWP – North Woods Community Education invites the public to take advantage of these January opportunities at North Woods School:

►Elementary Open Basketball Gym. Grades 3-6, on Sundays from noon to 1:30 p.m., beginning Jan. 9. Open to both boys and girls. Fee is \$6.

This class is ongoing.

➤ Martial Arts, ages 5 years and older, starting Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. Class is Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

NORTH WOODS SCHOOL

► Social Security- Securing Your Retirement Wednesday, Jan. 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Fee is \$6.

Financial Foundations, Wednesday, Jan. 26 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Fee is \$6.

► Background, Information and Effects of Vaping, Wednesday, Jan. 26 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. No fee.

►Women's Volleyball and Adult Basketball are both ongoing on Wednesdays. Fee is \$6.

To sign up for any of these classes, register at https://slc2142.revtrak. net.



**Area Solid Waste Facility** 

site hours



Sweets and learning go together

These smiling faces were all in attendance at a pre-winter break Learning Readiness activity at North Woods School. Those not smiling have their mouths full of holiday cookies. submitted photos

"inners meradea.

►4th grade - Katie Scofield, first; Clark Danielson, fourth.

▶5th grade- Michaela

#### COMMUNITY NOTES

## Orr student gets college honors

ORR- University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point senior Kristen Cook, of Orr, has been recognized for academic excellence by the university for the recently completed Fall 2021 semester.

Cook received high honors status, a designation for students with grade point averages between 3.75 and 3.89. She was among 2,350 undergraduates receiving academic honors for the semester.

#### Gathering for writers is Jan. 29

COOK- Aspiring writers are invited to attend a Winter Writers Gathering from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Northwoods Friends of the Arts Gallery, 210 S River St. in Cook.

The event is open to anyone who enjoys writing. Participants are invited to share writing they have completed, and there will be writing together during the gathering. All forms of writing are valued, including poems, essays, articles, short stories, chapters of future books, and personal memoirs. Dr. Ellie Larmouth, a retired college professor with years of experience, will be facilitating the gathering. Larmouth has been leading writers' groups at NWFA for 11 years.

NWFA membership is not a requirement to attend. Participants are required to be vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19 and masks are required.



NWFA is a non-profit membership organization supporting artists in all fields in the area of Cook. Forty artists display their work year-round at NWFA Gallery, and January features a discount sale on December's garage sale items. Stop by to enjoy the art and shop on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. More informa-

INT LOUIS COUNT

ENVIR©NMENTAL

SETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Ash River Trail Canister Site

11391 Ash River Trail

Winter Hours

Sat: 12:30pm-4:30pm

**Orr Canister Site** 

4038 Hwy 53

Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am–noon

Sat: 8am-noon

**Cook Transfer Station** 

2134 S. Beatty Rd.

Hours

Mon: 10am-6pm

Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm

5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia

Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm

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tion is available online at nwfamn.org or by emailing nwfamn@gmail.com.

#### Woodcarvers meet Thursdays at NWFA

COOK- The Northwoods Friends of the Arts Woodcarvers Group meets each week on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. at the NWFA Gallery at 210 S River St. in Cook. A talented group of carvers meet and share the joy

Kabetogama Lake Canister Site

10150 Gamma Rd

Winter Hours

Wed: noon-4pm

Sat: 8am—noon

Portage Canister Site

6992 Crane Lake Rd.

Winter Hours

Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm

**Regional Landfill** 

5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia

Hours

Mon–Fri: 8am–4:30pm Sat: 8am–3:30pm

3994 Landfill Rd. Hibbing

Sat: 8am-1pm

of carving on wood. Beginners are welcome. For more information, contact Howard at 218-290-1391.

#### Bear visitor center in Orr closed

ORR- The American Bear Association Visitor Center on Hwy. 53 in Orr has "gone into hibernation" according to a notice from ABA and is temporarily closed. The reopening date and times of op-

Sturgeon Canister Site

8380 Hwy 73

Hours

Sun: 8am-Noon

**County 77 Canister Site** 

2038 County Rd. 77

Winter Hours

Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm

**Environmental Services** 

1-800-450-9278

Office hours 8-4:30

Monday through Friday

www.stlouiscountymn.gov/recycle

St. Louis County

Department

eration will be posted on the ABA website at www. americanbear.org.

Sales of merchandise through the ABA online gift shop have also been suspended for the time being.



Winter hours effective October 1st through April 14th

**Household Hazardous Waste Facilities** 

#### CITY OF TOWER

## Tower city council changes meetings to once a month

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

TOWER – The council worked through a light agenda in their first meeting of the new year on Monday, confirming several appointments to city committees and commissions and opting to drop the frequency of their regular meetings from twice a month to just once.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Schultz said the change in meeting frequencv would free up several hours a month for him to work on other city matters. "It does take a long time to prepare a packet to make

sure everything is in it," said Schultz.

Council member Joe Morin said he doesn't mind meeting twice a month and said he was concerned that some issues might not progress quickly enough if the council only meets monthly.

But Mayor Dave Setterberg said that councilors conduct much of their work in committee meetings anyway and that the council could always hold special meetings as needed to advance decisions. "I'd rather Michael spend the time on other things," he said.

The change in meeting

schedule will begin in February, which will allow the council to complete its annual appointments at their second meeting in January, set for Jan. 24.

In other business, the council discussed management of the city's forest lands. The council recently established a forestry committee to investigate how to re-start management of city timberland, which has been largely ignored for more than a decade due to an inactive forestry board. Setterberg said he had talked with DNR forestry officials who had indicated they could provide assistance to inventory the harvestable timber and begin to develop cutting plans.

Morin was enthusiastic about the idea. "We should go through everything we've got, using [St. Louis County's] Land Explorer and then have a full catalog of what we own and what's there," he said.

He said he would contact the county land department to see what forestry services they might be able to offer the city.

Once some of that work is completed, the committee will work to re-engage the city's forestry board to review and approve possible timber sales.

In other business, the council:

 Approved a bill of sale for the disposition of the city's third ambulance. The council had approved the sale of the vehicle at its Dec. 27 meeting. The proceeds from the sale will go to the ambulance replacement fund.

➤ Approved a corrected version of the city's water and sewer rate chart.

> Authorized the clerk-treasurer to engage the planning and zoning services of consultant Tony Jeffries as needed in 2022, up to a total of \$5,000.

council appointments for 2022:

Acting Mayor, Joe Morin

Airport Commission, Sheldon Majerle

Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board, Dave Setterberg, Majerle.

Ambulance Commission- Kevin Norby.

Forestry Board, Setterberg, Majerle.

Tower Economic Development Authority, Morin, Tom Suihkonen.

Planning and Zoning, Morin, Norby.

Lodging Tax Board, Majerle.

➤ Made the following

## CITY OF ELY

## Ely council asks residents to serve on committees, boards

by KEITH VANDERVORT Elv Editor

ELY – The city of Ely is looking for more than a few residents to step up and serve the community for a term or two on a variety of governmental advisory committees, boards and commissions.

As many as 12 committees have at least one or multiple positions that will be vacant by the end of this month. At their first business meeting of the new year on Jan. 4, Mayor Roger Skraba called for residents to consider lending a hand in running the city

by serving on committees. "This is your oppor-

tunity to start your voyage into public meetings," Skraba said. "It's an opportunity to meet once a month, four times a year, whatever it is, and if you like it, you can stick around and run for where we are. This is a good place to start if anyone is interested."

Many city of Ely committee seats become open on Jan. 31, including:

► Airport Commission; ► Cemetery Committee (two seats);

►Gardner Trust: ► Heritage Preservation Committee;

> Housing and Redevelopment Authority (two seats at the end of 2022);

► Library Commission; ► Planning and Zoning (three seats);

► Police Commission; ► Projects Committee (three seats);

► Telecommunications Advisory Board (two seats for two-year terms);

► Ely Utility Commission (two seats); ► Tree Board (four seats).

Application information and more details on meeting days and times for the committee seats can be found on the city of Ely website, www.ely.mn.us, or at the City Clerk's office in City Hall.

#### Other business

►In other action at the brief meeting on Jan. 4, city council members agreed with the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendation and voted unanimously to rezone parcels of land at 301, 303, and 305 West Sheridan Street from Industrial to Central Business (C-1) to coincide with the longtime business and retail sales operation at that location.

"When the plat map went through the last time,

#### the changes were not made at the time," Skraba said. "We are just cleaning this up now. It is a mystery. You can go through this map and find all kinds of things."

▶ Designated Boundary Waters Bank, Frandsen Bank and the 4M Fund as the city's official depositories.

► Authorized the assistant city treasurer to monitor the preparation of various financial notes and reports for the city audit.

► Authorized city officials and staff to attend meeting outside of Elv.

► Approved in-kind services from the city of

Ely in support of the Ely Winter Festival, Feb. 3-13.

► Issued \$549,561 in a General Obligation Revenue Note for the wastewater treatment plant mercury mitigation project.

> Selected a scoring-interview committee for the equipment operator trainee, equipment operator II and equipment operator III positions.

> Approved a resolution authorizing the execution of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Airport Maintenance and Operation Grant.

#### SULFIDE MINING

## Appeals court: Ely-based environmental group can challenge mining rules

#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- The MinnesotaCourtofAppeals has found that Ely-based Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness has the right to bring a lawsuit challenging the adequacy of the state's non-ferrous mining rules.

The decision, issued Dec. 27, has no immediate effect, since a lower court had already decided in NMW's favor and a process to review the s mining rules is already underway by the Department of Natural Resources as a result of

the litigation. Twin Metals, a subsidiary of Chilean mining giant Antofagasta. had challenged NMW's right, known as standing, to bring its challenge of the mining rules to court. Twin Metals has proposed to build a sulfide-based copper-nickel mine just upstream of the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

NMW brought the case under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA), contending that Minnesota's mine siting rules would fail to protect the Boundary Waters from the toxic pollution common to sulfide-ore

copper mining. The DNR had already agreed that NMW had met its burden of proof to trigger a review of the mining rules, and that review is currently in process. A public comment period on the adequacy of the rules closed Dec. 9. The appellate decision late last month will allow that process to continue.

"The Boundary Waters is a national and state treasure," said Becky Rom, National Chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. "This strong legal decision by the Minnesota Court of Appeals clears the way for a much needed examination by the state of whether the nation's most toxic industry should be allowed in the same watershed as America's most visited wilderness."

NMW asserts that the DNR siting rule should be amended to prohibit nonferrous mining in the Rainy River Headwaters altogether as the only way to protect the Boundary Waters from pollution, damage, or destruction.

With legal representation by Ciresi Conlin LLP, NMW challenged the state's non-ferrous mining rules pursuant to Section 10 of the Minnesota Environmental

Rights Act back in June. The lawsuit alleges that the current mining rules, adopted 29 years ago, would fail to protect the Boundary Waters and the Rainy River Headwaters. The current rules allow for sulfide-ore mining in the upstream half of the Rainy River Headwaters, next to and outside of the Boundary Waters. Polluted waters from sulfide-ore copper mining in the upstream half of the Rainy River Headwaters would flow directly into

Park and Voyageurs National Park. This is the first-ever lawsuit of its kind brought under Section 10 of MERA (Minn. Stat. Chapter 116B.10).

At the federal level, the Biden Administration filed an application for a ban on mining on federal lands in the wilderness watershed and is currently reviewing multiple legal challenges to Twin Metals lease renewals. There is currently both state and federal legislation introduced that would permanently protect the Boundary Waters from the threat of sulfide-ore copper mining.

the Boundary Waters and also put at risk the downstream protected areas of the Quetico Provincial

#### **WATER**...Continued from page 1

the pavilion area will also be posted.

The outdoor water spigot will be limited to residential, not commercial, use.

The Brassmaster system is low maintenance and will supply up to 10 gallons per minute. Unlike a reverse osmosis system, it will not put a large amount of fresh water into the town hall's septic system. A quote to install a reverse osmosis system came in at over \$27,000. Quarterly water testing on the new system will be done at no charge, provided by Brassmaster. The Brassmaster units are manufactured in Minnesota.

The arsenic level in water from the Greenwood Town Hall outdoor water spigot, which tested at 102 ppb, was 10 times over the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppb set by EPA and the Minnesota Department of Health Drinking Water Protection Program.

Arsenic is found naturally in soils and rocks across the area, and can dissolve into the groundwater. Arsenic levels can vary between wells even in a small area, according to the Minnesota Department of Health. You cannot taste, see, or smell arsenic in the water. Private well owners are advised to test at least once for arsenic, according to the MDH.

#### Ambulance

The board passed a motion to have the township approach other area townships and cities with the idea of hiring a consultant to explore the idea of creating a regional ALS ambulance service. Township Chair Mike Ralston will send out letters to a list of consultants, provided by Virginia Fire Chief Al Lewis, seeking requests for proposals for such a study.

"This has to be regional or it isn't going to work," said Lofquist.

The township will approach the IRRR to see if funding would be available for such a study. It is also possible, said Ralston, that ARPA (federal pandemic relief) funding can be used for the cost.

The board also voted to send in their 2021 subsidy payments to the Tower Area Ambulance Service, totaling \$13,500.

#### Other business

In other business, the board:

► Approved a \$100 donation to the Cook Library.

Accepted a ≻ \$195 donation from the Greenwood Quilters.

► Approved a threeyear service contract with Ziegler for the emergency generator at a cost of \$1,162 per year.

 Appointed Kathy Lovgren, Carol Maus, Colleen Lepper, Joan Mueller, Beverly Peterson, and Leanne Lundstrom as election judges for the upcoming township election on March 8.

▶ Heard that incumbent Carmen DeLuca will be challenged by Robert "Rick" Stoehr for the Supervisor 4 seat. Incumbent clerk Deb Spicer will be running unopposed.

 Discussed ongoing issues with the ADP payroll system. Treasurer Belinda Fazio said she has been unable to contact them so that she is named the contact person on the account. When the township first made the change to ADP, Deputy Treasurer Tammy Mortaloni was the contact, because she had experience with the system, but the intent was to then have Fazio take over the payroll entry duties. Fazio said she is able to learn the payroll system, but first needs to get access through ADP. The board has discussed going back to using their previous software system, but has not made a final decision.

➤ Supervisor Drobac noted that the claims list had a double payment to ADP. The board voted to remove the second payment and have the treasurer void that check.

> Drobac asked the board to look at reducing the treasurer's monthly salary to account for the hours spent by the deputy treasurer doing duties that have been traditionally done by the treasurer. No action was taken. The motion to approve the monthly payroll passed 3-2, with Drobac and Lofquist voting against.

➤ Will work on the 2023 budget at the Feb. 8 meeting. Ralston said they are looking at an approximate increase of \$10,000 in budget spending from 2022.

> Approved the purchase of a lightweight portable water supply tank for the fire department at a cost of \$1,765. These tanks are used to supply water once

the fire trucks are emptied.

"If we don't have water at a fire scene, we are worthless," said Fire Department Safety Officer Rick Worringer.

> Fire Chief Dave Fazio reported the department has 23 members, and 21 are fire fighters. Of those, 19 qualified for pension payments this year. Twelve department members are First Responders, and 10 of those qualify for the township-funded pension payment this year.

 Made no decision on whether or not to classify fire department members as volunteers, and will seek more information on whether this is legal. Previously, the township had been told they needed to treat the members as employees for tax purposes.

► Lofquist asked if the

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board could hold a closed meeting to discuss issues relating to the clerk's salary and hours. Drobac said she didn't think the board was allowed to close a meeting for that purpose. Ralston said he would check with MAT on the issue. The state open meeting law only allows public bodies to close meetings for issues relating to pending lawsuits, preliminary consideration of charges against an employee, to evaluate an employee's performance, or for strategy sessions for labor negotiations. The clerk is not a township

employee.

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#### SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

## Fall Lake resident pressures legislators on ISD 696 annexation

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

REGIONAL - A renewed if not emotion-filled plea in an old argument, Fall Lake Township's placement in the Lake Superior School District, was made late last month to state lawmakers meeting in Ely.

Sheila Gruba, of Fall Lake, updated the argument that it was time for state action that would place the township, located in the northwest corner of Lake County, in the nearby Ely school district where many Fall Lake children attend school. She made the emotion-filled plea to State Sen. Tom Bakk and State Rep. Rob Ecklund during an annual legislative session of the Ely Community Economic Development Joint Powers Board.

Unfortunately, Gruba's argument likely fell on deaf ears as the issue of school funding remains in the hands of others.

Here's the issue. Fall Lake Township borders the boundaries of ISD 696. More than 40 students who live in that township, part of neighboring Lake County, attend Ely schools through open enrollment. The township residents in the adjoining county and adjoining school district pay their property taxes to fund the schools in that school district.

So why don't those 40-plus students attend the school in their home county and home school district? The schools are located on the other end of the county and the Lake Superior School District does not provide transportation because of the high costs involved.

Gruba claimed she was representing concerned citizens and taxpayers in Fall Lake Township and sought advice from the local state legislators "to fix what we believe is a long-forgotten oversight" impacting the taxpayers and students in the township. She cited data that 42 students from Fall Lake attend ISD 696 through open enrollment.

The Elv school district receives \$6,500 for each of the 42 students, a total of \$273.000, from the state.

"These students have traditionally attended Ely schools because it is not logistically feasible for our students to travel to the Lake Superior school district. It is two hours, one way to take our students there," Gruba said. "We feel it does not make sense and would like to find a way to detach from the (Lake Superior) district and become a part of the Ely school district."

Gruba cited peace of mind issues relating to township students attending school much closer to home and having transportation provided.

We would be able to vote for or run for the Ely school board," she said. "Most importantly, Fall Lake tax dollars would go to the school system that our township (students) attend."

She cited historical facts to strengthen her case. Starting in the 1950s, seventh and eighth-grade students were bussed to Ely schools.

'Ninth through 12th graders always went to the Ely school system," she said. "In 1969, the Section 30 school was closed, and in 1979 the school was torn down."

In 2002, a \$37 million, 20-year school bonding referendum was passed for a new high school in Two Harbors.

"In 2005, there were attempts to obtain state bonding to pay Fall Lake's portion, but that bill failed," Gruba said.

"The only way we can get out of the Lake Superior school district is through the annexation process, which would then obligate us to both Ely and the Two Harbors (sic) which is not feasible," she added.

"This issue has continued to simmer for the past 15 years. During this time a tuition agreement between Lake Superior and Ely ended. Nothing exists today. Meanwhile, Fall Lake residents now pays17 percent of a levy that was just passed," Gruba said. 'Lake County continues to pay zero for Fall Lake citizens to attend school in Ely or for transportation costs."

She said she has paid \$32,000 for the bonding levy.

"And that was when our children were young. They are now age 38 and 42."

Gruba addressed Bakk and Ecklund directly.

"Our citizens are frustrated. We know this is a difficult situation that puts two areas of your districts against each other. We ask for your advice to resolve this situation once and for all. We are hoping for a commonsense solution."

Bakk reiterated the obstacles that stand in the way of a resolution of any kind.

"The last time this boiled up was some 20 years ago, and I think we at least had the two school boards talking to each other," he said. "The two school boards need to figure this out."

He only offered to put an agreement by the school boards into legislative language.

Gruba asserted that that legal grounds exist to support Fall Lake in detaching from the Lake Superior school district.

"Our classified school was closed. They don't even provide bussing. Can't some type of legislation be introduced?" she asked. "We just want to be let go. This is taxation without representation."

State Rep. Kurt Daudt, the state House majority leader who also attended the Joint Powers meeting in Ely, indicated that the state legislature has the authority to address the issue. "The good news is that we write the laws," he said.

Bakk conceded that there is no incentive for Lake County or the Lake Superior school district to give up Fall Lake Township.

Ecklund added, "It is a tough situation. "I get where you are at."

### **RACES**...Continued from page 1

The Crane Lake oval was created just a little way offshore north of the Crane Lake Bar and Grill, one of KCPRO East's gold-level sponsors.

For the 15 kids who showed up with their entourages in tow, this was more than just a friendly get together for a little fun scooting around on the ice. This is serious racing.

A long row of trucks and cargo vans along one side of the oval created a little racing village, serving as both the pit area and a place for all to mingle throughout the day. Most of the cargo vans doubled as both snowmobile transports and workshops on wheels, equipped to handle routine tasks like gear changes for different classes and the inevitable breakdowns

**KELLY KLUN** Attorney At Law Estate Planning

that come hand in hand with motor sports.

While most took in the racing standing along the track to cheer the racers on, other spectators who rolled in for the event sat in the heated comfort of idling trucks parked a safe distance beyond a snow retaining wall.

All the kids racing have to be licensed through International Snowmobile Racing Inc., and safety is paramount. Approved helmets and protective body armor are required, with blaze orange covering most of the gear for high visibility, particularly in the event a rider takes a tumble during a race. Because kids pushing the limits while learning a new sport are going to make mistakes, the racing oval is bounded by a four-foothigh snow wall to cushion and contain the crash of a skidding or rolling snowmobile and rider. Spotters are located all around the track to immediately signal a red-flag halt to a race if a snowmobile stalls or goes out of control.

Of course, it appeared that most of the young racers were as thrilled with the excitement of a wipe out as they were crossing the finish line, as one after another popped back up pumping their fists and accepting high fives from their fellow competitors.

KCPRO East riders come from a widespread area, including Wisconsin, but there's an enthusiastic North Country contingent among them, including Brecken Cornelius, Owen Holmes, and Brexton McCormick, all of Cook, and Logan and Kayla Larsen, of Ely.

Kristen Scott, a Crane Lake native, and her boyfriend, Matt Holmes, are



Between races, activity is always busy in the pit area of the KCPRO East racing events in the North Country. photo by D. Colburn

Scott is mom to Brecken Cornelius, and Owen Holmes is Matt's son.

"This is our third year," Scott said. "We started halfway through in our first year and everyone was super awesome and brought us through everything."

among those at the track on Saturday, is an essential part of KCPRO East's mission to foster friendship, good sportsmanship, and family fun.

raderie, clearly evident

"It's just so nice to have all the families get together," Scott said."The kids are out here playing all day. They're racing, but they're playing and throwing snowballs and sliding around all the time in between." And what was the first thing out of Brecken's mouth when he was asked what he liked best?

himself, was in a race against time trying to change the gearing on one of the sleds before kids were called to the line for the next race.

"It's a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun," he said. "And it's a bunch of great people. We're all helping each other out. As much as I've had to borrow some stuff this weekend, we loan out stuff other weekends, because we all have fun together.'

And that leads back to what Scott said was the big lesson learned for the first event of the season.

"Just bring more parts," she laughed."Bring more parts."

Scott and Holmes and the kids will have nine more opportunities this season to get the parts mix right, with races scheduled through early March. They and the other local racers will get the chance to finish the season close to home, too, with a March 5 race at Shagawa Lake, in Ely. and a March 12 finale on the Cook end of Lake Vermilion. The North Country crew collectively had a good showing on Saturday. Brecken Cornelius picked up firsts in the SuperStock 120, Improved 120, and SemiPro 206 classes, and added a fourth-place finish in Spec 206. Logan Larsen won Spec 206, with Kayla Larsen placing second. Logan Larsen also placed third in the Champ 1 and Champ 2 classes and fifth in Improved 120. Kayla Larsen brought home another second in SemiPro 206. Brexton McCormick placed second in Stock 120 and SuperStock 120 and third in Improved 120. Owen Holmes took third in Beginner 120 and fourth in Amateur 120.

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"Making friends," he said.

But he also said he liked beating people on the track, and he did pretty well in that regard, too, winning three races on Saturday. He has two sleds, he said, a 120 and a 206, and he's looking forward to the day when he can race bigger snowmobiles.

But while Kristen and Brecken casually waited outside, the atmosphere inside their cargo van was more intense. Matt Holmes, a former racer



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#### **COUNTY SCHOOLS**

## Christensen picked for ISD 2142 board chair spot

by DAVID COLBURN Cook/Orr Editor

VIRGINIA-The board chair gavel for the ISD 2142 school board for 2022 landed in the grasp of District 1 member Pat Christensen at the annual reorganization meeting, after two other members declined nominations.

Outgoing board chair Dan Manick declined a nomination to serve another term, and instead nominated Christensen for the position. Bob Larson was also nominated but declined, leaving the position to fall to Christensen for the upcoming year.

Manick offered a humorous assessment of his tenure as he passed the gavel to Christensen.

"I avoided all scandal in my time as board chair," Manick laughed.

With Christensen moderating, sole nominations resulted in quick approval of Bob Larson as vice-chair, Lynn Hilde as secretary, and Chet Larson as treasurer.

The board kept their salaries the same at \$400 per month, paid regardless of attendance at regular and working meetings, and \$12 an hour for attendance at special meetings, committee meetings, workshops

and conferences. Board members are allotted the same meal per diem as all district employees - \$15 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch, and \$25 for dinner.

Frandsen Bank, North Star Credit Union, and Ely Area Credit Union were the three primary designated depositories approved by the board. Frandsen Bank will handle the district's operating account, flex benefit plan account, while student activity and petty cash funds will be distributed by school across all three institutions.

Colosimo, Patchin and Kearney, Ltd. was retained as the district's

legal counsel, and the district's required legal publications will again be printed in the Cook News Herald.

The board adjourned the meeting and then immediately reconvened in a working session to receive an update on the progress in implementing the Check and Connect student support program in the district from St. Louis County Engagement and Intervention Coordinator Lisa Perkovich, who oversees the program that currently serves 26 county schools.

Perkovich presented a school-by-school asset assessment detailing the personnel and various levels of support available at each of the district's attendance centers for helping students who may be in need of additional support for attendance, behavior, course performance, and family engagement issues. The individualized look at school systems and graded levels of intervention are designed to ensure that all students who need support receive it from the appropriate source without duplicating services, Perkovich said.

Check and Connect mentors work with students to build positive engagement with their schools to increase attendance and positive behaviors and promote academic achievement and school completion. Perkovich presented some preliminary data about mentoring activities in participating schools and ISD 2142, but indicated it was somewhat incomplete due in part to differences in hiring dates for staff and also in certain reporting requirements. However, she said the program is off to a good start, and she will provide more complete data to the board at an upcoming meeting.

## New life for historic Babbitt inn possible through IRRR grant

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

**BABBITT-ABusiness** Energy Retrofit (BER) grant was recently used to breathe new life into a historic inn on the edge of Babbitt near Birch Lake.

Alder Place the Inn owners Michael and Billie Rouse utilized the grant program, available through the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (IRRR) to help replace an outdated furnace with a new energy efficient one. The existing boiler was fueled by liquid propane and was the original heating system installed in the 1950s.

Since the Department of IRRR's inception of the financial aid program in 2013, more than 500 grants have been awarded to help small businesses with energy efficiency



The Alder Place Inn, located in Babbitt near Birch Lake, was originally built by Reserve Mining as a staff house. submitted photo

upgrades that can result in reduced utility bills, improved building aesthetics, and increased building life. The program is funded through a partnership with Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).

As related in the latest edition of the IRRR's recent newsletter, The Ranger, Alder Place the Inn was built as the "staff house" by the Reserve Mining Company in the 1950s. The facility was used for those visiting or working at the newly opened mine. The mine closed in the 1980s, and the building was soon purchased and repurposed as a private lodging facility.

The Rouses purchased Alder Place the Inn in 1995 after relocating to northeastern Minnesota from Indiana in the early 1980s as a young married couple. They operated it as a family-owned business while they raised their five children who are now grown

Billie is the primary inn operator, while Michael is the music instructor at Ely High School. The inn is located close to Birch Lake with nearby hiking, biking and cross country ski trails. The three-acre property is adjacent to snowmobile and ATV trails and is 15 miles from Ely, all of which makes it a convenient lodging choice for outdoor enthusiasts

visiting the region and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. A variety of large to standard room sizes can accommodate families, groups, couples and individuals.

"Michael and I honeymooned in the Boundary Waters in 1976 and fell in love with northeastern Minnesota," Billie Rouse said. "Several years later, we decided to move here permanently. The inn has been a huge part of our life and of the lives of our chil-

dren and grandchildren." With the BER grant and their own private investment, the Rouses made the needed improvements to the heating system that was operating at about 50-percent capacity. The city of Babbitt received a Commercial Redevelopment grant from the agency to assist with the internal demolition and removal of the oversized furnace. The new furnace is anticipated to reduce the facility's propane fuel consumption by approximately two-thirds, a significant improvement to both the environment and the owners' operating expenses. The project may also potentially result in energy rebates.

"The new furnace has been nothing short of life-changing. The new system has taken a huge amount of stress off our shoulders," Billie said "The old furnace required a lot of repair time and oversight to keep it going and a lot of money to operate it. The new system has elevated the inn's overall performance, both financially and operationally."

To learn more about the BER program, call Vince Meyer at AEOA, 218-735-6828.

## **COVID**...Continued from page 1

federal medical teams and also mobilized Minnesota National Guard members to combat the challenges in the Twin Cities region.

But the impact is also being felt right here in the North Country, as last week Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital announced a halt to providing COVID testing for the general public because the demand was compromising their ability to care for their patients. "The number of people seeking testing at this time has put a tremendous amount of strain on our team and taken away from the important work they do caring for our patients,' said EBCH CEO Patti Banks. "Patient care must be our priority." Westbrook amplified the challenges facing regional hospitals that could negatively impact care for everyone. "We're really straining our healthcare resources,' she said. "We know that if we overstrain and overrun our hospitals and health care systems that affects all of us. It's not just about COVID infections, but the capacity to provide

care for all other people coming in for care. We all have a responsibility to be vaccinated and to do what we can in following public health recommendations."

On Tuesday, only three adult ICU beds were available in northeast Minnesota hospitals. About one in three adult ICU patients in the region are there because of COVID, and with average stays of just under two weeks they keep those beds occupied around four times longer than average non-COVID ICU patients. There's also little reason to hope that the situation will get better soon. U of M COVID expert Michael Osterholm said last week that the "viral blizzard of COVID" will last until late January or early February. Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb cautioned on a Sunday talk show that the Midwest has yet to feel the brunt of the Omicron wave. "The risk right now is to the Midwest, where you have rising infection, where they aren't in the thick of their Omicron wave yet," Gottlieb said. "These states already had high hospitalization rates driven by Delta infections at the start of the Omicron surge."

#### Testing scarcity

Health officials reported a pandemic record 19.1 percent test positivity rate of diagnostic testing in the seven-day period ending Jan. 3, and demand for tests in the face of rapidly rising case counts has caused people in some areas to begin hoarding both at-home test kits and testing appointments, according to the Minneapolis Star-Tribune. "We're back to testing being in really high demand here," Westbrook said. "We rely on our state site in the southern part of the county and we've increased capacity in the northern part of the county. We're exploring ways to do that even more."

#### Schools

County health schools specialist Aubrie Hoover said that districts in the northern part of the county had testing policies and practices in place prior to the holiday break, but some are now re-evaluating what they're doing and what they might do because of the increased threat of Omicron and the fact that students represent the least vaccinated segment of the population. "Each week we're running vaccination rates for schools so that they have an idea of what the vaccination rate is for staff and students," Hoover said. Schools are also being affected by other respiratory illnesses such as influenza A, Hoover said, which is causing staffing issues as well as child illnesses.

'We've seen some schools adopt the new CDC guidance for staff because they are running the risk of staffing shortages," Hoover said. "We have a lot of teachers out dealing with one of those illnesses or taking care of a loved one, and trying to get subs in the schools has been challenging. We're also seeing shortages with food service and buses, so schools are really exploring that shortened isolation time because they need to operate safely."

school-agers by launching a second phase of the "Kids Deserve a Shot" incentive program for kids ages five to 11. Children in that age range who get fully vaccinated can receive a \$200 VISA gift card and register for a drawing for one of five \$100,000 Minnesota college scholarships. Currently, only 26 percent of those eligible are fully vaccinated. The initial incentive program targeting kids 12-17 had mixed results, with the chance at a college scholarship clearly being the preferred incentive. More than 42,000 who completed vaccinations registered for the scholarship drawings, while only 4,000 registered for the \$200 gift card.

Walz announced Tuesday that the state will try to boost vaccination levels among





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### **ELY**...Continued from page 1

Iron-Buhl and Nashwauk-Keewatin school districts before retiring. A Buhl native, Klarich is currently mayor of his hometown. He was one of two finalists for Ely's superintendent position in 2019, the job that ultimately went to current superintendent Erik Erie.

Erie announced last month that he would resign on Jan. 30. The sudden move came several months after Erie signed a new two-year contract. Erie was a former principal at Mesabi East High School and came out of retirement in 2019 to take the part-time superintendent position in Ely, replacing Kevin Abrahamson. Erie cited health concerns for his unexpected resignation.

School Board Clerk Rochelle Sjoberg is filling in as leader of the school board while Marsnik recovers and rehabilitates following a two-vehicle head-on collision on Highway 169 outside of Ely on Dec. 30. Marsnik's wife, Patricia, died in the crash.

Sjoberg said she has talked multiple times with Marsnik since the crash and is "impressed with his positive spirit" as he recovers. "He acknowledged all the cards and phone calls he received by many in the community and appreciates everybody's support in this extremely difficult time," she said.

At the beginning of the school board meeting Monday night, Sjoberg asked for a moment of silence for Ray's wife, Pat, and family.

"This is going to be a really long process for everybody. Pat was a very kind and compassionate individual, and she had a laugh that was very, very contagious that I, for one, will very much miss," she said.

School board members approved a six-month contract for the interim superintendent, to run Jan. 31-Aug 30, that will pay Klarich \$26,500 for at least 73 days of duty as the lead administrator for ISD 696. He will receive pay for one holiday, July 4, and life insurance, but will not receive health insurance benefits.

Sjoberg indicated that she had a "good dialogue" with Klarich in negotiating Sjoberg added, "We will work though the parameters of what all is required. We want to have a transition plan in place before Darren leaves the district."

#### Project update

School board members approved awarding the qualified bidders for the remaining portions of Bid Package Three in the \$20 million school building and renovation project.

The scope of work in the package, totaling \$190,150, includes some rough carpentry and demolition work, steel erection, drywall, and ceiling and acoustical tile work.

A large portion of the bid package, namely the window replacements in the existing buildings, was removed from the work scope as the project faces a budget shortfall. The window replacement work will likely be completed and funded through the school's long-term facilities maintenance budget

Project officials last month recommended approving about \$2.6 million in bids, instead of the \$3.6 million received, and to reconsider priorities. Several work scopes of Bid Package Three, including fire suppression, mechanical and building controls, and electrical work, have been contracted.

Officials from Kraus Anderson and Architectural Resources Inc. continue to work with school officials to re-establish priorities to complete most of the work slated for the fourth bid package that will go to contractors as early as February.

Todd Erickson, senior project engineer of Kraus Anderson, told school board members that the 16-month renovation and building project is 50-percent complete, with an eye on completion in September and the first day of the 2022-23 school year.

"Roofers were on the roof last week and this week," he said. "They have to first remove snow and ice from the deck and put down a water and vapor barrier, then insulation, then cover it with rubber. It is pretty difficult on these cold, windy days, but they take that into consideration as they plan their work."

Concrete was poured on the floor of the wood shop last week, according to Erickson. Underground plumbing work in the new kitchen and restroom facilities continued this week.

"We will be pouring the new floor in the near future," he said. The concrete floor in the metals shop was scheduled to be poured late this week. The priorities of the fourth bid package, the boys and girls locker rooms, the special education area, and the high school building doors and hardware will be budgeted and bids prepared for release in February, Erickson said.

#### Other business

In other business, the board:

Elected board officers, Marsnik as chair, Sjoberg as clerk and Tom Omerza as treasurer.

► Heard a presentation from the school district's auditor, Walker, Giroux and Hahne, and accepted the FY 2021 audit as presented.

► Approved a revised Ely Public School Safe Learning Plan, and Minnesota School Board Association Policy 491 regarding COVID-19 vaccination and testing emergency temporary standards. ➤ Designated Boundary Waters Bank, U.S. Bank, Minnesota School Liquid Asset Fund and PMA Financial Network as district financial institutions.

Designated Spencer Aune, finance manager, and Jordan Huntbatch, payroll, benefits and finance coordinator, as district staff to conduct electronic fund transfers.

➤ Designated Klun Law Firm as district legal counsel for 2022, and the superintendent and school board chair as individuals to contact legal counsel, at \$120 per hour rate.

> Designated the *Ely Echo*, the only quote received, as the district's official newspaper.

► Approved 2022 IRS standard mileage rate reimbursement, 58.5 cents per mile, for school district travel during 2022.



the contract. "Everything in here was per a lot of his requirements. He is excited to start with Ely and he has a transitional plan he is processing," she said.

Klarich requested that each school board member consider their top three priorities to forward to him.

"John indicated that he will be reaching out to the principals for feedback and input, as well as facilities and other areas," Sjoberg said. "With the contract approval we will now roll out the transition plan."

Board member Darren Visser and his family are planning to purchase a new residence outside of the school district, but in the area, and he will no longer be eligible to serve on the board.

In comments Monday night, he said his daughters will continue to attend Ely school through open enrollment.

"I strongly believe in Ely schools and what they have done," Visser said.

He did not reveal a timeline of when he will be leaving the school board.

"I have been in correspondence with Ray (Marsnik) from the get-go on this and looking into what we need to do as a board for replacing my position. At a certain time, I will not be able to serve in this position. We are looking at the process and want to make sure we do it correctly," he said.

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### NORDIC SKIING

# Ely shows strength in large field and small



#### by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

GIANTS RIDGE — Dozens of big schools from across the state proved that tiny Ely remains a contender in Nordic skiing, particularly in the girls competition. Ely junior Zoe Devine finished fourth in a field of more than 100 girls who competed in the classic portion of the Mesabi East Invitational on Saturday. Devine's finish, in a time of 18:46.4, helped lead the girls team to a sixth-place finish in a field that included more than 50 schools.

Fellow junior Phoebe Helms finished in 11th place (20:26.6) in the freestyle competition, while junior Sydney Durkin (21:31.8, classic) and senior Gracie Pointer (22:33.8, freestyle) both finished in the top 50 to help lift the Wolves' point total.

Meanwhile, on the boys side, senior Gabriel Pointer finished in 16th place overall in the freestyle event (16:54.1) to lead the Ely boys to a 19th-place finish in the team ranking. Senior Jon Hakala finished in 28th place in the classic competition, with a time of 17:54.8, and Micah Larson finished 34th in the same event with a time of 18:07.4.

#### Ely Invite

Skiing on familiar ground at Hidden Valley, the Timberwolves had little trouble dominating the top spots against a far smaller field at the Ely Invitational meet, held Jan. 4. Devine took the top spot in the classic competition with a time of

See NORDIC...pg. 2B



# Grizzlies roll over Ely

## GIRLS BASKETBALL Ely routs L-BF 79-15

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

LITTLEFORK — The Timberwolves notched one of their biggest routs in years here, Jan. 4, as they pummeled Littlefork-Big Falls 79-15. The Vikings were playing without their leading scorer, but it likely made little difference as Ely dominated from the opening jump. "We took care of business," said Ely Head Coach Max Gantt. "We played solid defense and moved the ball for open looks on offense. It felt good to shake some rust off and get back playing after break."

All nine of the Ely players who saw action scored points in the game. Madeline Perry had a big night, pouring in 22 of those points while Madeline Kallberg added 17 and Grace LaTourell tallied ten.

The Wolves split their contests during their holiday tournament, held Dec. 27 and 28. Madison Rohr had a big day against Deer River, notching 20 points and seven rebounds to help lead Ely to a

## Timberwolves struggle with two starters out in road contest; fall 78-43

### by DAVID COLBURN

Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- On the road and without two of their starters, the odds were stacked against Ely as they took the court last Friday against rival North Woods, but the scrappy Timberwolves made a game of it in the first half before the Grizzlies pulled away in the second for a 78-43 win.

The Wolves have been playing without senior guard Harry Simons, sidelined with a broken hand, and senior forward Mason Davis wasn't available Friday, either, forcing Ely Head Coach Tom McDonald to rely even more heavily on his bench.

The Grizzlies pounced on the advantage immediately with an opening trey from senior guard T.J. Chiabotti that ignited an 11-0 run in which all five North Woods starters scored. The Grizzlies' full court, man pressure kept the Timberwolves off the board until junior guard Joey Bianco finally scored on a drive at the 11:21 mark.

"I was wondering if we were going to score, let alone compete with them, because we just couldn't hit a shot in that first six or seven minutes," McDonald said. "But then we hit that shot and then more shots started to fall."

Indeed, they did. For the next three minutes, Bianco couldn't miss,connecting from inside, threepoint range, and at the free-throw line on a nine-point binge that put the Timberwolves back in the game at 16-11. Eighth-grade guard Jack Above: As the Grizzlies' Davis Kleppe (#5) halts the progress of Ely's Joey Bianco, Jonah Burnett reaches in from behind to knock the ball away.

Right: Ely's Jack Davies, left, and Erron Anderson harass Grizzlies' center Sean Morrison.

#### Lower right: Ely's Eddie Prijatel drives into traffic for a layup.

photos by D. Colburn

Davies dropped in a trey for Ely, narrowing the score to 16-14, before a T.J. Chiabotti bucket stopped the Ely streak. Then Davies stroked another long bomb to pull the Wolves within one, 18-17.

A baseline jumper by sophomore guard Jonah Burnett and an inside score by senior center Sean Morrison put the Grizzlies back up by five, 22-17, but Ely junior guard Jason Kerntz knocked down a three-pointer to keep the Wolves within two.

That's as close as Ely would get, as the Grizzlies turned on the jets for a 15-4 run, punctuated by two treys from Jared Chiabotti and one from T.J. Chiabotti, to go up 37-24. Davies canned a buzzer-beating triple at the half, but North Woods held a comfortable 41-27 lead at the break.

The Grizzlies came out roaring in the second half, going on a







## See WOLVES...,pg. 2B North Woods hangs tough with 6-5 record

#### by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- They've been on both ends of lopsided games and in the thick of others, but the North Woods girls basketball team has stayed on the positive side of the win-loss ledger by winning three of five recent games.

The string kicked off during the winter break at the Aitkin tournament, where the Grizzlies rebounded from a hard-fought 53-43 loss to Class AA Milaca by trouncing Class A McGregor 59-42.

"We played right with Milaca up until the last six minutes or so when they went on a little scoring spree," Grizzlies Head Coach Liz Cheney said. "There was a point in the second half where we were ahead and were just playing really good basketball. The tournament was a really great holiday experience for us."

North Woods started the new year by hosting Carlton, and the Grizzlies sent the Bulldogs home whimpering from the sting of a 70-20 pasting.

"We've been slowly working on a press and it really came

See GRIZZLIES...,pg. 2B

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# Remembering "The Voice of the Grizzlies"

by DAVID COLBURN Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- Silence is the last thing one would expect in a gymnasium packed with fans anticipating the start of a North Woods-Ely basketball game, but the silence before last Friday's boys game was stark and solemn.

Nary a sound could be heard as all stood perfectly quiet during a 30-second runoff of the game clock to honor the long time voice of the Grizzlies, Robert "Bob' Anderson, who passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 31.

"When I said a few words before the game there, I got just overwhelmingly sad," said Grizzlies boys basketball head coach Will Kleppe after the game. "A lot of the kids really just loved Bob. We've had a lot of conversations about him, and I think it hit us all, and I think we're all feeling that not having Bob here was a whole different environment."

Anderson, 57, has been the announcer for Grizzlies football, basketball, and volleyball and a beloved substitute teacher at North Woods for so many years that none of those the Timberjay talked to knew quite when it was that he started.

"He had helped me out when we were still at Cook (High School), and we've been North

Woods for what, 10 years now," Kleppe said. "I feel like he's done it forever."

Kleppe said there was no one more faithful in his support of the Grizzlies than Bob.

"He was so dedicated, he never missed a game," Kleppe said.

Except Bob did miss one, the Grizzlies' last home game before winter break against Moose Lake on Dec. 16.

"He was a little under the weather, and honestly, that was the first game for as long as we've been North Woods that he had missed - he felt awful about it," Kleppe said. "That's just how Bob was, just a nice guy and very selfless when it came to our school."

No one at North Woods knew Bob Anderson better than Grizzlies head football coach Joel Anderson, his nephew. Joel said that he had Bob as a substitute teacher in grade school well before teaching alongside him as a colleague and listening to him call football games.

"You don't go into education without a passion and desire to work with kids, and substituting here allowed him to stay with that," Joel said. "All of the kids seemed to really enjoy having **Right: Bob Anderson** announcing during a recent basketball game at the North Woods School.

Bob Anderson was a beloved sports announcer and substitute teacher

submittedf

him as a substitute teacher, and as staff we all knew what we were going to get with Bob. Nothing was going to get put over on him, but he wasn't going to get too worked up about anything. You knew you were going to come back and everything you asked to be done would be done."

Robert Alan Anderson was a Bear River native who graduated from Cook High School in 1983 and went on to earn an elementary and special education degree. He taught in several smaller schools in southern Minnesota, even serving a stint as a head basketball coach, Joel said, before returning to the area to work as a substitute teacher in Hibbing, Cherry, Cook, and most recently at North Woods. And his love of sports made him a natural to take on the announcer's job.

"I don't ever remember a time going into Bob's house when there wasn't some sort of sporting event on the TV," Joel said. "It was just one of his passions, whether it was stock car racing or football or basketball." Moving back to the area

#### HOCKEY



gave Bob the connections he needed to fully engage in his education and sporting passions, Joel said.

"I think he missed being around his family more than anything," he said. "This gave him a chance to come back here and keep doing what he was doing, and I think he was able to enjoy it a little more."

That passion and enjoyment certainly was evident to all through Bob's mild-mannered, low-key style.

"I saw a lot of tributes on Facebook from students that have long graduated, just some real heartfelt memories of Bob and conversations they had had with him," Kleppe said. "He was just always present. It was really nice that the kids paid a lot of respect with those nice comments and memories. He

made a huge impact and was just well loved by all of our students and staff."

Grizzlies head girls basketball coach Liz Cheney echoed much of what Kleppe had to say.

"It's been really inspiring to see how much Bob meant to the kids," Cheney said. "I only knew Bob as the substitute at the school that the kids loved, and our announcer for all of our athletics. Bob was a very quiet man; he was very kind. Bob was dependable, he was loyal, and that meant the world to the girls. I have seen past players post on their Snapchats or Instagrams 'Thanks for never missing one of our games.' He was just always there. He was the backbone -- maybe we didn't even realize how important Bob was to all of us until now, when Bob's not here."

All of it is feedback that Joel Anderson knows his Uncle Bob would be gratified and humbled to receive.

"He enjoyed all of it," Joel said. "He's been around long enough to watch a lot of these kids grow up. I think he would be very proud to say that he was able to contribute to the success of a lot of students here."

## **Proctor shuts down Timberwolves, 7-0** chances. Proctors took a 2-0 lead

by KEITH VANDERVORT Ely Editor

ELY-The Ely High School hockey team lost to Proctor, 7-0, on Tuesday night at the Ely Ice Arena, dropping their record to 2-10 on the season.

The Rails took 55 shots on goal in the game, while the Timberwolves had 16 scoring

in the first period, added two more scores in the second frame and closed out the win with three more scores in the last period. Proctor had just one power play opportunity and was unsuc-

> cessful. Ely had two power play chances. their regular season schedule on

The Timberwolves resumed Friday, Jan. 7, with a 3-1 loss at

#### Bagley/Fosston.

Ely fell behind 2-0 early in the first period with goals by the Flyers at 4:29 and 6:01. The Timberwolves managed just six shots on goal in the opening period while Bagley peppered senior goalie Chase Sandberg with 15 scoring chances.

Bagley took 11 more shots on goal in the second period, but came away empty. Ely took five shots on goal in the second period.

The Timberwolves lit the scoring lamp at 6:54 in the third period on a goal by Drew Marolt, assisted by Jakson Hegman, to make it a 2-1 game. Bagley came right back about 30 seconds later for their third score of the night to take a 3-1 lead.

Ely had 19 shots on goal for the game, while Bagley had 43 shots to the net. The Timberwolves came away scoreless on four power plays, while Bagley scored on one in seven power play opportunities.

The Ely skaters were scheduled to travel to Lake of the Woods on Friday, Jan, 14, and will host Greenway on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

### BOYS...Continued from page 1B

19-3 blitz that squashed any thoughts the Wolves had of making another run. Senior guard Alex Hartway stripped the ball and went coast-to-coast for a layup to put North Woods up 60-30 at the 8:36 mark, and senior guard Ty Fabish got in on the scoring spree with a three-pointer down the stretch in the Grizzlies' 78-43 win.

McDonald said. "I thought we hung with them for a while, but they're way too athletic and skilled and then they took it to us in a second half."

North Woods Head Coach Will Kleppe knew

going in that despite

being shorthanded the

Timberwolves would put

job with them," Kleppe

said. "He's always got

"Tom does a great

up a good fight.

them ready to play and they're going to play super hard, they're going to limit their mistakes. We were trying to get a little cute on some of our double-teams sometimes, and we left some shooters open. We got a little sloppy and they didn't and that let them hang around. It was a good learning experience for us."

by T.J. Chiabotti with 17. Jared Chiabotti tallied 16, and Burnett and Hartway each scored ten. Collectively, the Grizzlies hit 50 percent of their shots while holding the Wolves to 36 percent. North Woods had 12 steals and forced a total of 20 turnovers that they converted into 29 points.

but noted that the Grizzlies will need to work on getting the ball down low to Morrison more often to open up better outside shots.

Bianco was the only

have many good looks."

McDonald said he expected to get Davis back this week, and possibly Simons, too, although he could be another week away from returning.

"We ran into a really, really good team,"

### **WOLVES...**Continued from page 1B

74-63 win over Deer River. Perry was right behind with 19 points and four assists, while LaTourell added 15 points. Sarah Visser had a huge day, as well, notching 18 boards along with seven points,

five assists, and six steals. "We shot the ball well and took advantage of our fast break opportunities, especially after we broke their pressure," said Gantt.

In the tournament's second game, Ely strug-

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

18:58.9, beating the second-place finisher, from Mesabi East, by more than a minute and a half. Helms finished fourth with a time of 20:52.9 and Durkin and

Pointer finished seventh and eighth respectively to help the Wolves edge Grand Rapids 384-381 in the team competition.

For the boys, Pointer

### **GRIZZLIES...**Continued from page 1B

together for us against Carlton," Cheney said. "We also have this tendency to play down (to lesser opponents) and we didn't do that against Carlton. It was good to see the girls actually taking the time to set up a play, run it a couple of times and wait for that good shot."

More good play was in store for the Grizzlies when they hit the road Jan. 6 for Eveleth-Gilbert. North Woods picked up its first win against a Class

AA school this season, downing the Golden Bears 44-34.

"We have tried to beat Eveleth-Gilbert for many years in my coaching history and it was really good to see them pick up this win now," Cheney said. "We ran into a little trouble in the second half and Eveleth-Gilbert got to within six points, but for awhile we were leading by close to 20 points. It was a good experience for the girls to understand that

Ten Grizzlies notched scores in the contest, led

Kleppe complimented his team's ball movement against Ely's zone defense

player in double-digits for Ely with 20.

"Joey does a really nice job for us," McDonald said. "He leads us on the offensive end, but they were just dogging him all night and wouldn't let him

'Hopefully we'll get healthy here and can avoid major sickness," he said."I think we'll be much better when we're back at full strength."

play. "They are one of gled against South Ridge's intense man-to-man the better teams in the defense, falling 69-38. section,"Ganttadded."We Even so, Gantt saw some got beat up in the first half, things that he liked in his but we only lost the second team's efforts, including half by eight. We want to be able to compete with teams limiting turnovers despite the Panthers' aggressive like that, so that second

half was really nice to see."

LaTourell led Ely's scoring effort, with 16 points. Visser added ten rebounds.

The Wolves' scheduled Monday contest with Cherry was postponed, with no makeup date immediately available. They were set to visit Northeast Range on Thursday.

topped the field in the classic contest with a time of 17:08.1, beating teammate and second-place finisher, Jon Hakala, (17:38.4) by a full thirty

seconds. Teammate Micah Larson finished fifth with a time of 18:29.7, but without a fourth teammate competing, the Wolves finished in second place

behind Mesabi East. The team scores are based on the points from each team's top four finishers.

The Wolves were set to hit the road on Saturday

to compete at the Marshall Sprints in Duluth, with an 11 a.m. start.

ever been as a team. I think that makes a really big difference."

The Grizzlies will travel to Northeast Range for a game on Monday, then return home on Tuesday for a matchup against South Ridge. After a night off, the Grizzlies will be on the road again for a Thursday tilt against Nashwauk-Keewatin.

you might be winning by 17 but that it's only a few three-pointers for the other

team to get back in it." The good feeling of a three-game win streak got tarnished on Monday when the Grizzlies were thoroughly out-manned and out-gunned in an 89-33 road loss to Class AA Virginia.

"We really struggled with our rebounding," Cheney said. "We were giving them three, four and five opportunities after the first offensive shot they took and we were getting one. They were quick and they were more conditioned than we were, so we struggled, for sure."

But with a record of 6-5 going into a Thursday night battle against Mt. Iron-Buhl, the Grizzlies are sitting in the middle of the pack in Section 7A, two games better than through 11 games last year.

"We still have some things that we need to continue to work on and

to tweak, but overall, I feel like coming into the second half of the season we're setting ourselves up to hopefully see a little bit more success," Cheney said. I'm excited for games like Ely and Cherry that are coming up, just to kind of see how we measure up. When the girls are playing hard, and together, we can be competitive with teams like that. The girls said in the locker room before Virginia that they felt like they're the closest they've

## **Obituaries and Death Notices**

#### **Robert V. Hodge**

Robert Vaughn Hodge, "Pastor Bob", 81, of Angora, went to be permanently with his Lord on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, at his home with his wife by his side. Funeral services will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 14 at Chisholm Baptist Church. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service in the church. Interment will be in the Chisholm Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis, Samaritan's Purse, or Blind Inc. in Minneapolis. Arrangements are entrusted to Rupp Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Chisholm.

Bob was a preacher and Bible teacher by calling, and a structural iron worker by trade.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Darlene; five children, Johnny V. (Susan), R.V. (Jennie), Leah (Mike) Landacre, Rebekah (Jason) Olson and Micah V. (Jacinda); 19 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; sister, Dorthy Jean Jackson; numerous nieces and nephews; and so very many close brethren and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert T. Hodge, Sr. and Thelma M. (Wade) Hodge; five brothers and sisters, Albert Jr. (Bill), Charlene Krause, Jackie, Walter and James; and a daughter, Stella (Sally) Hodge.



#### Robert M. Lassi

Robert "Bob" Mathew Lassi, 80, of Ely, died peacefully surrounded by those he loved on Friday, Dec. 24, 2021. A celebration of Bob's life will be scheduled at a later date. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He was born to Onnie and Coral (Hillman) Lassi on April 10, 1941. Bob was a graduate of Ely Memorial High School. He was a proud Vietnam era veteran after serving his country in the Army, stationed in Germany. Bob married the love of his life, Renee Zupancich, in 1981. After retiring from Northshore Mine. Bob spent his time playing poker with his brother and nephew, chatting with neighbors, and being the best, most loving grandfather to his four grandchildren. Bob will be missed by so many, especially his children, Bobbi Lassi and Cory (Missy) Lassi; brothers, Jim (Kathy) Lassi and Dave (Doreen) Lassi; sisters-in-law, Patti (Dickie Brooks) Zupancich, Cheryl (Roger) Hanson, Michelle (Albert Stewart) Zupancich and Mary Zupancich; most beloved grandchildren, Colton and Morgan Lassi, Clark and Harper Lassi; nephews and nieces, Craig (Tami) and Chris (Ele) Lassi, Rachel (Dan) Bailey and Brian (Kelly) Lassi, John (Jenny Al-Rashid) and Molly Zupancich and their families. Though Bob will be greatly missed, there is peace of mind knowing he will be looking down on us with his wife of 40 years, Renee; parents, Onnie and Coral Lassi; and father and mother-in-law, John and Lorraine Zupancich.

of Chisholm, Richard of Cooperstown, N.D., Brian (Gail) of Cook, James (Robyn), Gary (Amy) and Jeff of Bear River; sisters, Lois (Donald) Jenson of Bigfork, Judy of Bear River, Barbara of Chisholm and Patty (Ron) Owen of Snohomish, Wash.; and many nieces and nephews who dearly loved their "Uncle Bob".



#### Todd Ranua

Todd Ranua, 57, of Soudan, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021, in Hibbing, from advanced pulmonary fibrosis with COVID-19 complications. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral service on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, at Bauman-Cron Funeral Home Chapel in Virginia. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery in Virginia. Family services are provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

Todd was born on April 24, 1964, in Mora, to Walter and Beverley (Lusti) Ranua. He served in the Marine Corps in Okinawa, Japan and California. He had lived in Blaine, Menahga, Virginia, Shakopee/Prior Lake and Soudan. Todd lived for ice fishing on Lake Vermilion, laughing at family gatherings, riding motorcycle with his friends, and playing great music. Given a prognosis of one year to live in 2017, he defied the odds and focused on living the next four years and eight months on his terms; he made many friends along the way. During this time, he was a living embodiment of the Finnish concept of sisu - fortitude in the face of adversity.

Todd is survived by his wife, Victoria; two children, Hemi and Jack; dog, Sisu; father, Walter; siblings, Terry (Meg) Ranua and Tami Ranua; nieces, Darah (Eric) Carlstrom, Dana Ranua, Alyssa (Travis) Denzel and Kristi Wilber; aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Beverley; dog, Sparky; birds, Buddy Boy, Chirpy Boy and Mama Girl; and cats, Snacky and Bobbi. remembered for her love and devotion to her husband John and their sons O'Neill and Hudson. She supported their dreams and ambitions wholeheartedly, and fostered many other young people while working at Vermillion Community College and the Ely schools. She lived passionately as a champion of humanitarian and environmental causes, using her skills to support development in Jamaica, and living a life dedicated to protecting the planet for future generations. Sarah has immeasurably impacted her family and friends with her visions of a peaceful world. Sarah was a truly gracious being, as well as kind and strong, and was a talented musician and artist. Sarah will truly be missed by all who knew her.

Sarah is survived by her sons, O'Neill Kingston of Dubuque, Iowa, and Hudson Kingston (Maggie Schuppert) of St. Paul; brothers, Frederick (Miki) Rayman III of Ely and Carl Rayman of Austin; sister, Laurel (Aaron) Kaercher of Ely; John's siblings and their spouses; several nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces; and furry friends, "The Boys" – John, Paul, George and Ringo.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Kingston; parents, Fritz and Jacky Rayman; brother, Thomas Rayman; and father- and mother-in-law, Clayton and Mary Kingston.

#### Anne M. Levar

Anne Marie Shober Levar, 90, of Ely, passed away at Carefree Assisted Living in Ely on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 14 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely with visitation one hour prior. Masks are required. Streaming service is available and preferred. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

She is survived by her daughter, Catherine Levar; granddaughter, Cecily Amrane; nephews, John and Ed Shober; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

#### George W. Gray

George W. Gray, 84, of Ely, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022, at Diamond Willow in Cloquet. A graveside service will be held on Sunday, June 5 at the Ely Cemetery. Arrangements are with Nelson Funeral Care of Cloquet.

He is survived by his daughters, Marcy (Allan) Bubb,

(Brian) Fleck of Cloquet, Nor-(Geraldine) Adams of man Tower, Alicia (Todd Manninen) Dahl of Ely Lake, Chris (Jenna) Lehti of Tower, Jonathan Lehti of Tower, Hannah (Brent) Chosa of Tower, Emily (Brandon Luoma) Lehti of Britt and Andrew Lehti of Embarrass; siblings, Gordon (Patsy) Adams of Nett Lake, Vernon (Cindi) Adams of Mt. Iron, Randy Adams of Hoyt Lakes, Sherrie Laitinen of Tower and Les (Roberta) Adams of Duluth; grandchildren, Brent Bedausky, Taryn Fleck, Alivia Fleck, Norman Adams Jr., Jakson, Parker, Morgan, Max, Liam, Tanner, Kai, Brody, River, Matayah, Emma, Bryce, Brynn, Hayden, Ellie, Ryan, Silas and latise; great-grandchildren, Lyric, Tahlia, Sage, Braxton and River; cousin, Dan Lumbar, whom he loved as a brother; and numerous extended family members and friends.

#### **Maxine L. Solberg**

Maxine Louise Anderson Solberg, 85, of Babbitt, originally of Soudan, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes at her home on Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021. A celebration of life will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Babbitt with Pastor Brian Birk officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Spring burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery in Tower. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

She is survived by her husband, Merlin; children, Jane (Thomas), Dave (Delaine) and Terry (Diane); grandchildren, Mike (Kelsey), Scott (Cheyenne), Courtney and Joshua; brother, Doug (Cathy); sisterin-law, Julie; and seven grand pups.

#### **Gregory S. Mosher**

Gregory Scott Mosher, 58, of Ely, died on Friday, Dec. 24, 2021, in Ely. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Dec. 29 at Kerntz Funeral home in Ely, with a reception following at First Lutheran Church. Memorials are preferred to Prospectors ATV Club and LOW Historical Society. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his wife, Jane Omerza Mosher; daughter, Kathleen (Anthony) Recht; granddaughter, Brooklyn Recht; parents, Bill and Bea Mosher; sister, Pam (Vern) Horntvedt; brother, Glenn (Janette) MoshFuneral Home of Cook.

She is survived by her daughters, Kathy (John) O'Keeffe of Worthington, Ohio, and Sandi (Ray) Bialke-Pinkerton of Wadsworth, Ohio; son, Fred (Kirsten) Reichel of Cook; special niece, Loretta (David) Rankila and their daughter, Kaylin Rankila, all of Cook; grandchildren, Cory (Hannah) Bialke, Jessica Price, Pat (Rachel), Ryan (Christina) and Joe (Erica) O'Keeffe, and Karl (Svdnev Schuster) Reichel: sister-in-law, Arvilla Reichel; and many great-grandchildren, extended family members and friends.

#### **Joseph Haasl**

Joseph Haasl, 101, of Babbitt, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, just six days shy of his 102nd birthday. A funeral is tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m. on June 24, 2022, at St. Pius X Church in Babbitt, with burial in the Argo Cemetery. Memorials can be made to St. Pius X Catholic Church in Babbitt or a veterans organization such as Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home.

He is survived by his children, Daniel Haasl, Marian (John) Klobuchar, Jean Esler, Michael (Mickie Micklewright) Haasl, Andrew (Beth) Haasl and Dolores (Matt) Lehman; 14 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Gertrude O'Brien, Audrey (Don) Kvist and Ann (Jack) Hauber; brothers-in-laws, Tony (Julie) VanderLoop and George (Kathy) VanderLoop; scores of nephews and nieces; and stepchildren, Leslie Nelson, Nancy Ryan, Betty Clymen, Nancy Ryan, Jeanne Nelson and Rick Nelson.

#### Kenneth J. Forsman

Kenneth "Ken" "Kenny" James Forsman, 71, of Hibbing, originally of Ely, passed away peacefully in his home on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2021. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely.

He is survived by his children, Jeff Struna, Codi Forsman and Kenny (Alicia) Forsman; grandchildren, Brady, Ashtyn, Kharma and Marley; siblings, Mike (Ernestine) Forsman, Gerrianne Koskinen, Ruthann (Ray) St. Martin, Dea (Bob) Whitten, Ron Forsman, Paul (Mari Jewel) Forsman, Monica (Tim) Cunningham and Al (Bonnie) Forsman; and sisters-in-law, Becky Forsman and Lynn (Gordy) Dormanen.

#### **Robert A. Anderson**

Robert Alan "Bob" Anderson, 57, of Bear River, passed away unexpectedly at home on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, at the Cook Community Center with Gloria Anderson-Hegg officiating. Arrangements were entrusted to Rupp Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Chisholm.

He is survived by his brothers, Donald, Thomas (Margo)



#### Sarah A. Kingston

Sarah Allison Rayman Kingston, 66, of Ely, passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, at the Solvay Hospice House in Duluth, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Special thanks to Amy, Steve, Parker Jane, Linda, Sue, Lynne, and all of the staff at Solvay Hospice House.

Memorials are preferred to Iowa Lakeside Lab's Friends of Lakeside Lab's John Kingston Diatom Fellowship. There will be a celebration of Sarah's life in the spring of 2022.

Sarah was born on March 28, 1955, in Austin, to Dr. Frederick and Jaqueline (Callies) Rayman Jr. After graduating from Austin High School, Sarah earned her BA Degree from St. Cloud State University and later earned her Master's Degree from Regis University.

Sarah married "the love of her life", John Kingston, on Dec. 11, 1976, in Austin. They made friends across the U.S., Canada, and the world through their travels and global community of water quality scientists. Sarah is Tanya (Keith) Akins, Georgia (Jason) Akins and Amanda (Lance) Horvat; sister, Joy Keuten; grandchildren, Alanna, Klaeton, Hailey, Andrea, Jacob, Chase, Caitlin, Alec, Aiden, Carter, Makenna and Jack; great-granddaughters, Isabella and Elleanor; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

#### Glenn A. Biebl

Glenn Arlen Biebl, 87, of Ely, passed away at Carefree Assisted Living in Babbitt on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022. A celebration of Glenn's life will take place at a later date. Memorials to Ely United Methodist Church are appreciated. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.

He is survived by his children, Glenda (Steve), Brian (Casi) and Sandy (Chuck); grandchildren, Stephanie, Ted, Courtney, Riley, Ben and Griffin; and great-grandchildren, Devon and Finley.

#### Norman G. Adams

Norman Gary Adams, 68, longtime resident of Embarrass, died on Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021, at his home. A Wake was held on Jan. 4 and Tribal Rites were held on Jan. 5, 2022, both at the Bois Forte Tribal Government Center in Nett Lake. Spiritual Advisors Gilbert Smith and Gene Goodsky presided. Burial was in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Duluth. Family services were provided by Bauman-Cron, a Bauman Family Funeral Home in Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Jeannine; children, Rhonda er; brothers-in-law, Tom (Heidi) and Tim (Patty) Omerza; nieces and nephews; great-nieces and great-nephews.

#### **Rose M. Novak**

Rose Marie Yaklich Novak, 85, of Gilbert, died on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021, surrounded by family at Essentia Health-Virginia. A memorial service was held on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at Heritage Trail Bible Church in McKinley with Pastor Gus Layman officiating. Interment will be in the Gilbert Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements were with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Gilbert.

She is survived by her children, Mike (Mary) Novak of Embarrass, Dr. Anthony "Tonv" (Constance) Novak of River Falls, Wis., and Mariann (Jack) Kunnari of Eveleth; former daughter-in-law and friend, Linda Koskiniemi of Eveleth; grandchildren, Meredith (Paul) Warmuth, Paula Novak, Esther "Essa" Novak, Luke Novak, Stephanie (Chan) Paine, Christopher Novak, Abigail (Erik) Lacksonen, Jon (Megan) Novak, Elana (Jeff) Zupetz, Sarah (Tracy) Martin, Dustin (Calah) Kunnari and Derek (Samantha) Kunnari; 18 great-grandchildren; brother, Jack (Verna) Yaklich of Gilbert; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

#### Shirley J. Reichel

Shirley Jean Stenbeck Reichel, 89, a lifelong resident of Cook, died on Monday, Dec. 20, 2021. A service and interment will be held in the spring. Arrangements are with Mlaker

#### **Leone Kendrick**

Leone Kendrick, of Embarrass, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at her home. Arrangements are pending with Range Funeral Home in Virginia.

#### **Mark E. Miklaucic**

Mark E. Miklaucic, 61, of Ely, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022. Family arrangements have been entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home of Ely.







Our lives in the Northwoods

#### THE CHANGING CLIMATE

## Study: Lake ice is coming later, disappearing earlier

## Vermilion has lost almost three weeks of ice cover since 1967

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER Managing Editor

REGIONAL- The season of ice cover is growing shorter in Minnesota, and that includes lake ice here in the North Country. While the changing climate is being

felt in many ways, few can be as readily documented as the shortening period of ice cover on Minnesota lakes.

New data released late last month by the Department of Natural Resources and the state's Pollution Control Agency

Right: Lingering ice from a recent spring on Lake Vermilion. The period of ice cover on the lake has diminished by nearly three weeks since 1967, another sign of the warming planet. file photo

show that the state, on average, has lost 10-14 days of ice cover over the past 50 years. Some of the most popular lakes for ice

fishing and other outdoor activities have lost almost three weeks of ice, impact-

See **ICE...** pg. 5B





# **BIRD BEHAVIOR** A peek at the pecking order

Size matters when it comes to your ranking at the feeder, but other factors are also at play

### **Outdoors in brief**

## Take a Kid Ice **Fishing for free MLK** weekend



REGIONAL-Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend is this Saturday, Jan. 15, through Monday, Jan. 17.

During the weekend, Minnesota residents can go ice fishing for free if they are fishing with a child 15 years old or younger. Minnesotans 15 years old or younger don't need fishing licenses any time of the year.

"Ice fishing is lots of fun for kids and adults alike. There's nothing quite like making your way onto a frozen lake, drilling a hole through the ice and catching fish," said Benji Kohn, volunteer mentor program coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "If you're interested in giving

f you've spent any time watching birds at a feeder, you've probably noticed there's not much equality in the world of birds. There's a pecking order, but just which birds are on top and which are at the bottom is always an interesting question.

Turns out, there's actually some science on the subject, thanks to Project Feeder Watch, a citizen science project based at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It involves a network of 30,000

people around North America who have been regularly reporting observations at their feeders since 1987. Those reports involve not just which birds observers saw and how many, but how they interacted in some cases.

HELMBERGER The Cornell

researchers applied algorithms

to all that information, including nearly 100,000 separate interactions between almost 200 bird species to determine what are essentially power rankings for a significant percentage of the birds that live in North America. It was all first reported in The Washington Post.

MARSHALL

Not surprisingly, size matters, which could be why the wild turkey topped the pecking order. But the turkey's pugnacious attitude likely also played a role, and that was true for a number of birds that seemed to rank higher, or lower, than size alone might suggest.

Here in the North Country, most of us have had little or no experience with wild turkeys at our feeders, although Above: Here in the North Country, blue jays pretty much rule at most bird feeders, putting them near the top of the pecking order.

**Right: With their prominent beaks** and pugnacious attitude, hairy woodpeckers punch above their weight class at the bird feeder.

Lower right: Tiny and goodnatured, black-capped chickadees rank near the bottom of the bird feeder pecking order. If you want to attract these cheery birds, consider hanging some feeders designed for small birds in your yard.

#### photos by M. Helmberger

that's certainly changing as that species has dramatically expanded its range into our region in recent years.

Among the more common species here, ravens came in second, just behind wild turkeys, in the pecking order, followed in sixth place by the American crow. Pileated woodpeckers ranked in 10th place, which was actually a bit behind some smaller birds, including three other woodpeckers. It turns out woodpeckers in general ranked higher in the pecking order than size alone would suggest, perhaps because they're so used to pecking. I know I wouldn't want to get in a fight with a hairy woodpecker. That bill looks pretty sharp and I've seen them scare off bigger birds more than once. The study, surprisingly, ranked hairy woodpeckers in 37th place out of 100 common feeder birds, and I have to say I could quibble with that ranking a bit.

Blue jays came in at 32nd in the ranking, but from my experience they

See **PECKING.**..pg. 5B





ice fishing a try, learning the basics is really doable. We have helpful information on our website to get you started."

Check the DNR's learn to ice fish page (dnr.state. mn.us/gofishing/learn-icefish.html) for more information about ice fishing.

## Trout season fully underway this weekend

REGIONAL -Anglers will likely be out in force looking for trout beginning this weekend.

The trout season opens Saturday, Jan. 15, for lakes outside or partially outside of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. That would include Burntside Lake, one of the region's most popular lake trout lakes.

The season opened Jan.1 for lakes fully within the wilderness.

Anglers will want to be sure to purchase a trout stamp in addition to their regular license before heading out on the ice.

The season runs through March 31.

If you're interested in finding more information about where to fish for trout this winter, the DNR trout fishing page lists Minnesota's fishable trout lakes.

### TRAIL CONDITIONS



## **Recent snows have** improved winter trails

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER locations. But most riders Managing Editor

REGIONAL -While recent snowfall has improved winter recreational trail conditions across the area, most areas would still benefit from more snow. That said, don't let less than perfect conditions discourage you from getting out and taking advantage of the recent powder.

Area snowmobile trails range from fair to good, depending on terrain and variable snow depths.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, the Arrowhead/ David Dill Trail from near Tower to the Blue Ox Trail junction near International Falls is groomed and in good condition in most places, with fair conditions in places where the trail base is thin. Snow conditions improve as one goes north, starting around Cook and Orr. A small segment of trail between Ban Lake Rd. and Crane Lake Rd. (CR 23) remains ungroomed due to a swamp with thin ice remaining.

The Taconite Trail is groomed from Ely to Hwy. 73 and is listed in fair condition, mostly due to a thin base in some

are reporting the trail is better-than-expected and isn't experiencing much traffic, which is helping to maintain the trail conditions. West of Hwy. 53, some hills have exposed rocks and will need more snow to be fully covered with snow.

Most of the area grantin-aid trails have been groomed at least once by local clubs and many lake trails should be staked and groomed by the weekend. The Lake Vermilion trail is reported to be in very good condition, with minimal slush. Watch for drifts, however, as the area has experienced considerable blowing snow in recent days.

Riders are advised that trucks and logging equipment may be operating along snowmobile trails and to exercise caution near such activity.

Area ski trails are mostly groomed and in very good condition. Local trails that are open and in very good shape include the Howard Wagoner Trails near Tower, Hidden Valley in Ely, and the Flathorn-Gegoka trails in Isabella.

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

pretty much rule the roost in our yard, barring a visit from a crow or raven. Their cousins, the Canada jays, came in at 41st.

By contrast, some of our shyer birds fell well down on the list. Pine grosbeaks came in at 62nd, which is quite low for their

several of them. There is strength in numbers after all, so birds that arrive in a flock can generally dominate at the feeder more effectively than one or two. Redpolls are a good example. While these diminutive birds ranked a lowly 83rd, not many birds in my experience are going to plop themselves down in a feeder packed with more than a dozen of these sunflower and thistle seed consumers. While the study found that size does matter in many cases, there are exceptions to that rule. The largest birds that appear regularly at our feeders are ruffed grouse, which come in to eat the cracked corn I spread on the ground for the blue jays. But they're so goofy, a mere chickadee can spook them at times, sending them scampering off through the brush complaining like a high brow old maid from Downton Abbey. The squirrels seem entertained by the grouse antics and regularly mock charge them, apparently just to watch their reactions. Unfortunately, the Feeder Watch study didn't include ruffed grouse in its ranking, although they made clear that squirrels, when they arrive on the scene, tend to dominate the feeder. While some birds would seem to be disadvantaged by a pecking order, it actually serves to keep everyone safe. Birds know the score when there's competition at the bird feeder and that helps to reduce the conflict that could otherwise occur. The pecking order may seem unfair but at least it keeps everyone from being pecked.

#### LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST from NOAA weather Monday Sunday Tuesday Fridav Saturday 5 -2 5 Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Tower Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Ely Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Emb. Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Cook Hi Lo Prec. Sn. Orr 01/03 4 -32 0.00 01/03 2 -34 0.00 01/03 -3 -34 0.00 01/03 2 -33 0.00 01/03 9 -2 0.00 10 01/04 0.00 01/04 01/04 -2 0.00 01/04 0.00 14 -3 0 01/04 10 0.00 0.18 4.8" 5.0" 01/05 01/05 12 -4 20 3 01/05 22 -7 0.28 01/05 11 0.09 4.8" 01/05 -13 0.00 0.25 5 -7 -15 01/06 01/06 0.3" 01/06 0.00 -1 -16 2 -12 0.01 0.03 0 -15 0.3' 01/06 01/06 -8 -15 0.00 01/07 -6 -34 0.00 01/07 -2 -28 0.00 01/07 -5 -33 0.00 01/07 -10 -30 0.00 3 01/07 -33 0.00 1.3" 11 -30 0.04 1.0" 0.03 1.3' 10 01/08 01/08 -34 0.00 01/08 11 -35 0.07 01/08 9 -31 01/08 19 0 0.00 01/09 2 YTD Total 0.00 0.23 01/09 20 YTD Total 01/09 19 01/09 19 -12 20 5 20 0.00 0.02 0.17 0.00 0.00 -12 -11 01/09 -4 -17 40.2 24.1" 42.0 YTD Total 0.35 30.8 YTD Total 0.25 YTD Total NA NA

### **Outdoors briefly**

## Burntside ice mostly in good shape as trout season begins

ELY-The bottom line is, 12-15" of ice on Burntside right now. Heaven? Um, not so fast.

Some heavy snow produced fairly widespread slush last week. But several days with lows near -30, as well as wind, did its work on most of the slush. That's especially true in places the slush was deep enough to darken the surface.

So, out in the open, it's hard wind-packed snow over about 12" of clear hard ice, mixed with large areas where slush had come up to the surface. Those areas have frozen all the way through, so we've got

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

ing water quality, the health of fish populations, anglers, and business owners.

Lake Vermilion, for example, has seen its period of ice cover fall dramatically over the past 50 years, from about 165 days out of the year to just 142. Milder fall weather appears to be the biggest contributor to the change, with about two-thirds of the change occurring as a result of later ice-in dates on Minnesota lakes. Meanwhile, ice-out dates are also coming earlier, by about four or five days on average.

While the period of ice cover is declining on virtually every lake in the state, differences between lakes make for considerable variability. Just up the road from Vermilion, Burntside Lake has seen its period of ice cover decline by just nine days, from 150 days 50 years ago, to 141 days today.

"Shorter lake ice seasons, caused by climate change, are threatening some of Minnesota's most cherished traditions," said MPCA Commissioner Katrina

12" of clear hard ice beneath 3" of milky ice with no snow.

I did not find any double ice, but I bet there is some. And there are places with shallow slush between the snow and the ice.

The Van Vac Road public landing is all plowed out, and a small area on the ice has been plowed out from the ramp. It'll be easy to punch a road for permie shacks, which will probably show up later this week.

The landing off Burntside Lodge is full of deeper snow and slush, but there may still be a road plowed out of there later in the week. And this is a great example of what snow, ice and slush do along sheltered shorelines and neck down areas, so be very careful in those spots.

An Alberta Clipper is supposed to come through right on cue Friday, so expect anything from a meaningless dusting to a foot of messy snow. Haha!

Ahhh, let the lake trout season begin!!

Courtesy of Steve Foss Guide Service

Kessler. "We must take bold action to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change - for the sake of our lakes, our economy, and to save winters as we know them in our state."

According to state officials, Minnesotans and winter visitors spend millions of dollars on winter recreation and a shortened lake ice season threatens the revenue of businesses that support these cold-weather traditions.

The warming climate isn't just reducing ice cover on Minnesota lakes. Compared to 50 years ago, the average July-August surface water temperatures on Minnesota lakes are 3.0 - 3.9 degrees warmer. This rise has serious ramifications for natural lake habitats. Aside from causing shorter ice seasons, rising water temperatures contribute to increasing reports of toxic blue-green algae blooms, which thrive in temperatures 75 degrees and warmer. Additionally, temperature is a driving force in every aspect of

the health of the state's fish populations, including reproduction, growth, and survival. DNR has tracked trends for many fish species over the last 30 years and found that numbers are clearly changing, with declines in some important cold-water species.

'Minnesota's ice data reflects the changes that Minnesotans who enjoy our outdoors have already felt," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen."As water and air temperatures continue to rise, we can expect to see more shifts in our native fish species, lake health, and winter recreation. DNR and MPCA have been working on climate strategies, but we know further bold action is needed to mitigate the effect of climate change and help preserve the valuable resources that make Minnesota an enviable place to live."

You can find data on dozens of Minnesota lakes' ice cover at www. pca.state.mn.us/air/view-data-climate-impacts-our-waters.



Community Hospital

size, but they're notoriously skittish at feeders when other birds their size are around. They probably qualify as Canadians, so they're naturally averse to conflict.

Black-capped chickadees were near the bottom, coming in at 89th place. But, at least around our house, what they lack in swagger at the feeders, they make up for in sheer numbers. They easily haul away three-quarters of the sunflower seeds I put out on a daily basis.

While I think the rankings are generally in the ballpark, in my opinion, there are definitely a few misses.

The study lists pine siskins in 79th place, but that certainly has never been my experience. Yes, siskins are among the smallest of feeder birds, they are notably aggressive in defending their spot in the feeder. When challenged, they routinely will spread their wings, to show off their bright yellow wing bars. I'd put my money on them any day in a contest with, say, a pine grosbeak.

And I would have rated the evening grosbeak significantly higher than 52nd. While they came in higher than the pine grosbeaks, in my experience they are notably pugnacious at the feeder, particularly when there's



#### Q: The holidays are over; what do I need to know about COVID-19 now?

A: Since many of us gathered with family and friends over the holidays, it is important to monitor our health for any symptoms of COVID-19 closely. Symptoms usually appear between two and fourteen days after exposure to the virus. People with COVID-19 have reported a variety of mild to severe symptoms, but some of the most common include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea

#### Q: Should I take an at-home test following my holiday celebrations?

A: COVID-19 self-tests, home tests, or over-the-counter (OTC) tests are one way to reduce your risk of spreading COVID-19. These tests are now readily available to the public, are easy to use, and produce rapid results. Test kits are available at Ely Community Pharmacy. You should test if you are experiencing any of the above symptoms regardless of vaccination status.

#### Q: What do the results of my self-test mean?

A: A positive test means that the virus was detected in your body, and you are very likely to have an infection. You should stay home for ten days, wear a mask if you come in contact with others, and avoid gatherings to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to someone else. Talk to your doctor to let them know you tested positive and decide whether additional testing is necessary. If your illness becomes worse, seek medical attention right away. Finally, inform any of your close contacts that they may have been exposed. A person with COVID-19 can begin spreading it two days before the person has any symptoms or tests positive. A negative test means that the virus was not detected, and you still may or may not have COVID-19 but likely are not contagious.

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 University's 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



## **EMPLOYMENT**

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **HELP WANTED** RECEPTIONIST

Computer skills and people skills a must! Drop off your resume at Peshel Accounting, 1704 E. Camp St., Ely or call 218-365-2424. tfn

### POSITION OPENING **Ely Public Schools** Paraprofessional

Ely Public Schools is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Associate's Degree/equivalent or complete a Para Pro exam with a passing score (www.ets.org/parapro)
- Preferred experience working with
- school-age children
- Middle School math knowledge preferred
- > Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting
- Background check required
- Ability to perform job description duties

Benefits include:

- > Paid sick leave, personal days and vacation
- Health and life insurance Flexible spending account
- PERA retirement

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

A complete application must include the fol-

- lowing: District Application
- Resume
- **College Transcripts**
- 2 letters of recommendation

Return materials to: Ely Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent, 600 E. Harvey St., Ely, MN 55731 or email mwognum@ely.k12.mn.us. Contact the District Office for a complete job description.

Starting Rate of Pay: \$16.90/hour

Hours: 6.5 hours/day

Deadline to apply: January 19, 2022; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 14, 2022

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### NOTICE OF VACANCY **ST. LOUIS COUNTY CIVIL** SERVICE COMMISSION

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners will be appointing a member to a three-year term on the St. Louis County Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission oversees the administration of the County's merit system of employment by approving and enforcing rules, hearing appeals and complaints. Applicants cannot hold or be a candidate for public office, may not hold any public employment, or hold a position in a political party within two years immediately preceding appointment, and must be a res-ident of St. Louis County. There are usually two (2) meetings scheduled per month (1:30 pm - 2:00 pm on Mondays). At least four meetings per year are scheduled in Range cities. Periodic hearings may be significantly longer. For additional information, please conact James R. Gottschald, Director of Human Resources and Administration for St. Louis County at 218-725-5066 or gottschaldj@stlouiscountymn.gov.



### Full or Part-Time Cutting Table Operator

Wintergreen Northern Wear creates quality outdoor apparel on the main street of Ely, MN. We are looking for a detail oriented individual to operate our CNC cutting table. Requirements include: High School Diploma, ability to lift 40 lb rolls of fabric; CNC operation or manufacturing experience a plus. Cheery clean work environment and benefits included. Competitive wages based on experience. Call 218-365-6602 or email kassie@wintergreennorthernwear.com for more information. Apply by email or at our store located at 205 East Sheridan Street, Ely, MN. 1/21

#### Information Receptionist

The Ely Chamber of Commerce has an opening for a full-time, year-round Information Receptionist. We are seeking a customer service-oriented individual to assist residents and visitors with business and area information. The position requires knowledge of Microsoft Office programs, internet and email programs, and use of office equipment. A full job description and application are available at Ely.org/chamber/workforcedevelopment. Please submit job applications to director@ely.org or stop by the Chamber office at 1600 E. Sheridan Street, Ely

#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### **Position: Tribal Justice** Grant Coordinator Closes: 2/10/202

Position Purpose: Responsible for coordinating and developing written strategic plans for the Tribal Justice System of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa by facilitating the Tribal Justice System Planning Process (TJSPP) of the Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant. This planning process takes place in three (3) phases and works with the training and technical assistance (TTA) providers. The TTA partners guide the coordinator and planning team through all three phases of training and work together throughout the project period with on-going office-based assistance. By the end of phase three, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Tribal Justice System Strategic Planning Team will have the building blocks of a comprehensive community justice strategic plan to propose at the end of the 36-month award

Website: Visit https://boisforte.com/jobs/ to view full job description & apply online.

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 14, 2022





## PT & Casual Activities Assistant Environmental Services Casual Housekeeping & Laundry 218-666-6220 humanresources@cookhospital.org

The Cock Hospital & Care Center offers car The Cook Hospital is an equal opportunity provider and employer

## King Crossword

ACROSS
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- 1 Even 5 Apply cream "The Good 8 Earth" heroine
- "Please go 12 ahead'
- 14 Fork prong The National 15 Pastime
- 16 Circus structure

1/21

- 17 Cacophony
- Scalawags 18 Basilica areas 20
- 23 Diving duck
- 24 Soccer leg-
- end 25 Brewing gizmo
- 28 Greek letter
- 29 Not — out of place
- 30 Scull need
- 32 Kook
- 34 Ordered
- 35 Skin breakout
- 36 Notorious
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- Poland 40 Former
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- 47 "American ---
- 48 Consume too
- little Lion's pride? 49
- 50 Meadow
- 51 Sciences'

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Persons interested in serving on this com-mission should submit an application to: Phil Chapman, Deputy County Auditor, St. Louis County Courthouse, Room 214, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Duluth, MN 55802 no later than January 31, 2022. To apply online, go to www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk and click "Application for Citizen Advisory Committee".

Applications are also available in the County Auditor's Office in the Duluth Courthouse and the Government Services Center in Virginia, and in the Ely Government Services Building, or by emailing chapmanp@stlouiscountymn. gov or calling 218-726-2385.

#### NANCY J. NILSEN, COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER By: Phil Chapman, Deputy Auditor

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 14 & 21, 2022



The Timberjay has an opening for a part-time staffer to work in our Tower office. Duties include general office work, local reporting, editing of community notices, page layout, photography, and more. Lots of variety, flexible hours as long as work gets done by our deadline. Job would be about 12 hours a week (Tuesday through Thursday), with more hours available if desired. Looking for someone who enjoys working in a fast-paced environment, has good attention to detail, and enjoys dealing with the public. Job requires office computer skills (typing, email, familiarity with basic software programs). We will train the right candidate on graphics/page layout software.

For more information, call Jodi at 218-753-2950 (office), 218-750-3513 (cell), or email editor@timberjay.com.

## @timberjay.com

Equal Opportunity and Veteran-Friendly Employer 1/14

#### Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary Seeking Full-Time Director

The Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary in Orr is seeking a full-time Director. Work with WILD bears and make lasting friendships with people from all over the world. Responsible for day-to-day operations of the sanctuary and the visitors center.

Visit www.americanbear.org for more information and to apply for this position. 1/21

#### FULL-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE at the TOWER SOUDAN INSURANCE AGENCY

We are looking for a full-time employee with good customer service skills, computer skills and willing to be trained as an agent in the insurance industry. This employee would be taking care of customer's insurance needs along with other general office duties.

This job would be for 40 hours a week, and would include holiday, vacation and sick pay.

If interested, please call 218-753-2101 or e-mail tsagency@frontiernet.net.



## by Linda Thistle

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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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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.

## AUTOMOTIVE

Langevin Auto & Truck Repair Full Service Auto Repair & Garage Hours: 8 AM-5 PM M-F 2 Miles South of Tower **218-749-0751** 

#### HAIR CARE

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

#### HOSPICE

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

#### **SUPPORT** GROUPS

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.

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

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

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

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

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

— King Crossword —

### **BUILDING** SERVICES EAST DHU RIVER SAWMILL INC "Put A Piece Of Northern Minnesota

In Your Home" Superior Quality Plank Paneling Trim One-Of-A-Kind Moldings Industrial Lumber

218-744-1788 8825 Hwy 101, Iron, MN 55751

#### WANTED

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

### **HELP WANTED**

WANTED-HELP COOK NEEDED- full-time or part-time at Melgeorge's on Elephant Lake. WEEKEND CABIN CLEANERS also needed. Call 218-374-3621. tfn

Call



### Try out the Timberjay classifieds

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

### MARINE

MERCURY

Rentals

**SUPPORT** 

GROUPS

Blvd. and Central Drive Babbitt.

MEETING- Every Monday at

noon at Ledgerock Community

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS, give vourself a break. There is a

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

HIV/AIDS? For confidential com-

passionate local support call the Rural AIDS Action Network, toll-free 1-888-647-RAAN(7226).

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS-

East Range meetings and infor-mation, call 218-749-3387 or

AA FRIDAYS- 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 262 E

Harvey St., Ely. Meets in the

www.district8online.org.

basement.

SNOMELURE

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the

puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6

around each of them. No number can

non-profit organization.)

ACROSS

12 Often-

1 Cries noisily

5 Stuff in steel

9 Horse cousin

smoked food

15 U.K. neighbor

in citations

deep sleep

22 U.S. neighbor

effort to be

23 Make every

obliging

27 Mosaic work

(road sign)

management

28 — -TURN

29 — Mason

(asset

firm)

30 BLT offerer

31 To any extent

26 Vivacity

18 "As above,"

19 Extremely

20 Pavarotti of

opera

Church, 1515 E Camp St., Ely

FI Y

WOMEN'S OPEN AA



## Lake Vermilion

Covered Wet & Dry Boat Storage Lease or Purchase Options Marina • Mechanic on Duty Convenience Store 24-Hour Fuel • Live Bait

4551 Bradley Road, Tower • 753-5457 www.shamrocklanding.com

46 Shorelines

Sotomayor

using ".doc"

52 Mu — pork

Greeley's

advice for

American

expansion

65 She's a star

aria singer

(Cannes film

Capt. Nemo's

60 Huge aid

66 Palme -

award)

order

73 Ship like

(exactly)

76 Marisa with

74 To —

67 Bus driver's

54 Horace

48 Justice

49 Program

## Super Crossword

99 At full speed, DOWN 47 Off the shore old-style 100 A deadly sin 103 "Patience virtue" 104 Pro vote files, for short 105 Do a 180, say 110 Rapper with

the album "Press Play" 112 Old Italian stage actress Eleonora 64 In base eight 113 1953 Leslie Caron film 114 "- always say ..." 115 Jeopardy 116 "- my fault" 117 Parent's mind game with a child (or what you have to use to solve this

puzzle?)

5 "Ugh"-worthy 6 Bird of myth 7 Muscat resident 8 Honcho 9 Lager cousin 10 Nissan Rogue, e.g. 11 Bawls out 12 Irritable from being ravenous, slangily 13 Lay - (really fail) 14 Wild crowd 15 Stimulus 16 Vote in for a another term 17 Lapses

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES** STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS SIXTH JUDICIAL It is Ordered and Notice is now given that the Petition will be heard on February 9, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. by this Court DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION at 300 South Fifth Avenue, Virginia, Minnesota 55792. If Court File No. 69VI-PRyou have an objection to this 21-120 case, please contact Court Administrator at 218-221-7560 option #8 for further instructions as these hearings are Nancy Jean Wall, aka Nancy currently held remotely due to

the pandemic.

BY THE COURT

Andrew R. Peterson.

Amy Turnquist, Court Administrator

Judge of District Court

Chelsea Opdahl, Deputy

Attorney for Petitioner Angela Sipila

Sipila Law Office, LLC

55792

5000

Dated: December 15, 2021

MARINE

TIMBUKTU **TIMBUKT**U

2475 V

MARINE

KE VERMILIO 218-666-2276

Boats C MERCURY

SUZUKI WAMAHA

docks, trailers and accessories

timbuktumarine.com

s, service, storage, boat lifts.

ger Premier

WEERES

MARINA

7401.0

LAKE VERMILION 218-666-2434

1 Oak Narrows Rd - Cook MN Cabin rentals

Year round boat

storage and dockage

**Boat and pontoon** 

rental

Convenience store

Gas, bait & liquor

timbuktumarina.com

J. Wall and as Nancy Wall Decedent

Estate of

AMENDED NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR DISTRIBUTION AND FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL, EXEMPT ESTATE, NOTICE TO CREDITORS-NON-EXEMPT ESTATE

Notice is given that a petition has been filed requesting that the Estate Assets be summarilv assigned.

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

the Court may issue a decree

distributing or assigning the

Estate's assets

Published in the Timberjay, Jan. 14 & 21, 2022

412 S 1st St., Virginia, MN

Attorney License No: 024501X

Telephone & Fax: 218-741-

Email: ange@sipilaw.com

#### TURNABOUT

82 "Sk8er -(2002 hit) 83 Assembly line labor org. 84 Tpk., e.g. 88 Actor Idle 90 Parachute user 91 Unmindful 92 Online bidding site 93 Roving robbers 94 "Gotta go" **95** — faire 96 '50s prez 97 Not pos. 98 "Raider" Ralph 100 Previous convictions 101 Little brooks 102 Tough-totranslate phrases 106 Composer Edward

42 Do laundry 1 Bro's kin 43 Jillian of TV 2 Strange 44 Spanish aunt things 45 Relatives, 3 Former Fed informally head Ben 46 Light bed 4 Little 49 Mixed breed 50 Zest or Ivory 51 "Ben-Hur" director William 53 The woman 55 "Understood" 56 S.Sgt., e.g.

57 Yearn (for)

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60 Yrly. gift-

61 Greek "I"

giving time

lab item)

68 T. - Price

69 The "E" of

70 Snide

EMT: Abbr.

58 Female cell 62 Heightened 63 — dish (bio

Answers											32 Revolution			an Oscar			122 Even score				21 Notions				snicker			107 Opposite of				
Solution time: 22 mins.	shape along the border of the puzzle.													77 Cadences							24 Ralph —				71 Sixths			104-Across				
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