

Sparrows...See /4B

Inside:

Long lines for flu shots... See /3

Fall sports... See /1B

Grizz football preview...See /2B

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COUNTY SCHOOLS

Shuffling classes

ISD 2142 sticks with in-person learning as COVID rates rise

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The teachers spoke, and the district listened. As a result, many elementary teachers and students are shuffling classes throughout ISD 2142 as the district tries to

More coverage
Ely schools brace for modifications. Page 8

make the best of a school year in which in-person learning and distance See...LEARN pg. 8



Allison Thiel, first grade teacher at North Woods Elementary School, reads to her class. photo by D. Colburn

PUBLIC SAFETY

Good news, bad news

Tower ambulance finances reviewed

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- City officials gave the Tower Area Ambulance Commission a partial look at the department's finances for 2020 to date, and there's both good news and bad. The good news is that the department has received \$475,839 in operating fees through Sept. 30, slightly above the department's budgeted revenue for the full year. The bad news is that the department's revenues continue to run well behind expenditures.

The numbers, however, are likely to change, according to Tower Clerk-Treasurer Victoria Ranua. "We are looking at it closely, into the payroll and salary side," Ranua told the members of the commission on Monday night.

Current numbers show the ambulance service running a \$182,515 deficit for the year, although much of that deficit stems from the final payment for the new ambulance. The ambulance service has seen its operating margins dip sharply since implementation of a costly paid

See...TOWER pg. 9

POLITICS VERSUS PANDEMIC

Dissecting the COVID response

Politics, polarization hamstring efforts to control the virus

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- While President Donald Trump paints a rosy picture of his current bout with COVID-19 and continues to downplay the severity of a pandemic that has taken over 210,000 lives, two Minnesota health experts painted a much gloomier picture last week of where we are, how we got here, and where things are headed in upcoming months.

Andy Slavitt, of Edina, a former head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid in the Obama administration, and Michael Osterholm, Director of Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota in



St. Louis County public health nurses, Suzy Van Norman and Lisa Konicek, administer a nasal swab COVID-19 test Tuesday afternoon at the public works facility in Ely. Almost 500 people were tested at the drive-thru event. photos by K. Vandervort

Minneapolis, shared their assessments in a teleconference on Sept. 30, two days before Trump announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19.

Osterholm had a very different message about the direction of the

See...COVID pg. 10

WILDLIFE MEDICINE

Ely hospital conducts an MRI on a wolf

Prognosis unclear on Wolf Center resident

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - A special patient was wheeled into the local hospital last month for a unique MRI. The patient was a wolf.

For the first time in the history of the International Wolf Center and the first time at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, an ambassador wolf was given an MRI. The procedure was performed to help identify some lingering health issues impacting Boltz, an eight-year-old gray wolf.

"We're so thankful that the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital worked with us on this really unusual request," said the Wolf Center's curator, Lori Schmidt. "It is not uncommon for us to have x-rays taken at the Ely Veterinary Clinic, but an MRI is not available there. This contribution to helping diagnose Boltz was critical."

Schmidt added, "Throughout this See...MRI pg. 9



Nearly 500 coronavirus tests administered in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY - Almost 500 Ely-area residents took advantage of a free coronavirus testing clinic Tuesday afternoon at the St. Louis County/City of Ely

Public Works facility.

The free event, open to everyone with or without COVID-19 symptoms, was the first such locally-administered testing clinic, some eight months after the public health pandemic hit the United States.

The testing clinic began promptly at noon and was scheduled to run until 6 p.m. There were 495 pre-registrations, according to St. Louis County Communications

See...TEST pg. 10



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Community notices

Orr Thanksgiving Dinner canceled

ORR- Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Thanksgiving Dinner in Orr has been canceled. From all of our volunteers to each and every family, have a healthy and blessed Thanksgiving.

Auditions for Sleepy Hollow radio play on Oct. 7 and 8

REGIONAL- Northern Stage Works, the community theater company at the Lyric Center for the Arts, will be holding auditions by Zoom for the radio play "The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow" on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 7 and 8. Anyone interested can email lyriccenterforthearts@gmail.com to get the link to audition. The radio play will be presented on Halloween, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will begin via Zoom. The performance will be live-streamed from the Lyric Center. Physical distancing, masks and other safety protocols will be followed.

Ely Halloween event at Whiteside Park

ELY- The annual Halloween "Trunk or Treat" celebration will be held in Whiteside Park on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 2-5 p.m. The alternative activity to house-to-house trick-or-treating is sponsored by Northern Tier National High Adventure. "While we understand that COVID-19 presents some challenges to Halloween this year, we want to make sure that Ely's youth are able to get outside and enjoy this holiday," said organizer Leslie Thibodeaux on a Facebook post. "We will continue to provide updates with any further COVID-19 precautions."

If you plan to host a trunk, let the organization know so they can plan and space out accordingly. For more information, email leslie.thibodeaux@scouting.org.

Here are the current COVID-19 precautions in place for the activity:

- ▶ We ask that families please practice social distancing while at the event. We will have the various trunks spread out with greater distance between each.
- ▶ Some activities may not be available due to inability to properly sanitize between groups, but each trunk will have treats.
- ▶ Individuals working the trunks/activities will be required to wear masks. We would ask, where possible that participants also try to wear masks.
- ▶ We will have a curbside pick up for those who feel uncomfortable participating in the activities. The curbside pickup will be located near the bandshell on 8th Ave. Just pull up to the curb near the table and a Northern Tier staff member will hand you goodie bags for the youth in your vehicle.

New funds available to help people with rent, mortgage or utility bills during pandemic

REGIONAL- St. Louis County has received an additional \$3.2 million to assist people who are struggling to pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills due to hardships caused by the pandemic. This is in addition to the CARES Act funds that the County is also allocating to help individuals in need.

This latest funding is from the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) and is for St. Louis County residents who are not in subsidized housing and whose income is at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

This is in addition to CARES Act funds, which can assist with rent, mortgage or utilities for all types of housing, as well as other financial hardships due to COVID-19.

United Way 211 is serving as the initial contact point for anyone wondering if they're eligible or interested in applying. People can call 2-1-1 from anywhere in the county to get started, or text MNRENT or MNHOME to 898-211.

More information is available at stlouiscountymn.gov/cares or by calling 2-1-1.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

TFM makes \$350 donation to TAFS



Marge McPeak (center) of the Tower Area Food Shelf accepts a \$350 donation from the Tower Farmers Market, presented by TFM board members Janna Goerdts (left) and Mickey White (right). photo by J. Summit

TOWER- Each year the Tower Farmers Market vendors donate goods to a Sharing the Harvest basket and put it up for raffle. The winner of this year's basket was Julie Hockin of Tower

and all of the funds raised, as well as additional funds, were donated to the Tower Area Food Shelf. "It was a great season at the market," said TFM board member Mickey White. "The board

sends a big thank you to all the customers who supported this year's vendors. Thanks to every one who respected the market's COVID-19 precautions by wearing masks and

social distancing, and thank you to AEOA of Virginia for providing the hand washing/sanitizing station," she said.

Writing on the Iron Range workshop, Oct. 24

REGIONAL- Have you always wanted to write down some of your life stories? The workshop, "Writing on the Iron Range" is for beginning and experienced writers and is a chance to put your experiences down on paper with the help of guided exercises presented by Iron Range native, poet, writer and teacher, Sheila Packa. The class is being offered through the Lyric Center for the Arts.

In this workshop on Saturday, Oct. 24, participants will connect by Zoom for a morning and an evening session. During the morning session starting at 10 a.m., participants

will look at some examples of good writing and play with some interesting and fun approaches. Packa will provide prompts to facilitate participants' writing and draw on their own experiences, memories, family history and landscape to make a story, memoir or poetry. There will be time between sessions to develop or finish the writing prompt assignment for the later session, starting at 5 p.m. During this early evening session, there will be a short writing prompt and participants will have the opportunity to share their writing with the group, chat about the strengths, and then

there will be time for discussion. Participants can attend one or both sessions.

Registration is \$20 at <https://squareup.com/store/lyric-center-for-the-arts-2/> where there is more information. The workshop link will be emailed to those who register before the workshop date. Other questions can be emailed to sheila@sheilapacka.com.

Sheila Packa is a fiscal year 2020 recipient of an Artist Initiative Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State

Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Thank You

Tower-Soudan citizens for the cards and greetings after my heart attack. Also, thank you to the First Responders who saved my life. The people of the Tower-Soudan area are truly the best.

Thomas and Jayne Sundeen

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HEALTH

Ely-Bloomenson flu shot clinic forced to close early

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

More than 500 vaccines administered in just four hours

ELY - Hundreds of Ely-area residents lined up just after dawn Saturday for a drive-thru flu shot clinic hosted by Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. The first-come, first-served event proved so popular that vaccines were gone in four hours.

A long line of vehicles snaked from the back entrance of the medical facility, winding east on Pattison Street past Grahek Apartments and the former city garage to Central Avenue, then north to at least Harvey Street.

Duane and JoAnn Bird, of Ely, were two of the first in line for the flu shot clinic.

"We pulled in at about 7:30 and got in line behind a couple of vehicles and couldn't believe the line of cars that suddenly appeared," Duane Bird said. "This is an easy way to get our flu shot."

People were turned away at noon. EBCH pharmacy technicians had planned to be on site for eight hours.

EBCH pharmacist Chris Schneider said a total of 530 flu shots were administered.

"The response was overwhelming," he said. "We had way more people take advantage of this free and convenient

service than we ever expected. It was good to see the big response."

Another flu shot clinic is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"We will be restocked and ready to go," Schneider said. He noted that flu shots are also administered by local primary physicians.

"If you can't make it to our clinic, call your doctor," Schneider said.

People came in droves to Ely-Bloomenson's flu shot clinic on Saturday morning.
photos by K. Vandervort



TRASH TALK

G-Men retains sole commercial sanitation contract in Ely

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Second vendor unable to meet license requirements

ELY - Despite more than a year of debate and countless hours of sanitation committee and city staff work on a revised commercial waste disposal contract, the city of Ely turned full circle and is right back at the beginning. G-Men Environmental Services remains the sole licensed waste hauling operation here.

Council members awarded commercial sanitation contracts to two local companies last month, G-Men and Northern Routes Rolloffs. The contracts were set to take effect Nov. 1 under the condition that both companies submit all required paperwork.

As it turns out, according to Sept. 25 sanitation committee meeting minutes, Northern

Routes Rolloffs failed to obtain the necessary performance bond by the due date for the contract to take effect.

Eric Gruba, CEO of Northern Rolloffs, told the committee last month that he was unable to meet the license requirements. Taking advice from his attorney and insurance agent, Gruba said there is no direct contractual relationship with the city of Ely on which to require a performance bond.

As G-Men was able to meet all the contract requirements, including obtaining a performance bond, the sanitation committee agreed, on a 4-2 vote, to award the contract solely to G-Men.

Council members refused to consider a motion on the committee action Tuesday night

in light of the licensing requirement development. Later in the meeting, the council approved the commercial waste disposal contract between the city of Ely and G-Men.

"It was a long arduous road to get here tonight, but we are here," Novak said.

G-Men also remains the city's sole residential waste disposal hauler.

The debate over competition for the commercial marketplace in the city was initiated when a local major business owner voiced unhappiness with not having convenient refuse service available. First the sanitation committee, and eventually the full council, agreed to make commercial service hauling available to multiple providers

as a way to provide more options for commercial customers.

Other business

In other business, the council took the following action:

► Heard an annual update from officials from the International Wolf Center, who said that despite being closed for many months this year because of the coronavirus, the Interpretive Center remains in operation and is looking forward to obtaining new wolf pups next spring.

► Approved a two-year contract extension for Todd Crego, at \$1,750 per month, for providing public access television services for the city.

► Awarded the Veterans Clinic site and Seventh Avenue

improvement contract to Utility Systems of America as the low bidder at \$294,559.

► Named Lisa Marolt to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

► Awarded the Pocket Park development project at the former Pamida building site on Chapman Street to Hovland, Inc. for \$85,958.

► Approved a \$17,500 commercial renovation loan for East Chapman Properties for the Chapman Street Pocket Park project.

► Approved a residential rehab loan for Dean Hanninen, 417 E. Pattison St., for a new propane furnace for \$6,000.

► Approved the airport HVAC project quote from Carlson Duluth Co. for \$13,063

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OPINION

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e-mail: editor@timberjay.com

Editorial

The wrong question

Schools need to encourage students to “opt-in” to controversial topics

It was all going so well, until... The Ely School Board candidate forum sponsored by the American Association of University Women and the Ely Rotary Club was everything the first presidential “debate” was not. It was civil and informative, and none of the candidates gave viewers the slightest reason to turn away in dismay and disgust at their crude antics.

And refreshingly, on more than one occasion candidates admitted they needed to learn more before answering a question. Those were honest and good answers for people seeking to lead an enterprise devoted to teaching and learning.

Yes, it was all going so very well, and then they reached the final question:

“Do you have any thoughts or suggestions about policies that would allow parents to opt their students out of lessons that might be controversial such as climate change science, political discussions, sex education, and racial justice?”

The candidates all answered as one might suspect, supporting the central theme suggested that parents should be able to pick and choose what lessons their children participate in, while staying away from tackling any of the topics mentioned in the question.

They did the best they could with a question that should never have been asked, because at its root it is antithetical to the goals and needs of a 21st century education.

Using the word “controversial” to describe climate change science, political discussions, sex education, and racial justice is the wrong choice when talking about education. Instead, all these topics are “relevant” areas for study in the 21st century. That many consider them controversial only adds to their relevance for thoughtful, disciplined inquiry in educational settings.

At a time when society is as polarized as it has ever been and all one needs to know has been reduced to Facebook memes, schools shouldn’t be encouraging parents to pull their kids out of education around relevant topics; they should be finding ways to have them “opt in” by creating curriculum that is both educationally sound and responsive to concerns raised by parents and community members.

A titanic shift in the purpose of education has happened over the past two decades as districts, state departments of education, and the federal government have all embraced the notion that the role of schools is to prepare students for the world of work. Here’s Ely’s version of that:

“The policy of the school district is to establish the ‘world’s best workforce’ in which all learning in the school district should be directed and for which all school district learners should be held accountable.”

And it’s clear from employer surveys dating back to the 1980s that employers want more than readin’, writin’, and ‘rithmetic. While those are all essential skills, they don’t make any of the lists of the top skills employers say they want. So, what does?

21st century employers want people who have critical thinking skills, who can analyze and process information, who can communicate effectively and work in teams. “Old school” education doesn’t cut the mustard anymore, at least as far as employers are concerned.

In that context, those relevant topics with potentially controversial elements are precisely what students should be engaged with in their learning environments, in a manner that promotes critical thinking and analytical skills and teaches them how to talk with others when disagreements will occur. They’re going out into a work world where diverse teams are increasingly the norm and many of the challenges they will face haven’t even been imagined yet.

Disagreement of the kind we’ve seen in recent months from leaders in government to people on social media is inherently destructive, because there’s little constructive dialogue. “It’s my way or the highway” is no way to run a country effectively, particularly when it includes demonizing your opponents, something party extremists on both sides of the political spectrum do with regularity.

Yet any good employer will tell you that they welcome a certain level of disagreement on the job because it can make the organization better. Teams thrive best when there is a healthy level of creative dissonance. Those are skills kids can learn now by addressing timely, relevant topics in school with supportive educators to guide them.

So, let’s change that last forum question to one that’s more responsive to the current goal of education and the needs of our future 21st century workforce and citizens:

“Do you have any thoughts or suggestions for policies that would improve using relevant topics such as climate change science, political discussions, sex education, and racial justice for the teaching of essential workplace skills based on established state standards and informed by input from parents and the community?”

Yes, it’s a challenging and perhaps daunting proposal when passions run high, but underneath the controversies is a gold mine of possibilities for teaching the skills that will not only give students a leg up in the job market, but will also equip them to find a way through this political and societal logjam we’re mired in. We need future leaders who have chosen to “opt in” to being part of the solution. It’s up to our schools to teach them the skills to make that happen.



Letters from Readers

The waste stream you will never see

It is already around, you just can’t see it. If you use beauty products, facial creams, or a myriad of household items, you are feeding a waste stream you cannot see. That stream is composed of nano particles.

It’s a rather quiet industry; most people don’t even know it exists.

The nano world, particles at the atomic level, differs from our corporal experience. Gravity doesn’t matter at the nano level, for example. Things that small live by other physical law imperatives.

Nano waste is out there. It daily builds in volume, and while we fret over plastic in the oceans we ignore what we cannot see.

Asbestos in Lake Superior, plastics in the seas, these outcomes perhaps unforeseen, let this be a forewarning of an unseen waste stream that may just prove more insidious.

Jeff Wilfahrt
Ely

Let us heed God’s lessons for mankind

Who are we? Are we Christians who forgot Biblical teachings, people who are willing to destroy democracy and create a nation controlled by an autocratic leader? We have a leader who makes choices based on his ideas and judgments, who rarely accepts advice from followers, who retains all powers, authority, and control, and who reserves the right to make all decisions, distrusting subordinates’ ability and control of the people under them, a man who lives by and sometimes believes his own lies.

Proverbs defines this man.

28.4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law strive against them.

28.5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those

who seek the Lord understand it completely.

28.9 If one turns away his ear from the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

28:26 He who trusts in his own mind is a fool.

18.2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

12.22 Lying lips is an abomination to the Lord.

14.21 He who despises his neighbor is a sinner.

16.27 A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

6:12 A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with a crooked speech,

6:13 Winks with his eyes, scrapes with his feet, points with his fingers.

6:14 With perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discard.

So, who are we? Did we learn God’s lessons for Mankind? Do we understand it completely? Do we want a democratic or autocratic leader? Please vote and protect our democracy!

Jo Ann Halunen
Virginia

Ecklund works incredibly hard for all of us

Robert Ecklund is a statesperson. I want to say that from the outset. Contrary to what the flyers you may have received say or what local city council members say, we need people like Robert Ecklund serving us in our state Legislature. The following story is evidence of Representative Ecklund’s statercraft.

A couple of years ago, a resident at our local nursing home received a bill charging her in arrears for three months of living there. I couldn’t believe that they could charge her after they had already received the “rent” for those months. After discussions with the facility and getting nowhere, I called Rob Ecklund for my friend in the nursing home.

Rob went right to work. He called me several times. He engaged all the right state agencies. He became the advocate for a vulnerable adult. He went way beyond anything I ever expected a representative would do. He saved this person—and actually all residents—thousands of dollars. I cannot thank Robert Ecklund enough.

We need to re-elect Robert Ecklund for the benefit of everyone in our area.

James Lah
Ely

What mayor wouldn’t want to honor a tax cheat?

Well, Jeez, I think my brother’s recent letter to the *Timberjay* of “13 reasons to support our leader in the White House” may have been a bit harsh on our current President. I detected a definite amount of underlying cynicism in the context of his letter! I mean, after all, who could not admire and respect a person who gets away without paying any Federal Income Tax or a paltry \$750 when working stiffs like you and me pay our fair share and probably a little more to make up for what Trump and others like him don’t pay at all. Such stupendously smart and morally righteous behavior like that should be rewarded with four more years in the White House. He certainly presents himself as a capable leader when he cheats the very people he is supposedly representing— you and me. I can see why some of our Iron Range mayors would want to honor such exemplary behavior.

Ted Floyd
Ely

Where the
North Country
Sounds Off!

I am being a self-propelled woman

The place where I live in Soudan was purchased with Bill Stone in 2017 and consists of a house and two lots... with a good-sized lawn to mow. Shortly after we moved in, I ordered us a wedding present that still humors me when I walk past it. It’s a nice plaque on the outside of the house, next to the door, name and kept it, just to have



SCARLET
STONE

resembling a historical or hysterical marker... whatever you want to call it. It says, “HOUSE OF STONE -Established in 2017.” The house has asbestos siding that covers a wood frame so there is nothing stone about it. Bill, who lives elsewhere now, but is my friend... jokes that I took on his last

fun. This is most certainly true. I also figured putting family and friends through yet another name change in my life after the “BIG-D”...divorce, was just too much to expect from the human race. So let’s get back to mowing the lawn. With the exit of Bill from the HOUSE OF STONE, maintenance dropped in my lap. I do like a nicely-kept lawn and intended to keep it that way all summer until the sweaty workouts hit me on those eighty-five degree days. I admit I wavered. Towards the end of June, as I trudged behind the mower, I

was giving myself the regular pep talk, “Well, now you don’t have to nag him and it’ll be done! AND...exercise is a great thing, Scar, even if your face resembles a big ball of dewy watermelon in a summer fruit salad...” followed by, “Maybe it’s time to sell the place, euthanize your beloved kitties, and ease into that small dingy apartment on a back street of Tower, become a sloth, depressed and stumbling back and forth to the bars with one bushy eyebrow and an unshaven chin.” Oh god, the visuals...just too much. Well...you know how

a person has self-talk? Just get a grip and finish the lawn hey! To make the mowing easier, I would lock my elbows, extend my arms in front of me and with my gripping traction shoes, force the rig through the lumpy grass. I made many stops to wipe my brow with a towel I carried on the handle. During one stop, as I was tucking my towel back between the two horizontal bars on the mower handle an awakening occurred. I raised that lower “handle bar-dealy thing” out of

Letters from Readers

The carnival barker in the White House

All this president cares about is his ratings. One of the first things that came out of his mouth at his rally in Duluth was that his ratings were high as the result of his debate. “We Won,” he says. The crowd roars in approval. Of course, I’m biased because all I saw of him at the debate was the behavior of a bully and yes...a demagogue. He continues to rant about voting ballots and hoaxes and fake news. Blah blah blah.

One of his latest is that he opened up the Iron Range in 2016! I didn’t know it was shut down. He fails to understand the up-and-down cycle of mining. Of course, that logic of his is bolstered by Stauber and Navarro stating that Trump saw to it that the miners got a raise and more jobs. Another baseless claim not lost on some. When asked if he would condemn the Proud Boys in this country, he should have stated that he did condemn them. Instead he makes a comment that bolsters the Proud Boys’ commitment to terrorism. The next day, when faced with the reality that his fellow GOP people didn’t think that was a good idea, he comes up with, let the police take care of it. Proud Boy leader says he didn’t condemn us. He just told us to stand by him! I believe Donald likes people who like him. No matter who they are. Even if they are on a watch list with the FBI.

Yes, he strives to be audacious. In that sense, he excels. He’s like a carnival barker or a snake oil salesman. Always selling you a bill of goods. I’m not buying it.

**Brian LaFrenier
Embarrass**

Welcome to Trumpworld

We pay the PRICE. Five problems converge to cause systemic havoc. Our social system faces a collapse, produced by grossly incompetent and corrupt leadership hellbent on ignoring scientific fact to wage war on the American people with division, deprivation, devastation, disease and death.

PANDEMIC. With 4.5 percent of the world’s population, the U.S. has 20 percent of the deaths from a deadly virus. Gloves, gowns, masks, swabs and ventilators were in severe short supply. Capitalism failed miserably to prepare for the pandemic. On the deadly virus, Trump lied and tens of thousands died.

RACISM. Blacks comprise 13 percent of the American pop-

ulation, but 28 percent of those killed by police since 2013 were black. Institutional racism rears its ugly head as Trump equates a black man shot in the back seven times to missing a three-foot putt. A white 17-year-old carrying an AR-15, kills two and walks away without police action.

INEQUALITY. “Life in a cave” of white male privilege blinds Trump to the heavy cost to life, health, safety and food security for underprivileged Americans. Black and brown people are disproportionately vulnerable to the pandemic. To him, soldiers are suckers and losers, even his working-class fans are disgusting.

CAPITALISM. Three major financial crashes in the 21st Century expose capitalism’s instability and failure. The economy failed public health, employment and small business needs in combating an invasive killer virus. Stimulus money boosted the stock market for the rich while the economy tanked for everyone else.

ECOLOGY. Climate crisis denial and capitalism’s bottom line of private profit are at public cost. Droughts, floods and climate fires are outcomes of profit without accountability. The world temperature is nearly two degrees higher than in the late 1800s. America has been turned upside down, inside out and backward. Welcome to TRUMPWORLD!

**Harold Honkola
Roseville**

Socialism for the rich and bootstraps for everyone else

As the political election season heats up, so does the labeling and name calling. Conservatives usually like to label progressives as “liberals or socialists” and it brings flashbacks of McCarthyism to mind, attempting to link any government benefit program to communism itself.

Here’s a reality checklist for those who think that they “pull themselves up by their own bootstraps” (sources: Senate and House websites, Wikipedia).

1.) The Pacific Railroad Act of 1862 gave millions of acres to the railroads so that they could sell this land to finance their enterprise of purchasing and laying track, spikes, plates, ties and buying locomotives and railcars. Common folks (like imported Chinese peasants who had no union representation) did the sweat work, not the railroad tycoons.

2.) Also in 1862, a Land Grant Act gave property to

colleges to build institutions of learning. If you ever have gone to a public university or college, this has benefited you.

3.) 1862 was also a banner year for settlers when the Homestead Act was passed, allowing a real chance for poor common folk to stake a claim on some good farmland they otherwise couldn’t afford.

4.) In the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration built new bridges and roads, CCCs improved parks and planted forests (right here in Minnesota), making strong a nation of young men who eventually had to go to war. The Tennessee Valley Authority brought electricity to thousands in the southern rural areas, as well as did the REA in the north.

5.) After a devastating world war, hospitals and clinics here in the USA needed some help to meet the demands of a growing America’s health concerns. Congress passed the Hill Burton Act in 1946, which in effect was a land grant effort to re-hab and/or build new clinics and hospitals. If you have ever had to get healthcare, you have benefited from this “socialistic medicine plan”. Even the recent expansion of the clinic and hospital in Aurora was partially financed by the USDA and IRRRB. So much for bootstrapping.

If you really want an education, go to the Environmental Working Group website (ewg.org) and if you know the incorporated name of any farm or agriculture business, you can see how most farmers really survive—they get help from the taxpayers. For example, the state of Kentucky (home of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell), from 1995 to 2011, got \$3.52 billion in ag and disaster relief subsidies. This is an average of \$774 million each year. The kicker is, the top ten percent of the biggest farms collected 81 percent of this money. During the same time period, closer to home, Michelle Bachmann’s family farm received a total of \$259,332 in farm subsidies. Bootstrapping? Maybe.

Whether it be Wall Street bailouts, farm subsidies for large corporate ag, government rescuing car companies or airlines, “socialism for the rich” is approved of by stalwart conservatives. They are the first, however, to complain about an extra \$600 unemployment benefit for a laid-off food server or dishwasher. For the common working man or woman, they have to pull up on those bootstraps! Even after “emancipation,” thanks to President Andrew Johnson,

African Americans did not get the promised “40 acres and a mule” they were supposed to get. Pure and simple, it is socialism for the rich and capitalism for the poor.

**Mark Roalson
Hoyt Lakes**

Keep our eyes on the future

Thank you to the six “yes” votes from the city of Ely Projects Committee, for the Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation grant request by Piragis Northwoods Company. The stated mission of the IRRR is “to invest in resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota by enhancing livable communities, maximizing collaborations and partnerships, and strengthening businesses and worker education.”

How the Piragis project proposal is framed as being controversial shows confusion over the resources we had and have here in the Ely area. My grandpa was a miner in the 1950s after serving in WWII, up and down until 1960 when he was laid off, his wife died, and his four kids were dispersed to relatives in the Red River Valley. (It’s important to note that 40-plus years of Minnesota’s taxpayer-funded research culminated in the 1964 Taconite Amendment and the statewide asset known as the production tax— in lieu of the property tax— including the funding of the IRRR).

My dad, the oldest child, was a farmer at age 12, then he paid his way through college to have a 25 year-career as a civil servant; now in his 70s, he’s a farmer again. Our way of life has been to appreciate both the beauty and functionality of our abundant natural resources and to stand on the shoulders of giants in terms of creative livelihoods.

My husband and I (and most of our siblings) have been both small creative business owners as well as union members in larger public-serving organizations, as we near the final thirds of OUR careers/livelihoods. The common thread through these generations, through different resources, through different business models is to see the forest for the trees; we are all here for a geologic speck of time. With non-renewable resources “we” get one chance to make the most of their extraction, as was done in 1964, looking to the future. And today we can do even better by either 1.) finding more value in what lies in and around the existing minerals or 2.) studying how Norway or Alaska

invest their oil profits back to the people and also into trusts for future generations. We will not have “livable communities” if divisions are promoted by a few and the rest of us can’t discern what is truly at stake.

**Heather Hohenstein
Ely**

School boards, not presidents, should set curriculum

I commend David Colburn for his Oct. 2 column, “Suggestions for the President’s 1776 Commission.” Our president has proposed forming the 1776 Commission to create a curriculum that would apparently look at only the positive aspects of our history— and there is a lot of good in our history. But there’s also our original sin, slavery, and we all, especially our youth, need to learn about it and its continuing effects.

1619 was the year that the first enslaved Africans were brought to the Virginia colony. That’s 400 years ago. The 1619 Project which David described provides essays, visual aids, and book recommendations from which teachers can choose what they think is appropriate for their students. It’s not as if their entire U.S. History class would be comprised of The 1619 Project.

“Out of slavery — and the anti-black racism it required — grew nearly everything that has truly made America exceptional: its economic might, its industrial power, its electoral system, its diet and popular music, the inequities of its public health and education, its astonishing penchant for violence, its income inequality, the example it sets for the world as a land of freedom and equality, its slang, its legal system and the endemic racial fears and hatreds that continue to plague it to this day. The seeds of all that were planted long before our official birth date, in 1776, when the men known as our founders formally declared independence from Britain.”

“Why We Published The 1619 Project”

I’m grateful that, as David pointed out, no president has the power to dictate a curriculum. We trust our local school boards and our state to develop it.

**Carol Orban
Ely**

See more letters
...page 7

LAWN...Continued from page 4

curiosity and the mower blasted forward, pulling me with it on a fast trot. “Weeeee,” I squealed, as I sped around the lawn completing the entire project in record time. How proud to know I’d discovered I was indeed self-propelled, even if one entire month of summer had already passed! We had purchased the mower the previous year, but who remembered its features? It hadn’t been in my job description.

There were many things that I dealt with here at the HOUSE OF STONE. At first, I worried about paying all the damn bills on time, so I sold a bunch of stuff I didn’t need on Facebook’s Marketplace site. Items like benches, chairs, shoes, a vintage picnic basket, antique glassware, a dress form-mannequin and more were easy sells. It generated income and decluttered the place at the same time. Fiscally foxy was I. Another thing I did was cancel satellite TV and purchase a TV-Firestick for just under fifty dollars with no monthly fees. Still under contract with the satellite company, I opted for the “pause” feature they offer at five dollars and forty two cents per month, in order to ride out more contract time. This will

eat up about nine months and by then I may have won the lottery or made a fortune from writing the Diabolical Divorcées’ Guide To Making Ends Meet and can hand over the balance due on the two-year contract and ride off into the sunset. When the stimulus check arrived in the spring, I paid off a couple more bills, then refinanced the house in my name only. I was able to get a three-percent fixed rate, roll in a couple other bills, and come out nearly two hundred dollars less per month on my house payment. I was certainly getting my ducks in a row.

Most situations fall into the “One day at a time and don’t borrow trouble” categories but it takes several decades to figure that out it seems. The “Don’t borrow trouble” adage, meaning....it hasn’t happened yet so don’t fret, came from a now-deceased elderly friend of mine, Rilla Karki. She had been a former Go-go dancer at Superior’s Hammond Club back in the sixties with a stage name of, Go-go Gorilla! I think about her in her prime...white patent leather knee-high boots, sparkly dresses and long blond hair. Being the proud mother of two boys when

I met her back in Hibbing in the nineties, she did emphasize the fact that Go-go girls and strippers were not one and the same. You didn’t argue with Rilla....or she’d threaten to put out her cigarette on your knee. In jest, of course, as she laughed her big laugh, then wagged her tongue at you from under her bottom plate. She was a classic, and in the years I knew her she imparted much wisdom to me. I credit her with guiding me through the decision to keep my baby in my surprise pregnancy at age thirty-six. Believing for twenty years that I was not able to have children due to hormonal imbalances or some damn thing, it was the shock of a lifetime to learn I was expecting. The problem was the baby’s father was older, not wiser, and I knew it to be an unstable situation. I often have said, “I got the last sperm in his body.” Rilla said, “Honey, I think you’ve always wanted a baby and you must remember that the child is separate from its father and always will be.” Those were true words and I rolled through the pregnancy in strength and spirit giving birth to my healthy, intelligent son, Keaton, who at age twenty-three keeps an eye out for his ma. So

much so, that one day about two weeks ago he was here and said in an alarmed tone, “Ma, you have a big bald spot on the back of your head!” I laughed and told him, “Oh that’s just from stress...it’s happened before and it’ll grow back.”

Just when I got the bills in order, another stressful deal happened. The universe gifted me a major plugged drain that involved snakes, cameras, jack-hammering a hole through the cement in the basement floor and everything short of calling in the National Guard to fix it. This stuff always happens on a Friday afternoon or a weekend to really put the screws to the nerves. It was about a three-day stint and no doubt involved that clump of missing hair from the back of my head. Meanwhile, I moved my kitchen dishwashing station into my small bathroom on the main floor and decided to adjust my attitude and pretend I was camping or something. Somewhere between late June and that awful Presidential debate a few weeks ago I also needed a new Jeep battery and four new tires. Oh well, these are not life or death circumstances and give a gal the opportunity to wheel

n’ deal workable payment plans with creditors.

In between the issues, I would sit out on my deck on summer nights looking up at the moonlit northern sky. Above the peak of my garage, extending on both sides, the leafy treetops and pine tree branches pull away to leave a large bay of starry sky with wispy clouds that seem to beckon me to fly up out of my skin and away into the magic of the cool night air and on to a more peaceful state of being. Those moments were all I needed to fill my depleted emotional bank and bring peace back to me. Nature is the best source for that. Some say that the soul leaves the body at night when we go to sleep and until we die there is a thin silver cord that ties our soul to our bodies. Not to mention the mortal reminder of my cat, Lil Bit, meowing through the window screen...“For the bloody love of Purina, quit staring up at the sky and come inside and feed me!” Oh, bless the creatures that ground us, our beloved children and our pets for sure. I’ve moved into a calmer season here at the HOUSE OF STONE and look forward to a self-propelled, creative hibernation very soon.

Week of Oct. 12

Monday
TOPS - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tower, at 9 a.m. Canceled until further notice.

Embarrass Al-Anon Family Group- Hope Lutheran Church, 5088 Hwy. 21, 6 p.m.

Tower City Council- 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 12 at the Tower Civic Center or by teleconference.

Tuesday
Tower Area Food Shelf- Open on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Located in the back of the Timberjay building on Main Street. Next food shelf day is Oct. 20.

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

Greenwood Town Board- 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 13 via teleconference.

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

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

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

TOWER CITY ELECTION

Three vying for two open two-year seats

City council election on Tuesday, Nov. 3; early voting already underway

by JODI SUMMIT
Tower-Soudan Editor

TOWER- Voters in Tower are in an unusual position this coming election, with four open seats to fill on the Tower City Council, all currently held by councilors who have been appointed.

The *Timberjay* will be introducing the six candidates in two separate articles, this week featuring those running for the two open two-year seats, and next week featuring those running for the two open four-year seats.

Two-year seats

Sheldon Majerle (currently on the council), Joe Morin, and Joshua Zika are running for the two open two-year seats.

Sheldon Majerle was appointed in 2019 to fill a seat left vacant after the resignation of Brooke Anderson, with his term expiring at the next regular election. Majerle has been a longtime face on the council, first elected in the early 1990s. He estimated he had served four terms and then retired but decided to go back on the council last year to fill the open seat.

Currently he serves as the chair of the Tower-Breitung Wastewater Board and as the chair of the city's charter commission. He is also a member of the Tower Economic Development Authority and the Tower Airport Commission.

Majerle is the only



Sheldon Majerle



Joe Morin



Joshua Zika

current council member with any long-time knowledge of the council's history, and this type of institutional history is an important addition to the council table. He and his wife Robin raised their four children in Tower.

Joe Morin is a newcomer to city government. He has been serving this year on the city's planning and zoning commission, and working on a subcommittee that is updating the city's zoning ordinances, a task that has taken a lot of time and detailed work.

Morin grew up in Tower and remained connected to the city through his family members. After completing graduate school at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, he moved back to Tower, purchasing the family home that he and his seven siblings grew up in.

"It is truly wonderful being back home where I plan to remain for the balance of my days," he said. "Like my grandfather and father before me, I am offering my time and talents with the promise of serving our community and citizens in a responsible, respectful, and objective manner...I have the interest, time and capacity to serve, so feel now is the time to step up and do so."

Morin's father and grandfather both served as mayors of Tower.

Morin would bring a business background to the council. He currently serves as Director of Operations and Safety for an industrial supply business in Virginia. He has two grown children.

Josh Zika has lived in Tower the last 19 years. He works in Duluth at the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District as a senior waste plant operator, and also serves in the 133rd Air-lift Wing in Minneapolis, Air National Guard, in the Civil Engineering

Squadron. He intends to retire from the Air National Guard in February, after 20 years of serving one weekend a month. He also served four years on active duty with the Navy.

While Zika's background is in wastewater maintenance and government procurement, he also has a strong interest in public administration, and recently completed his Master's Degree in Public Administration, with an emphasis in public works and sustainability, from Norwich University, a private military university in Vermont.

Zika has three children, daughter Ashlyn who is married and lives on the Iron Range, and teenagers Andrew, 18, and Hayley, 15.

Zika is working in Duluth but said he would be allowed to schedule time off for meetings. He works three 12-hour shifts a week, staying overnight in Duluth as needed, and then is home in Tower the rest of the week.

Zika said he is looking forward to serving his community, after retiring from the military and finishing up his MBA.

"I thought this would be a good way to put my MBA to use," he said, noting his wastewater background would be a great fit for the city, which is looking at major improvements at both its water filtration plant and sewage ponds.

"We want to find solutions for the water quality issues," he said.

State of the city

Asked if the city is moving in the right direction, the three candidates had a lot to say.

Morin said he has been talking with local residents and said opinions are mixed.

"Responses are all over the board, frankly," he said, "with a common and concernable feeling, however, that things seem almost irrevocably

contentious or divisive in Tower."

Morin said he feels that efforts are being made towards improving the city's outlook. His goal would be to have the newly-elected council members, in collaboration with the mayor, take time to "thoroughly understand, evaluate and prioritize future efforts related to citizen engagement and involvement, community healing, transparency of city affairs, communications, financials, infrastructure, economic development approaches, and so forth."

Morin said his top priority would be to more completely understand community concerns, and then work with the team to establish priorities that will have the maximum benefit for the community and citizens.

Zika said he "sees some promising things on the horizon" and didn't think the city has gone backwards or forwards. "The number one thing is to get the financials figured out and move forward," he said.

Zika said he gets conflicting reports reading both local newspapers.

"Not sure what is up and what is down," he said. "I want to get firsthand knowledge." He said he has more questions than answers on whether or not the city has made progress over the past year.

Zika's top priority, if elected, would be to work on infrastructure. He noted the city's sewage capacity was a limit on future growth. "We have a pretty passive system right now," he said, "not high technology."

Majerle said he feels the city is moving forward. A top priority on his list is finishing the new airport maintenance building, a \$506,000 project which is being totally financed through grant dollars, and to work with TEDA on securing

funding for active senior housing on Main Street, and to get the harbor project moving forward.

Budget and economic development

Majerle, as a current council member, is the most informed on the city budget. He said the council is taking a look at the budget piece by piece and feels that everything needs to be "on the table." The council has identified smaller items where cuts need to be made and will be looking seriously at the economics of the ambulance department's paid-on-call system.

Majerle said increased housing opportunities, such as building more Habitat for Humanity houses or new senior housing, are key to the city's future.

"It's the simple things," he said. "Think small and then get bigger. The more people we have living in the town, then they shop locally, and participate in our community."

Zika said he would need to have a more transparent view of how the city's budget works. "We have all these pockets of money and they are unrestricted," he said. "It was a bit of a shell game in the past." Zika said the council needs to figure it out and move forward.

Zika said the pandemic can be a plus for the area's economy. "A lot of people are moving away from metropolitan areas." He noted that his daughter and her husband moved back to the Iron Range, because they can work remotely.

"We can attract more families," he said, "not just retirees."

Morin said it seems the current council has been taking the budget seriously this year, which he says is a good sign. "Financial management and stability are obviously critical," he said, noting he would have to wait until he has a more complete and accurate understanding of the city's financial affairs something he would pursue right away if elected.

or morning of, but walk-ins are always welcome. Seniors age 60 and older who have registered for the program and their partners qualify for special pricing of \$4.50 per meal, but all ages are welcome at the regular rate of \$6.25. There are no income guidelines.

Call the school at 218-300-1447 for reservations, or call AEOA at 1-800-662-5711 ext. 7323 for the one-time registration process.


Week of Oct. 12
Monday: Grilled cheese, tomato soup
Tuesday: Tater tot hot dish, dinner roll
Wednesday: Italian meatball sub sandwich, corn
Thursday: No school, no lunch served
Friday: No school, no lunch served

AEOA Senior Dining; carry-out only

TOWER- Vermilion Country School and AEOA sponsor a senior dining site at the charter school in Tower.

Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, meals will be available for carry-out only between 12:15 and 12:30 p.m. Diners need to wear a mask and sanitize their hands once they enter the building to pick up their meal.

New this year, senior diners will need to have an account at the school. To set up an online account, stop in at the school office. Jolene Herberg will set up your account, and then diners will make payments in the school office, not to Cindy Pettinelli in the kitchen. Reservations are appreciated the day before,



the TIMBERJAY

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

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SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BETTER WASTE SOLUTIONS

Northwoods Transfer Station 9384 Hwy 21 N., Ely/Babbitt Winter Hours Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8am-3pm Tue: 9:30am-3pm Wed: 11am-5pm	Cook Transfer Station 2134 S. Beatty Rd., Cook Hours Mon: 10am-6pm Tues thru Sat: 9am-3:30pm
County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77, Greenwood Twp Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 8am-5pm
Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	Aurora Transfer Station 5910 Hwy 135 N., Aurora Hours Mon, Thurs, Fri: 8am-4pm Tue, Wed: 10am-4pm Sat: 8am-noon
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

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



Libraries

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

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

Support groups

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous
OPEN AA - 7:30
p.m. Wednesdays and
Saturdays, in-person,
First Lutheran Church,
915 E. Camp St., Ely.
ELY WOMEN'S OPEN
AA - Every Monday
at noon at Ledgerock
Community 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.
ELY FOOD SHELF -
Third Wednesday each
month, 15 W. Conan St.
ADULT BASIC
EDUCATION GED
- Study materials and
pre-test available. Call
218-365-3359,
827-3232, or
1-800-662-5711.

In Brief

Ely student graduates
BEMIDJI — Ely student Jacob Cusick earned a bachelor of applied science degree from Bemidji State University in Bemidji at the conclusion of the Spring 2020 semester. Enrolling around 5,000 students, Bemidji State offers 70 undergraduate areas of study and eight graduate degrees encompassing arts, sciences and select pre-professional programs.

Play Bingo at Senior Center
ELY — The Ely Senior Center, 27 S. First Ave., hosts bingo every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m. The public is invited.

Breathing Out

by Cecilia Rolando © 2020



three months til christmas time to finish the harvest gathering the gifts

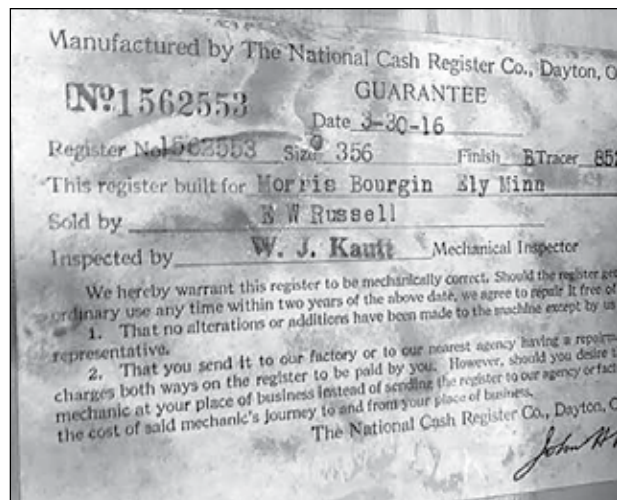
JUNIOR HIGH CROSS COUNTRY



A pack of Ely Timberwolves on the middle school cross country team paced the runners at the Ely Golf Course last Friday afterNoon during a triangular meet against Virginia and Mt. Iron-Buhl. See today's sports section for varsity team results. photo by K. Vandervort

ELY-WINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cash register comes back home to Ely



Margaret Sweet, left, director of the Ely-Winton Historical Museum, accepts the donation of a vintage cash register from Christian and Lara Colberg. The machine was used in a local clothing store dating back to 1916. The original bill of sale was glued to the bottom of the cash drawer. submitted photo

ELY - After 104 years Morris Bourgin's cash register has come back to Ely. Bourgin, owner of a clothing store on Sheridan Street, purchased a cash register from the National Cash Register Co, Dayton, Ohio, on March 30, 1916, according to the Ely-Winton Historical Society. The ornate and extremely heavy piece of equipment was a fixture in his store for an untold number of years and may have been moved to Virginia when the family relocated there and continued in the men's clothing

business, said EWHS Director Margaret Sweet. "Morris, who came to the United States from Russia in 1908, was fleeing the pogroms, oppression, and the requirement of joining the Russian army," she said. "He left behind his wife and son, and five years later he was able to send tickets for them to join him in Ely." When he arrived in Ely he had four dollars in his pocket and the only usable trade he possessed was that of a tailor. He opened a store, and he also peddled his clothing door-to-door. Two more sons were born to Morris, both in Ely, according to Sweet. "The cash register came home through the efforts of a Las Vegas auctioneer, Christian Colberg, whose wife was visiting family in Minnesota and found the cash register in an antique store in St. Charles," she said. "In looking it over it was discovered that the original bill of sale was still glued to the bottom of the cash drawer." According to Colberg, every cash register sold by the National Cash Register Co. had such a label attached to it. "Amazingly enough, the label for Bourgin's cash register was still in place and is in remarkably good condition," Sweet said. Colberg and his wife Lara delivered the cash register to the Ely-Winton Historical Society last month. "We will soon have it on display in the museum in the same case that houses artifacts belonging to Simon Bourgin, Morris's youngest son, a well-known journalist," she added.

the TIMBERJAY

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Embarrass Canister Site 7530 Koski Rd., Embarrass Hours Sat: 12:30-4:30pm Thu: 10am-5pm	Soudan Canister Site 5160 Hwy 169, Soudan Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun: 8am-5pm
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 5345 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Tues and Sat: 8am-1pm	Regional Landfill 5341 Regional Landfill Rd, Virginia Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-4:30pm Sat: 8am-3:30pm

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Concessions area open at State Theater

ELY — The new concessions area is now open at Ely's Historic State Theater. And with the new service come some changes. Theater manager Peter Schamber said that because of public health concerns over the continuing coronavirus pandemic, and theater customer traffic must continue to move in a single direction. "Previously, patrons entered through the main doors beneath the marquee and exited through the back into the alley," he said. With the new concessions, patrons now enter at the corner door on Fourth Avenue and Sheridan Street. "This will take you directly into the new concessions area. And at the end of the film, patrons exit through the main doors, so more dark alleys," he said. Previously, it was possible to purchase concessions with your online tickets. "This was never really supported by our sales system," Schamber said, "and now that the number of items has expanded, our shoe-horned approach no longer works. Our apologies for any confusion this may cause." Ely's Historic State Theater now has an expansive selection of items including fountain drinks (large and small), popcorn (large and small), candy, beer, (both domestic and craft varieties), hard cider on tap, and unique concessions combinations. "Many thanks to Denis Miller for the countless volunteer hours," Schamber added. "Thank you as well to Tanner Ott for all of the foundational work in preparing the building for our use, and to the construction workers."



Standing in a freshly excavated spot for a future concrete picnic table installation, Friends of the Parks representatives accept a \$280 donation from BIC Realty. Pictured are, from left, Steve Kajala, Sue Thomas, Julie Fogelberg, BIC Realty co-owners Julia Maki and Taryn Sandberg, Jeannie Taylor, and Diane Brunner. Maki and Sandberg decided they would donate \$20 for each September sale to a charitable cause, and asked patrons to submit possible recipients through their Facebook page. Maki said they received a large number of entries, including national charities, but were happy when they randomly picked the winner that the money would go to Veterans Riverfront Park. D. Colburn photo

NWFA goes doodling along

COOK- If you have an inner doodler just waiting to be unleashed, then you'll want to be on the lookout for Northwoods Friends of the Arts' latest projects designed to tap your curiosity and creativity. NWFA is sending creative opportunities into the community with its new "Curious and Creative Art Adventures" initiative. NWFA's goal is to find ways to continue its mission by offering a program of art adventures readily available in the community in restaurants, businesses, and newspapers.

series of seasonal imaginative placements which along with crayons can be found in local restaurants. Look for NWFA placemats at Montana Cafe, The Britt Lounge, The Crescent, The Dam, The Landing, The Vermilion Club and Zup's Grocery. The "Fall" placemat was designed by Cecilia Rolando. People are encouraged to share their doodles with others by snapping a photo of their creations and emailing them to nwfamn.org@gmail.com with the subject "C&C Adventures." Photos will be displayed on NWFA's Facebook page and in the gallery. Submissions will be eli-

gible to win monthly raffles. NWFA will soon be rolling out two additional Curious and Creative Art Adventures, a series of creative newspaper activity sheets designed by artist Jim DeVries, and an art booklet put together by NWFA gallery manager Alberta Whitenack that will contain creative activities including drawing, writing, lessons, and fun craft plans. Keep track of the unveiling of new activities by following NWFA's Facebook page, by checking their website at nwfamn.org, or dropping by the gallery in Cook.



TOP: Cook Lions Club members display awards they were presented on Tuesday. Steve Kajala, left, received the Hearing Research Fellow award, Jody Refsdal, center, was named Lion of the Year, and Bob Ulseth received Melvin Jones Fellow award, the highest honor a local club can give. D. Colburn photo

BELOW: Cook Lions Club President Steve Kajala, right, welcomes new members Frank Strom, left, Denise Parson, center left, and David Colburn. G. Albertson photo

Lions host annual banquet

COOK- Cook Lions Club hosted Orr Lions Club members and district Lions officials for their annual awards banquet on Tuesday at

the Cook VFW. Lions 5M10 Vice District Governor Sue Winner came from Wisconsin to offer remarks and preside over the

induction of new members, presentations of annual club awards, and the official installation of Cook club officers.

Grizzlies football and volleyball are back

by JOHN VUKMANICH
North Woods Principal

FIELD TWP- With the Minnesota State High School League's reversing their original decision regarding the cancellation of football and volleyball, our fall sports are back, albeit with a slightly abbreviated schedule.

limited number of fans due to the fact that games are outside. Game attendance will be capped at 250 total, and that number will be limited to families of players, students, and school staff. The opposing team is allotted 100 tickets while the host

team gets 150. All tickets must be signed for prior to the game, and only families, students, and staff on the sign-up list will be allowed. KBFT Radio will be broadcasting home games at 89.9FM, and like volleyball, we hope to have a streaming plat-

form so that games can be shown on the internet. The North Woods Grizzlies open the volleyball season on the road Oct. 9 at South Ridge, and have their home opener on Oct.12 versus Mt. Iron-Buhl. Football opens on the road at Bra-

ham on Oct. 9 with their home opener on Oct.15 versus Deer River. As you may recall, due to a larger school enrollment, the Grizzlies now compete in 11-man football rather than 9-man. I would also like to point out that the North

Woods cross country team, which runs under South Ridge Panthers as a cooperative team, has had an incredible amount of success this season with several first-place and top-ten finishes. Congrats to the North Woods runners!



Hannah Kinsey slams down a kill shot during volleyball practice on Tuesday. D. Colburn photo

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Orr Canister Site 4038 Hwy 53 Winter Hours Tue, Thu: 9am-noon Sat: 8am-noon	Portage Canister Site 6992 Crane Lake Rd. Winter Hours Tue, Sat: 1pm-4:30pm	County 77 Canister Site 2038 County Rd. 77 Winter Hours Thurs, Sun: noon-5pm
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Household Hazardous Waste Facilities 5345 Regional Landfill Rd., Virginia Tue, Sat: 8am-1pm		3994 Landfill Rd, Hibbing Sat: 8am-1pm

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Letters from Readers

Let them share the costs, as well

A small group of Northern Minnesota mayors have joined Ely's city council in supporting Antofagasta's ("Twin Metals") efforts to construct a copper refinery in the headwaters of the BWCA. They do so in the face of widespread local and national opposition. They claim that jobs are at stake. Opponents point out that no such "mining" effort has ever operated and closed without causing permanent damage to its environment. Opponents also point out that the costs of managing and correcting that damage is somehow, but always, conveyed and transferred to state and local governments. That is, the taxpayers. That is, you and me. Finally, these detractors note that subsequent monitoring and cleanup costs are typically, exponentially greater than any potential economic benefit that might be had. Countless examples are provided to prove that millions of dollars in private profit will be offset by the many billions required to clean up the subsequent mess.

Can this gap be closed, resolved? Sure. We need to start by reducing the problem to its simplest term: motive. Mine owners are typically represented by publicly-traded corporations whose stock value – and the salaries of its officers and chief stockholders – are dependent on a venture's profitability. The "motive" – that is, increasing profitability by any means possible – is thus established. To achieve this profitability, the actual mine owners will first say

and do whatever is necessary to gain their mining permits. But those permits are carefully crafted by "shell" companies with no legal connection to the real owners, aka the profit takers. The actual names of those profit takers are typically not even found or listed on the permits or mining plans. Then, when the mines close and the contamination gets into full swing, responsible parties are not liable (and are often nowhere to be found). It seems to be a standard practice in the mining industry, with hundreds of examples across the U.S.

The mayors – and our representatives and senators – can fix this. They simply need to qualify their support of the mine's owners. Join the rest of us in insisting that the true NAMES of those owners, officers and principal stockholders be published front and center on the first page of every mining plan and permit. Demand pre-existing liens on the mine owners' present wealth, their current assets, and their future income. The rule should be simple, hard and fast, and should extend to any elected representative guilty of helping the profit takers escape responsibility for crimes that really are theirs alone.

Together, let's make it clear to the profit-takers – both private and public – that it won't just be the land and water and beauty that will be ruined when things go south. It will be them as well. These are, after all, real people. But so are we. And we're tired of assuming the risk and costs of their actions.

Duane Behrens
Ely

We all want the best for Ely's students

I'm writing today to take a minute to point out just how fortunate we are to live in Ely. Recently, I threw my hat in the ring for the upcoming school board election. Within hours of doing so, I was interviewed for a story in the Ely Timberjay. Shortly thereafter, I was contacted by Linda Sutton on behalf of the Ely Chapter of the American Association of University Women. Linda informed me that along with the Ely Rotary Club, there was to be a candidate forum, so that the four candidates could share their ideas and opinions in order to help the local voters make an informed decision when they cast their ballots. Following the forum, the Ely Echo ran a story covering this virtual event.

It's times like these when the benefits of living in a small town really shine. Our community cares enough about its citizens to make sure they have the opportunity to know who's who when it comes to the people chosen to set policy for something as important as our school. I was pleased by the fair and thorough reporting of both newspapers on the candidates and the forum. I was also happy to see how kind and respectful everyone treated each other during the candidate forum. There was no mud slinging or name calling. We all treated each other with respect, not only because we all are aware that we share the same common goal of providing the best educa-

tion and school experience to our students that we're able to offer, but also because in a small town like ours, we know that we'll run into each other getting coffee before work, or doing business at the bank, or in completing any number of other day to day tasks. We all live in Ely because we love Ely. All four of us have children who go to school in Ely. We're in this together.

I chose to run for the school board because I believe in the power of education to move mountains. As a former teacher, I know firsthand what it's like to be working on the frontlines and what support teachers and students continually say they need and want to succeed. If I get the opportunity to serve my community on the school board, I plan to work hard to help our school navigate this current health crisis and find its way to the other side with brighter days in mind.

As I mentioned in the candidate forum, I want to be part of creating opportunity for students to go into their futures with real skills rather than crushing debt. Opportunities about these days for students to take concurrent enrollment coursework that enables them to enter a traditional four-year college with nearly two years (or more) of credits under their belt free of charge. The key to taking advantage of these opportunities is to not only make students aware of them but also to equip our local teachers to teach these courses right here in Ely. This investment in our teachers and our school provides options for our students to achieve success without having to leave town or go fully online.

I believe that this investment in our students and teachers now will pay dividends to our community in the future. In addition, there is currently a high demand for people skilled in the trades, like plumbing, welding, electricians and automotive technicians just to name a few. If elected to the school board, it is my hope to help direct policy that will enable students to get vocational training and experience to go into these well-paid fields in the trades. It is my sincere belief that this investment in our students success will encourage and enable many to choose to stay in Ely to work, build a life and raise a family.

We're fortunate here in Ely that we're a community that comes together and stands behind our young people. We're blessed to live in a place where learning is valued and extends well beyond graduation day. We're lucky that we live in a community where people care enough to serve. Whenever we cast our ballot (on election day or before) there is no wrong choice in choosing who should fill the open seats on the Ely School Board. All of the candidates running have strengths, experience and knowledge that will benefit our students, and I'm grateful for that.

Rachel Brophy
Ely

ENGAGED CITIZEN

How to develop independent critical thinking

by **KEITH STEVA**
Timberjay Contributor

The 2020 election year is surely challenging when it comes to sorting out facts from fiction, hyperbole, lies, misinformation and disinformation. There is a lot to sort through.

To sort it out, exercising independent critical thinking skills can help. Anyone can develop these skills. You may use them sometimes and not recognize that you are doing so. Many jobs require the application of critical thinking as they solve problems. Jobs like cook, dog groomer, logger, business owner, plumber, electrician, accountant, truck driver, miner,

waiter, carpenter and more. This is just a sample of jobs. The point is, in every job and much of what we do we unconsciously apply critical thinking. We ask what, if, and why questions. We ask questions of ourselves and others that help us to solve everyday job issues and more. In certain jobs we are pushed into accepting someone else's position depending upon management styles. And other times we are encouraged to contribute to a group effort.

In elections, we can exercise our independence as an individual and make our voting choices without being pushed into it.

Sometimes, though, we get caught up in herd mentality or



mob thinking where critical thinking is set aside and shunned if someone questions something. If we aren't aware of the herd mentality it may lead to a cult. We want so much to be part of the group that we no longer think as an independent person. We want social acceptance. We simply accept whatever we hear as fact. We question nothing. We don't raise another idea, viewpoint, perspective or question because we fear being disliked or bullied. Critical thinking is easy.

Begin with thinking about what you don't know that you don't know. What does that mean? Like when you were an inexperienced kid engaging your curiosity and inquisitiveness to know things you may not know or for sure know you don't know.

Curiosity and thinking outside the mainstream are what historically has led to new inventions, medical advancements, farming advancements, NASA exploring the universe, and even better understanding of mental health through study of the brain. Curiosity in the 1900's was the source of overall major human advancement into the modern world.

Independent and critical

thinking means questioning everything. Ask your own questions and seek answers from as many sources as you can – not just from the herd. Reach beyond what you already use as sources.

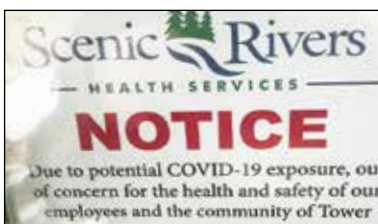
Prepare yourself to be a well-informed voter by being curious enough to ponder if you are using herd mentality to determine what information to consider and whom to vote for. Or if you are seeking as many sources as you can, to help you gain understanding of multiple perspectives, to think critically and make a well-informed independent decision about whom to support for President in the 2020 election.

Briefly

Scenic Rivers-Tower temporarily closed due to COVID-19 exposure

TOWER- The Scenic Rivers Medical and Dental Clinic in Tower has canceled appointments and closed to the public, including two scheduled flu shot clinics, due to COVID-19 exposure. The clinic was calling patients to cancel appointments as of Tuesday, Oct. 6. The clinic is being closed out of concern for the health and safety of its employees as well as the community at large, according to a sign posted on the door on Wednesday.

According to a press



release issued Wednesday, the decision was based on Minnesota Department of Health recommendations and best practices to protect patients, employees, and the community.

Patients are still being seen in Cook, and telehealth visits are still being offered by Tower provid-

ers. Patients are asked to call the Cook clinic with any questions at 218-666-5941 for medical or 218-666-5958 for dental.

The Tower clinic is expected to reopen on Monday, Oct. 19 after an extensive cleaning.

Sulu's Espresso Café in Tower was also temporarily closed due to possible COVID-19 exposure, but plans to reopen on Oct. 8.

Greenwood renews insurance policy

by **STEPHANIE UKKOLA**
Staff Writer

GREENWOOD TWP- The Greenwood Town Board, in a very short meeting Tuesday afternoon, accepted the renewal of an insurance policy from Validus Specialty

for \$11,639 in a 5-0 vote. The insurance premium had increased significantly from \$9,814 last year and \$8,468 the year before that.

Changes in the policy included the addition of Public Entity Liability, Insuring Agreement B of \$5,000 and an additional

Public Entity Liability Amendatory Endorsement of \$500,000.

Chairman Mike Ralston recommend accepting the policy out of the need to do so, after being dropped from the public carrier MATIT several years ago.



COVID-19 Testing Available

Curbside COVID-19 testing available Mon-Fri at our Cook and Tower Clinics. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 through someone with a known positive test result, please call to schedule a testing appointment.

Testing will not be completed without an appointment.

Scenic Rivers will not bill patients for testing.

Insurance coverage will be processed when available.

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ELY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ISD 696 braces for possible learning model modifications

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

Regional coronavirus cases expected to trend upward

ELY - For a second consecutive week, there were no reported cases of the coronavirus in the ISD 696 community. As a mix of hybrid and in-person learning scenarios continue, school administrators are planning for abrupt changes, if necessary.

“There are zero COVID-19 positive tests this week in Ely Public Schools, Superintendent Erik Erie said late Monday in a Facebook post. “Last week there were zero positive test cases.”

The district reported four COVID-19 cases two weeks ago.

Erie said Tuesday that district officials are getting a sense from health professionals in St. Louis County that positive coronavirus case data trends “will continue upward” in the coming weeks.

A hybrid model of education for students in grades 6-12 is in place, and Washington School elementary students continue to go to school each day. District officials indicated at a Safe Schools Advisory Council meeting late last week that they could consider changes to the learning models.

Erie said a transition to a hybrid learning model in the elementary school would not have a drastic effect on students and staff.

“We are really already operating in a kind of hybrid model in the elementary building in the fact that we are at a 50-percent capacity in the building,” he said.

The district has hired more teachers and paraprofessionals, reconfigured classrooms to remove some supplemental fur-

niture and materials to provide for a more traditional desk arrangement that promotes social distancing, and continues to keep elementary students in the Washington building for the entire school day rather than migrating them back and forth from the Memorial building.

K-5 Principal Anne Oelke emailed pre-emptive advice to elementary parents last week.

“In the event that the Washington Elementary needs to go into the Distance Learning Model, I strongly encourage families to start planning about what that may look like for your family and how to prepare for child care,” she wrote.

At a recent school board study session, Oelke spoke of continuing challenges in her building

related to keeping young children six feet apart.

“There is a lot of teaching and re-teaching to our younger kids on what six feet (social distancing) really looks like. The same with face masks. We have to reteach (the importance) of face masks a lot,” she said.

Megan Anderson, 6-12 principal, said since her building moved to the hybrid learning model two weeks ago, “a ton” of learning devices were distributed to students. As many as 130 learning devices (mostly iPads) have been distributed.

“Overall, students have been able to log in. We still have some poor Internet connectivity, especially on the outskirts of town where it gets a bit dicey. We are providing hot spots where families

need them,” she said.

In the hybrid model, students attend classes two days per week and participate in distance learning for the other three days. In the Memorial building, students in grades 6-12 are divided into two groups, with one group attending Mondays and Tuesdays, another on Thursdays and Fridays, with all students participating in distance learning on Wednesdays.

“We are trying to hold kids accountable,” Anderson said. “We are doing way better than the distance learning we did last spring. Now, the kids are able to be live with their teachers and follow along during lectures and ask questions as the teachers are in their classroom with half of the class.”

The Greater St. Louis County coronavirus data

point used by the Ely school district to determine learning models, biweekly cases per 10,000 jumped last week from 11.37 to 14.74. If that number reaches 20, the district’s “restart blueprint” calls for all students to switch to the hybrid learning model. All COVID-19 data reporting changes are discussed at the weekly advisor council meetings, held Thursdays at 3 p.m. Any learning model change recommendations are made by district administrators.

COVID-19 cases are growing among students and staff at most Minnesota schools. According to the latest numbers released late last week, more than 860 students and staff associated with school settings have contracted the virus since early August. But state health officials say transmission of the virus within those schools seems to remain relatively low.

LEARN...Continued from page 1

education are happening simultaneously.

Instead of teachers having one class with both in-person and distance learners, teachers and students have been reassigned so that elementary classes are now either all in-person students or all distance learners.

The change was sparked by a Sept. 15 Zoom meeting between district officials and Education Minnesota Local 1046, the union representing teachers. More than 20 people, most of them concerned teachers, logged in for a

frank discussion about how teachers were being stretched beyond their limits trying to simultaneously address all the different needs of in-person and distance students.

“There are extra hours involved with prepping for distance learning. There’s nothing right now that is helping teachers prep for those lessons,” said Local 1046 President Tim Herring at the meeting. “There are a whole bunch of other aspects that are coming into this. And teachers are buried right now. We are flat out buried.

I’ve heard a teacher staying up ‘til midnight planning lessons for the next day, and the problem is they’re not great lessons. We’re just making it through.”

Several other teachers spoke about their frustrations, with some saying they felt that they weren’t meeting the needs of all students by having some in-class and others logging in from home during class or watching uploaded videos of class sessions at other times. They related problems with technology that further complicated the process.

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson and board members Dan Manick, Chris Koivisto and Christine Taylor received the complaints, and at the end of the meeting Engebritson committed to start working on the issues the next day.

District schools were not in session on Monday as staff prepared for the shifts, which began Tuesday. One example of change is at North Woods School, where in-person Kindergarteners will all be taught by Beth Wilenius, while Jeani Swenson will now be the teacher for Kindergarteners in distance learning from North Woods, Cherry, and Northeast Range.

At Tower-Soudan Elementary, Kristine Sorgenfrei will teach in-person Kindergarteners in the morning and teach distance learning in the afternoon, while other teachers continue to work with the in-person students.

While varying arrangements characterize the changes in Kindergarten through second grade, distance learners from all five district schools have been combined in single online classes for third through sixth grades, with two teachers from Cherry, one from North Woods, and one from Northeast Range shifting over to full-time distance learning instruction.

Engebritson said that

the new arrangements should help teachers to better meet the needs of students, but also acknowledged that changing teachers and shifting students after the school year has started isn’t easy.

“For the most part, teachers are appreciative of the new plan so they can focus on one type of learner - in person or distance learner,” Engebritson said. “Giving up their students to someone else is difficult, but they understand that in order to meet the needs of all students, we needed to make a change.”

The district has also made a change to the schedule for junior and senior high students. Those who have been attending in-person classes will not go to class on Wednesdays, giving teachers time to focus on the distance learning aspects of their jobs. Engebritson said class configurations and student populations at those levels didn’t allow for the same kind of juggling as with younger grades.

Staying the course

Meanwhile, ISD 2142 remains committed to the in-person learning model for now, even though the biweekly case rates for COVID-19 shot up this past week to 14.74 in St. Louis County. It’s the fourth consecutive week the rate for greater St. Louis County, the area outside of Duluth, has been over the benchmark of ten for considering a

switch to a hybrid learning model. Schools in Ely and Hibbing have already made changes as a result.

But while the benchmark was a key indicator for schools to consider what model they would adopt to start the year, providing continuity for families and staff has become important. To that end, districts now work with representatives from the state departments of health and education to analyze local data and trends to determine if a change is merited.

“The Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education want us to keep kids in school as long as possible,” Engebritson said. “While the numbers may be going up, we need to look at if those numbers are affecting what is happening within our school walls. Every week, I review the data with our Director of Health Services and our Public Health Nurse for northern St. Louis County. I look at if we can still function as a school - do we have enough adults to run our programs, to drive our buses, to make our meals? If we are still able to function and we are staying healthy, then we stay the course.”

With district schools remaining COVID-free so far and much of the recent case increase in the area attributable to long-term care facilities, there’s hasn’t been sufficient increased threat to warrant changes in ISD 2142 for now.

“We want kids to be in school, and under the current plan parents have a choice to either send their children or keep them home,” Engebritson said. “Once we become more restrictive, parents lose that option. Once kids have to be at home more, it affects parents who work. We are no longer in a ‘Stay-At-Home’ order where everyone is at home. If we are under a plan where kids are at home, we have to provide childcare for elementary-age children. If we can keep kids in school, then parents can work and we don’t have to provide childcare. As long as we can still run our schools and keep kids and staff healthy within the schools, we will continue to stay the course.”

SAFETY FIRST THIS HUNTING SEASON

Rob Ecklund is an avid hunter, outdoorsman & supports the right to bear arms. He also supports the industries that are unique to Northern Minnesota such as forest products, mining & outdoor recreation.

As hunting season approaches, Rob wishes you safety and good luck!

ROB ECKLUND

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MRI...Continued from page 1

process, we are connecting with a variety of resources that may help us gain some insight on this condition, including some research on Degenerative Myelopathy studies at the University of Missouri and the University of Florida. While we don't have a definitive diagnosis, we need to understand all our options."

The MRI came about thanks to an initial phone call from Dr. Kristine Woerheide, of the Ely Veterinary Clinic, followed by hours of logistical details on how to keep a wolf safely sedated for the duration of the procedure, according to Schmidt.

"She made the call to the hospital and was able to coax them into seeing what a benefit this

could be for all the parties involved," said Krista Harrington, manager at the Ely Interpretive Center. "The closest animal MRI is in the Twin Cities, so we could not have done it without her and the Ely hospital."

The hospital said it is proud of its contribution.

"While certainly an unusual request for a different kind of patient, we were excited, challenged and blessed by the opportunity to help with Boltz's diagnosis and eventual care plan," said EBCH's Diagnostic Imaging Team Leader Victor Aime.

Dr. Woerheide figured she had nothing to lose in asking the hospital

"It didn't hurt to ask," she said. "We thought they were probably going to

say, 'No, we don't want a wolf in our very expensive machine,' but Victor was open to helping out. I met with him in person and we talked it all through. We just made a plan and made it happen."

Staff at the International Wolf Center sedated Boltz during the day and transported him to the hospital in a crate. Dr. Woerheide was in the back of the truck monitoring Boltz on the short drive to the hospital. When they all arrived, he was loaded onto a lift and taken into the MRI trailer.

The entire procedure took about 90 minutes. During the MRI, hospital staff carefully studied what was showing up on their monitors. It's safe to say that these results looked

much different from what they normally see.

"The staff was comparing the anatomy of wolves to people and asking a lot of questions," Harrington said. "They were asking things like 'How many lumbar vertebrae do wolves have? What were the presenting symptoms?' They explained a lot of what we were seeing on the scans as they happened - where the spinal cord was, the various parts of the brain, the sagittal crest, the jaw and other skull and spine features."

Once hospital staff members were finished with the MRI, the images were copied onto a computer disc. Those images were emailed to the University of Minnesota Neurology



Lori Schmidt, left, International Wolf Center curator, and IWC manager, monitor the MRI procedure for ambassador wolf Boltz, performed last month at the Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital. photo courtesy of Jodi Martin, EBCH

Department, which conferred with Dr. Woerheide on the results.

"Nothing conclusive has been found yet, so additional tests are being done to get a diagnosis for

Boltz," she said.

Wolf care staff are working to stabilize Boltz and improve his immune system through some nutritional supplements before the next exam.

TOWER...Continued from page 1

on-call system in 2018.

The ambulance service is currently working on a new business plan, which will help the service determine if the current paid on-call system is financially viable. Ranua said they will have more complete financial data by the end of the year. At this point, she said, the city has been converting ambulance receipts from the city's general fund into a stand-alone account, but some payments are still coming into the old city account and then need to be transferred into the new account. These electronic payments come in coded, according to Ranua, so it can take time to determine what a payment is for.

Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen told members of the commission that the service has had a relatively busy summer, after seeing a significant drop in calls in March and April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The service has also stopped doing most transfers, except in emergency cases. Suihkonen said the service did five transfers this past quarter, only as far as Duluth. Three transfers involved local patients and another was for a child who needed emergency treatment. Two of the transfers were done using the "loaner" ambulance the service was using "free of charge" because the delivery of the new ambulance had been delayed. The service did a total of 966 transfer miles in the quarter.

The service has responded to 323 calls through the end of September, though 99 of them ended up requiring no transport.

This year, the service has seen a high number of calls for patients in critical condition, including four calls for patients having real-time heart attacks.

"We have called for air medical transfers seven times so far this year," she said. "We are also seeing a lot of strokes, 15 so far."

Suihkonen said the service has sometimes called on mutual aid from other ambulance services that can offer a higher level of care for a critical patient. This decision is made by the personnel on the scene. The Tower Ambulance has also been called on to respond on a mutual aid basis for other neighboring services, she said.

The service has added seven new emergency responders, which means they do not have to rely on any single employee to work more than 40 hours

per week. She said all the new hires understand the city may be changing the paid on-call system. Suihkonen told the commission members that the service was now renting a different house in Tower for the on-call staff, and that it was working well at this point.

Members had a chance to see the new ambulance, which had been delivered last week and had just been put into service.

As commission members reviewed the financials, Eagles Nest Fire Chief Larry McCray noted the city had not gotten approval from the commission for the final payment for the ambulance.

"I don't see a motion and approval by this committee to withdraw funds," he said. "That was a big point in the contract."

Ranua said his concern was valid, and noted the Tower City Council, which had initially approved purchase of the ambulance almost two years ago, had approved the payment.

"This was kind of a holdover period," she said. "Going forward you will approve and sign off on these checks."

The commission discussed working on a subsidy contract for 2021 and decided to go with another one-year agreement, so the group could get a better handle on how the ambulance transfer miles should be accounted for. This year's contract has the city reimbursing the ambulance replacement fund at \$1.66 per mile, an amount based on 911 emergency call mileage from the previous year. With it looking like these numbers will be similar to last year, it was expected the rate will remain much the same.

Suihkonen told the commission they have been writing grants for upgraded equipment, and also looking into some possible grants to help fund the purchase of a second new ambulance, something the service will need within a few years.

Greenwood Township representative Carmen DeLuca reminded the city that the Greenwood Township attorney was asking for language to be inserted into the new contract that would prohibit the city from transferring any ambulance profits into other city funds.

"Thousands were transferred out," said audience member Lee Peterson. "That's a historical fact."

Others noted that there were still questions on the



Tower Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen and the organization's new ambulance. photo by J. Summit

issue.

"Nobody knows the true amount," said Breitung representative Chuck Tekautz.

Tower Council member Dave Setterberg said he has been reviewing past city audits, trying to tease out what happened with transfers made between funds, but still didn't have answers.

Other noted the commission just needed a clean

start moving forward. "Ambulance revenue should stay with the ambulance," said Vermilion Lake Township representative Phil Anderson. "Years ago, that wasn't the case...the money is gone, it's gone."

The ambulance commission will hold their next regular meeting on Jan. 4, 2021.

The new Tower ambulance

In no particular order, here are the top ten things to know about the city's new ambulance, from Tower Ambulance Supervisor Dena Suihkonen. The new ambulance was put into service this week and has already made a number of runs.

1. The suspension is amazing. Not only does it ride smoothly down the road, it drops down to help with the loading and unloading of the cot.
2. The power load cot! It is amazing to not have to lift the weight of the patients when you are loading and unloading them from the cot.
3. The amount of room in the back of the ambulance. The setup makes it feel larger even though the chassis size is the exact same.
4. There are tons of lights, and the different lighting banks allow for many different configurations.
5. I like the simple design of the paint/graphics.
6. The siren Rumbler system senses the primary siren tone signal and reduces the signal's frequency by 75-percent. It then amplifies the sound through a pair of high output woofers allowing for it to be heard by those unable to hear the higher pitched siren.
7. The ease of cleaning, allowing us to be able to easily wipe down and disinfect surfaces, is very important during the pandemic especially.
8. The 360-degree camera is a great option for maneuvering in the small ambulance bays.
9. The compartments inside the box make it easy to restock supplies.
10. The unit has hands-free capabilities including navigation.

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ELECTION 2020

Ely school board candidates discuss the issues

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – Candidates for the Ely School Board recently gathered virtually via Zoom for a voter forum sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ely Branch and the Ely Rotary Club.

The audience could tune in on local public access channels and Facebook. The recorded event is also available for viewing on YouTube-Ely School Board Candidate Forum.

Candidates for the Ely School Board election include one incumbent, Tom Omerza, and three newcomers, Darren Visser, Rachel Brophy and Hollee Coombe. The top three vote-getters will join the six-member board for four-year terms.

Candidates made opening and closing statements and were asked a series of questions on school board responsibilities, curriculum, school budget and spending, mental health needs in the schools, teacher retention, STEM, traditional learning, and other topics.

Numerous technical glitches and spotty internet service in the Ely area often disrupted responses from the candidates during the 90-minute program that featured very few fireworks and little disagreement.

School board hopefuls found plenty of common ground as they parroted consistent support for district educators and pushed for providing more educational opportunities for Ely students.

Brophy said she believes school board members are responsible for setting policy as far as curriculum goes.

“I would trust our faculty to determine what they need for curriculum. They are on the front lines and should be determining what has worked in the past and what will work in the future,” she said.

Coombe, Omerza and Visser all agreed that teachers and administration have the responsibility to determine what is taught in the classroom.

“It is not the job of the school board to micromanage in the classroom,” Coombe said. Both Omerza and Visser also gave similar responses.

Conversely, all four candidates later said they would support a school board policy that allows parents to allow their students to opt out of lessons they deem controversial like the science of climate change, political discussions, racial justice and sex education.

Visser said parents already can opt out of any lessons for their students.

“In what we are

seeing in our nation right now, it is working for us as a community for parents to have that choice. Some parents truly believe those issues should be taught at home and I respect that,” he said.

Brophy said she feels that while those topics are valuable for students to be learning, “as a parent, I respect a parent’s choice to decide what to teach their children and sometimes that isn’t exactly what is being offered at our school.”

Coombe stressed that the family is the first source of education every student has.

“I think it is important that the school continue to communicate with parents what is being taught, and for parents to talk with their children about what they are learning,” she said. “If needed, I would be in favor of opting for the children to learn another topic during that time.”

Omerza asserted that the school district does “a good job” and didn’t agree with any policy changes regarding controversial lessons.

“It seems to be going very well, otherwise the administrators and (school counselor) would be hearing about it,” he said. “Of course you want parents to have a say in what they do or do not want their student

exposed to.”

With the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the uncertainty of how students will be allowed to learn, whether it is at home or in school, candidates stressed the importance of continued access to mental health and counseling services in the district.

Brophy said she agrees that funding for mental health services in the school is worthwhile. “I wouldn’t necessarily say we need budget increases, rather an awareness. Addressing students’ needs at that level ensures that can go forward and be successful,” she said.

Coombe added, “Kids are going through a lot right now, whether it’s this COVID thing or the scariness in the news. I think it’s important to use the resources that we have to help students where needed.”

Omerza stressed the benefits of living in a small town.

“Our small-town teachers recognize the needs of the kids and spend enough time with them to recognize those needs,” he said.

Visser said, “Mental health is an important aspect of every school, and it is equally important for our school to reach out for all of the resources available to us. Just like

education and all the other activities, mental health is important and we need to provide the staff for that, too.”

The candidates agreed that one way to attract and retain quality teachers to the Ely school district was the community support of the recent \$10 million bonding referendum.

“I’m really excited with the new facility project we are starting now,” Omerza said. “We need to show prospective incoming families and teachers that might want to move here that we care about education in this town.”

Visser said, “Community involvement shows possible staff that they will be supported here. Our community values education here in Ely.”

Brophy agreed that the bond passage “sent a message loud and clear” that the Ely community supports the school.

Coombe added, “The referendum passing by a 65-percent margin was so wonderful for our school and really shows our community support for the school. That is an important piece to attracting new teachers.”

Brophy is employed at the Ely Chamber of Commerce and has lived in Ely for four years. She has two children, in fourth and sixth grades, and said

having children in school here was an important factor in her entering the race for school board.

Coombe, wife of the ISD 696 athletic director, is a 1995 graduate of Ely Memorial High School. She works for the Minnesota Department of Revenue and has three children in Ely schools, entering first, ninth and eleventh grades this fall.

Omerza, president of Fransden Bank, is seeking his second term on the school board. “I’m running again because I want to continue contributing to our community,” he said.

Former Ely teacher and coach Darren Visser retired from an elementary teaching position in 2019, after working in the school district for more than two decades. He also coached Ely’s high school football and girls basketball teams.

No forum is planned this year for the city of Ely races for mayor and city council as all candidates are running unopposed for re-election.

Absentee voting in the state of Minnesota is available through Monday, Nov. 2. Apply for a ballot at www.mnvotes.org. For more information, go to www.ely.mn.us. In-person voting on Election Day, Tuesday Nov. 3, takes place at the Ely Senior Center.

TEST...Continued from page 1

Manager Dana Kazel. Drive-up test recipients were also tested on a first-come-first served basis.

As many as two dozen public health nurses and educators were on hand to assist with registration

check-ins and nasal swab test administration.

Health officials on Tuesday confirmed another 954 cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota, part of a weeklong trend of daily counts near or

above 1,000. Tuesday’s numbers, though, stayed high despite relatively low testing levels, according to Minnesota Public Radio. The newest numbers come following five consecutive days when average

new cases topped 1,000. The trend line of active COVID-19 cases in Minnesota remains at a record high in the pandemic.

Four more deaths reported Tuesday raise

Minnesota’s toll to 2,087. Among those who’ve died, about 71 percent had been living in long-term care or assisted living facilities; nearly all had underlying health problems.

Hospitalization and

intensive care admissions are still elevated but are down from last week’s peak. On Monday, Minnesota Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said there were 367 people currently hospitalized with COVID-19.

COVID...Continued from page 1

pandemic than that voiced by the Trump administration.

“If you think things have been tough, so far, we’re just getting started,” he said. “Right now, only about 10 percent of Americans have actually been infected by this virus, and for us to really see the virus slowing down in its transmission, it’s going to take us to get to 50 to 70 percent of the population.”

And with all but four states reporting rising COVID-19 case rates, Osterholm noted that Minnesota is among the worst.

“Right now, the upper Midwest is the hottest place in the country,” Osterholm said. “Right now, Wisconsin is the worst state in the country, and North Dakota is right behind. Where do we sit? Right between the two of them.”

Given current trends, Osterholm said it’s likely the country will see a return of the large, widespread infection rates experienced across the country this past summer.

Osterholm said that the federal government’s messaging about the pandemic has fueled a large disconnect with a significant segment of the population.

“I’ve coined a new term in the last few weeks – pandemic anger,” he said. “We now have up to a third of our population that doesn’t believe this is real. They think

it’s a hoax. They think it’s part of the deep state, that, in fact, it’s an attempt to affect an election and they don’t realize the challenge.” That anger has hit too close for comfort for Osterholm.

“I’ve been in this business now for 45 years, and I’ve had more hate mail, more death threats in just the last several months than I’ve had in 45 years. It’s a totally different environment,” he said.

Osterholm, who said he has served under five presidents, said that the current hyper-partisan split over the coronavirus is a stark contrast with other public health crises with which he’s been involved.

“I can honestly say that while there were always partisan considerations, when we had a public health crisis, everyone came together, without exception, even going back to HIV and AIDS with Ronald Reagan,” Osterholm said. “[Public health crises] have always been considered an area of war in which partisan politics were left at the door, and we were able to bring the best of America, we were able to bring the best of our citizens, to bear on that particular problem. This is such a different situation. And until we have functional government, I don’t believe we will see a functional society respond to this in

an effective way that we desperately need to have happen.”

Slavitt agreed with Osterholm about the role of governmental dysfunction in the country’s failure to achieve the kind of successful response found in other developed countries, but he spent a good portion of his time talking about how people experience the COVID crisis differently and how that plays into the divisiveness.

“I don’t think all of the lessons are just in who we have as president and the mistakes that he made. We have to look at ourselves,” Slavitt said. “For some people, COVID-19 is people they know who have died. But for other people, COVID-19 is the restaurant that they opened in 2008 that’s closed, and they worked their whole life to do it, and that’s the most important thing about COVID-19 to them. And if we decide that’s not valid, we’ve said that’s not as valid enough, we’ll never communicate.”

The way to begin to get at the partisanship and difference is by acknowledging the validity of someone else’s experience of COVID-19, even if it doesn’t match your own, he said.

“It may not work instantly, and it certainly won’t work 100 percent of the time. But first of all, at least you won’t be destroying relationships over this,” Slavitt said.

“I mean, on top of all of this, to lose friendships, to lose relationships with family members, that’s tragic. We need each other. But if you carry the burden of having to educate everybody, and argue with everybody, it’ll drive you nuts.”

Slavitt said using concerns about personal freedom to object to public health measures, such as mask-wearing, stay-at-home orders, and social distancing, has to change back to how freedoms were once understood in the U.S.

“Two decades ago or two generations ago, if my grandparents were willing to talk about the freedom we had in this country, they would accompany that by talking about their responsibility to one another, the cost of that freedom,” Slavitt said. “We wouldn’t be just about what do I get. We’ve got to get back there. We’ve got to build our country by going back there. I think that’s the most important thing.”

Like Osterholm, Slavitt emphasized that government needs to change, for more effective responses now and in the future.

“We can’t make people care about one another,” Slavitt said. “But we can have a system that doesn’t pull out the worst in us.”

The online forum was sponsored by FairVote Minnesota, an organi-

zation advocating for changing the current voting process to make it more responsive to the

public by allowing voters to rank their preferences for candidates for office rather than just vote for

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CROSS COUNTRY

Ely boys top home meet, girls finish second

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

ELY – The Ely High School boys and girls cross country teams hosted a triangular meet on their home course at the Ely Golf Course last Friday. The boys team had three of the top five finishers to take first place against Virginia and Mt. Iron-Buhl. The girls team was edged by Virginia for a second.

“The kids are always excited to run at their home meet here in Ely,” said Head Coach Jayne

Dusich. “Our golf course is one of the toughest area cross country courses, with the hills. The cold weather was good for running and there was no wind. Times for most of our runners were very good as Virginia and MIB have plenty of good runners to race against.”

She said the race was changed up this year.

“They ran in waves with the boys first and girls second to make it more competitive and more fun to watch as we only had three teams,” she said. “It was fun to watch all the sixth to ninth grade

boys and girls out there racing at the same time.”

For the boys 5,000-meter race, Virginia’s Cameron Stocks paced all runners with a time of 16:22. He was chased by Ely’s Jasper Johnston with a second-place time of 17:12. MIB’s JD Kayfes was third in 17:22, followed by Ely’s Emmett Faltesek, 17:46, and Gabriel Pointer, 17:52.

Other boys runners for the Timberwolves, with place and time, included: Jake Cochran, 8th,

See **RUNNERS**...pg. 2B



SWIMMING

NER falls to E-G

by KEITH VANDERVORT
Ely Editor

BABBITT – The Northeast Range/Ely girls swim team posted eight first-place finishes at home against Eveleth-Gilbert last Thursday, but were edged by just two points, 46-44, against a deeper E-G squad.

The Nighthawks’ first-place finishers and times included:

- 200 Freestyle, Morgan McClelland, 2:19.22,
- 200 Individual Medley, Lily Tedrick, 2:37.63,
- 100 Butterfly, Tedrick, 1:13.03,
- 100 Freestyle, Kelly Thompson, 1:04.56,
- 500 Freestyle, McClelland, 6:23.78,
- 200 Relay, Tedrick, McClelland, Anna Larson, Thompson, 1:55.41,
- 100 Backstroke, Esther Anderson, 1:20.06,
- 400 Relay, Tedrick, McClelland, Cedar Ohlhauser, Thompson, 4:16.78.

NER/Ely posted three first-place finishes in a loss to Two Harbors, 50-43, at home on Sept. 29. The Nighthawks’ first-place winners and times included:

- 200 Relay, McKenna Coughlin, McClelland, Larson, Thompson, 1:58.12,
- 100 Backstroke, Anderson, 1:20.16,
- 400 Relay, McClelland, Larson, Ohlhauser, Thompson, 4:23.84.

The Nighthawks were scheduled to travel to International Falls on Tuesday, Oct. 6, and wrap up the season at home against Virginia on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

FOOTBALL

Reserve tickets now for NER gridiron action

BABBITT- Northeast Range’s first home football game is set for Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m., against South Ridge.

Fans planning to attend will need to contact the school office at 218-827-3101 or email adonais@isd2142.k12.mn.us to reserve tickets by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Please provide the names of the attendees and the phone number of a group member.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

No funds for fire hall rehab

Northern Minnesota projects fare poorly in latest round of state funding

by MARSHALL HELMBERGER
Managing Editor

TOWER— For the third year in a row, a committee of the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) has turned down a major grant proposal designed to restore the Old Fire Hall here, which remains the oldest public building in northeastern Minnesota, north of Duluth.

The decision came as a shock to members of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, who were expecting approval of their \$380,779 proposal after making adjustments to address concerns raised by MNHS officials after the rejection of the initial fire hall grant request in 2019.

“Every single thing they said they wanted to see, we included in this grant request,” said Doug Workman, president of the TSHS. “They didn’t have any questions or express any concerns.”

The price tag for the project, however, was high. In fact, it had the biggest price tag of any of the 70 requests put forward to the MNHS’s Historical Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC), which reviews and makes recommendations for funding grants using funds generated by the state’s Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, approved by Minnesota voters in 2008.

The condition of the building’s brick was the biggest contributor to the project’s cost, with that work alone totaling about \$280,000. Soft costs and contingencies comprised the rest of bill. Nancy Larson, a

TSHS board member who wrote the grant for the non-profit, said state officials had encouraged the local historical society to stabilize the building’s exterior shell before advancing other aspects of the project, such as heating and ventilation, and a new roof. The MNHS had previously provided a smaller grant to pay for new windows facing Main Street.

The decision not to fund the project this year was more than a surprise, it was a significant setback for the TSHS’s longstanding effort to restore the Old Fire Hall, a red brick building dating back to 1895, which was built just six years after Tower first incorporated as a city. The building once housed the city’s fire department, city hall, and jail, which saw plenty of use in Tower’s early days when large numbers of miners, prospectors, loggers, and others regularly blew off steam in any of the more than two dozen saloons that once crowded Tower’s Main Street.

The TSHS plans to eventually convert the 125-year-old building to a local museum as well as offices for the non-profit organization, but the relative lack of funding has slowed progress.

This year, Larson said they had the pieces in place to make significant progress. “I know the IRRR will be disappointed. They had agreed to provide us a \$50,000 cash flow account to finance the work,” noted Larson. That’s important, since the grant funding is provided only on a reimbursement basis.

The TSHS was also working with an

Above: The Old Fire Hall in Tower, built in 1895, is the oldest public building in northeastern Minnesota, north of Duluth. photo by M. Helmberger

architectural firm, MacDonald & Mack, with considerable experience in historical renovation. Larson said the architects also felt they had a strong proposal with a good chance of winning funding. But the members of the MNHS’s Historical Resources Advisory Committee gave the proposal only middling grades, ranking it 34th out of 70 proposals submitted from around the state. Still, the HRAC recommended funding virtually all of the top 40 projects, except for the Old Fire Hall and one or two others. Several projects rated even lower than 40th were funded as well.

Lack of representation?

The TSHS wasn’t the only northern Minnesota historical society to come up empty after the HRAC met to consider funding requests on Sept. 24-25. And some in the organization worry that a lack of representation from the region on the HRAC may have played a role in the lackluster success rate for northern Minnesota organizations.

The legislation that originally authorized the HRAC recognized the importance of fair representation from across the state. Early drafts of the law required that every congressional district in the state have at least one representative. That requirement was dropped from the final version in favor of language that requires “balanced statewide representation.”

Yet the current list of the 13 members of the HRAC includes only two members from all of northern Minnesota and none

See **FIRE HALL**...pg. 2B

“Every single thing that they wanted to see we included in this grant request.”

TSHS President Doug Workman

FOOTBALL

New Grizzlies coach is ready for some football

North Woods season gets underway Friday in Braham

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

FIELD TWP- The upcoming North Woods football season will have faces both familiar and new in the lineup and on the sidelines, and Head Coach Joel Anderson is both.

He's familiar to players and fans as an assistant to former Head Coach John Jirik, who stepped down from the position when he took an administrative position at Tower-Soudan Elementary, and now as the newly-appointed head man he feels comfortable in the role.

"The transition has been going very well," Anderson said. "I've been in the system with Coach Jirik for the last five years. I've been coaching football for as many years as I've been in education, so it's something that I'm excited about."

As the Grizzlies enter their second season playing 11-man football, Anderson said his approach to the game really hasn't changed much from the nine-man game.

"You plan and prepare with

the team that you have in front of you to use them to the best of their abilities, and you put your players in the best position to succeed as possible," he said.

One reason for excitement for coaches, players, and fans is the return of bone-crushing running back T.J. Chiabotti, who won't go unnoticed by the Grizzlies' opponents.

"I don't think there's anybody that doesn't know T.J. is in our backfield," Anderson said. "He's been the guy that has received many handoffs from the time he was a freshman on. A lot of eyes have been on him in the past, and I don't see that changing any this year."

As is the case each year, graduation in the spring means football adjustments in the fall, and the Grizzlies will be no exception.

"We've got guys that have not necessarily been in the positions that they're going to be in this year, but they've been in other skill positions. They've continued to grow and mature and, and they're going to have different roles this year. But we

do bring back a lot of athleticism, we bring back a lot of experience and talent."

Anderson hopes to be able to mix it up on offense, utilizing the passing game to keep opponents from keying on the ground game. Quarterbacks Zac Cheney and Ty Fabish will likely both see action, Anderson said.

They should benefit from having an experienced line that communicates well and understands their roles.

"We've got a number of seniors that have been playing there for the past number of years," Anderson said. "Kids like Chris Chaulklin and Cole Thiel have been kind of anchors at the guard spots in the last year. We've got Jeremiah Voges who's played many snaps for us at the tackle spot, and we have Ethan Byran who's been kind of the anchor of the line itself."

On the defensive side, Anderson said he anticipates changing up defensive sets and personnel during the season based on what he thinks will work best against a given opponent. Whatever the set, Anderson



said linebacker Jake Panichi will be counted on for strong contributions.

The team has adapted well to all of the COVID-19 procedures to keep them safe and healthy, Anderson said. Like most educators these days, Anderson rattled off a long list of agencies and organizations that have guidelines for sports, and they're following them all.

"I think the kids understand that if there was potentially an outbreak on our team, that's going to set us back not just one week, but two weeks, where we may not be able to play a game,"

Above: New North Woods Head Coach Joel Anderson assesses his new team during a pre-season practice this week.

photo by D. Colburn

he said.

The Grizzlies have their first test of the season on Friday when they make the long trip to take on Braham at 7 p.m. The home opener for North Woods will be on Thursday, Oct. 15 when they welcome Deer River for an early 2 p.m. tilt.

CROSS COUNTRY

North Woods runners shine at Two Harbors meet

by DAVID COLBURN
Cook-Orr Editor

REGIONAL- The South Ridge Panthers girls cross country team, featuring runners from North Woods School, may just want to make Two Harbors their permanent home after strong performances in varsity meets there in

consecutive weeks.

A triangular meet on Sept. 24 saw eighth-grader Addison Burckhardt eclipse the field to win in a time of 21:20, and teammate Evelyn Brodeen, a ninth-grader, wasn't far behind, finishing third with a time of 21:55. Sophomore Jillian Sajdak placed fifth, running 22:06.

Ana Ridge, 12th, 23:32, and Tatum Barto, 13th, 23:37, rounded out the Panthers' scoring.

North Shore edged the Panthers 29-34 to win the team title, with Carlton/Wrenshall scoring 66 points.

It was the same team order finish on the boys side, with senior Jimmy

Zupancich pacing the second-place Panthers by finishing fourth with a time of 18:37. Sam Semarang 19:37 for seventh, followed by Carter Obey, 19:49, Jonah Burnette, 19:51, and Alex Burckhardt in ninth, tenth, and 11th places, respectively.

On Oct. 1, girls swept the top three places and

claimed five of the top seven finishes running against teams from Carlton/Wrenshall and McGregor.

Burckhardt's winning time of 21:01 was more than a minute faster than runner-up Brodeen, who clocked a solid time of 22:08. Sajdak was close behind in third, 22:24, with

Barto placing sixth, 23:11, and Ridge seventh, 23:15.

Zupancich ran slower but placed higher this time, nabbing third with a time of 19:05. Other top finishers for the South Ridge boys were Burnett, seventh, 19:37, Obey, eighth, 19:45, Burckhardt, ninth, 19:46, and Oskar Koivisto, 11th 20:07.



Let Minnesota Decide What Is Good For Minnesota

Governor Walz's Administration wants to impose California's emission rules without approval from the elected members of the Minnesota Legislature. They will adopt rules written by California for California without the ability to modify the approach for Minnesota.

Impact To Minnesota Drivers If Implemented...

Higher Costs
These overburdensome regulations on Minnesota car and truck purchases will add between \$800 and \$2,500 to the cost of all new vehicles sold in Minnesota - pricing some of our neighbors out of the new car market.

Less Consumer Choice
If California's regulations are adopted, fewer trucks, SUVs and minivans will be available in Minnesota. Consumers will only be able to choose the vehicles California bureaucrats have decided are the "right-kind" of vehicles we are allowed to drive.

Minnesota IS NOT California

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is working to implement a proposal that will impose California's emission rules on Minnesota drivers.

These rules will require Minnesota to completely conform to emission standards dictated by California regulators. However, these standards don't address the demographic, economic, and environmental differences between California and Minnesota. California's standards are meant to address its worst-in-the-nation air quality.

RUNNERS...Continued from page 1B

18:24, Joey Bianco, 13th, 19:01, Jon Hakala, 20th, 20:03, Ben Cavalier, 24th, 21:58, Leo Stalmer, 26th, 22:43, and Riley Bishop, 31st, 34:01.

The varsity girls race was paced by MIB freshman runners Liz and Kate Nelson, with times of 20:12 and 20:13 respectively, followed by Ely's Zoe Devine, third place,

20:21, Emma Lamma, Virginia, 4th, 20:43, and Ely's Phoebe Helms, 5th, 21:28.

Other Ely girls finishers, with place and time, included Brynn Vollom, 9th, 23:09, Sydney Durkin, 11th, 23:44, Gracie Pointer, 12th, 23:58, Julia Schwingamer, 13th, 24:13, Elsie Vollom, 18th, 26:03, Abigail Thompson,

19th, 26:04, Amelia Pluth, 20th, 26:22, and Juliet Stouffer, 25th, 30:28.

Ely was set to wrap up the season on Tuesday at the Iron Range Conference Quadruple Tri at Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Colaraine. Section meet competition is scheduled for Oct. 12-13.

FIRE HALL...Continued from page 1B

from the entire Eighth Congressional District, which encompasses northeastern and east-central Minnesota. Nine of the thirteen members of the committee appear to reside in the seven-county metro area.

Whatever the reason, the imbalance in funding by region of the state was pronounced. Of the \$1.229 million in requests the HRAC received from organizations in northeastern Minnesota, they approved only \$364,000, or about 29 percent. Northwestern

Minnesota organizations fared no better, winning funding for only 28 percent out of \$671,832 worth of proposed projects.

By contrast, southeastern Minnesota projects are slated to receive \$1.012 million, or 58 percent of the \$1.735 million in requests from that region. The HRAC recommended funding \$1.02 million in projects in the Twin Cities metro area, or 46 percent of the projects proposed. Central Minnesota did even better, with 51 percent of projects recommended

for funding.

Larson is hoping that a representative from northeastern Minnesota could be added to the HRAC soon, and that might put at least one advocate for Arrowhead projects on the advisory board. She said time is running out for the former fire hall.

"If they don't fund us next year, do we have to tear it down?" Larson asked. "The brick gets worse every year."

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Obituaries and Death Notices



Goldie A. Knapp

Goldie Anne Benson Lindquist Knapp, 95, passed away at the Cook Care Center on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 9 at the First Baptist Church in Cook. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at the Cook Cemetery. The family respectfully requests that guests adhere to the mask mandate for everyone's safety. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Cancer Society or any dementia organization. A huge thank you to the Cook Care Center staff who took loving care of our beautiful Mama. Arrangements are with Mlaker Funeral Home of Cook.

Goldie was born on Dec. 29, 1924, in Isanti, to Herman and Hulda (Lindholm) Benson; she later moved to Cook where she graduated from Cook High School. She moved to Bellingham, Wash., staying with her older sister Ragnhild. She met and married Reynold W. Lindquist. Together they had five children, Jon (Judy), Ross (Sue), Shireen (Garry), Tania (Ben) and Taryn. Goldie and the family were active members of Northwest Baptist Church, later joining Cook Baptist Church.

Goldie's first love was her family and her friends. She became a widow in 1961 after a heart attack took her beloved husband, leaving her to raise her five children. In 1963, after reuniting with a Cook High School classmate at a school reunion she fell in love and married Charles Knapp of Cook. The family moved from Bellingham to Cook. Together they had a son,

Brian (Deb) Knapp. As the kids grew, Goldie had various jobs; she worked at Grand View Resort during the summer, was an aide and a volunteer in the beauty shop at the Cook Hospital, worked in the school cafeteria, was the Sunday School church secretary, and she volunteered at the Baptist Daily Vacation Bible School. Goldie had unending strength; she had been a cancer survivor since 1984.

When Goldie was younger, she loved to downhill ski. She loved golfing, bowling, cooking, sewing, and crossword puzzles. At 84 and a-half she went skydiving! Goldie was known at the Care Center for breaking out in a song or two at the top of her lungs...and now she finally knows who was in the kitchen with Dinah!

Goldie is survived by her six children; sister, Phyllis Edblom; 13 grandchildren; 11 great-grand-

children; numerous nieces and nephews; special friends, Doris Kantola and Lorraine Anderson; and beloved grand dog, Nixxy.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Chuck; sisters, Judith, Ragnhild, Ruth, Helmy and Marvelle; and brother, Sig.

Mitchell D. Lind

Mitchell Dennis Lind, 64, born in Cook, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020, in Embarrass. There will be no service. Arrangements have been entrusted to Range Funeral Home of Virginia.

He is survived by his lifetime companion, Charlotte; stepdaughter, Glenna and Mike Ingraham; stepson, John; grandchildren, Levi, Maissou, Draven, Chase and Juel; mother, Marilyn Lind; siblings, Lisa and Gary Maki, Beth and Kirby Scholz, and Rob and Lisa

Lind; nieces, nephews and great-nephews; and too many friends to list.

Carol L. Zupancich

Carol Lee Zobitz Zupancich, 74, of Ely, passed away unexpectedly in her home on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020. Due to the current circumstances, a private service was held. Family arrangements were entrusted to Kerntz Funeral Home in Ely.

She is survived by her daughters, Shannon (Jason) and Kimberly (Andy); son, Billy (Krystal); grandchildren, Harlee (Joey), Kayla (Andrew), Dray, Preston, Peyton and Paxton; great-grandchildren, Hadleigh, Kensley, Myla and Mikko; brother, Dennis (Francine); and nieces and nephews.

Ralph A. Lassi

Ralph A. Lassi, 85, born and raised in Ely, died on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020, in Lakeland,

Fla., from complications of cancer treatment. To honor Ralph's request, he will be remembered in a private family gathering in Ely, a town that always held a special place in his heart. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

He is survived by his four children, Simone Lassi and Lori (Tim) Rathje, both of Mill Valley, Calif., Greg (Lisa) Lassi of Lakeland, Fla., and Mary Jo (Mike) Elliott of Bloomington; sister, Kathleen Eaton of Sequim, Wash.; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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Outdoors

Our lives in the Northwoods

PERSEVERANCE

Woman battles storms, cold in marathon solo paddle

by LORI JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

THE BOUNDARY WATERS— Kendra Leibel had something to prove, and she received some backhanded help from Mother Nature, who threw vicious storms and record cold her way as she recently sought to paddle 480 miles solo back and forth along the U.S.-Canadian border here. Leibel's petite frame belies a skilled and

determined paddler who is relentless in the face of adversity and this epic challenge tested her mettle like never before.

Leibel, along with her sometime canoe partner Bob Vollhaber, had set a new record last September in the Kruger-Waddell Challenge when the pair traveled the 240 miles from Rainy Lake to Lake Superior in just over 63 hours.

This time, Leibel aimed to make the trip solo, and finish

in time to catch a shuttle back to Rainy Lake to complete the route a second time with her team as they competed in this year's challenge.

Even as she unloaded her gear from her car to her canoe, at Dove Point on Rainy Lake, Leibel faced an unexpected challenge. It was just after midnight in early September when she planned to launch, but a powerful thunderstorm kept her on shore, consuming critical hours. She finally

Right: Kendra Leibel keeps a positive attitude despite a string of challenges as she recently solo paddled a total of 370 miles along the Minnesota-Ontario border as part of the Kruger-Waddell Challenge.

submitted

launched about 1:30 a.m. during a break in the storm,

See **PADDLE...** pg. 5B



Outdoors briefly

Small game hunters reported higher success last year

REGIONAL—The small game hunter mail survey by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources estimated that slightly fewer small game licenses were sold in 2019 than the previous year, continuing a downward trend in overall license sales for the past 20 years.

Despite fewer ruffed grouse and ring-necked pheasant hunters, those who did make it into the field harvested more grouse and pheasants in 2019 and successful hunters put more birds in their bags.

The survey also showed a 38-percent increase in duck hunters and a 72-percent increase in Canada goose hunters from 2018 to 2019, leading to a higher harvest estimate compared to 2018. The survey covers estimated harvest and number of hunters for two dozen species, and most showed increases compared to 2018. The complete small game hunter survey report is on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Fishing reports

Ely area

Walleye fishing remained slow as cold temps and rain made it challenging just to get out. The few anglers that went out reported still finding walleyes out around sunken islands or up on large shallow, wind-blown flats. Larger minnows fished on lindy rigs seemed to be key to anglers' success. Water temps are now holding in the mid 50's, so the best fishing is still to come.

Pike anglers continue to find pike easy to catch, but lacking in size. Large sucker minnows fished under a bobber around river mouths, weedlines or shallow rocky points, has been very effective. As water temps continue to drop, rocky points will only become more important to anglers' success.

Shore anglers fishing for stream trout are reporting good to excellent results right now. Nightcrawlers fished 5-15 feet under a bobber have been the most popular and maybe most effective. Small spoons and spinners have also been effective on trout. Anglers should be looking for trout around sharp drop offs, large rocky flats or around downed trees.



HEADING SOUTH

Sparrows aflight

Migration is in full swing in October

With the shortening days, bird migration is in full swing and no family of birds is as prominent in the woods and roadsides right now as the sparrows. Sometimes, it seems they're everywhere, scattering wherever we go. This time of year, I toss cracked corn on the ground under our bird feeders. There's a thicket of hazel that I've left specifically for the cover it provides all the ground feeders. This time of year, it's in almost constant motion with the activity of dozens of sparrows fattening up for the journey ahead.



MARSHALL HELMBERGER

While most sparrows are pretty hardy, only the occasional straggler is hardy enough to withstand a northern Minnesota winter, so they're all making their way south, taking advantage of the weed seeds left behind from summer to fuel up along the way. Some, like white-throated sparrows, don't have far to go. This species lives here in summer and many of them will spend the winter in southern Minnesota or Iowa, so they tend to dawdle in our area in the fall, usually waiting for the first real cold outbreak to finally make their way south.

But others make only brief cameos here in the North Country. The white-crowned sparrow usually arrives in late September or early October and has usually moved through before the end of the month. They spend their summers in far northern Canada or in



Top: A male white-throated sparrow sports its distinctive yellow spot between the eye and the bill.



Above: A fox sparrow scratches for seeds in the fresh leaf litter.

Above: An immature white-crowned sparrow. Note the clear light gray breast and muted, striped cap. The head stripes are a pronounced black and white in adult birds.



Right: A dark-eyed junco is distinctive with its slate gray top, white belly and white outer tail feathers.

See **SPARROWS...** pg. 5B

Photos by M. Helmberger

See us at timberjay.com

HIKING

LAKE COUNTRY FORECAST

from NOAA weather



Nearly 65 people turned out last Saturday and Sunday to tour the new Ancient Cedars Trail in Tower. To find the trailhead, take the Mesabi/Taconite Trail about three-tenths of a mile east from the Tower Train Depot, then two-tenths of a mile south on the Iron Ore Trail. Watch for directional signs.

Friday				Saturday				Sunday				Monday				Tuesday			
68 38				54 36				59 45				57 42				54 35			
Ely	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Emb.	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Cook	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Orr	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.	Tower	Hi	Lo	Prec. Sn.
09/28	60	45	0.04	09/28	61	44	0.13	09/28	60	45	0.05	09/28	52	45	0.38	09/28	61	45	0.07
09/29	52	45	0.05	09/29	53	44	0.04	09/29	51	45	0.03	09/29	61	41	0.01	09/29	53	45	0.06
09/30	61	38	0.08	09/30	61	38	0.06	09/30	60	43	0.04	09/30	54	43	0.02	09/30	61	36	0.10
10/01	56	39	0.07	10/01	56	39	0.07	10/01	54	39	0.09	10/01	45	36	0.29	10/01	57	38	0.15
10/02	44	34	0.01	10/02	44	33	0.14	10/02	43	36	0.01	10/02	39	30	0.01	10/02	45	32	0.01
10/03	39	30	0.00	10/03	39	28	0.00	10/03	41	31	0.00	10/03	46	28	0.00	10/03	38	28	0.00
10/04	44	25	0.00	10/04	44	24	0.00	10/04	45	31	0.00	10/04	54	28	0.00	10/04	47	24	0.00
Total	15.46			YTD Total	15.84			YTD Total	22.87			YTD Total	NA			YTD Total	18.41		

SPARROWS...Continued from page 4B



the northern Rockies and those Canadian birds pass through our area this time of year on their way to the southern two-thirds of the U.S. Minnesota is one of only a handful of states where white-crowned sparrows are only found in migration.

The other morning, I had four of these five species feeding on the cracked corn I scattered in the hazel thicket near our feeders. Like most birds, sparrows prefer to feed under cover because it protects them from birds of prey, particularly sharp-shinned hawks and small falcons, known as merlins, which are migrating now, as well, feeding on sparrows and other insufficiently wary birds as they make their own way south.

They're on roughly the same route and schedule as another large member of this same family—the fox sparrow. This is a distinctive sparrow, with prominent rufous-colored underbelly streaking with a gray and rufous-colored face. They're aggressive ground scratchers, and kick up leaves and other ground debris as they search for food.

Migration is a dangerous time for birds, but most of our hardy sparrows don't have too far to go. Which means most will, hopefully, be back again for a visit next year.

The Harris's Sparrow is another interesting bird moving through our area right now. It's North America's largest sparrow and it's something of a showstopper, with its handsome black bib and contrasting pink bill. This species breeds only in far northern Canada and nowhere else in the world and it passes through Minnesota briefly on its way to its wintering grounds, comprised mostly of Kansas and Oklahoma.

Adding to the mix are the dark-eyed juncos, smallish sparrows that are a solid slate color on top, with a white breast and prominent white feathers on each side of their tail. They have pinkish bills and, as their name suggests, very dark eyes. Like the white-throated sparrows, juncos actually breed here, although most spend their summers to our north and move through the area only during migration.

PADDLE...Continued from page 4B

knowing that more strong storms were coming her way.

Leibel made it just two miles out into the inky blackness of Rainy Lake before the next storm hit, which forced her to seek refuge on an island in Black Bay. She remained windbound there for about 15 hours, until the winds relented enough to allow her to continue on her quest. She launched once again in the late afternoon into uncertain intimidating waves and wind. She made it to Lake Kabetogama and paddled eastward until the unrelenting westerly tailwinds caused waves large enough to overtop her canoe's gunwales. Again, Leibel sought refuge on an island after only paddling six miles.

The next morning, Leibel started out again, continuing to battle the fierce unrelenting winds while traveling, making 105 miles to Basswood Lake in just three days. She pushed on into the large open waters as the sun was setting, unaware that a strong weather front, with predicted 40 mph winds, was rapidly approaching her. A mile out into open water, it hit! Kendra had no choice but to keep her bow pointed straight downwind or capsize. The winds pushed her across until an island got in the way. She smashed into a rocky shoreline. There her canoe quickly started to take on water while being pounded by waves into the rocks. She jumped out into the water and began throwing her packs up onto the rocks. Kendra knew every second counted. She quickly emptied water from the boat, pulled herself and the canoe up onto the

shore. Her knee was banged up and hurting from falling on rocks, her clothes were soaked, and her GPS was lost in the mayhem.

For the third time, she was windbound for more than a day. This latest unscheduled slowdown made it virtually impossible that she could be back on Rainy Lake in time to meet her team for a second running of the route. Without a GPS, Leibel didn't dare to risk getting lost by paddling after dark or in the dense early morning fog. She was packed as lightly as possible to make it possible to cover the approximately 20 miles of portages on her route in one pass. With her injured knee and now wet heavy gear, that option was no longer a possibility, which converted 20 miles of portaging into 60 miles.

Despite the setbacks, Leibel's determination only grew. She said she had come too far and endured too much to give up. Winds eventually subsided over the next five days, but she now faced unseasonably cold temperatures. Every night the temperatures plummeted to below freezing, getting as cold as the mid 20s on a couple of nights, too chilly for Leibel's lightweight sleeping bag and clothing.

Finally, ten days from her start in the midst of a thunderstorm, Leibel arrived at Fort Charlotte campground at the Grand Portage trailhead. She only had the final nine-mile portage to go. In the morning, she put on her only pair of dry socks, ate her final bites of food and was ready for the long walk to Lake Superior. Almost eight hours later, using strength she didn't know

she had, she completed her trek over the portage. She alternated carrying her pack and then the canoe, setting one down to go back for the other. At times, she just carried the pack and dragged the canoe behind with a rope. Exhausted, she made it, yet her journey wasn't over.

Her husband and daughter met her at the finish with hugs, and congratulations. It was then Leibel who proposed her plan to drive three hours back to Ely, so she could again head into the wilderness and meet up with her team. With their help, assistance from friends in Ely, and Bob at LaTourell Outfitters, Leibel was able to make plans to meet her team near Prairie Portage. The LaTourell shuttle dropped her off on an island near Prairie Portage and in less than 20 minutes, her team came to pick her up.

Leibel had successfully completed her solo journey. She and her team then paddled and portaged together the balance of the border route, again heading to Grand Portage as part of a group of 18 paddlers in the 2020 Kruger-Waddell Challenge event. Kendra had just completed the 240 miles in her solo trip and in her back-to-back route added another four days and 130 miles.

Some of us talk about doing big things. Some of us watch others and critique from the sidelines. Leibel's story is not about speed or a race. It is about a woman's determination! She set her goal and she did it, despite all that Mother Nature threw her way.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Township of Eagles Nest

Attn: Registered Voters of the Township of Eagles Nest

RE: Change to Mail Balloting for Elections

On April 21, 2020, the Township of Eagles Nest Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution authorizing mail-in ballots for all elections for the Township of Eagles Nest.

As long as you are a registered voter, you will automatically receive a ballot in the mail approximately 30 days before the election with a postage paid return envelope to return your ballot.

If you prefer to vote in person, you would be able to vote at any time during the absentee period (46-days prior to the election) or up to 8:00 p.m. on election night.

St. Louis County Auditor's Office, Virginia Government Services Building 201 South 3rd Ave West Virginia, MN 55792

St. Louis County Auditor's Office, St. Louis County Courthouse 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214 Duluth, MN 55802

If you vote in person seven days prior to election night, you have the option of placing your ballot directly into a ballot tabulation machine.

If you have any further questions please contact me at 612-708-6823. There will be no one at the town hall on Election Day.

Sincerely, Deb Siverhus, Clerk of Eagles Nest Township

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2020

Attn: Vermilion Lake Township Voters Change to Mail Balloting for Elections

On July 17, 2020, the Vermilion Lake Town Board adopted a resolution authorizing mail ballots for all elections for the Township of Vermilion Lake.

As long as you are a registered voter you will automatically receive a ballot in the mail approximately 30 days before the election and a postage paid return envelope to return your ballot.

If you prefer to vote in person, you would be able to vote at any time during the absentee period (46-days prior to the election) or up to 8:00 p.m. on election night.

St. Louis County Auditor's Office, Virginia Government Services Building, 201 South 3rd Ave West, Virginia, MN 55792

St. Louis County Auditor's Office, St. Louis County Courthouse 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 214, Duluth, MN 55802

If you vote in-person seven days prior to election night, you have the option of placing your ballot directly into a ballot tabulation machine.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely, Crystal Alaspa

Township of Vermilion Lake, Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Sept. 11 & 25, Oct. 9 & 23, 2020

Fishing Regulations - MN Dept. of Natural Resources

The DNR will hold an open house meeting to hear public comment on proposed sunfish regulation changes for Bear Head and Low Lakes in St. Louis County on October 15 from 6 to 8 PM at the Tower Civic Center, 404 Pine St, Tower, MN.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 707, NETT LAKE STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 707 (Nett Lake), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2020, for the purpose of electing (three)* school board members for four-year terms.

Instructions to Voters: To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: [Oval]

School Board Member Vote for Up to Three*

- Candidate S, Candidate T, Candidate U, Candidate V, Candidate W, Candidate X, Write-in, if any

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be as follows: MAIL BALLOT AND DROP-OFF AT: Virginia Government Services Center drop box available at 201 S 3rd Ave. W, Virginia.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: June 8, 2020 BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD Malita Spears, School District Clerk

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 9 & 23, 2020

Answers

Grid of crossword puzzle answers including: MEDALED, DIALLER, INLAND, ASARULE, ENROBE, COOLIO, CENTRALAFRICANREPUBLIC, YENRIO, HYDE, RISEN, SPA, ECLAT, LEOS, HAIR OF THE DOG THAT BITTYO, UPROARS, WREATH, REG, STE, SIS, EAVE, SPILL, KNEE, HIGHTOAGGRASSHOPPE, GEL, PABST, NON, BEYONDAREASONABLEDOUB, MAI, ELENI, AGO, MIDNIGHTTRAIN TO GEORGI, EMAIL, OHIO, NEZ, ULM, NIL, STALLS, SAHARAN, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, ODI, TORSO, AAH, PASTA, ARES, RUT, TBA, ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL, SHAVED, VIOLET, CB RADIO, TERESA, SEWERS, CURTAIL

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10/16

POSITION OPENING Ely Public Schools Cafeteria Aide

Ely Public Schools is looking for a Cafeteria Aide for the 2020-2021 school year; background check required.

Qualifications include:

- Must be able to lift 30 lbs. on a regular basis, Must be able to work in a fast pace setting, Preferred experience working with school age children, Evidence of ability to work cooperatively and communicate effectively in a collaborative setting.

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

A complete application must include the following:

- District Application, Resume, 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

Starting Rate of Pay: \$15.24/hour

Hours: 2 3/4 hours/day; 5 days/week; student contact days

Deadline to apply: October 13, 2020; open until filled.

Published in the Timberjay, Oct. 2 & 9, 2020

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 6, 2, 8, 5, 4, 9, 3, 7, 1, 2, 3, 8, 4, 6, 1, 9, 8, 4, 6, 9, 7, 4, 9

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.

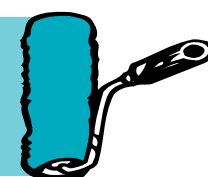
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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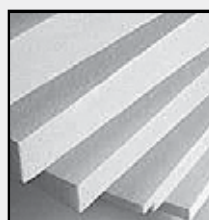
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